A MOTHER’S INFLUENCE

 For people blessed to have a mother in the home, the influence of that mother has probably followed those people all their lives. Most of us would say that is a good thing. Sometimes it has not been such a good thing. I have heard of mothers teaching their small children to steal from stores to help support the mother’s drug habit. Some mothers today seem to have no heart for themselves or their children.

 **25** In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel did Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah begin to reign. **26** Two and twenty years old *was* Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel. **27** And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the Lord, as *did* the house of Ahab: for he *was* the son in law of the house of Ahab. 2 Kings 8:25-27 (KJV) These passages indicate how a mother had a great deal of bad influence over a king. Ahaziah’s mother Athaliah was the daughter of Omri who was also the father of King Ahab. It was said of Omri that he was more evil than all the other kings before him in Israel. For the most part the kings of Judah had been good kings. Ahaziah would bring a major change to this good line of kings in Judah because he was influenced by a long line of evil kings in Israel. Ahaziah was killed after a one year reign in Judah. Athaliah, being the good mother that she was, had all the other heirs apparent to the throne killed and she ruled for six years.

 There is a tremendously good influence that can be cast upon our children. Consider the great faith that Timothy saw practiced in the lives of his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois. This unfeigned faith that was on display in their everyday walk with God had an impact on Timothy and on Paul as well.

 I am very grateful for the Christian impact on my life that was first practiced by my grandmother Lois Burtram and my grandmother Opal Sanders. It has also been practiced by my mother Dot Burtram. My wife has made and continues to make that lifestyle a model for our children and grandchildren.

 Mothers I must say that you must make a conscious choice to a godly mother. You cannot do it alone. God must be your helper everyday of your life. Just because you are a mother does not mean that you cannot become absorbed in yourself and forget the positive influence you need to be leaving in your children. Surrender yourself unto the Lord and allow your life to be the finger of God upon your children.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram