

Don't Rush God!



Donna Rees

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Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
How it all Began	1
Something’s Gone Awry!.....	2
A Lesson Learned	2
Discussion Opportunities	3
Further Resources	3
Appendix: Copywork and Other Resources	4

Introduction

One of my greatest delights in homeschooling was the opportunity to learn—as a family—spiritual lessons in everyday situations. Several years ago our family observed an amazing miracle in nature: we watched a monarch butterfly emerge from its chrysalis. We came away with a deeper sense of awe about the Creator of the universe who brings forth all life “in due season” and drew some analogies about the necessity to follow God’s plan.

How it all Began

When our son David was fifteen years old, he discovered in our backyard a monarch butterfly-to-be—a caterpillar. He put it in a jar with some milkweed leaves and a few twigs, and sure enough, within a week or two, the caterpillar had somehow tucked itself tightly into a chrysalis. At that point David decided we *all* needed to keep an eye on it, so he carefully removed the twig from the jar and suspended it, with string, from the upper shelf of our hutch in the kitchen.

That day I was particularly grateful that my children were at home, with me, and that we could enjoy this thrilling experience together.

With each passing day, the chrysalis became more and more transparent, and during the forty-eight hours immediately prior to the butterfly’s grand entrance, it seemed as though the appearance of the chrysalis changed hourly. We were tempted to pull up chairs and just sit there and watch it change.

On the day that the butterfly finally emerged, we must have inspected the chrysalis every ten minutes. I can’t remember which one of us noticed that the chrysalis was slightly split. Whoever noticed it sounded the alarm, and the rest of us came running. Then we *did* pull up chairs to watch the show!

Within a short time, we saw the butterfly all folded up on top of itself. It was shiny, and it didn’t look much like a monarch butterfly. Then its wings began to “inflate.” That day I was particularly grateful that my children were at home, with me, and that we could enjoy this thrilling experience together.

The butterfly hung there a long time. We decided to make sure it could fly to freedom when it decided to let go of that twig, so David took the twig out to the patio and laid it on the railway. We waited. We watched. Nothing happened.

Then something *did* begin to happen.

Something's Gone Awry!

Much to our horror, we noticed that the butterfly's wings began to droop. There on the railway, its wings were upright, not hanging beneath its body as they had been when it was attached to the hutch. God's plan for the monarch butterfly is that it should remain suspended—upside down—until its wings dry out and stiffen.

We loved that monarch butterfly; it was practically a member of the family. If our butterfly's wings dried in that drooped position, it would not be able to fly. It would die. We had not cooperated with God's design and timing, and the butterfly was going to pay for it—with its life.

We had not cooperated with God's design and timing, and the butterfly was going to pay for it—with its life.

We sprang into action. David quickly rigged up the twig so that once again it was suspended (with the butterfly still clinging to it, surely unaware of its demise). We prayed, asking the Lord to forgive us for our lack of wisdom and to have mercy on this little butterfly.

Again, we watched. We waited. This time we waited somewhat anxiously, but we had hope. Slowly, ever so slowly, the wings straightened out and became stiff and strong. Several hours later, all of us were watching when it began to gracefully move its beautiful wings. What a wonderful sight!

A Lesson Learned

Later we discussed the near disaster for which we had been responsible. We all had anticipated the moment when we would watch that butterfly enjoy its first flight, but we had rushed the process and almost thwarted the plan.

Have you ever rushed God? Have you had good motives yet failed to wisely consider God's plan, His purposes, His timing before you made *your* choices? I have done that many times. I'm still trying to learn this lesson of not rushing God. The next time you see a monarch butterfly, remember: Don't rush God. Instead, *hang in there!*

By the way, David is now twenty-eight years old. He just informed me this week that he is seriously considering planting some milkweed in his backyard. I think that's an excellent idea.

Discussion Opportunities

1. Have you ever rushed God in some area of your life, resulting in problems that needed to be fixed?
2. Can the problems always *be* fixed?
3. Can you remember a time that you couldn't fix a problem and just had to live with the consequences? How did you learn from that?
4. Can you think of times in the Bible where people may have rushed God, or not trusted Him to work something out; and just took care of it themselves? What were the results?
5. Explain how rushing God and not trusting God could really be the same thing sometimes?
6. If you read the story of Paul and Silas in prison (Acts 16:23-34), can you see how he waited for God's timing instead of rushing ahead? What were the results?
7. Aren't you glad we have a God who loves us so much that we can trust Him in *everything*, including the fact that His timing is perfect?

Further Resources

- ✓ [Am I Trusting?](#), by Jeannie St. John Taylor
- ✓ [Enoch Roden's Training](#), by Hesba Stretton
- ✓ [Victorious! Volume 8—The Life and Times of Paul And The Apostles](#)



Donna and Timus Rees homeschooled both of their children (1983-1999) through high school graduation, depending daily on God's grace for wisdom, discernment, and strength. Homeschooling was a joyful, rewarding experience for their entire family, and they love to encourage families who are currently enjoying that adventure! The Reeses have been involved in the field of publishing for more than thirty years, and Donna's expertise lies in the area of editing. She is currently the General Editor of *The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine*.

Appendix: Copywork and Other Resources

Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the Lord
shall renew their strength; they shall
mount up with wings as eagles; they
shall run, and not be weary; and they
shall walk, and not faint.

Romans 8:5

But if we hope for that we see not,
then do we with patience wait for it.

James 1:3

Knowing this, that the trying of your
faith worketh patience.

1 Timothy 6:11

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Romans 5:3

And not only so, but we glory in
tribulations also: knowing that
tribulation worketh patience;

Psalms 40:1

I waited patiently for the Lord; and
he inclined unto me, and heard my
cry.

2 Timothy 2:24

And the servant of the Lord must not
strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt
to teach, patient,

How to Begin Homeschooling

1. **Discuss With Your Spouse:** Educating your child at home is a huge decision and should be one that is made with your spouse. Do not begin unless you are in agreement about this decision. You will need the support of your spouse not only at the beginning, but also throughout the year.
2. **Research the Homeschool Laws Applicable in your Area:** Be fully aware of the legal requirements before you begin and especially before you take a child out of public school. For the U.S., each state's legal requirements can be found on the www.HomeschoolLegal.com website. Internationally, refer to www.HSLDA.org.
3. **Research Styles of Home Education:** There is no single right way to educate your child at home; however, there are many differing philosophies you may want to consider.
 - **Charlotte Mason:** Based on a method introduced by nineteenth-century educator Charlotte Mason, this approach includes nature studies/journaling, narration, and living books.
 - **Classical:** Based on Dorothy Sayers' *The Lost Tools of Learning*, in which child development is broken up into three "stages" of learning commonly called "the Trivium."
 - **Delight Directed:** This puts the learning in the hands of the child, based on his or her interests. Parents help facilitate this type of learning with appropriate instructional materials.
 - **Eclectic:** A mix of philosophies and curricula to accommodate each child's abilities and interests. Parents choose from any method or style only those components that fit their specific needs.
 - **The Principle Approach:** An approach based on the principles of our Founding Fathers and an emphasis on God's Word as the basis for every subject.
 - **Traditional Textbook:** Normally uses a full-range, packaged, textbook-type curriculum that also may include a scope and sequence, testing, and recordkeeping.
 - **Unit Studies:** All or most core subjects are covered while studying any one topic or unit of study, using a variety of resources and supplemental activities.
 - **Unschooling:** A relaxed setting where learning is directed by the child. Parts of this philosophy are based on research by John Taylor Gatto and John Holt.

- 4. Find Support:** After finding your style of choice (or a mix of more than one choice), you may want to choose a support group that reflects that specific style or just a general homeschool support group in your area. Meeting with other home educators offers encouragement as well as knowledge and assistance with your homeschool questions. Often, organized classes or activities for your children are offered through support groups as well. For information about homeschool support groups in your area, check these listings:

U.S.:

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com/Homeschool_Nations/State_Listings.php
www.HomeschoolLegal.com

UK:

<http://www.home-service.org/>
<http://www.heas.org.uk/>

New Zealand:

<http://www.che.org.nz/>
<http://hef.org.nz/>
<http://www.ahe.org.nz/>
<http://www.homeschoolers.wellington.net.nz/>
<http://community.library.org.nz/cgi-bin/display.pl?id=296>

Guam:

www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/guam
<http://www.tumon.com/ghsa>

Australia:

<http://www.heas.asn.au/hea/>

Canada:

www.shbe.info
www.machs.mb.ca
www.aheaonline.com
<http://nshea.webcentre.ca/>
<http://www.eho.org/support/canada.asp>

- 5. Gather Resources:** Some families start with a complete curriculum package, while others start with a notebook and a library card. Choosing your resources depends on your style or method of education and your own interests. If you are financially burdened, there are free homeschooling resources on the web, as well as discounted, used books in abundance.

You Can Do This! Parents around the world are taking back their God-given responsibility to educate their children, and you can too. We have developed two downloads to help you get started:

- ✓ [Homeschool With Confidence](#)
- ✓ [Simple Recipes for Successful Homeschooling](#)

Disclaimer: The above information is not intended as legal advice and should not be construed as such. Please check the legal requirements in your area.

To a Homeschool Mom **By Amelia Harper**

He gave this gift with gentle hands,
A treasure rich and rare;
But sand and rock and rugged stone
Obscured the gem so fair.

“I give this gift to you,” He said,
“To polish and to prime;
The future lies within your hands,
So make use of the time.”

Some others placed their precious gifts
Within another’s care,
Because they knew the craft took time—
And time they could not spare.

But you were not content to trust
This task to other hands.
You sought to teach yourself the craft
That such a task demands.

For, you said, “No other hand
Can craft this gem so fair;
My loving eyes can better see
The treasure hidden there.”

So carefully you chipped away
Till brilliance sprang from stone.
You shaped each facet, smoothed each face,
Until the task was done.

Some days you feared that you would fail;
Some days, you saw success.
But still you labored on with love
And gentle tenderness.

Thus, soon the gem He gave to you
Reflected Light sublime;
And then you knew no other task
Was better worth your time.

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