

# *Time Flies* **While History is Written**



**Deborah Wuehler**

## Time Flies While History is Written

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## Introduction

**D**oes time really fly? When my first five children were all under 9 years old, time did **not** fly! In fact, it seemed to stand completely still. The only thing that seemed to change was the increasing amount of work and responsibility that was being added to my twenty-four hours daily. It seemed that my time was shrinking, and every morning brought the same old story of being behind on everything. What *did* fly was any time to do what I wanted when I wanted, and in those days, I hate to admit, I was pretty selfish. Because of that, I was easily frustrated. That's when **I** wanted to fly—far away! Now, I did not really want to leave my family, just maybe a few of those responsibilities and tasks that mothers of young children are constantly loaded down with.

Would they ever grow up? Would we be in elementary grades forever? Would I be cleaning spills, clothes, faces, floors, shoes, and toys for another lifetime? Would they ever be able to cook their own meals or clean their own rooms without my help? Would they ever learn their times tables, phonograms, or cursive writing? All these questions swirled through my mind as time, without my notice, moved ever so quietly from the present to the past.

*Would they ever grow up?  
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One day I came to realize that I had a couple of children who not only were independent learners and doers—they were actually helpful and useful and were able to start taking the burden off of me. Just when did that happen and how did they get that way? There were no major milestones to speak of; it was just little upon little, day upon day, minute upon minute of those daily training opportunities. Line upon line, precept upon precept, we wake up and go to sleep and in between keep doing what needs to be done and ask the Lord for strength to continue. And before we know it, time and training and the grace of God have brought maturity.



## Plan Forward

**T**ime again stood stock still this May when my firstborn son graduated from our private homeschool. I was supposed to give a one-minute speech, but there I stood speechless as I looked at the young man in front me. Small words could in no way sum up the large emotions of how we got here—from that young, active, dyslexic, little boy to this giant of a Godly, academically excellent, stable young man standing beside me. Where did the time go? Truly, while I wasn't looking, while I was taking care of the everyday things, while I was putting one foot in front of the other, time rushed by and there we were. I knew then it was true: time really does fly.

I have just given birth to another baby boy this year and am starting the course all over again. What does the future hold for this newest little one? I don't know the future, but I want his history to be better than my firstborn son's history. I want him to remember a joyful

mother of children and not a tired, worn-out nag.

*I plan to look ahead, knowing that my God is a redeeming God and will even take what I have done wrong and redeem it to make a good return on His investment.*

How can I write this little one's history any differently? The only way is to plan forward—to write my days with less frustration over the little things and more grace and peace as I cast my cares on the Lord. I plan to look ahead, knowing that my God is a redeeming God

and will even take what I have done wrong and redeem it to make a good return on His investment. Truly, I have nothing to glory in when looking at how well my children are turning out. But I have *all* to glory in when looking at the faithfulness of God in each of our lives.

## Ever Feel Like Starting Over?

**T**ruly there have been times when I have wished to erase days or events from my children's memories: days and times when I have been anything but a saint of God, days of anger, tears, and

repentance. I realize my fallen nature and now can more clearly discern the battle between the spirit and the flesh.

Let me share with you some of my own sins of the flesh and how to move from writing failure to writing victory in our own biographies:

- I have been self-righteous.
- I have been self-centered.
- I have desired to be the one in control.
- I have forgotten the works of the Lord.
- I have neglected the Word of the Lord.
- I have forgotten to obey His commands.
- I have forgotten that I am a part of His Story.

### Self-Righteousness

**E**ver feel like you are the only one doing everything? That if you didn't make it happen, it wouldn't? That nobody cares about what's important but you? That if there is anything good in these children or house or husband, it is only because *you* have been there to see to it? This kind of thinking leads to a prideful condition, because we have forgotten God and His sovereignty and lifted up our own deeds. Consider these verses in Deuteronomy 8:11–20:

*Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God . . . Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein . . . then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God . . . and thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power . . . that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God . . . ye shall surely perish.*

It is God Who has given us all that we have. It is only through His power and might that we have accomplished or can accomplish anything. We need to move from our own self-righteous thinking, which displeases God, to obtaining both the desire and the ability to do what pleases Him. *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."* (Philippians 2:13)

## Self-Centeredness

**J**ust because I don't subscribe to our culture's motto of "it's all about me" doesn't mean I have not been tempted with the same selfish considerations. After all, shouldn't I deserve some sort of recognition for all of my selfless labor? Shouldn't I get a reward of some sort, maybe even a break once in awhile seeing as I deserve it? Can't I just have a moment to myself to do what I want? Doesn't anyone notice that I am always serving and never receiving any accolades or even a bit of gratefulness or maybe just some help?

These selfish thoughts breed discontent, and they do not reflect the heart of the Lord Jesus, Who laid down His right to be honored and took on the form of a servant. He fed, healed, counseled, and washed the feet of those who were under His leadership. Complaints, arguments, doubts, pride, and misunderstandings were characteristic of those in His care. He was pressed from every side to keep giving and giving and giving to crowds of people—without a break—and sometimes with not even one in ten giving thanks. Sound at all familiar among your own brood?

Moving away from self-centeredness to servanthood is a heart issue. The daily deeds will still need to be performed, but will they be done with a heart of martyrdom to poor self or a heart of servanthood to Christ? This is how we can be like Him in this area:

*Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*  
*Philippians 2:3-8*

## **The Need to Be in Control**

One of the greatest problems we face is the desire to be in control. "It's my way or the highway," I have been known to say—not only with my children; my husband has been the brunt of my godless desire to control as well. I have been like an untrained three-year-old who wants what she wants when she wants it or she will throw a tantrum and make your life miserable until she gets it. We want to make sure certain things happen the right way and make certain that everyone else knows just where we are headed and is following our agenda. The problem with being in control is that it leaves no place for God's control. When we come out from under His control, we are left unprotected and open to attack. God is forgotten and we are doomed to fail. Oh, it may go okay for awhile, the way we think we want it, but the end of it will again be dismal. *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."* (Proverbs 14:12)



## Forgetting the Works of the Lord

**W**hat is it that we remember? Do we focus on our failures? The failures of a husband or children? The deeds of the day that need to be done? All that *didn't* get done yesterday and will likely not be accomplished tomorrow? What we are *forgetting* is the "works of the Lord": His glorious works of salvation, grace, and mercy in our own lives. These are the things we should be sharing with our children.

*"Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"  
Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31*

*"We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done."  
Psalm 78:4*

*"I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old." Psalm 77:11*

## Neglecting the Word of the Lord

**S**ince time really does march on and today turns to yesterday faster than we can keep up, we really should be making our priority one of knowing the Word of the Lord. Why is this so important? Because it is our very life. If you are feeling hungry or thirsty, dry or parched or starved, it's probably because you've forgotten the Word of the Lord. I have starved myself spiritually yet expected to retain a healthy walk with the Lord—true foolishness. What I didn't connect is that if I don't eat, I have no energy for the walk and I starve nearly to death. Vital to our life in Christ is our reading and meditating and remembering the Word of the Lord. The Word of the Lord is the Bread of Life. Feeling empty? Here's how to be filled again:

*"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matthew 5:6*

*"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." John 6:35*

## **Forgetting His Commands**

**I** often forget His commands, which is why He must continually remind me of them. His continual plea to me is "come to me . . .," and His continual command is "go and make disciples . . .," and His continual encouragement is "I will be with you always . . ."

One of His commands is to make disciples. In homeschooling there is often a dangerous temptation to make good students and forget about making disciples. A good student who knows all the good behaviors and is academically excellent may very well grow up to be something like a Pharisee: one who has great knowledge and demonstrates good behavior yet does not know God. These children grow up to be judgmental of others and prideful. How do I know that? I have a few judges in my own house. I believe the root cause is that I made students and not disciples.

How do we make disciples? Let's look at how Jesus taught *His* disciples.

*Jesus spent a lot of time with them:* eating, talking, praying, and living. He didn't send them to their separate corners to get their math done. That may be necessary with our own disciples, but what is the priority?

*Jesus spoke truth into their lives every day* and pointed them to the Scriptures. History can be fun and exciting, but if we are merely pointing to history without pointing to the One Who wrote it, our efforts to make disciples will be fruitless.

*Jesus used real life situations as teaching opportunities.* Unit studies are wonderful. Character studies are admirable. But when those “iron sharpening iron” relationship issues pop up, are we using them to teach our children about their place before God or what the Bible teaches regarding their attitudes?

*Jesus introduced the disciples to His Father* and invited them into that relationship. He showed them their Oneness. Do we show our children God’s desire to be one with them as well? Do we show them the loving zeal God has when anything threatens to hinder that relationship with Him?

I have said in my heart, “Yes, but He was Jesus and I’m me and I have all these little ones to care for and so much pressing on me from all sides.” Let’s look at Jesus again.

How did Jesus handle all that pressure? He got away early in the morning, “as was His custom,” to be with His Father. He was infused with the power and strength and mercy He needed to get through each day. He knows our frame. He knows our need. He knows we need Him. That is why His continual plea *to us all* is: “Come to me . . .”

Jesus had to make an effort to pull himself away from the crowds and even His disciples to get alone with His Father. People pressed Him from all sides at all times, petitioning Him to meet each of their personal needs. Jesus had to explain Himself to His disciples over and over, even though they lived and walked with Him every day. Jesus had difficult personalities to deal with every day—one who was temperamental and moody, one who was skeptical and doubting, one who was greedy and disrespectful. Then there were the ones who said they belonged to His Father—yet were actually liars and hypocrites. Of course there were all those who were unthankful and unhappy and never satisfied. Sound familiar at all?

You might have your Johnny or Susie or Jimmy who seems difficult to impossible to disciple, but remember that Jesus understands, because He had His Peter and Thomas and Judas and the Pharisees and crowds of people who never came back to thank Him.

We forget we are part of a much larger story—His Story. He wants us to allow Him to write His Story in our lives, and the sooner the better because time does not stand still.

How did Jesus handle all that pressure? He got away early in the morning, “as was His custom,” to be with His Father. He was infused with the power and strength and mercy He needed to get through each day. He knows our frame. He knows our need. He knows we need Him. That is why His continual plea **to us all** is: “Come to me . . .” and His continual command is “go and make disciples . . .” and His continual encouragement is “I will be with you . . .”

## Part of a Larger Story

**I** have heard someone say that we suffer from nearsightedness: all we can see is ourselves and the little stories that we are trying to write. We forget that we are part of a much bigger story—His Story. He wants us to allow *Him* to write *His* Story in our lives, and the sooner the better, because time does *not* stand still. What history do we want written? For His story to be written, we must die to our own. The paradox is that when we die to our own story, He writes His story through us and we truly live.

## Looking Back and Looking Ahead

**F**rom this vantage point of both looking back and looking ahead, I am prompted and pushed not only to remember the past, but also to plan the future. Whose story will it be? Is it going to be about me or about my child or better yet, about the Maker of us both? My heavenly Father knows all that He desires to write in our biographies. I see my failures and frustrations of the past, but I move forward by faith, trusting God to write the history of the future.

When time flies to the point that I am looking back at all of my grown children, I want my history to read as Jesus’ did:

*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. . . . I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. . . . And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them . . .”*  
*John 17:3-4, 6-8, 26*

Time flies while history is being written, so let's allow God to write our biographies, starting this minute.



## Further Resources

- ✓ E-Book: [Secrets of Successful Homeschooling](#)
- ✓ E-Book: [Joyful and Successful Homeschooling Volume 1](#)
- ✓ E-Book: [Joyful and Successful Homeschooling: Your Journey Workbook](#)
- ✓ [The Joyful Homeschooler](#)
- ✓ [The Well-Trained Heart](#)
- ✓ [Homeschooling with Encouragement](#)



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## **Appendix**

# 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](http://www.HomeschoolLegal.com) website. Internationally, refer to [www.HSLDA.org](http://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](http://www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com/Homeschool_Nations/State_Listings.php)  
[www.HomeschoolLegal.com](http://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.HomeschoolBlogger.com/guam)  
<http://www.tumon.com/ghsa>

Australia:

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

Canada:

[www.shbe.info](http://www.shbe.info)  
[www.machs.mb.ca](http://www.machs.mb.ca)  
[www.aheaonline.com](http://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](#)

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## **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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