

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

LIFE IN THE WORD

10 3 Vol. IX * Do not allow a day to pass without giving Thanks to Our Lord *



A Woman's Work is never done

Romans 16 ¹ I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deacon in the church in Cenchrea. ² Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honor among God's people. Help her in whatever she needs, for she has been helpful to many, and especially to me.

Trust in the Lord at all Times

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You must know...

I can only speak to what the Lord gives me. In these pages are the answers from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and God's Word. You will not find solutions based on worldly perspectives, material needs, emotional desires or man's way of thinking. Haven't you tried all of these? How have they served you thus far? Now, try Jesus.

Who am I

Before you can answer any other question of what is wrong or what is right and how do I fix it, you must know the answer to this one question. The answer will help set the foundation for everything else. Our cups can only hold so much less we lose substance. Therefore, empty yourself of what wrong you may have been told.

You are not who or what a man says you are -God made man & woman and we all fall short of His Glory. You are not the sum of your mistakes, failures, or even achievements -Jesus died so we may be free, be in bondage to no one/thing. You are not defined by your circumstances or pain for -Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the World.

You are a child of Christ and heir to His promise. You must rise past your emotions and your own understanding for the Lord is reached by those who diligently seek Him with faith and Love. You are of Christ, He is your Heavenly Father and must come first; not you, your child, your man or your bills. To know what Jesus would have you do, you must get to know Him through His Word and seeking Him. No man or amount of crying on someone's shoulder will substitute for what you are suppose to do. First and foremost, you are a Woman of God.

What is my Role

The Bible gives us the roles the Lord would have us to perform, but make no mistake you must get to know the Lord to understand what specific purpose He has for you.

Despite what you may have heard about the wife being in submission to her husband. Know and understand God's Word. Regardless of this Role you are not less than any man or less deserving of any blessings from the Lord.

Galatians 3:

²⁶For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Commit to being a Woman of God

1. **Woman of God** -No man, child or yourself should come before God. No matter what other roles you have, this role must never be compromised or stopped. The Lord is your guide, protector and power to overcome. This role will give you the foundation and means to be successful in all other roles the Lord gives you and why it must come first. *Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

Why is he or she your friend

Regardless of what is going on in your life, if you continue in your 1st role the Lord will always see you through. It will not be easy, but with the Lord, victory will be on the side of every confrontation you face.

To be successful in this role you must also avoid certain situations and associations that are not of the will of God. Your friends should consist of people of God. This may mean you have to make changes in your life and lifestyle.

If your child has a choice between two groups of friends, with everything else being equal, one group focuses on learning, the other group focuses on playing games. Which group will be a positive influence on your child for getting good grades. Now both group of kids are good kids but one is more helpful to the direction you want your child to go. Let's say the group that focuses on playing games are A students, but your child is a C student. How would that environment affect your child?

You may have friends that may let you cry on their shoulder and talk about those who have done you wrong. I am not one of them. I would tell you to forgive those who hurt you and bless them. Turn to the Lord for He is the true redeemer and your salvation. He will right the wrongs in your life. However, you must take the necessary steps to follow the Lord and remove distractions. This may include people you currently call friends.

2 Corinthians 6:14 -Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

It may be harder than you think

You know God is real. You know Jesus died for our sins and you know our Lord loves you. Then why, why are you still going through this? Being a woman of God is not just going to church and it's not just reading the bible. You must walk in faith & love. Your relationship must not be with rituals but with our Lord.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

The Lord don't make no junk The Lord has a plan and purpose for your life. In getting to know God and allowing Him to guide your path, your destiny will be revealed to you. It doesn't matter what mistakes you made or what you did wrong. We all fall short of the Glory of God. The Lord loves you. The Lord is not punishing you. By not choosing to put the Lord first, you have punished yourself.

The Lord knows

The Lord knows the heart of the company you keep. You only know what they show you. Trust in the Lord for all things. Study the Word to get to know God and His Word, not so you can recite scripture or sound good in church. Diligently seek the Lord and He will guide you.

Proverbs 3:6 *In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

The truth is you are the Lords. You have always been a Woman of God, but sometimes we go off track and lose our way. The fact you are reading this now is a step. Continue to move forward in the Lord. Know that you are and will continue to be a woman of God. Pray up and pray on through every situation.

I know you may feel alone. I know you may feel you are living in the mistake you made and now you are trapped. But there is no trap that man has made Jesus can't deliver you from. The only reason you are trapped in your situation is because you believe you are.

If you believe you are trapped how can you believe the Lord has freed you. You have taken your eyes off the Lord, the problem solver, only to keep your eyes on the problem.

The enemy cannot keep you in bondage without your belief in him. The enemy needs you to believe that it will be too hard for you to free yourself. The enemy wants you to believe that the cost will be too high to make things right. The enemy will have you to live in fear until he robs you of your life.

Do not be in bondage to your fears

Let's assume all the worldly fears you have are true. But again you are focused on the wrong thing. I couldn't tell you then how the Lord did what He did. How I didn't go hungry when I was broke. How He covered me when I didn't have a roof over my head and how He loved me when no one loved me. But He did. Everything I feared that would happen to me happened and the Lord made a way for me to come out stronger than before I was stripped down.

Don't think for one second about telling me how strong I was when so many times my prayers came out of pain and fear instead of faith and love. Don't think about telling me how brave I was when I didn't have the courage to look at myself in the mirror because I was scared of what I might see. I am not any stronger or braver than you.

It was not me at all, but the Lord. All my praise, all my heart, my soul belongs to Jesus. Thank you Jesus. My survival is a testimony of how our Lord will bless and press us through our mess as long as we trust in Him and do His Will.

Know our Lord continues to save and bless me and He will do the same for you. Get into the Word and let the Word get into you. Step out in faith, walk in love and of the Holy Spirit.. Be the woman of God the Lord has called you to be. Put on Christ and His wardrobe of blessings will cover you in any kind of weather all the days of your life.

A Godly Wife

2. A Godly Wife -Prerequisites: Being a Woman of God. If you are unmarried, then while this role does not apply to you, it is important for you to know this. You should continue doing the first role and be a woman of God, following the Lord's Will in all you do. 1 Peter 3 ¹Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; ²While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. ³Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; ⁴But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. ⁵For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: ⁶Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. ⁷Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. ⁸Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

Study Break: Before we continue, please turn to your Bible and read the whole chapter of Proverbs 31...

How can you pray for or use the Lord's Word to make right what the Lord says is wrong

Before you continue, you must examine your life and what you are doing. Who are you coming in contact with and what environment are you in. So many times other areas of your life can hinder your walk of faith. What you let in can attack the blessings you have now and block future blessings the Lord has already made just for you. This section of a Godly Wife is called fix it before you build on it.

Understand, the Lord's Word is not for us to use as it suits us nor to be applicable based on what you think. Being a Godly Wife is a role the Lord would have for you as first, a woman of God and as a wife. Not as a girlfriend, or to play house with someone you live with, or friends with benefits. I am not your judge and again none of us are righteous, not one, but the Word of God applies to us all. He knows our heart and sees behind closed doors. The Lord's Word and Will for our lives cannot be subject to the conditions of our circumstances. To be who we are suppose to be and for the Lord's Blessings to overtake us, everything of who we are and what we do must be subject to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This means getting your life in alignment with Jesus. It does not matter who you are, where you are or what you have done. Jesus loves you. You are not trapped by your circumstances. Jesus died for your sins so you may be free. No man, no thing, not even yourself has the Lord given the authority to hold you in bondage for you are not yourself you are the Lords....know it, believe it, act on it.

1 Corinthians 6 ¹⁹What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Ephesians 5: ²¹Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. ²²Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. ²⁴Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

*The Lord has His reasons and they are not up
for questioning or doubt*

“I am a strong, beautiful woman and I have been raising my child on my own. My education and salary are more than most men I meet. Except for the occasional loneliness, what else do I need a man for? Why would I dare submit to a man who can't do anything for me that I can't do for myself? I am happy with my life. I have what I want. “

Are you through? May I continue? You have to be careful to prevent your worldly values and accomplishments from stealing your faith away from the Lord. The enemy wants you to feel independent. He wants you to believe in yourself and your achievements. This way when he attacks and overpowers you, you will become defeated because you were looking to your own abilities and not the Greatness of God. Then you may find yourself seeking other ways out of your situation by running to different relationships.

Let the Lord guide you

As Christ is the Head of man and man the head of the woman, God is the head of everything. Trust in the Lord beyond the limitations of your intelligence or understanding. Knowing your husband is suppose to be the head of you and you are to subject yourself to him in all things makes it more critical that you choose a man of God.

*God made man. If a man defines himself
by any other means, he is not a man.*

Let us define the head of the household. He is a man of God and the spiritual leader. He is rooted in the Word and the Word is rooted in him. He is led by the Holy Spirit. He walks in faith with love, ever stretching, ever growing in the will of our Lord. He receives the Word from God for the direction and path he is to lead his family. Notice I said nothing of his bank account, job, credit, benefits, physical appearance or material possessions. If he is a man of God and the Lord has spoke to you as you are a woman of God that you two should marry, then he is a man and your husband.

If you are already married and you chose your husband based on worldly values, these guidelines still apply for the Lord would have us to begin our journey with Him this very moment. Do not focus on what you think the problem is. Focus on the Lord. Turn away from anger, frustration and guilt for they cause wrong actions. Trust in the Lord and follow His Will. Your situation will change...it may not be what you think or even want at the time but if you are doing what the Lord will have you to do, it is best.

Do not take the problems into your own hands

Have you every tried to dig yourself out of a hole? Don't be fooled by fresh dirt, if it's not the Lord helping you, you will bury yourself. The enemy would have you to think you made progress by identifying the problem only to leave you thinking it is within your power to fix.

Philippians 4: *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

Pray without ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5

As you continue to abide by the Will of our Lord, you as a Godly Wife will be the example of the Lord working in your family. Your husband's heart will change or you two will part. This is not your choice, but let the Lord work in your life. Do not be persuaded by your emotions, be it positive or negative. Lean not to your own understanding. If your husband turns away from the Lord do not follow him to destruction. Stay with the Lord. Take this Word into your heart and into your home. Whenever tested, reach inside pass your pride, pain, tears and let the Will of God shine through you in your words and in deeds. The Lord will do the rest. Remain a woman of God and a Godly Wife even if you think you may lose your husband. For if he turns away from God, you never had him.

When a man speaks hold his words to the light of the Word of Jesus for He will discern the intent and heart of the man before you. He may go to church and he may know scriptures but his fruits will bare the true nature of his spirit.

Is he a man of God or a man of the world? We are in the world but need not be of the world for the Lord is with us. This is just not pertinent to choosing a husband, man of God, but it is also to keeping him. We all are surrounded by temptation. The enemy is seeking to attack the head to cause the fall of the body. You are your husband's helpmate. Be strong in the Lord and you will be able to be strong for your husband as a Godly Wife.

If your husband is not being a man of God, the enemy is upon him. Arguing, fighting and doing nothing will not prevail in improving your marriage. Call upon the Lord and do His Will. Be a Godly Wife.

Notice I spoke nothing of you catering to your Husband or seeing to his personal needs for doing these things alone will not save you or your marriage nor will doing these things alone fix or improve your marriage. For such things have their place and are not to come before God. If God is not the center of your relationship, you are married by paper only and your marriage will be a cancer upon your life.

If obeying your husbands sets you against the Will of Jesus, you must obey the Lord first. For if you disobey the Lord and obey your husband, all of your house may be lost. Your husband will have you to disobey the Lord for the enemy is at work in him. In order to save your house, you must call upon the Lord and obey him, being a Godly Wife. This role was not defined by man but by God.

I know you may say and do things just to keep the peace in your household. But who are you keeping peace with, the enemy or our Lord. The fact is obeying the Lord may cause your husband to be at odds with you; just as being a woman of God may cause others to be at odds with you. But in every situation the Lord will not only even those odds, but cause them to be in your favor.

As your husband continues to be a man of God, submit to him for God will give him a vision above and beyond your finances and pass the understanding of your education. For there will be some things the Lord will only reveal to your husband, who is a man of God, to which none of your worldly status and accomplishments will comprehend.

Do not apply worldly values to your marriage. For in what manner will the World lead the things that are of God. Throughout your marriage you and your husband may be tempted of worldly values and ways.

1 John 2 ¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Your husband, a man of God, will never have cause to mistreat you

It is not your fault your husband mistreats you. His attachment to the World and not of God will lead him to evil doings. There is nothing of yourself you can do to make this right. The Lord is the answer.

James 4 ¹What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

It can not be forced, we must choose

You can no more force your husband to be a man of God than he can force you to be a woman of God. The choice for each of us must be made from within. Guilt and intimidation leads to imitation, sincerity lacketh. Begin first with Jesus for He is the true changer of hearts and whatever your situation, the Lord can and will deliver you from.

Study Break: please turn to your Bible and read 2 Kings 4:8-37... to find out how, by faith, this woman of God and Godly Wife was able to save her child.