



Ladies of Grace

Bible Studies for Women

The Ministry of Womanhood Series

Every woman has been born into the ministry of God. It is spelled out for her in Scripture, lived out before others in her home, church, and community, and recorded by God in the pages of eternity.

What The Bible Has To Say About Raising Daughters

As I sit down to write this Bible Study for you, I must admit, I write it with a sense of warmth and familiarity. You see, as a mother of two grown daughters, and as a woman that was an adult before she became the “King’s Daughter”, the things that I am going to show you today, and teach you over the next few weeks are very near and dear to my heart. Why? Because they are the very things that God has been using in my own life for the past twenty-two years as He has been teaching me. And, although I don’t claim to be an expert at this task of raising godly daughters, ever since I have decided to become a faithful follower of the plan that God has laid out in His Word for the raising of daughters, I have seen great results in my own life and in the lives of my girls as well.

Please turn with me to Psalm 144, and let’s discover what the Bible says about how God wants our daughters to be raised. Psalm 144:12b says, *“that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace.”*

What exactly does that mean? I’m going to allow some of the commentaries from the Treasury of David explain it to us.

“That our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace or temple. By daughters families are united and connected to their mutual strength, as the parts of a building are by the cornerstones; and when they are graceful and beautiful both in body and mind, they are then polished after the similitude of a nice and curious structure. When we see our daughters well established, and stayed with wisdom and discretion, as cornerstones are fastened in the building; when we see them by faith united to Christ, as the chief cornerstone, adorned with the graces of God’s Spirit, which are the polishing of that which is naturally rough, and “become women professing godliness”, when we see them purified and consecrated to God as living temples, we think ourselves happy in them.” Matthew Henry





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“Daughters unite families as corner stones join walls together, and at the same time they adorn them as polished stones garnish the structure into which they are builded.”

“That our daughters may be as corners stones, etc.. One might perhaps at the first glance have expected that the daughters of a household would be as the graceful ornament of the clustering foliage or the fruit bearing tree, and the sons as the cornerstones upholding the weight and burden of the building, and yet it is the reverse here. And I think one may read the love and tenderness of the Lord in this apparently casual but intended expression, and that he meant the nations of the earth to know and understand how much of their happiness, their strength, and their security was dependent on the female children of the family.” Barton Bouchier

“To Young Women, consider: the moral and religious tone of society is determined more by your character and influence than by those of men. The complexion of home life will be a reflex of your conduct and character, either as daughters, sisters, or wives. The moulding of the character of the next generation, remember, begins with the mother’s influence. Let these facts weigh with you as a motive in seeking the grace of God, without which you can never fulfil your mission worthily.”

After reading all of those commentaries, I believe that what God means when He says “*that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace*” is that **He wants them to be strong and beautiful, so that they will be useful to their husbands, homes, and the society that is around them.**

God gives us a beautiful illustration of the kind of useful woman that He desires for all of our daughters to grow up and become in the picture of the Virtuous Woman described for us in Proverbs 31:10-31.

Please turn with me to Proverbs 31, and let’s read this whole chapter together.

As we read about the characteristics of a virtuous woman in this chapter, it is very obvious that her crowning qualities are strength and beauty.

What are the evidences of strength in a virtuous woman’s life?

- ◆ She works willingly
- ◆ She works diligently
- ◆ She works continually

What are the evidences of beauty in a virtuous woman’s life?

- ◆ She is trustworthy
- ◆ She cares about the needs of others
- ◆ She dresses nicely
- ◆ She is honorable
- ◆ She speaks with wisdom and kindness
- ◆ She takes care of her own business
- ◆ She is a woman that fears the Lord

“I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.” Psalm 40:8



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As we seek to raise our daughters to be useful to their husbands, in their homes, and as a member of society, it is very important for us to remember that the goal (according to God's Word) is to train them to become strong and beautiful according to what **God considers to be strong and beautiful**. And how will we know how to do this? By following the specific course of instruction that God left in His Word for our daughters ~ which is what I am going to teach you about next week!

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The Girl God Has In Mind

As we begin to learn about the fact that God wants our girls to be raised to become useful as grown women by becoming strong and beautiful, so many of our own ideas of what is useful, strong, and beautiful will come to mind.

Some of us will think that we need to raise them to be like a Wonder Woman, ready to tackle any given obstacle that comes their way. Some of us will think they need to be like a Raquel Welch, ready to turn the head of anyone that looks her way. And some of us might think that they need to turn out like a Mother Teresa if they are going to be the kind of useful woman that God wants them to be when they grow up.

But the truth of the matter is, that the girl that God has in mind is not a super woman, a super model, or super sacrificial ~ she is just an ordinary lady that lives for God in the midst of her everyday life in an extraordinary way.

If you will turn to the book of Ruth and read the story of Ruth in the four chapters that make up this book, you will find a perfect example of the girl that God had in mind when He penned Psalm 144:12b and Proverbs 31:10-31. She is the only woman in the Bible that was ever remembered by God for being virtuous, and one of the few women whose virtue is rooted in her usefulness to others.

What made Ruth such a shining example of virtue because of her usefulness? The fact that she used her physical strength to help others and her inward and outward beauty to bring glory to God and others around her.

How did Ruth use her physical strength to help others? By helping her mother-in-law move back to her homeland, and by going out in the field to gather food for them to eat.

How did she use her beauty to bless others? By showing loyalty to her family, humility to her elders, gratefulness to those who protected and provided for her, and devotion to the God who saved her.

As I was raising my own two girls, and as I have allowed God to raise me, I kept the example of Ruth before us as I encouraged all of us to grow up and become the kinds of girls that God had in mind. Here are some of the things that we tried to develop in ourselves and focus upon as we learned from the testimony of Ruth:

- ◆ Devotion and loyalty to God, family and truth
- ◆ Wise decisions are based on God's Word, parent's advice, and the Spirit's leading
- ◆ Determine to do what is right by God, and right for the good of others
- ◆ Discipleship comes when you are willing to learn from the wisdom of others
- ◆ A good reputation is developed, not inherited
- ◆ Obey God even when you don't understand fully what He means
- ◆ Use your life to help others
- ◆ Beauty is more than skin deep, and beauty is what beauty does
- ◆ God blesses a virtuous life and is a rewarder of those that diligently live for Him

Did learning from the example of Ruth help us? I think so. By God's grace, although I began my motherhood as a foolish woman filled with the philosophies of feminism, the girls and I have grown up to become women that love and serve God, my husband, and the other people that are around us. We are all considered hard workers, attractive by others, and useful to the ministries that we are involved in. Like Ruth, God has given us an opportunity to become virtuous women, and because of this, we have been used to make a difference in our homes, church, and the world around us as we spend our days as "corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace" ~ uniting folks to each other and the Lord Jesus Christ, and by helping others to connect themselves to the truths of God's Word.