

CHARM IS DECEPTIVE, AND
BEAUTY IS FLEETING, BUT A
WOMAN WHO FEARS THE LORD IS


to be praised.

PROVERBS 31:30



CHAPTER 7

She is Godly



SCRIPTURE FOCUS: 2 SAMUEL 12, PSALM 51 &
MATTHEW 7:24-28

There's something about a storm that brings out a sense of excitement and wonder in me. In fact, some of my best memories are the nights I spent with my family, surrounded by the warm glow of kerosene lanterns while the windows rattled and shook. Mom and Dad always had two lanterns fueled up and ready to go in the event that the power went out. Regardless of how fiercely the storm was raging outside, I felt safe and secure, by the light of the fire.

As I got to thinking about that today, I was reminded that faith is the fuel that keeps the flame of hope burning within us.

And, in the same way those lanterns burned steadily throughout the night, a faithful woman is steadfast in her faith through the eye of a storm.

In this chapter we'll dive into the importance of faithfulness as the foundation upon which the other six virtues are built. The P31

Woman is a model of virtue and strength, with unwavering faith and devotion to God at the core of her being. It's a guiding light in a sense as her unwavering devotion to God is the driving force behind the decisions she makes and ultimately the life she has built.



SHE IS REVERENT

Proverbs 31:30 tells us, "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised."

Her "fear of the Lord" denotes a deep reverence and respect for God, characterized by a sense of awe, humility, and submission. It's not a fear in the sense of being afraid, but rather a respect and obedience that comes from recognizing and understanding the power and majesty of God. It's often associated with faith, obedience, and a strong relationship with God.

As we look to the Old Testament, we see a reflection of this virtue in the character of King David whose profound respect and obedience to God is evident throughout his life. In fact, God referred to David as a man after his own heart when He appointed him as king.

It's hard to wrap your head around those words if you define David by his greatest mistake. If you put aside the grace of God to focus on the sin that led David down a dark path of destruction, your left with nothing but a stain on the life of an otherwise faithful servant.

You can read about David's adultery with Bathsheba and the subsequent murder of her husband Uriah, in 2 Samuel 11, but the story doesn't end there. David demonstrates his obedience to God's

SHE IS EAGER TO WALK IN GOD'S WILL

We're called to walk in obedience to God's will, which includes both a willingness to admit our wrongdoing and a desire to walk in newness of life. And so, after David repented, he prayed,

*"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."
(Psalm 51:10-12)*

We see that David is asking God for a "willing spirit" here. A spirit that's not only ready to follow God's will, but also eager to walk by His Word. David recognized his need for God and understood the benefits that come with a God-fearing life. He knows that a strong foundation of faith will give him the strength to endure temptation, defeat the enemy, and live a victorious life.

SHE SEES THAT GOD HAS A PURPOSE

With all the pressures that life has to offer, being a woman can feel overwhelming at times. Whether you're a stay-at-home mom, or you're working outside the home, you might start to wonder if there's a purpose to the work that you do. Maybe The P31 Woman wondered the same thing some days when she got up in the wee hours of the morning to make food for her family, or when she was busy making blankets for their beds.

Perhaps you've struggled with feelings of inadequacy while standing at the sink washing dishes or pushing a cart full of groceries through a store. Maybe you're a new mom suffering from a lack of sleep and feeling like a failure at the end of the day. Perhaps you're

a housewife who doesn't feel like your work inside the home is valued by society.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

These words serve to remind us that God has a plan for our future. Whether you're at home knitting socks or at the office taking calls, you're serving a purpose. And although it may feel pointless some days, it's a part of God's plan.

Did you know that Moses spent 40 years tending to his father-in-law's flock before he was called into ministry? Did you know that those years were spent at the foot of Mount Horeb? The place where Moses was leading the flock is the same place that he took the people of Israel to after their exodus from Egypt.

A pastor once told me that desert testing is never a waste of time. It's a teaching tool. It's the necessary experience that we need before God will take us to that next step.



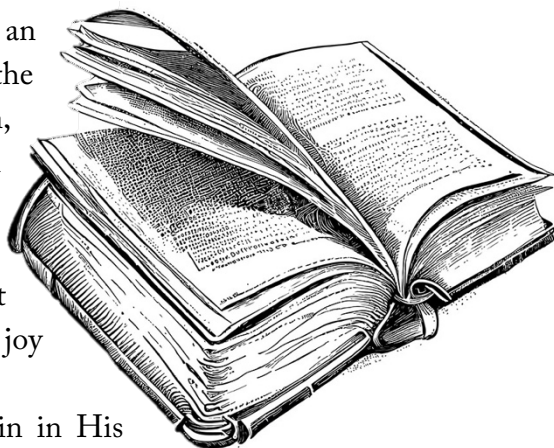
In the forty years that Moses was leading Jethro's flock, he was honing the skills he would need to shepherd God's people. He was learning how important it is to guide and protect those under his care. He was learning the importance of making decisions to ensure their safety and well-being. He knew the lay of the land and what it took to survive in that region.

The mundane seasons of life can be of great value as God is shaping us for the journey ahead, and so it's important to remember that this time of growth and development is part of God's purpose and plan both for you and those that you serve.

Do you ever feel overwhelmed or undervalued? If so, what hope can you glean from this chapter in regard to your situation?

SHE REMAINS IN HIS LOVE

It's hard to hold onto our joy in an ever-changing world, but when the source of our joy stems from within, we not only can, we do. In John Chapter 15, Jesus talks about those who remain in His love saying, "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." (v. 11)



What does it mean to "remain in His love?" It means that we stay close to Him, we keep our hearts and minds focused on Him, and we obey His commandments. When we live according to His word, we can be confident that we are aligned with His will, and will experience the fullness of His love and grace.

In Philippians 4:8, Paul encourages the church, saying, "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

Those words are a powerful reminder to keep our thoughts in check. Why? Because our thoughts have a profound impact on the attitude we carry and the actions that we take. We have the choice to either dwell on discouraging thoughts or to focus on the ones that lift us up. We can either focus on our shortcomings, or we can practice the simple habit of counting the blessings that we have. When we choose the latter, we nurture joy within our hearts, which in turn gives joy to those around us.

SHE RADIATES JOY

Our children don't rise and call us blessed because they enjoyed the pot roast or the mashed potatoes that we made last night. They call us blessed because they see the joy within our hearts. They see God's love reflected in the way that we treat others. They know that the smile on our face when we're paying for our gas or picking up groceries is the same smile that they're going to see within the four walls of their home. They learn what it means to be blessed, by who we are, not what we say.

It's our responsibility to model a life of joy and peace, not just as mothers, but as women of God. This doesn't mean that we ignore the difficulties and struggles that we face. It means that we navigate through times of trouble with a hope inside our hearts.

I want my family to view life from a different perspective—a light that's shining brightly in a world that's filled with darkness and despair. When we choose to focus on God's goodness and grace, even in difficult times, we do that.

It requires intentional effort to keep our hearts and minds focused on the Lord, despite the distractions and temptations of the world. But, when we remain in His love, we experience the peace, joy, and hope that come from having a personal relationship with Him.

SHE IS BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

Every marriage, regardless of how strong or long-standing it is, will be tested and tried, and so a foundation of faith is important. In Matthew Chapter 7, Jesus shared a parable about the wise and foolish builders. He talked about a wise man who built his house on the rock, and a foolish man who built his house on sand. He

talked about how one was able to withstand the elements of heavy rain and strong wind, while the other collapsed from the wind and the rain.

In the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders in Matthew Chapter 7:24-28, who does Jesus compare the wise builder to?

Who does He compare the foolish builder to?

What does the rain, the wind, and the flood represent?

A God-fearing woman knows that a strong foundation is key to ensuring that her house will stand, thus she relies on the Lord to guide her through difficult times. She's invested in her relationship with the Lord and is building her marriage with the wisdom she gleans from His Word. By keeping our focus on what's important, and by living a life that is pleasing to God, we're equipped to comfort our husbands and work through our problems with wisdom and grace.

After God created Adam, He recognized man's need for a helper, and so, God created a woman to provide Adam with companionship and support. Someone he could lean on for comfort and strength. Someone to partner with and raise a family with. God knew that a virtuous wife would be of great value to him.

What does Genesis 2:18 say? Write the verse out here:

When the Bible says, "Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value" (Proverbs 31:11), it's telling us that this man can trust and rely on his wife. He knows that her priorities are in the

right place, and that she has his best interest at heart. We're created to complement our husband's strength as we provide comfort and support to each other, and so it's important to maintain a strong relationship with God, as He empowers us to live a victorious life.

A deep relationship with God has a positive impact on our ability to love and care for others. When we view the world through the lens of God's compassionate love, we learn the importance of forgiveness, humility, and grace. We long to serve and attend to the needs of others as we draw closer to the image of Christ. For it is through the Spirit and by the Spirit that we are equipped to live victorious lives.

SHE IS INTIMATELY CONNECTED WITH CHRIST

So, what does it take to have an intimate relationship with the Lord, and how do we go about building a faith-focused life? Having a strong relationship with God is not about how much we know or how much we do. It's not about giving the most or putting in the most hours at church; it's a matter of the heart. A P31 Woman has an intimate connection with Christ, characterized by her obedience to His Word, and a deep sense of peace as she leans on His wisdom and strength.

"God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at the break of day."

- Psalm 46:5

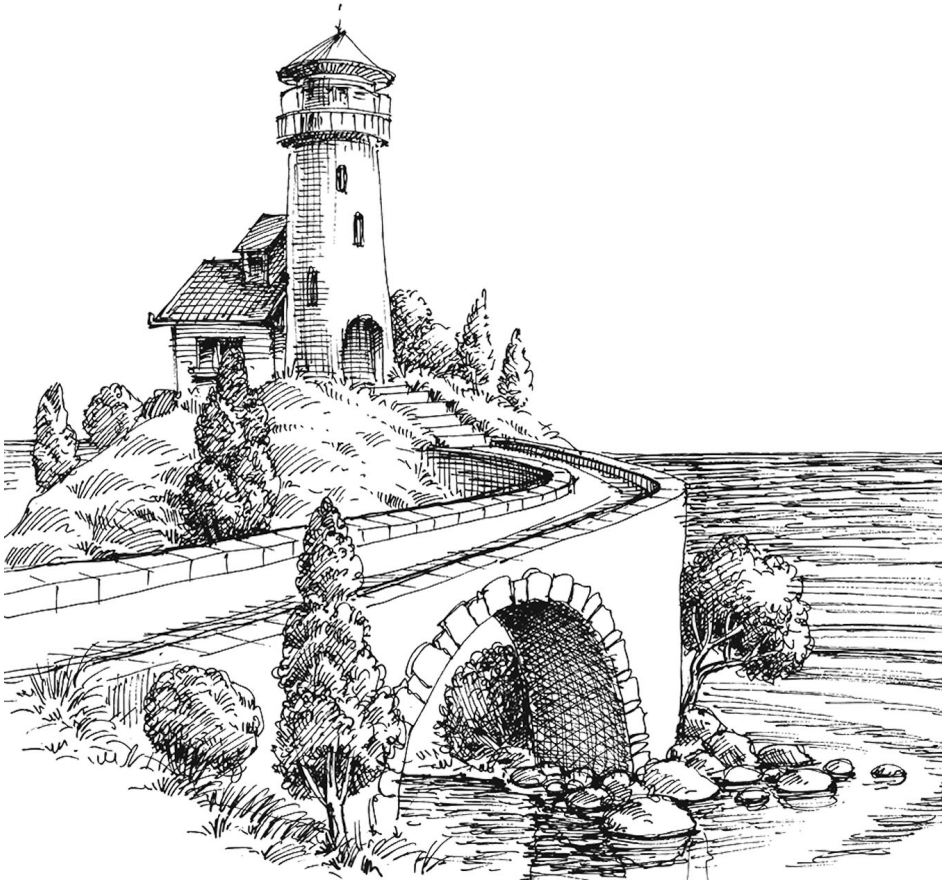
Proverbs 3:5-6 gives us a roadmap for walking in faith. What three things does it tell us to do?

Here are some practical steps to put that plan into practice:

1. Spend time in prayer: This is an important way to cultivate intimacy with God and to understand His character and will for our lives.
2. Read the Bible regularly: This helps to deepen our understanding of God's nature and plan for us, and to build a foundation of faith.
3. Seek to live a life of obedience: This involves making choices in line with God's will and putting Him first in all areas of our life.
4. Serve others and serve God: This helps us put our faith into action and to grow in our love for God and others.

5. Surround yourself with like-minded believers: Having a supportive community of believers can provide encouragement and accountability in our faith journey.

By seeking a deeper relationship with God, we cultivate an intimate and meaningful connection with Him, offering us peace, joy, and a purposeful life.





The P31 Challenge

In this chapter, we looked at 5 practical ways we can deepen our relationship with God. Is there anything on the list you could work on improving?

Have you ever felt like you were just coasting through life without any purpose? What does this chapter teach us about that?
