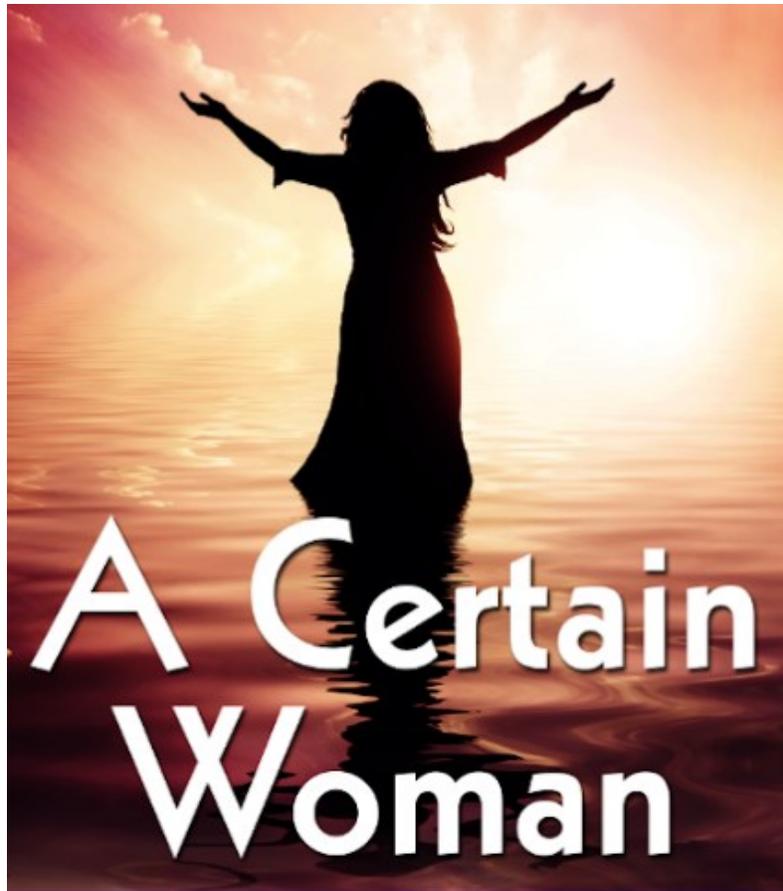


A Certain Woman

*Personal Application Guide to
Living Without Doubt*

Jotwyla R Moore

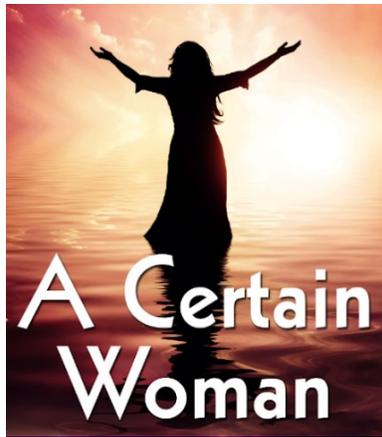


*A Personal Application Guide
to living life without doubts!*



Pastor Jotwyla R. Moore

NOTE: All scriptures are taken from the King James Version (KJV) unless otherwise noted.



Ladies,

I'm excited that you have decided to take this journey with me of self-discovery, attaining wisdom and application of life promoting truths!

I pray that during this time you will be enlightened, corrected, awoken, and improved.

Get ready to Launch out Ladies! We're going into the deep and I believe that the trajectory of your life will change for the better and the revised you will emerge from the depths as a beautiful jewel.

Pastor Jotwyla R. Moore

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Certain defined:

[sur-tn]

adjective

1. free from doubt or reservation; confident; sure:
2. destined; sure to happen (usually followed by an infinitive):
3. inevitable; bound to come:
4. established as true or sure; unquestionable; indisputable:
5. fixed; agreed upon; settled:
6. definite or particular, but not named or specified:
7. that may be depended on; trustworthy; unfailing; reliable:

“One must verify or expel his doubts, and convert them into the certainty of YES or NO”

Thomas Carlyle

There are many stories in the bible that involve woman. Some tell of wives and mothers. Some tell of judges and queens. We've heard of Eve, the mother of all, Mary, the mother of Jesus, Ruth, the Moabites, Deborah, the judge. We know the stories of Elizabeth, and Milcah, of Martha and her sister Mary. We know of Lydia in the New Testament a woman of great wealth who loved the Lord and supported the ministry of the gospel.

This study will concentrate on a few women who were not called by their name, but who we know of by their character. This study is of the woman known as "a certain woman"

While many concentrate on just the conditions in their lives, the description of "certain" makes a world of difference in understanding the stories that unfold and provides us a narrative of instruction, information, and inspiration.

Judges 9:53 But a **certain woman** threw an upper millstone on Abimelech's head, crushing his skull.

Mark 5:25 And a **certain woman**, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

2 Kings 4:1 Now a **certain woman** of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the ..."

Mark 7:25 For a **[certain] woman**, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:

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A Certain Woman knows that we must be honest with ourselves to receive the breakthrough!

Where art thou?

Genesis 3:9 “And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, where art thou?”

Hebrews 4:13

“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

At the time of our introduction to them, each woman in the text was impacted by a life altering state of affairs. One was dealing with an invasion of her city, another an invasion of her daughter by a demon. Yet another was dealing with an invasion of her body, and the other an invasion of her home.

The circumstances were REAL! But more importantly, their observations of their conditions, positions and environments were REAL causing them to make REAL decisions.

The World of Make Believe

The Neighborhood of Make-Believe is the fictional kingdom inhabited by hand puppet characters on the children's television series Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, produced 1968–2001, and its predecessor Mister Rogers, which ran from 1963–1966 for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

The adventures of the citizens of the Neighborhood of Make-Believe appear in a short segment once in the middle of almost every episode. Rogers deliberately makes clear the distinction between the "real world" and the Neighborhood of Make-Believe by transitioning in and out of the Neighborhood segment via a distinctive red and yellow model electric trolley that enters and exits through small tunnels in the wall (or occasionally by setting up small tabletop models of the various Neighborhood of Make Believe buildings), and by discussing what had happened with his audience after the end of each segment. [Wikipedia]

My dear Uncle Frank always referenced this fictional land when referring to people who did not make an accurate observation about the conditions they found themselves in be it physical, emotional, financial or spiritual. He would advise that people who live in the “world of make believe” will always stay there because they don’t realize there’s a real world in a state of constant motion around them.

Acknowledgement

Many of us are very familiar with the 11th chapter of Hebrews. If I ask you to write Hebrews 11:1 I bet you could.

So as a test, I’m asking you to write it!

Faith is ESSENTIAL to our relationship with God. In fact, it is how we get into relationship with Him.

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Most Christians have also heard Hebrews 11:6 more than once. (at least Part a).

11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Let’s take a moment to explore Part b. It advises that those who come to God must _____ that He ____.

We must acknowledge the reality that God is God. Which means He is, “I AM that I AM, Jehovah Jireh (the Lord who provides), King of Kings or Lord of Lords, El-Shaddai (the Almighty One), Jehovah Saboath (the Lord of Host), El Roi (the One who sees me) and El Olam (the Everlasting God) to name a few.

Let’s explore Part c. It explains that on top of believing that He is God, we must also believe/acknowledge/affirm that He is a rewarder of a particular group of people.

Rewarder – one who provides compensation, payment, recompense, remuneration, and incentive.

In God your merit is not determined by how many units you sold or phone calls you answered, but how diligently you seek Him!

Honesty IS the best policy.

When we are honest with ourselves we as humans acknowledge our dependence on God!

When we are honest with ourselves we seek and get life changing results.

When we are honest with ourselves, we are empowered to be honest with others (God). Even when we are afraid!

5: 33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

Hidden in plain view

We know the story told in Genesis 3 all too well. It is the account of how mankind was deceived and altered the path he was placed on for the journey of life. After their eyes were opened and they understood that they were naked they became ashamed and hid themselves.

This tells us that shame is an emotion of the fallen man which causes us to censure. In Christ there is no condemnation!

They hid themselves, but God saw them. It is the same with us. We run away, don’t pray, don’t answer when he speaks to us, yet He’s right there. He sees through your hurt, fear, guilt and embarrassment. And He is the answer! He is the way, truth and life!

Life Application:

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1. Write a “bare all” list of the parts of your character that need improvement.
2. Offer these things to God in prayer
3. Write a list of declarations that state the opposite of what you are currently.
4. Burn the list/keep the declarations
5. Declare them until the Change is manifest!

Needs Improvement

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

My prayer:

Father, you told me to “cast my cares on you”. You also said your “yoke is easy and burden is light.” So, I’m giving you these things in my life that have been weighing me down. I lay them aside never to be yoked to again.

Declarations:

Cremation Ceremony of the Old

Daily Declarations:

I AM

Let there be.....

I speak.....

A Certain Woman will carry a heavy load and for the betterment of people!

When your knight (the one in shiny armor on a white charger) hasn't arrived!

A Certain woman is wise enough to know the significance of what's within her access/realm/reach. She uses it to secure the victory.

No one said the journey to victory would be easy. In fact, no one promised that you wouldn't have a part to play in your survival and ultimate rescue.

We must stop looking around for someone else to step in, come to our rescue, and fight the battle. There are some battles that are meant for us to fight.

Isaiah 52:17 "No weapon formed against you shall prosper" but as we've heard so many times before, no one said the weapon would not form.

God assures us that in this space that we occupy we will experience _____. However, he assures us that we can be in peace and take courage. Because He has overcome the world.

How do you define tribulation?

First take a minute to Praise God for his peace in the midst of this.

Next, write over whatever you've written in as a definition for tribulation: **I AM OVER THIS!**

In the moment when we need to act we must be aware and conscious of his word. (That is why it is important to read it, know it, and declare it).

Luke 10:19 tells us

"Behold, I have given you _____ to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the _____ of the enemy, and _____ will injure you.

When we know his word we don't need to call up our friends, elders, etc. to request answers or seek confirmation. We ACT!

When you're not afraid to act, you become better than a Superhero!

Malachi 4:3

"You will tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing," says the LORD of hosts.

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There are rewards for taking charge.

Revelation 3:21

'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Romans 8:37

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

1 John 5:4

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

Psalms 44:5

Through You we will push back our adversaries; Through Your name we will trample down those who rise up against us.

A Certain Woman responds to what she hears with Action

What are you doing with the Word?

If you watch television, listen to the radio or surf the internet you are bombarded with advertisements promoting products that can “revolutionize your life”. These informative commercials have become so prevalent that they are now known as “infomercials”. These infomercials carry a stigma and have been the storyline of jokes, and also disdain. Those of my age group will never forget the request of Miss. Cleo to “call me now” or the distressed call of the aged lady for Life Call/Life Alert, “I’ve fallen and I can’t get up!”

The frequency of these marketing announcements tends to make us deaf to them. We hear them, but don’t hear them. We tune them out. So it’s as if they are not making a sound. Unfortunately, many take this attitude with the word of God.

Two of the Certain woman heard of Jesus. They heard what “The Word” was doing. The woman with the issue had spent all on physicians so I’m sure the words, “healing, delivered, set free of afflictions” were common phrases. The difference was made in their lives because they responded!

Hearing and Listening

In the article “There is a difference between hearing and Listening” the doctors advise,

Hearing takes place when something disturbs the atmosphere and that disturbance takes the form of pressure waves that strike our ear drums as sound. It’s the way we perceive sound.

Listening is different. It expands on hearing when we pay attention to the meaning of what we hear. For example, a truck just rolled by on the road in front of our house.

We do that when we’re merely hearing the words someone else is speaking. They’re just vibrations in the atmosphere. We nod, smile, perhaps even respond, but are we listening? Hardly. Listening requires that we open to the meaning of the other person’s words, that we — in a very real way — enter into the experience those words are meant to convey.

It’s no longer just about sound but about the thoughts, feelings, point of view, expectations, memories, sensations, beliefs — the whole of the other person — or at least as much of the whole as is available in the moment. (Judith Sherven & James Sniechowski)

We hear with our natural ear, but listening is an action of the soul (our mind, will and emotions). Hearing happens subconsciously, but Listening takes a conscious effort. James admonishes us to

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move beyond the realms of the flesh and also beyond the territory of the soul to operating as a person controlled by the spirit, advising that if we stay in the flesh as only hearers, we are cheating ourselves.

He instructs that when action is taken the word is not forgotten.

James 1:22-25 New King James Version (NKJV)

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Match the words (by drawing a line to the corresponding word).

Hearer	Mind
Doer	Flesh
Listener	Spirit

We also develop selective hearing. Selective auditory attention or selective hearing is a type of selective attention and involves the auditory system of the nervous system. Selective hearing is characterized as the action in which people focus their attention on a specific source of a sound or spoken words.

This works for us in that we hear what we want to hear, that which is pleasing to us, and don't hear what we don't like. This gets us into a whole different conundrum causing us to live beneath the privilege and benefits that have been provided for us.

Building Sandcastles

Matthew 7:24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. 25 The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain

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fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

A favorite activity of families on vacation on the beach who have young children is to build sandcastles. Some are big, some small, some are plain while others are intricate in detail. The thing that is alike about all of them whether built on white sand beaches, or rocky beaches, by those who are skilled or novices, is that when the tide comes up and pulls back eventually the sandcastle will topple and wash away.

This will also transpire in our lives if we don't put action to the word. But if we do, we will be like the great monuments of the world standing strong for centuries providing wonder and awe for generations to come. We may be leaning like the tower of Pisa, who built in 1372, is some is well over 600 years old, but still standing!

Jump! How high?

The saying, "when I say jump, you say how high" is thought to be originated in the military. When new recruits begin boot camp the drill sergeant lines them up to give them initial instructions on how things are going transpire. The sergeants trying to be very intimidating and forceful, letting the recruits know that it's going to be tough and that they must follow every instruction to perfection.

It is also meant to establish a non-rebuttal environment where those under authority are not questioning the tactics and mode of operation of those in charge.

This is the approach we should take when hearing God's word. When He provides instruction our immediate response should be to start doing. However, the usual response is to start asking questions. We become interviewers and need to know the who, what, where, when, why and how of it.

This was a point my husband would drill into our son when he was small because being curious he always wanted to know why? He would say, "Do what I say first, and then ask questions". I once asked him why he was such a stickler about this, and he advised that there could come a time when he sees danger or a problem and warns him to "duck" or "get down" to avoid him being injured. He went on to say that "if he has a habit of asking first before doing he will not respond and end up in harm's way."

We must also develop the habit of doing first. Sometimes God explains the why and the how, but sometimes he just says, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee". [Genesis 12:1] Even when God tells us something we deem ridiculous, like sacrificing your son we must act first. Knowing we'll never encounter Jehovah Jireh if we're not on the mountain being obedient to the word.

We must know that He is a loving God who "knows the plan he has for us, thoughts of good and not of evil" and be assured that He will bring us to an expected end. [Jeremiah 29:11]

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Life Application:

Read Psalm 119

This Psalm speaks of Gods laws, His ways, His sovereignty, His rule and providence, His precepts, His commandments, His judgements, His words, His faithfulness, His statutes and His truth.

We must remember these things as we execute daily.

Remember it's His will that must be done, not ours!

A Certain Woman Knows the Power of a Declaration and Speaks her Own Deliverance!

Mark 5:28 King James Version (KJV)

28 For **she said**, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

29 **And straightway** the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

There are some realizations that we must come accept. The quicker we come to face to face with them, we can move on to the next step expeditiously. The woman realized

1. Jesus is the answer to her issue
2. That she had to get to Him.

She obviously also knew her status in the community (as one who had a continuous flow of blood – Leviticus 15) and of the great crowds that followed Jesus. However, she also knew the power of a spoken word.

Job 22:28 “Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.”

One of the most familiar phrases in the bible comes from the account of the beginning, “Let there be” which is always followed by, “and it was”. When God speaks there is ALWAYS a corresponding action. We know this because He tells us in His word in Isaiah 55: 10-11 “For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

God has made us in His image and likeness; therefore, we are as He is, speaking spirits. When we speak His word it is activated in our sphere. In fact our Father tells in Isaiah 43:26 “Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.”

Proverbs 18:20-21 says, “A man’s stomach shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; from the produce of his lips he shall be filled. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” This means you will experience and live out the value of what you’ve spoken either positive or negative.

Negative speech is like pulling at a string that unravels the whole sweater. It’s the starting spark that burns down the house. We must keep a watch over our mouths and be mindful and careful of what we say.

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Remember we must speak with confidence. We can't speak whining, grumbling or complaining. God can't move in doubt. Believe that you are speaking the words of the God who can! In the Genesis account God spoke and it was. In the account of this certain woman she spoke and acted and straightway her issue was dried up.

Hebrews 4:12 describes the Word of God as "living and powerful". The word is alive and never failing. That is why we can speak it with confidence. It is not a good old book of stories, it's active and flourishing and as contemporary as what's trending today. We must see the word as a living organism that is able to grow and become tangible. Just as God spoke in the beginning arranging and organizing what we see before us, we must speak what we need into existence. Believe that when you speak you will see!

Exercise: What do you need to manifest in your life? Take a moment to write "Let there be" statements. Declare them daily until you see what you've said.

Let there be:

A Certain Woman Won't Allow Affliction to Keep Her from Deliverance

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow stated "Into each life some rain must fall." Rain can be representative of pain. Pain is a part of the human experience. The bible uses the term affliction.

Pain is described as physical suffering or discomfort caused by illness or injury. It is also described as careful effort; great care or trouble.

Pain is usually transitory, lasting only until the noxious stimulus is removed or the underlying damage or pathology has healed, but some painful conditions, such as rheumatoid arthritis, peripheral neuropathy, cancer and idiopathic pain, may persist for years. Pain that lasts a long time is called chronic or persistent, and pain that resolves quickly is called acute.

The woman with the issue of blood suffered physical affliction, the woman whose daughter was possessed with a demon suffered emotional affliction, while the woman whose children were going to be enslaved suffered mental affliction. Whether chronic or acute, physical or not, they still needed an answer, solution, results!

Contrary to some belief systems, it is NOT God's plan that we live with constant affliction. The description of the Messiah from the Old Testament tells us that He would:

Description	Scripture Reference
Raise the dead	Daniel 12:2
Heal the blind	Isaiah 35:5; Isaiah 42:7
Heal the deaf and mute	Isaiah 35:5
Have a healing ministry	Isaiah 53:4
Heal the lame	Isaiah 35:6

The Messiah's come and He's brought joy, but this does not mean that we won't experience affliction at all. The word of God does warn us that persecution and tribulation will come to us, but it also advises "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" 2 Corinthians 4:8-9. This gives us the hope that we need to motivate us to action.

Each of these women could have opted to sulk in their condition and cry, "Woe is me"; however, they chose to live and not expire in their affliction. The affliction stimulated them to produce the passion necessary to acquire the transformations they needed.

One thing that is hard for us to comprehend is that weakness puts God's impeccable strength on display. 2 Corinthians 12:9 "And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." When we trust Him with our infirmities He is glorified and His great power is revealed in us.

Romans 8:18 tells us "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [are] not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us. " AMP

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God wants to reveal his glory in us and sometimes He uses affliction as the vehicle. What you do with the vehicle is up to you. You can let it sit in the driveway or you can put a key in it (your faith) and drive it to your deliverance.

Will you stand by and allow your future to be taken from you or will you create a new destiny for yourself?

There is always a risk involved when going after your deliverance. What if I can't get the answer I'm looking for, the solution that I need? When you're certain you can't be afraid to take risk.

There's a story in 2 Kings about a group of lepers who sat outside of the city. Leprosy was an affliction that caused disfigurement, as well as social isolation. One day these group of men determined within themselves it was time to take a risk. In Chapter 7:4 they said to each other "If we say, we will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die." Either way they had a potential to die. So instead of not trying at all, they decided like Queen Esther, "if I perish, let me perish" but I'm getting up and seeking my deliverance.

Ecclesiastes 11:1-3 "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth. If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be."

We must learn to trust the Lord even in our afflictions. Our own understanding will get us in trouble. We don't always know the full plan, nor can we see into the future. That is why we must acknowledge (recognize and concede) to God and allow Him to direct us. Proverbs 3:5, 6 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

I've heard it said that there are two things that can't be in heaven at the same time. - Your prayer and your answer.

It's time to fight through the pain and get to your deliverance.

Let's Pray:

Father, your word says that we count them happy which endure. I am grateful for your tender mercies in my life. I thank you for the strength and fortitude to stand. I know that I can do all things with the strength that you give. I thank you NOW for answers, for healing, for deliverance and for victory. In Jesus name, Amen

A Certain Woman realizes a small amount of the right thing is all it takes to see great results!

Do the Right thing is a movie written by famed director, Spike Lee. If nothing else is remembered about the plot the last words of the movie stand out, "Wake up". This is exactly what our society needs to do!

Our society thrives on big! "Go big or go home!" "The bigger the better!" We watch shows like, "The Biggest Loser". We love things supersized and extra-large. But a woman that is certain knows that even the crumbs can get you the release that you need to change the course of your life.

We don't have to possess the most fabulous, the grandest, the most. We can have a small amount of the right thing and it will get you "the thing" that you need most.

If you ask 10 people you are likely to get 10 different answers about what the "right thing" is; however we know that the bible is our authority on right vs. wrong. It is our guideline to living a successful and abundant life.

The bible describes many things that are "right"; however, time permits we speak of only three. These three are essential. Faith, Love and Obedience.

Faith

The bible brilliantly describes Faith in Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the _____ of things hoped for, the _____ of things not seen."

It also advises that "without faith it is impossible to please him" [Hebrews 11:6a] so Faith is on the list of "right things". While it seems to us that having an excess of the right thing should get us somewhere, move things, or make us "somebody" the bible tells us that a crumb sized faith can accomplish great feats! Jesus teaches us that "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

Have you ever used your faith to produce a great result? Write it down and share the experience with other!

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Obedience

The New Testament uses a number of words to convey the idea of obedience. A look at some of them will indicate the range of meanings and implications involved in the concept. The principal words used are:

Word for Obey - Old Testament	Citation	Definition
shama	Strong's #8085	"to hear intelligently, often with implication of attention, obedience, etc." define it
	Unger and White	"to hear, hearken, listen, obey, to publish".
Word for Obey - New Testament	Citation	Definition
Hupakoe	Strong's #5218	from hupo, "under" and akouo, "to hear" i.e. by implication, compliance or submission
Hupotasso	Strong's # 5293	from hupo, "under" and tasso, "to order" Hence, to obey, to be under obedience, to be submitted to
Peitho	Strong's # 3982	"to be persuaded, to listen to, and to obey"
Phulasso	Strong's #5442	to watch, to guard, hence by implication to observe
Tereo	Strong's #5083	to keep, to guard, to observe or fulfill a command
In both the Old and New Testaments the central idea of "obey" is to "hear, to listen to attentively"		

Obedience is not a popular word today; however, it's very clear that obedience is a necessary and crucially important part of our life as Christians. It in fact is what got Jesus past his crisis in the garden of Gethsemane and to the cross. "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." Luke 22:42 King James Version (KJV)

Obedience is a submission to the Father's plan for our lives and not our own. Obedience is an act of discipline and self-control that is directly linked to the 3rd important thing, Love.

Love

We all want love in our lives. We want to be loved, know love, to love and to be in love. We are designed to be relational. We crave relationships because this is how we were made. God said himself that it was not good for man to be alone; therefore, making him a suitable help mate. The elephant, donkey or pelican were not suitable, so He made Adam someone like him.

NOTE: All scriptures are taken from the King James Version (KJV) unless otherwise noted.

While there are a plethora of different types of relationships that we can foster, our relationship with God is, or should be, the most important. It should also be personal. We should know him better than our neighbor or the cashier at Walmart. We should be closer to him than any other relationship.

Selah moment: Do you love God as you should? What can you do to nurture a better relationship?

When you love someone you want to do what pleases them. "This is love for God, to obey his commands" (1 John 5:3). Jesus said, "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me" (John 14:21). The primary reason we obey God is that we love him.

Scriptures about Love and Obedience

"If you love me, you will obey what I command" (John 14:15).

"If anyone loves me he will obey my teaching" (John 14:23).

"If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love" (John 15:10).

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord' and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46).

"everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice" will remain standing, while "everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice" will fall with a great crash (Matthew 7:24-27).

"Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent" (Revelation 3:3).

Understanding Real Love

1 Corinthians 13: 4 "Love is patient; love is kind. Love isn't envious, doesn't boast, brag, or strut about. There's no arrogance in love; 5 it's never rude, crude, or indecent—it's not self-absorbed. Love isn't easily upset. Love doesn't tally wrongs 6 or celebrate injustice; but truth—yes, truth—is love's delight! 7 Love puts up with anything and everything that comes along; it trusts, hopes, and endures no matter what. 8 Love will never become obsolete. Now as for the prophetic gifts, they will not last; unknown languages will become silent, and the gift of knowledge will no longer be needed. 9 Gifts of knowledge and prophecy are partial at best, at least for now, 10 but when the perfection and fullness of God's kingdom arrive, all the parts will end. 11 When I was a child, I spoke, thought, and reasoned in childlike ways as we all do. But when I became a man, I left my childish ways behind. 12 For now, we can only see a dim and blurry picture of things, as when we stare into polished metal. I realize that everything I know is only part of the big picture. But one day, when Jesus arrives, we will see clearly, face-to-face. In that day, I will fully know just as I have been wholly known by God. 13 But now faith, hope, and love remain; these three virtues must characterize our lives. The greatest of these is love. "

Selah moment: Do you love others as you should? How can you love God better?

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A Certain Woman will not wait for someone else to arise to get it done. She sizes the situation up, steps in and seizes the opportunity.

Tag You're It

I remember playing outside for hours with the children in the community. We played dodge ball, kick ball and tag. Do you remember tag? Tag was the playground game that involved someone chasing other players in an attempt to "tag" or touch them, usually with their hands. When you were touched or "tagged" the tagger yelled out, "Tag, you're it". Then you became the pursuer.

There comes a time when God tags us and it is our time to be the aggressor, the chaser, the pursuer. He's tagged us because He has something great for us to get a hold of, "to touch". But just like in the childhood game we find ourselves running from the touch/tag of God because we don't want to be it. We don't want the responsibility of pursuing. Pursuing takes effort, work and strategy. We've become professionals at running but haven't honed our chasing skills.

The woman in the book of Judges was tagged. She had to accept the position she'd been placed in and take action.

We can never do this until we take two fundamental steps. We must Evict doubt, and small mentality from our minds.

Evicting doubt

In order to put doubt out you must recognize what unbelief looks like. Below are some characteristics of unbelief:

- Unbelief dares to question the truthfulness of God's promise itself.
- Unbelief says, "This is a new thing and cannot be true."
- Unbelief says, "This is a sudden thing and cannot be true."
- Unbelief says, "There is no way to accomplish this thing."
- Unbelief says, "There is only one way God can work."
- Unbelief says, "Even if God does something, it won't be enough."

This has to be a permanent break up not a temporary split. Unbelief will be very steady in trying to obtain a place in your heart and life.

Once you evict doubt you must also get away from unbelievers. The bible warns us about our associations.

- 1 Corinthians 15:33 ESV "Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals."
- Proverbs 13:20 ESV "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm."
- Proverbs 14:7 ESV "Leave the presence of a fool, for there you do not meet words of knowledge."

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Who Me, Yes You, Couldn't Be, Then who?

This comes from another childhood story where the person is attempting to find out who stole the cookie from the cookie jar. However, we take on the mentality “who me, couldn't be” when it comes to the amazing things God has tagged us for. We have what my former pastor would call “stinking thinking”. It is easy to believe that God has big plans and unlimited thoughts about our sister and brothers, but we can't imagine that He would choose us to impart His greatness.

It's time to think about you the same way He thinks about you. Psalm 139: 14 “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. 15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. 17 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.”

Say what God says, “I am reverentially and magnificently, brilliantly and delightfully made!” Repeat daily!

Chosen for Deliverance

The picture of the millstone grinder is to keep you aware of your significance. Grinding was a lowly job, but necessary. We must stop thinking of ourselves as inconsequential. Maybe you aren't called to reach the world, but perhaps you are! You'll never get there if you don't first believe it's possible.

It is also important to note that the world is subjective. My “world” consist of those is my network and surroundings. For the certain woman in Judges 9 their world was their city that was under siege. Her actions made the difference in their world and she became their savior.

“To the world you may be one person; but to one person you may be the world.”

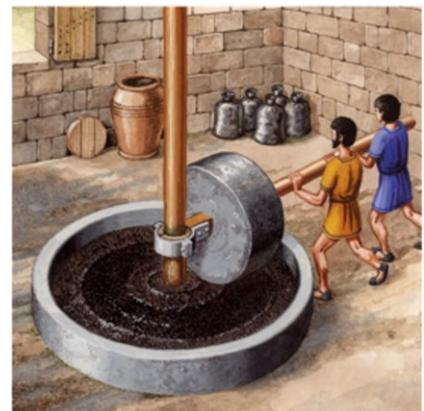
Dr. Seuss

God has called each of us to reach someone. We have all been chosen for a work that will strengthen the Kingdom.

We must be about our Father's business. While we wait around we may miss our opportunity for deliverance.

Remember: Excuses will always be there for you, opportunities won't.

I declare I am who the Bible says I am, can do what the Bible says I can do, and will have what the Bible says I can have. I declare all hardship, difficulty and misfortune is to me a university, making me sensible and tougher. I declare the sun always shines above the clouds. Therefore I will always remain confident in all things, conditions and positions keeping a Kingdom vision and divine



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perspective. I declare the finest days are yet to come. My days are getting progressively livelier, lovelier and more abundant. I am a conqueror over the world.

A Certain Woman remains committed under pressure.

The gospels of Matthew and Mark speak a narrative about a woman who had a real problem. She wasn't upset because someone stole her lunch from the refrigerator in the break room. She was sad because she didn't get the raise that she thought she deserved or that her beautician messed up her haircut. This woman was dealing with a real conundrum. Her daughter was possessed with a demon.

Options are not many when you're face to face with a life altering matter. In fact they can be narrowed down to two basic choices:

1. Live with it
2. Refuse to Live with It

I know you thought the answers would be more philosophical, but it really boils down to these two.

The subsequent actions are a result of what choice you make.

This woman determined that she could not and therefore, would not live with this issue plaguing her home and future.

When the problem is big the opposition to fix the problem is usually the same! In this case, the woman knew the answer. She knew she had to get to Jesus for the resolution and that's what she set out to do.

What have you allowed to become an obstacle in getting to your solution?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Say out Loud "No Excuses"! Put that on repeat.

What to do when the pressure comes from the inside?

The woman went straightway to her answer, Jesus, and asked for her solution, "Have mercy on me, thou Son of David" but the response she received was not positive. She came against pressure.

One of the definitions of pressure is to attempt to persuade or coerce (someone) into doing something.

The first pressure she encountered was from Jesus. Jesus first response was pure silence. "But he answered her not a word." How do you typically respond to silence as a response?

The second pressure she felt came from the disciples "And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us."

Weren't the disciples supposed to encourage healing, deliverance and miracles? Why were they the ones encouraging the opposite? We must be careful of the motives of those closest to our deliverer.

What do you think their motives were?

Yet and still, more pressure, "He answered her saying, I was not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." In other words, the miracles, deliverance, and blessings I have are not for you! It's like you going to a car dealership expressing that you need a new vehicle and their response is, "we have a whole lot of new vehicles but none of them are for you!"

Many of us would feel defeated and walk away. When we feel this way we have to go back to our original decision, "I Refuse to live with this!"

We should learn from this woman's response. Only a certain woman could be this persistent through the pressure. Instead of backing down, she raised up. "Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me!"

Worship -LATREUO - service.

Worship breaks chains and frees us. We know this from Paul and Silas' midnight encounter in a jail cell (Acts 16:16-40). Worship exalts God and causes him to answer. Psalm 99: 5 "Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; he is

"Excuses are monuments of nothingness; They build bridges to nowhere, Those of us who use these tools of incompetence seldom become anything but nothing at all."
UNKNOWN

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holy. 6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name; **they called on the LORD and he answered them.** 7 He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud; they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them. 8 **LORD our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God, though you punished their misdeeds.** 9 Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.”

She acknowledged him as her Lord, her Adonai. Adonai by itself is not really a proper name but rather a title. It literally means 'mister' or my lord, master or owner. She spoke to His kingship. She recognized what his own did not.

You would think that would have stopped the pressure, “But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.”

Now that would have been most of our breaking point. I can hear my fellow sisters now saying, “That’s when I would have gone off! You can call me some of everything, but a dog, now that takes the cake!” But my sisters, we must stay calm under pressure.

Pressure is not always bad. In fact it is pressure that causes us to have products like spray bottles, internal combustion engine, jackhammers, rockets, and windmills. These products help us to learn, grow, expand and in some cases produce a higher quality of living.

Have you ever opened a can of spray paint to quickly cover a surface? What an awesome invention. When you use a can of spray paint the first thing you do is shake it up for a while, listening as a ball bearing rattles around inside. The can is sealed, preventing the gas from boiling and turning into a gaseous state. In order to get the process in motion, we push down the nozzle. The moment the nozzle goes down, and the seal is released, an escape route is produced. Now the propellant instantly boils and expands into a gas and pushes down on the product trying to escape the high pressure, and expand its volume the atmosphere where there is less pressure. This forces the product to shoot out from the nozzle, and we have a coat of paint.

Have you ever though that the response of Jesus was meant to activate the great faith that was in this woman? The bible describes her as certain, but perhaps, the pressure established the next level of faith needed to produce the miracle she needed. You were made to cover a great surface but until your nozzle is pressed down you’ll never spray your faith out that produces the desired result.

This woman used wisdom and remained calm and responded with relentless faith. When she answered, “Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table” she basically told her answer, you may not be able to give me the whole blessing, but I want the portion that is allowed. I want my portion. If I’m a dog, then give me my crumbs!

Our Lord teaches us to ask for our daily bread. Thank God we are in the dispensation where we can ask for the loaf. The bible says that we are loaded with benefits each day. But we still need to come to our heavenly father to receive them. We should have a need to go back every day because we’ve used up the benefit from the day serving God’s people. Remember that pressure pushes out purpose!

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Matthew 6:9-13 In this manner, therefore, pray:

***Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and
the glory forever.
Amen.***

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A Certain Woman Desires to be Made Whole

Divorcing the Familiar and Marrying Wholeness

Mark 7: 25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

Whole: complete; full; unabridged; entire; unedited

In 12 years one can complete the terms to earn a high school diploma, in advanced degrees you can become a doctor. A child of the age of 12 has transformed from a single cell growing in your womb into an “adult sized” pre-teen. The point made is that in twelve years you become extremely knowledgeable and intensely familiar with whatever has been in your life in that time period.

Familiar means to be accustomed to; acquainted with and well known from long or close association. When one is familiar with someone, a place or situation you become relaxed and express a comfortability level in it.

Why do we like familiarity? Speeli Summary.com

1. Familiar things make us feel safe.

- Familiar things make us feel safe since we assume that we are less likely to get harmed by them.

2. Fear of the unknown

- Many people prefer to stick to what they know, even if it's not that good, than to take the risk of exploring something new. The fear of the unknown is one of the reasons why we like familiar things.

3. More exposure effect

- The more exposure effect is a theory that says that things and people become more likable when we get exposed to them for some time.

4. Easier for the brain to process

- In other theory, it's suggested that familiar things put less load on the brain as they are easier for the brain to process. The ease of processing gives us a pleasant feeling when we encounter those things.

5. We feel more relaxed and at ease

- When we get exposed to familiar things we feel more relaxed because we can easily expect the behavior of those things. Uncertainty can lead to tension.

6. Familiar things might be associated with good memories

- A person who is used to eating a certain kind of food might have associated this food with good emotions. In such a case, this person might fear taking the risk of trying something new as it might taste bad.

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7. We prefer the shorter path

- Humans are lazy by nature and they usually pick the short path over the long one. Familiar things can seem like a short cut since we won't have to learn anything new to use them.

8. Decision making might not be easy

- The decision making process is considered unpleasant for many people, which is one reason why some people prefer to go for whatever is familiar instead of going through the pain of making a decision.

9. To avoid regret

- Some people prefer familiar things because they help them avoid regret. By choosing something that they are already familiar with those people can avoid making a bad decision.

It's innate for us to hold onto what's familiar but we can't hold familiar and new, and what God has for us is in the new!

Isaiah 43:19

19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Some things in our life we've married ourselves to and although it is not what's best or beneficial for us, we can't seem to separate from it.

We love it because it is so commonplace. We get used to it laying its head on our bed, and sitting at our dinner table. Like an abused spouse we allow the abuser to come back because it's what we know. There's even a saying regarding dealing with a familiar enemy, "Better the devil you know than the one you don't know." We tell ourselves that at least I'm used to this problem, headache, and adversary. The next one or a new one may be worse! But the fact is, it could also be better! And if it is what God has for you, it will be.

Divorce is the legal dissolving of a marital relationship. While we don't encourage divorce, in the case of removing yourself from places and things that keep you stagnant, battered, and depleted I say go for it! Bust a move!

We must be willing to make a complete break! This means we change the form completely. Throw away the mold that you use to determine what's right for you.

I heard it said, "People don't want something truly new, they want the familiar done differently." This is shown over and over when one ends up in the same situation but a slightly different circumstance.

We must let go of what we have in order to grasp the new thing God has for us. A full hand can't grab anything. It's only when we release what we're holding that our hands are made ready for something else.

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If you're holding onto hate, you will never receive love.

If you're holding onto bitterness, you will never receive joy.

Keep holding jealousy, you'll never receive trust

Keep holding conflict, you'll never receive peace

When we divorce the familiar we become open for new experiences and paradigms. We must fall in love with innovation. It's God's way. He loves to bring new things to us; new thoughts, ideas, and models. Each day brings us the same, but it never is the same. We get a new 24 hours to make a difference, to touch a life and to make ours better.

Life Application:

Make a list of things you need to separate from. Take some time to think of your separation strategy.

A Certain Woman thinks beyond herself and is willing to share what she has to advance the community.

Judges 9:53 But a certain woman threw an upper millstone on Abimelech's head, crushing his skull.

Her town was being invaded, her future was up for grabs and her very existence was threatened. She took an object that was familiar to her and waited for the right time to provide salvation for herself and her community.

There is no beauty, no joy, or goodness in selfishness. According to Brian Tracy there is no success in thinking only of you. John Bunyan advises that life really starts when you do something for someone who can't reciprocate.

The bible tells us of the blessing in giving and sharing with our fellow brothers and sisters. Proverbs 3:27 says "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Proverbs 22:9 notes "He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor."

Often times we have the desire to give, but don't believe we have the means. We must know that giving isn't just about physical substance. We have so much to offer, but we must be Certain of this in order to be active.

"Successful people are always looking for opportunities to help others.

Unsuccessful people are always asking, "What's in it for me?"

— Brian Tracy

"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

— John Bunyan

Understanding What You Have

The Certain woman in the book of Judges used an upper millstone. She understood from daily working with this tool to grind various things into mill that it was heavy enough to be used as a weapon. We all have gifts that have been given to us by God that we can put to use. Most importantly we've been given the gift of Christ. Ephesians 4:7 7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

The moment you receive Christ as your Savior, you've received the gift that opens the path to an abundant life teeming over with more and more. In and through Him, you are a joint heir with Christ, in the Kingdom of God which Romans 14:17 reports is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The wonderful thing about a gift is that he doesn't require work, just receiving. "For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, for it is the gift of God. "Ephesians 2:8

What we have should be shared. In fact we were given this charge by our King as he made his exit from the earth. Matthew 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"

The gift of Christ comes with additional gifts which are the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit.

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Speaking Gifts	Revelation Gifts	Power Gifts
Different Kinds of Tongues	Word of Wisdom	Gift of Faith
The Interpretation of Tongues	Word of Knowledge	Gift of Healing
The Gift of Prophecy	The Discerning of Spirits	Working of Miracles

These gifts are given to bring glory to God and to help us live abundant lives. We can and must use the gifts we've been given to advance the world around us! It should be the #1 mission in our lives.

Thinking Past You – Getting Rid of the “my four and no more” mentality

It's easy to think inwardly and concern ourselves with those who are in front of us on a day to day basis. Our lives can be complicated with the pressures of the grind of going to work, school, etc. But we must always remember that we've been “saved to serve” and that our lives are not our own. 1 Peter 4:10 tells us to “Use whatever gift you've received for the good of one another so that you can show yourselves to be good stewards of God's grace in all its varieties.” The Voice

We must follow the principles of God in order to get the return we expect. Luke 6: 38 “Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” This is not just an offering scripture! Whatever we give will return to us in a greater degree.

What can you do to increase your service to others?

Managing our Greatest Commodity

There's no time! There's never any time! Jessie Spano, *Saved by the Bell*. This is the story of most of our lives. Our agendas are almost always full. There's work, school, church, sports, family. When do I have time to think about anything or anyone else?

The scripture warns us to make the best use of our time because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15-16 “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.” Life is as a vapor and we must be about his business so we can't waste days.

Poor time management keeps us from growing in the grace and knowledge of God. “Since they weren't being wise stewards of their time, they hadn't grown in the grace and knowledge of God, which we are all commanded to do” 2nd Pet 3:18. We must do better ladies!

I've learned and am continuing to learn about successfully managing my time. I'll share a few things that I feel will benefit my fellow ladies.

1. Distractions can be dangerous and costly.

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2. Value your time and other people will do the same.
3. Use your time for the things that provide a return.
4. Sleep!

Exercise: Do a time audit for one week and look at exactly where your time is going. Identify anything causing a regular, repeated drag or drain on your time.

It's important to identify what constitutes well spent time? Write a list of 3-5 things.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Tip: As woman we must remember we are cycling each month. This may play a factor. Also seasons cycling may also affect us.

Audit Results:

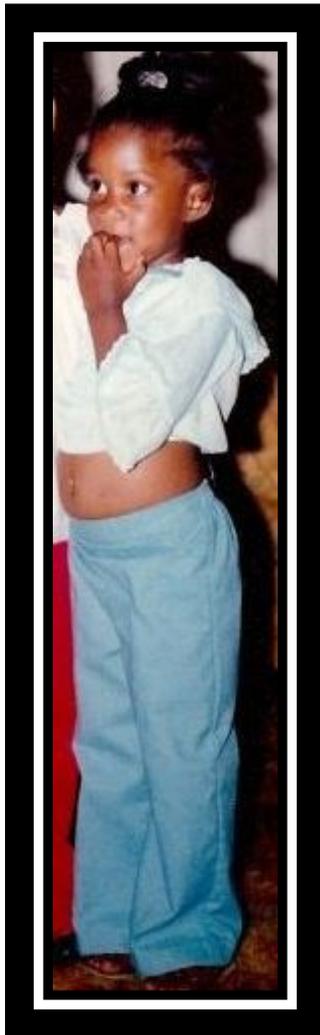
Community is defined as a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common and a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals. We are all part of a global community and within this group are several sub groups such as your neighborhood and church family.

In the text the community came together because of a catastrophic situation. We see this often in the times that we live in. We have experienced the global outreach in response to the devastation of hurricanes and earthquakes. Outpourings of donations, assistance and love are shown by the members of the world community.

We should embrace this posture daily. When we are proactive, we develop plans and devise mitigations in case of risks. We know what to do and fall in line. We band together and defeat the enemy. This is what happens when we think beyond ourselves!

Life Application:

If given the chance, what would you tell your young self? Take a moment to write to the young girl.



Dear Young Me,

How can you use these words to affect another young woman's life for the better?

Life Application #2: Share these words!

In Conclusion:

It is my hope that this journey has been advantageous. I am Certain that it has opened your mind and spirit to the truths found in the word of God. My prayer is that it is just the beginning of your exploration in becoming the woman that God designed as He was knitting you together in your mother's womb.

Just as John Glenn's orbit around the earth was just the beginning of space exploration in the United States to which a whole Space administration was built on, let this be the beginning of the amazing feats you will accomplish for the Kingdom of God. You may never walk on the moon or set foot on the Red planet, but according to the word of God you too can tap what eye hath not seen!

1 Corinthians 2:9 King James Version (KJV) 9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

Be encouraged to live each day unwavering in who you are in God and the plan He has for you! I'm Certain if you do you will live fulfilled!

I'll leave you with words of Numbers 6:24-26 The Voice (VOICE)

24 The Eternal One bless and keep you.

25 May He make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.

26 The Eternal lift up His countenance
to look upon you and give you peace.

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