



THE TITUS 2 WOMAN Lesson 1 Time To Grow Up

Most women are familiar with the Proverbs 31 passage on godly women. Proverbs 31 describes the work ethic God desires to see in His daughters. However, it should be noted it is possible to have the Proverbs 31 work ethic without having a heart for God. Proverbs 31 spells out the job description for a godly woman, but Titus 2 spells out the character profile and godly lifestyle a handmaiden of the LORD is to attain to. These two passages combined give Christian women a high standard to strive for in their spiritual growth.

God expects His daughters to grow up. In this generation of distractions, too many female Christians are not maturing. God expects all Christians to grow, develop, and aspire to some level of leadership in the Kingdom—this includes women. Your gender and age do not exclude you from changing and transforming. If you do not change with the Spirit of God, this final move of God will pass you by.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

- What is the one thing in my life that hurts my Christian walk the most?
- How long have I been battling this thing?
- Am I even battling it, or do I just acknowledge it?
- Do I even want to change?
- What scriptures combat this stronghold?
- What am I doing to gain the victory over this thing and change who I am?
- Am I aspiring to be a role model in the Body of Christ? If “no,” why not?
- If I’m not aspiring to be a role model, what are my aspirations and are they even biblical?
- When will I get after it?

THE TITUS 2 STANDARD

Paul spelled out a high standard for Christian women in his epistle to Pastor Titus of the Church at Crete. He charged ALL of the ladies with the task of first growing up and then helping to raise up young female believers. This commission is contained in four verses. These four verses (**Titus 2:2-5**) will be our text for these lessons.

- **The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;**
Titus 2:3

Paul begins by addressing the mature women. It should come as no surprise that there are biblical qualifiers you must meet before you can boast yourself a mature or elder woman of God. The word “likewise” here stresses that these women should have the same qualities as the mature men in verse 2. These qualities are:

- **Sober:** *to be vigilant, to practice restraint; the root word means to be calm and collected in attitude, dispassionate (not influenced by strong emotion and so able to be rational and impartial), sane.*
- **Grave:** *responsible, serious, behavior that can and does demand respect.*
- **Temperate:** *chaste, discreet, self-controlled, the opposite of self-indulgent, the temperate Christian desires what she should, as she should, when she should.*
- **Sound in faith:** *healthy and whole in the faith.*
- **Sound in charity:** *healthy and whole in the God-kind of love.*
- **Sound in patience:** *healthy and whole in patience (the ability to remain under).*

These six traits help us to define what a spiritually mature woman's holy behavior should look like. Just as your age does not exempt you from needing Jesus Christ as Savior, your age does not exempt you from discipleship and change. Actually, the older you are in Christ, the more we should be able to expect out of you. God is looking for holy handmaidens, not carnal dames.

1. Behavior As Becometh Holiness

Paul addresses behavior directly. A woman's behavior is vitally important. A woman is known and defined by how she acts. What you know about the Bible and its doctrines is of little worth if it isn't changing your behavior.

- **Bid the older women similarly to be reverent and devout in their deportment as becomes those engaged in sacred service, . . . Titus 2:3a AMP**

A mature woman's behavior is to be defined by reverence and devotion for the things of God, not by carnality and crass, flippant tendencies. Deportment means *demeanor*. What is your demeanor? Are you worthy of the title "lady"? Are you lady-like or more bulldog-like? The Titus 2 Woman has a reverential demeanor. She is reverential towards the things of God, her husband, her leadership, her home, etc. She is not some obnoxious, obtrusive, gesticulating feminist. Her calling is to be engaged in "**sacred service**" to the LORD Jesus Christ.

The prophetess Anna gives us a glimmer of what this can look like.

- **And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings, and prayers night and day. Luke 2:37**

Some Christian women are more interested in carnal buffoonery than anything resembling Anna's lifestyle.

2. Not False Accusers

Paul then addresses the subject of slander. This is the Greek word *diabolos*, or devil. It is where we get our word "diabolical." Satan is the accuser of the brethren and the great



slanderer. When a Christian woman slanders, she is channeling the spirit of antichrist through her heart and mouth. Don't let satan borrow your mouth. To study the sinful tendencies of a woman's mouth would take weeks.

Scriptures: **Proverbs 6:16-19, 10:18, 26:20-28; 2 Timothy 3:3**

3. Not Given To Much Wine

The Amplified Bible adds, "**not a slave to drink.**" Though most Christian women are not slaves to drink, many are slaves to food in general. This phrase addresses the control a Christian woman should exercise over her carnal appetites. Are you a slave to your appetites, or are they a slave to you? Can you do without your comfort foods? The New Testament doesn't tell us what we can't eat (technically you can eat anything as long as you give thanks for it). It just says to let our moderation be known unto all men (**Philippians 4:5a**) and to keep your body under (200lbs ☺, **1 Corinthians 9:27**). Wine can also represent merriment, entertainment, and socializing. Some women can be overly caught up with social hindrances, running with the girls, racing the Joneses, and even mental escapism.

4. Teachers Of Good Things

Paul concludes this verse with the subject of teaching. Recognize your lifestyle is a constant teacher. The way you live teaches others. How you treat your husband and your children, how you talk, how you carry yourself, how you dress, etc., all of these things teach without requiring a classroom. Other women will look to you to learn though they may never ask you a single question. You are being studied with eyes eager to learn. Don't be a teacher of bad things.

- ... **They are to give good counsel and be teachers of what is right and noble.**
Titus 2:3c AMP

The Amplified Bible uses the term "**good counsel,**" not carnal counsel or opinions. You are to be teachers of "**right and noble**" things. This means you as a Christian woman must not only be knowledgeable in what is right and noble, but you must also be living it out. If your lifestyle is not a good teacher, you don't need to bother opening up your mouth to teach; you don't qualify.

The Titus 2 Woman is described with such adjectives as **reverent**, **devout**, and **noble**. This is the demeanor of a mature woman in Christ. This concludes a lesson on the qualifications of a mature woman of God. If you severely or even moderately lack these attributes in your life, do not fancy yourself a leader or instructor in the things of God yet. You will only risk reproducing your carnality in a developing Christian.

POST-LESSON DEFINITIONS

- **Noble:** *of an exalted moral or mental character or excellence, lofty.*
- **Obtrusive:** *having or showing a disposition to obtrude, as by imposing oneself or one's opinion on others.*

THE TITUS 2 WOMAN Lesson 2 The Titus 2 Commission

Titus 2:3 gives the qualifiers permitting a seasoned woman of faith to help young female believers. You should be honest with yourself, and if you cannot say you fit the qualifications of verse 3, you should really limit how much you attempt to disciple and raise up young women of faith. Actually, you may discover you are not a Titus 2 woman yet, and in fact, you are the one who is in need of a Titus 2 woman in your life. Education and age alone do not qualify you to help others.

Should you qualify as an elder woman in the LORD and are then commissioned by God and your pastor to help younger women, let us see what you need to be teaching the younger women. If you are younger in the faith, study these verses to discover what the LORD Jesus would like to develop in you.

- **That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.**

Titus 2:4-5

To teach the following subjects, it is necessary that they are first working in your own life.

1. Sober

Sober means to *make sane or sober of mind, to moderate the mind, to discipline the mind.*

Women need to learn to be sober-minded. Learn to discipline your mind. This is a mind where vain imaginations don't last more than a moment or two. This is a mind refusing to dwell on hurts, new or old. A sober mind is not drunk with cares, worries, fears, or insecurities. Is your mind a disciplined mind?

2. Love Their Husbands

Quite a perplexing statement, but a wife must learn how to properly love her husband in line with God's Word and not in line with the world's way. Wives must be taught how to adapt themselves to their husbands: caring for him, encouraging him, praying for him, building him up and not tearing him down, not nagging, not griping, etc. Many Christian women today have absolutely no idea how to love their husbands. Don't forget the American Church has a 50% divorce rate.

Scriptures: **Ephesians 5:22-24, 33 AMP; 1 Peter 3:1-6 AMP**

3. Love Their Children

Another perplexing statement, but most moms don't know how to properly show their love toward their child. They may know how to defend the child, but raising and training the child in the fear and admonition of the LORD is another challenge altogether. Love doesn't



just hold, cuddle, nurse, kiss, hug, and shop. Love also spans, disciplines, withholds, corrects, trains, exhorts, prays with, encourages, and admonishes. Without proper training and help, an inexperienced mother will treat her baby in the same fashion she treated her baby doll 25 years ago. Your child is a reflection of your life and soul. Just as you can see your mother in you at times, you are also seeing yourself in your child. (For more information on parenting, visit the PodSchool Course on “Godly Parenting” at www.podschool.org.)

Scriptures: **Ezekiel 16:44; Proverbs 19:15**

4. Discreet

Discreet here means *discreet, self-controlled, the opposite of self-indulgent, the temperate Christian desires what she should, as she should, when she should*. **Discreet** can also mean *careful and circumspect in one’s actions or speech, especially in order to avoid causing offense or to gain the advantage*. The New Testament places a lot of emphasis on Christians controlling their carnal appetites. Mature Christians can control their flesh and their wants. They don’t chase instant gratification, whether verbal, material, or culinary. If you can accomplish this in your life you will have a clean home, a debt-free lifestyle, more friends, and a thinner waistline. A lack of self-control will produce a pigsty in your home, a constant financial burden of debt, a lack of close friends, and a large waistline.

5. Chaste

Chaste means *to excite or elicit reverence, pure from carnality*. Whoa, Nelly! This word alone should sum up what a Godly woman looks like: a Godly woman elicits reverence because she is pure from carnality. This is a continuous work and many young believers don’t even recognize carnality in them because they have just come in from the world. So, to review what carnality looks like, here is a brief list: crass joking, slander, gossip, drinking, smoking, dirty movies, no Facebook restraint, no self-restraint, constantly hurt feelings, a dependence on comfort foods, ruling your marriage, bossing your husband, a know-it-all attitude, murmuring, running your husband down at work, complaining about your husband to anyone but God, no restraint with finances, etc., etc., etc. A young believer must be taught how to carry herself so her presence will also elicit reverence from other women. Do people revere you because of your walk with Jesus Christ or do they cringe near you because of your rough carnality? Can people even tell you are a Christian?

6. Keepers At Home

If you are married, your husband is over the home, but you get to keep and manage it. Other terms are *governess* and *homemaker*. If you are single, you should still be a *homemaker*. God has built *homemaking* into women. If your home is a mess you are violating the God-breathed spiritual DNA in you. Any woman comfortable living in squalor has issues and should seek spiritual help. Your home is a good reflection of your soul.

7. Good

Good defined here means *joyful, good-natured, kind-hearted*. Sadly, Paul had to tell Titus to have the mature women in his church to teach the younger immature women to be “good,



joyful, and kind-hearted.” Alas, it is still true today. Women need to be taught how to be tenderhearted, loving, and kind. The life of God in Christ Jesus should be able to make a woman joyful and kind-hearted. By divine design, women are created to be tender, empathetic, kind, and nurturing. The opposite of “good” in this context is a woman who is hot-tempered, soon angry, nagging, strife-filled, cold, calloused, withholding, begrudging, etc.

8. Obedient To Their Own Husbands

The word for *obedient* here is a Greek military term, ***hupotasso***, meaning *to arrange troop divisions under a commanding leader*. Wives, your husband is your commanding leader. Obey him. Some wives want to look up to every man but their own. This is possibly due to the sin of familiarity. Guard your hearts toward your husband. He was the last man you could get to marry you, and you may not be able to find another (let’s face it, by now you’ve got some high mileage with a lot of baggage). ***Hupotasso*** also means *a voluntary attitude of giving in and cooperating, assuming responsibilities and carrying a burden*.

- ... **adapting and subordinating themselves to their husbands,**
Titus 2:5c AMP

Your attitude must be one of giving in, servitude, cooperation, and adaptation. If at this point your mind is racing with reasons why this will never work because of your husband, you are telling off on yourself. You are clearly not a woman who prays for her husband. You have strengthened the strongholds of your mind with lame excuses. Your marriage will succeed or fail based on your prayers, wife. Praying wives have nothing to complain to man about.

9. That The Word Of God Be Not Blasphemed

This is the most poignant statement of the whole passage. Realize that if you resist change and refuse to grow in Christ, the lifestyle you are choosing to live is called “blasphemous.” Blasphemy isn’t just something you do with your words; it can also be how you live. Some Christian women live blasphemous lives. Paul concludes this passage by saying a carnal, Christian woman is guilty of blaspheming God’s Word. It is possible to have a mind knowing the Word but a lifestyle blaspheming God.

If you love God and are thankful for your salvation, you must mature in Christ!



TITUS 2 WOMAN Lesson 3 What Is A Servant?

The calling of every Christian, whether male or female, is two-fold. Number one, we are called to be with Jesus (**Mark 3:14**) and, number two, we are called to be servants. (**1 Corinthians 7:22; Philippians 2:5-7**). If you walk with Jesus, He will cause you to be a servant. If you are not a servant, you probably don't have a very close walk with the LORD.

Every Christian is obligated to strive to be a servant of the LORD. Many Christians never strive for biblical servitude and will therefore forfeit a rich life of provision and promotion in Christ. Simply being born-again does not make you a servant. Servitude must be learned and applied.

DIFFERENT GRADES OF CHRISTIANS

According to the Bible, God does not see every Christian the same. In fact, the Bible records that God sees different grades of Christians. Below are several examples of the different ways in which God sees us.

Stars

Abraham was made the father of many nations and many people. His progeny continues to this day.

- **Therefore sprang there even of one [Abraham], and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.**
Hebrews 11:12

Sand represents Abraham's natural descendants, all made of dirt: Jews and non-Jews.

Stars represent Abraham's supernatural descendants: Christians.

Every grain of sand looks the same, but every star is different in its size and brightness. This is representative of how God sees us as Christians; we differ in our spiritual size and in our spiritual brightness. How big are you? How bright are you?

Vessels

The Bible teaches that we are God's vessels. But not all vessels are equal.

- **But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.**
2 Timothy 2:20

In God's house there are many types of vessels (the material of which they are made is insignificant). The emphasis of this verse is the type of vessel: **honorable** or **dishonorable**.



What you're made of doesn't determine your worth. God is concerned with what's in you. Is honor in you or is dishonor in you?

Saints

All Christians are classified as saints. This is the generic term used for every born-again child of God. The Bible also records levels of saints.

- **Least of the saints:** There is apparently a ranking of just the minimal of saints. Paul, because of his murderous past, considered himself to be
 - ... **less than the least of all saints.** **Ephesians 3:8**
- **Excellent saints:** The psalmist prayed for God's people,
 - ... **the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.** **Psalms 16:3**

Evidently, there are lesser saints, saints, and then there are excellent saints.

Faithful

Faithful is a term not every Christian has earned. Paul addressed his epistles to the Ephesian and Colossians churches as follows:

- ... to the **saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:** **Ephesians 1:1b**
- **To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: ...** **Colossians 1:2a**

Saints just go to church. To be counted faithful in Christ Jesus is a whole different level of Christianity—a level many Christians will never know.

Servants

Very few Christians actually strive for this title, much less obtain it. This is the highest grade of Christian.

- **Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.** **Revelation 19:5b**

This verse lists four types of believers: servants, fearful (those that revere Him), small, and great. Evidently, just fearing God is not enough to make you a servant. Going to church is not enough to make you a servant. You must make yourself a servant.



- **For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.**
1 Corinthians 9:19

God wants you to be His servant.

- **And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.**
Mark 10:44

The title of servant appears to be the highest position, title, or honor you can earn in the Kingdom. Would God call you His faithful, honorable, bright shining star of a servant, or would He call you a dishonorable, dimly lit, lesser saint?

SERVANTHOOD—YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

We are responsible for making ourselves a servant of God.

- The new birth will make you righteous.
- The new birth will make you a saint.
- The new birth will make you a child of God.
- The Baptism of the Holy Ghost will make you Spirit-filled.
- But only you can make yourself a servant.

We are in control of our walk with God and, therefore, the brightness of our walk. How high and bright do you aspire to be in Christ? How deep are you willing to go in God?

SERVANT: THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE DEFINITIONS

Much can be learned from the original Bible languages. Below are the definitions of both the Hebrew and Greek words for servant/handmaiden.

HEBREW

Handmaiden: *shiphchach*

- As an extension of the family
- Maid-servant
- Slave girl
- As belonging to a mistress
- To speak with humility

GREEK

Handmaiden: *Doule, doula* (*doule* is the feminine form of the word “servant”)

- To ensnare, capture
- A female slave, bondmaid
- One who worships God and submits to Him
- A person of servile condition
- One who gives himself up wholly to another’s will



- Those whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing His cause among men
- The true worshippers of Christ
- From *deo*, "to bind", "a slave", originally the lowest term in the scale of servitude, came also to mean "One who gives himself up to the will of another." The best definition here is "***devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests.***" On its basic level, being a bondservant is simply following your master to the complete disregard of your own will, emotions, and desires.
- **Subservient:** *prepared to obey others unquestioningly; less important, subordinate*

It should be apparent from the simple Hebrew and Greek definitions that many of today's Christians are nowhere near being true servants of Christ. God has purchased us for Himself. Our life is no longer our own. We are to live by His will, not chase our own whims or dreams.

TITUS 2 WOMAN

Lesson 4

Famous Handmaidens Of The Bible

Part 1

FAMOUS HANDMAIDENS OF THE BIBLE

We will now look at biblical examples of handmaidens and what servitude afforded these great women of God. Society today mocks servant-minded people, but try to imagine the outcome of the following handmaidens had they acted American in their respective situations. Handmaidens are not weak. It takes great strength to be a handmaiden of the LORD.

HAGAR (*Flight*)—Her servitude gave her a son promoted by God.

Hagar was Sarai's handmaiden acquired in Egypt. God honored her because of her faithfulness. She was one of Abraham's wives. She was not a biblical "bad guy." She was a faithful servant who was misused by her mistress. Even though she was a victim of Sarah's faithlessness, she continued to honor Sarah and Abraham. God spoke to her and made a covenant with her. See **Genesis 16; 21:12-21**.

Hagar's Qualities

- **Submitted**—She submitted to Sarai. She submitted to Abram. She submitted to the angel of the LORD.
- **Courageous**—Hagar fled into the wilderness after Sarai had mistreated her. The angel of the LORD commanded her to go back and "**submit thyself under her hands**." This took great courage. She was eventually put out of Abram's home and did not put up a fight. She was a divorcee without a family to help her. She had to trust God to care for her and her son.
- **Faith-filled**—Hagar was quick to believe God. She never argued with God or doubted His promises.

Hagar's Testimonies

- The LORD spoke to her two times, once in person and once from heaven (**Genesis 16:7-14; 21:17**).
- God promised to multiply her seed exceedingly (**Genesis 16:10**).
- God named her son: Ishmael (**Genesis 16:11**).
- God was with Ishmael (**Genesis 21:20**).

What She Overcame

- Hagar overcame mistreatment to become the mother of a great multitude.

ABIGAIL (*My Father Is Joy*)—Her servitude saved her family and made her a queen.

Abigail was a very humble, yet powerful and wise woman. Her husband, Nabal, was a very wealthy but wicked man. Abigail was in charge of a very large estate, having servants

under her command. However, when she realized her husband had greatly sinned against David, she used her authority and wisdom to pacify David's anger and save her family. Her ability to humble herself and serve earned her great promotion. See **1 Samuel 25:10-42**.

Abigail's Qualities

- **Submitted**—Abigail submitted to David's authority and even submitted to his ultimate request for her hand in marriage after the death of Nabal.
- **Humble**—Abigail placed herself at the mercy of an angry David and did not argue or justify her husband. She also washed the feet of David's servants when they came to deliver his marriage proposal.
- **Authoritative**—Abigail knew how to run her estate and command her servants, but she also helped in preparing the gift she sent to David.
- **Confident**—She knew what to do to turn away the wrath of David. She was confident it would work.
- **Courageous**—She faced an angry David and a company of his mighty men alone.
- **Skilled**—Abigail was no slouch. She prepared the five dressed sheep and all the other gifts and loaded down the donkeys. This shows a strong work ethic.
- **No Respector of Persons**—Abigail did NOT defend her husband's wickedness. She sided with truth and integrity.

Abigail's Testimonies

- Abigail's servitude spared her entire family's life. She successfully stopped an angry David (**1 Samuel 25:34**).
- David blessed her in the name of the LORD (**1 Samuel 25:33**).
- She earned David's respect (**1 Samuel 25:35**).
- She was found desirable by David and was married to him (**1 Samuel 25:40-42**).

What She Overcame

- Abigail overcame certain destruction and calamity. She served God when her husband wouldn't, and she found a new life.

RUTH (*Friendship*)—Her servitude gained her a husband and a place in Christ's lineage.

Widowed and in a foreign land, Ruth was seemingly abandoned and desolate. She left her family and her home to serve Naomi, her mother-in-law. Her heart of servitude and her hard work ethic earned her a place in Boaz's heart, and he took her hand in marriage. See the book of **Ruth**.

Ruth's Qualities

- **Submitted**—She was submitted to her mother-in-law and obeyed her every command.
- **Courageous**—She left all she knew to stay close to Naomi. She refused to return to her hometown of Moab. There is no evidence she ever saw her birth family again.



- **Diligent**—Ruth was not afraid to work in the fields and do what it took to survive as a widow.
- **Committed**—Ruth was committed to her mother-in-law, Naomi. She followed and served her.
- **Faith-filled**—She left the land of her birth, denied the gods of her family, and came to trust in the living God.

Ruth's Testimonies

- Ruth's diligence and faith gave her favor in the eyes of Boaz (in his fields first, then his heart).
- Boaz pronounced a blessing on her (**Ruth 2:12**).
- She had a reputation for being a virtuous woman (**Ruth 3:11**).
- Ruth remarried to Boaz and had a child named Obed. Obed fathered Jesse, who fathered David (**Ruth 4:13-17**).
- Ruth, a Moabitess, became the great-great grandmother of Jesus Christ.

What She Overcame

- Ruth overcame sorrow and loss to start a new life.

BATHSHEBA (*Daughter of an Oath*)—Her servitude has left the Proverbs 31 legacy.

Though her Bible fame was birthed in controversy, Bathsheba is the author of the very famous Bible passage, Proverbs 31. This passage details what a woman and handmaiden of the LORD looks and acts like. See **1 Kings 1:11-31**.

Bathsheba's Qualities

- **Submission**—It is evident, from her Proverbs 31 writings, that Bathsheba understood submission. Even in David's old age she still referred to herself as David's handmaid. After her son, Solomon, is made king, she submits to him as well.
- **Forgiveness**—She had to forgive David for having her husband Uriah killed, and she had to forgive herself for betraying Uriah with adultery. Their sin also brought death to their first child. This, too, would require forgiveness.

Bathsheba's Testimonies

- Bathsheba was able to carry on with life after the death of her first husband, the death of David's illegitimate child, and she successfully raised the future king, Solomon.
- God used her to pen Proverbs 31.

What She Overcame

- Bathsheba overcame tremendous shame and sorrow to be a godly queen, full of great wisdom.



INTERVIEW WITH A REAL WITCH

Now in sharp contrast to these Godly women, let us evaluate an interview from 2012, where Christianpost.com asked former witch and Christian convert, S.A. Tower the following question: **What drew you to a witch's lifestyle?**

“For me personally, the appeal was self-empowerment and the feminine aspect of witchcraft. The lifestyle enabled me the freedom to make my own decisions according to how I saw fit and gave me the ability to put those changes into action through magic. I think a lot of people are looking for a hands-on spirituality where they can incorporate their own will rather than God's will. We live in a "me" focused society that's all about what "I" want. Part of it is the fault of churches because Christianity should not be a spectator religion. We are all part of the Body and each one of us has a significant part in the whole Church.”

May the LORD Jesus Christ help every woman become a mighty handmaiden of the LORD!!

TITUS 2 WOMAN
Lesson 5
Famous Handmaidens Of The Bible
Part 2

Many mighty handmaidens of the Lord have advanced the Kingdom of God. The names of many we'll never know until eternity. Remember that our modern Western culture mocks servant-minded people, but try to imagine the outcome of God's people without the testimony of the following women. Handmaidens are not weak. It takes great strength to be a handmaiden of the LORD.

- **Just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.**
1 Peter 3:6

ESTHER-(Star)—Her servitude made her a queen and saved a nation.

Esther had a rough life. She was born into slavery and was orphaned. Her older cousin, Mordechai, raised her. She was taken into the King's harem as he sought out a new queen. See the book of **Esther**.

Esther's Qualities

- **Submitted**—Esther obeyed her uncle in all things, even after she became queen.
- **Courageous**—Esther was prepared to approach the king, her husband, upon penalty of death, in an attempt to save the Jews.
- **Selfless**—Esther did not use her position to insulate herself from her people's impending doom. Rather, she used her position to save her people.
- **Cunning**—Esther wisely used her favor and her authority to position her cause against the evil Haman's scheme.

Esther's Testimonies

- Her pleasant disposition gained her quick favor with Hegai, the King's chamberlain (**Esther 2:3, 8-9**).
- Esther was not needy (**Esther 2:15**).
- Esther's disposition gained her favor with "all them that looked upon her" (**Esther 2:15**).
- Esther obtained grace and favor in the sight of the king and was made queen (**Esther 2:17**).
- Esther's favor in the eyes of the king gained her a proverbial blank check from the king, up to half the kingdom (**Esther 5:3**).
- Esther saved her nation.

What She Overcame

- Esther overcame selfishness and fear to deliver her people.



MARY (*Their Rebellion, Obstinate*)—Her servitude made her the mother of Jesus.

Mary was a young handmaiden and served God. She was not educated, intellectual, rich, or perfect. She wasn't married and had never parented, yet God trusted her to raise His only Son. Her heart of servitude qualified her to be used mightily by God. All people have called this woman blessed, not cursed, for being a handmaid. See **Luke 1:26-56**.

Mary's Qualities

- **Submitted**—Mary was submitted to the angel of the LORD and did not argue.
- **Courageous**—She was not concerned about what people would think of her as an unwed mother. The LORD had spoken, and she courageously received it.
- **Faith-filled**—She was quick to believe the angel's report. She never doubted.

Mary's Testimonies

- Mary found favor in the eyes of God (**Luke 1:30**).
- She was used to prophesy about her place in history and the Savior (**Luke 1:46-55**).
- Mary is the only person to be at the birth of Jesus Christ, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the ascension of Jesus Christ, and the birth of the Church. She is, without a doubt, the most unique woman in history.

What She Overcame

- Mary overcame embarrassment to give birth to Jesus.

PHEBE (*Radiant*)—Her servitude earned her a commendation from the Apostle Paul.

Phebe is referred to as a deaconess in the Roman epistle. She was a servant or handmaiden to the church at Cenchrea and to Paul himself. This kind of submission and servitude caused Paul to command the whole church at Rome to take care of her. See **Romans 16:1-2**.

Phebe's Qualities

- **Submission**—Phebe was submitted to the needs of her local church. She was also submitted to the needs of Paul any time he visited her church.
- **Courage**—Phebe had travelled from Cenchrea to Rome, apparently by herself.

Phebe's Testimony

- She is the only female deacon named in the New Testament (**Romans 16:1**).
- She received Paul's full endorsement (**Romans 16:2**).
- The Roman church was commanded to assist and aid Phebe (**Romans 16:2**).
- Phebe hand-delivered the Roman epistle.

What she overcame:

- Phebe overcame selfishness and laziness to serve the early church.



INTERVIEW WITH A REAL WITCH

Now in sharp contrast to these Godly women, let us evaluate an interview from 2012, where Christianpost.com asked former witch and Christian convert, S.A. Tower the following question: **What drew you to a witch's lifestyle?**

“For me personally, the appeal was self-empowerment and the feminine aspect of witchcraft. The lifestyle enabled me the freedom to make my own decisions according to how I saw fit and gave me the ability to put those changes into action through magic. I think a lot of people are looking for a hands-on spirituality where they can incorporate their own will rather than God's will. We live in a "me" focused society that's all about what "I" want. Part of it is the fault of churches because Christianity should not be a spectator religion. We are all part of the Body and each one of us has a significant part in the whole Church.”

May the LORD Jesus Christ help every woman become a mighty handmaiden of the LORD!!