



## Women of Radiance & Devotion

### *Radiance*

#### Focus Verses:

**"And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness."** (Genesis 1:4)

**"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house,"** (Matthew 5:14-15)

The Word of God says that we are the light in this world and that we are to be separated and divided from the darkness. Matthew 5:16 says, **"let your light shine."** Even the world recognizes light and darkness as the universal battle between all things good and all things evil.

God is telling us to let our light shine, and not just any light, but a light that is so strong it can only be compared to that of a city. With the power of the Holy Spirit living inside us, we can not only be a light, but we can radiate.

When you look up synonyms for the word radiate you will find the following list; bright, shine, light, dazzle, and illuminate. These words challenge me in so many different areas of my life.

- Don't be the typical neighbor. **Be different!**
- Don't be the average co-worker. **Be bold!**
- Don't be the every day stay-at-home mo.! **Stand out!**
- Don't be just another sister at church. **Be radiant!**

The exact opposite of radiant is: darkness, blackness, dim and dull.

#### **Two ways to radiate His light:**

1. **Recognition.** Recognize that Jesus is our source of light. In John 8:12 and I John 1:5, we read that Jesus is the light of the world and that in Him there is no darkness. Psalm 27:1 reminds me that God is

my light and my salvation. We need to recognize that all goodness and mercy comes from Him. When we're doing good, flesh likes to take credit. A radiant woman will:

- Give glory to God
- Reflect Him
- Radiate His goodness

**2. Separation.** In II Corinthians 6:14, the Bible asks a clear question, "**What fellowship has light and dark?**" Nature itself shows us that there is no fellowship between light and dark. A simple experiment can be done to prove that; go into a dark room and turn on the light. What happens to the dark? Like the light and dark, we are to live a life that is separated. Lines must be drawn that separate our conversations, our outings, meals, friends and choices of entertainment. **"Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy "** (Leviticus 19:2).

### **Life Reflection:**

*Ask yourself: Are the boundaries I put in place that separate me from darkness, evident to nonbelievers?*

Our goal as woman of radiance is to reflect Christ. Luke 11:33 makes a clear statement, "**No man, when he hath lighted a candle, put it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.**" The scripture is so clear, to do anything else would lack reason.

**"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness and into his wonderful light."** (I Peter 2:9)

Let your light shine. Be a woman of radiance!

## ***Devotion***

Let's start with defining the word devotion: love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, activity or cause. Synonyms for the word devotion include: committed, loyal, practice, or an act of fidelity. The opposite of devotion is infidelity and unfaithfulness.

Nowhere in the definition of devotion do we see that it relates to religion. We do however see words within the definition of devotion that relate to relationship.

***Devotion is not religion, it is relationship.***

The greatest example we have in the natural realm of an act of devotion, is a wedding. More specifically, at the point when the marriage vows are made. We commit our lives to our spouse in front of family, friends, and God,

promising to devote our lives to them. The greatest relationship you will ever have in your life is your relationship with your Savior, Jesus Christ.

There are benefits to committing your life and devoting your life to God. Proverbs 16:3 tells us, "**commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.**" When we choose to commit our lives to God, the Bible says that He will establish our thoughts. Our spouse will offer us comfort and support; be someone to share our joy and victories with, but only God can establish our thoughts. Only He can bring stability and clarity to our mind and give us a firm foundation allowing us to grow in our walk with Him.

## Two ways to build a life devoted to God:

1. **Recognition.** We must give God recognition in all areas of our life – career, education, family, finances, relationships, marriage, and ministry. In the Book of Acts, Paul was in Athens and he came upon a statue that the people had erected. ***"For as I passed by and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD..."*** (Acts 17:23). If we are going to live a life of devotion to God, we must first be sure that we know who God is.

Devotion to God will require a commitment of our time. Proverbs 31 is a powerful chapter that describes a virtuous woman. Proverbs 31:27 reads, ***"she looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness."***

***You will know who you serve when you know where your time is spent.***

### Life Reflection:

*Make a list of how and where you spend your time:*

Matthew 6:19-21 tells us that where your treasure is, there is your heart also. We can also read it as a challenge to us saying, where your time is spent, there is your heart also. It is a reasonable argument that people spend time doing the things they love.

2. **Separation.** When you become devoted and involved in a new relationship, there is a separation from previous commitments. Acquaintances, hobbies, friends, interests and plans that once controlled your time, now begin to revolve around your new relationship. Living a life devoted to God will bring a natural separation as you grow closer to Him. Matthew 6:24 confirms that we cannot serve two masters and in II Corinthians 6:14-15, the scripture asks the question, ***"What does a believer and an infidel have in common?"***

