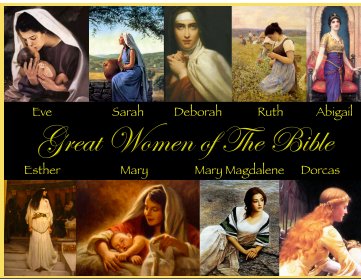


JLH Women's Saturday Devotions

January 11th, 2025

Women, You Were Chosen For Ministry

Sister Joann Henriques



When the Lord filled me with the precious gift of the Holy Ghost, my life changed drastically! I was so thrilled with excitement that the Lord had saved a wretch like me and called me His daughter and truly loved me. A month into my walk with the Lord, a woman of God who later became my spiritual mother told me I was called to reach many different women. I said, "That can't be true." She smiled and took me by the hand to the altar and prayed with me, "You will be a mentor to many women." I felt like a little child weeping as she spoke words of encouragement and explained that the call wouldn't be easy. "Women will come against you, but the Lord God will never leave nor forsake you, Sis. Henriques. No matter how hard it gets, no matter the oppositions that come, God wants you to Trust Him." I remember falling out in the spirit because a quick vision of heaven flashed before me as the Lord touched my face! When I received the Holy Ghost, strange things began to happen to me. At first, everyone rejoiced that a soul repented and came to Christ. Two months later, I was told I had a calling in women's ministry, and then I was hated. I was ostracized and criticized for a ministry I didn't even say yes to yet. I cried out, "Lord, make me the way you want me to be and don't make me like anyone else." My Mother was crying as I spoke in prayer that night because she knew what God was about to do in my life. I remember calling the First Lady, and she confirmed that the Lord had chosen me to help women. I looked at her and said, "Did Mother Pitts tell you that?" She replied, "I haven't spoke to Mother Pitts, and the Lord wants you to be very sensitive to his spirit." Nine months later, the Lord called me to another church, and that's when I heard from the Lord myself, "Joann, **My Business.**" I remember my pastor telling me, "Sister Henriques, *Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you*" (*Matthew 6:33*).

February 2005, JLH Women's Mentoring Services had begun and the Lord was in it then and still is today, Thank You Jesus. I've learned over these past few years that the Lord uses women in ministry, and the call and choosing is His doing. *Before we were formed in our mother's womb he told Jeremiah, I Knew You (Jeremiah 1:6)*. The Lord knew I would accept the call but I knew nothing about becoming a Christian nor a leader for women's ministry. When I recognized the Lord had chosen me, there was no turning back. I began *to study and show myself approved, a worker who needed NOT to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15)*.

I studied the women in the Bible, good and bad, trying to find **ME** first of all and started with Eve. My marriage had failed and I asked the Lord many questions. "Am I like Eve?" I had to be honest with myself as well as with the Lord. I wanted to know if it was God or me choosing to get married. Did you know in this dispensation we encounter women like Eve? Thank God for His Grace and Mercy to help us change. Amen.

Most women in women's ministry did not choose the call and did not have the spirit of competition. They recognized their calling. But women not sure of their call look at the next sister and in their hearts tell God, "She not called." God speaks to women just like he spoke to Peter when he was wondering about John. Jesus rebuked Peter and will rebuke us and say, "*What do he (she) have to do with you? Feed my sheep*" (*John 14:20*). We are called to win souls (*Proverbs 11:30*), **NOT** to think of ourselves more highly than the other (*Romans 12:3*).

There are women in the Bible who inspire me in my walk as I try to become that mentor God has chosen me to be. For example, Ruth and Naomi, Elizabeth and Mary, Mary Magdalene with the women after Jesus' Resurrection. These women were about their Father's business. There was no ism or schism, no envy, no jealousy, no big I or little U, no pastors or pastors' wives to report to as today. These women followed Jesus and worked together to build the kingdom of God, choosing to love one another, not come against each other. On the other hand, there were women the Lord used who chose to be envious, jealous, and competitive. Sara made a bad choice and came against Hagar. The kingdom did not grow until they were separated. Rachel and Leah fought over a man, and Leah did not have peace until she had Praise. Euodia and Syntyche had ministry in the house of God, but disagreed, and the church came together to make sure there was peace among them. If it be possible, live peaceably among all men....**IF** it be possible is the keyword. Sometimes people just won't give up. Saul never got over David becoming king, and he continued to war after David although he was sat down from his position. David knew Saul was God's anointed, but he had to let Saul know he was no longer afraid and chose to do the right thing.

Women's ministry is based on Jesus and not about ourselves. If we are truly called to minister, you will know them by their fruit. As I was told by my spiritual mother years ago, "Sister Henriques, Jesus chose you, loves you, and now you must go and win souls." Be encouraged, ladies. The Lord is calling you to ministry. Love ya and God Bless.