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# God's Word To Women



**God's Word to Women, Inc.**

Quarterly Magazine

Summer 2012 \* Volume 1, Issue 2

## **GOD'S WORD TO WOMEN, INC.**

P. O. Box 3877  
Grapevine, TX 76099-3877

### **GWTW Executive Team**

Susan Stubbs Hyatt (Team Leader)  
Eddie L. Hyatt  
Valarie Owen

### **Email Addresses**

SueICWHP@aol.com  
gwtw@godstowomen.org

### **Web Sites**

[www.godstowomen.org](http://www.godstowomen.org)  
[www.icwhp.org](http://www.icwhp.org)

### **GWTW College**

<http://www.icwhp.org/cws.html>

### **Blog**

<http://www.godstowomen.blogspot.com/>

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### **Mission Statement**

God's Word to Women helps to mature and mobilize the Body of Christ by teaching the Biblical truth that men and women are equal in terms of substance and value, privilege and responsibility, function and authority in all areas of life, ministry, and marriage. We endeavor to teach ALL that Jesus taught (Mt. 28:18-20) that God's ways may be known on earth and His salvation among all nations (Ps. 67:1-2).

### **Vision Statement**

<http://www.godstowomen.org/vision.htm>

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**THEN - 1972**  
**Phan Thi Kim Phuc**  
**At 9 years of age \* 1972**

# Unwilling To Be A Victim

Originally Published as "Vietnam Victim  
Forgives Attackers" By Joseph Lopez\*

***"The more I pray for my enemies  
the more forgiving I become"***  
**says Phan Thi Kim Phuc**



**NOW - 2012**  
**Phan Thi Kim Phuc**  
**Now 49 years of age**

On June 8, 1972, a nine-year old girl, naked and crying because her body was burning with the chemical agent napalm, was caught on film running away from her burning village 25 miles west of Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh), South Vietnam.

That girl was Phan Thi Kim Phuc, now 45.

The photograph became an icon of the Vietnam War and was so powerful the image was etched in the minds of millions of people worldwide.

Mrs. Phan Thi now tours the world, telling audiences about how she came to know God and how he healed her spiritually and helped her let go of her inner turmoil.

Her message is one of forgiveness and reconciliation.

*Challenge* caught up with Mrs. Phan Thi during her visit to Auckland to hear her life story first-hand.

She told of how ten years after the bombing incident, when she was studying medicine in Saigon on

the other side of the world, a German photographer asked the Vietnamese embassy if he could interview the girl in the famous photo.

It took two years for the Vietnamese government to track the young student down.

Once they found her, she was ordered to stop her studies and become a full-time on-call media subject for the foreign press.

Mrs. Phan Thi says she became like a bird in a cage, always under government watch.

With her plans for a medical career cut short, she felt hopeless. She tried committing suicide to end her hatred for everyone — the pilot who dropped the bomb, the man who ordered her to stop her schooling, and the people whose job was to watch her. She hated her own life and asked "why me?"

To occupy her spare time, Mrs. Phan Thi would spend days in the library. She would read religious books to find purpose and meaning in life. One day she read the Bible and found the book of

John chapter 14, verse 6 fascinating — "I am the way and the truth Father except through me."

This confused Mrs. Phan Thi who was raised in the CaoDai faith (a universal faith with the principle that all religions have one same divine origin).

She believed in many gods, yet the Bible was saying Jesus was the only way.

Desperate for answers, she went to a Christian cousin who invited her to church.

On December 25, 1982, the pastor at a Saigon church asked his congregants about the meaning of Christmas. "If anyone opens his heart to receive Jesus Christ and accept Him as personal Saviour, then He will come into his heart, bringing peace and taking away any burdens," he said.

Those words hit Kim Phuc hard. "It seemed to me that the pastor was talking to me directly," she remembers. "I was really seeking peace. I needed peace. I needed somebody to take away my

burden. Then and there my heart was touched, and I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour."

"That day I stopped praying to many gods and I just prayed only to the Lord. I also had to learn the difficult lesson on forgiving people."

When she read Luke chapter 6, verses 27-28, she cried out to God.

"It's impossible, Lord, because I am human. I suffered so much with my scar, my pain and I became a victim from one thing to another. How can I love my enemies? How can I forgive them? God, you have the power, but for me it is impossible," was her plea.

"Then God gave me the picture," she recalls.

She says she had a vision in which her heart was like a black coffee cup. It was a cup full of bitterness, anger and hatred. The cup needed to be emptied every day through God's grace and love.

"Each time I emptied my cup, He filled it with his joy and compassion," she says.

"The more I pray for my enemies the more forgiving I become. Thank God for His mercy."

Mrs. Phan Thi never looked back.

She was sent by the Vietnamese Government to Cuba, where she studied Spanish.

There she married fellow Vietnamese Bui Huy Tuan and on their way back to Cuba after honeymooning in Moscow, Russia, they stopped in Labrador, Canada, where they were granted asylum.

The couple, who have sons, Thomas, 14 and Stephen, 11, have remained steadfast in her faith and are active in her local church in Ontario, Canada.

She is UNESCO's Goodwill ambassador and heads the Kim Foundation helping child victims of war.

"Napalm is very powerful, but faith, forgiveness and love are much more powerful. We would not have war at all if everyone could learn how to live with true love, hope and forgiveness," she says.

"If that little girl in the picture can do it, ask yourself: Can you?"

*\*Courtesy of Challenge Weekly New Zealand -*

<http://www.challengenews.org/vietnam-victim-forgives>

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For photos and information from other sources, click the following links:

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/06/the-historic-napalm-girl-pulitzer-image-marks-its-40th-anniversary/>

and

[http://www.nypost.com/p/new\\_s/international/viet\\_napalm\\_girl\\_has\\_peace\\_6WH3MquaHwCd2Jr8RBNpAJ#ixzz1yRliobIH](http://www.nypost.com/p/new_s/international/viet_napalm_girl_has_peace_6WH3MquaHwCd2Jr8RBNpAJ#ixzz1yRliobIH)

**"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."**  
—Jeremiah 29:11

## The International Christian Women's Hall of Fame & History Project and God's Word to Women, Inc. have merged



### INTL CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

Celebrating Christian Women of Yesterday & Creating World Changers Today

### INTL CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

The Premier Resource Center for Biblical Women's Studies  
Emphasizing Biblical, Spirit-Led Living & Writing God's Women Back into History

### GWTW COLLEGE

Previously the Int'l Christian Women's Studies Program

Equipping Women to Be Change-Agents in both Society-at-large & the Christian Community By Providing High-Quality, Interactive Education

**Information can be found at**

<http://www.icwhp.org/cws.html>

**Courses are archived at**

<http://www.icwhp.org/courses.html>  
<http://www.eddiehyatt.com/courses.html>  
<http://www.eddiehyatt.com/archives.html>

### GWTW BLOG

The Blog adds to the already rich resources that are posted at [www.icwhp.org](http://www.icwhp.org) and [www.godswordtowomen.org](http://www.godswordtowomen.org). Through the blog, you are able to interact with the authors. Sign up to be notified of new posting or visit whenever you please. Go to [www.godswordtowomen.blogspot.com](http://www.godswordtowomen.blogspot.com).

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# *A Key to A Happy Christian Marriage*

***Both Experience and Scientific Studies Demonstrate that Couples  
Who Practice Equality in Marriage Are the Happiest***

By Eddie L. Hyatt

While speaking at a large conference several years ago, the young man appointed to host me told me how the traditional teaching on marriage almost destroyed both his business and his marriage. He and his wife had a successful business in which they provided personalized memorabilia to churches and events throughout North America. He explained that, since his wife had a university degree in accounting and was a CPA, she ran the office, while he did sales and public relations. They both enjoyed their roles and the business flourished.

Then, one day, church leadership told them that they were out of “divine order” in their marriage because of the role that each was performing. The pastor explained that whoever controls the money controls the relationship and because his wife managed the office and bookkeeping, she was in control of the relationship. According to the pastor, this was wrong because the man was to be the ruling “head” of the home, and he could not do this if he was not the one controlling the finances.

Wanting to comply and be in “divine order,” they switched jobs.

The husband took charge of the office and accounting and the wife began doing sales and public relations. Both hated their new jobs (into which “divine order” had forced them), but they did their best to make it work. Nevertheless, in spite of their best efforts, their business went into serious decline and their marriage suffered. The young man said, “We almost went bankrupt. We had to go back to doing it the way we were doing it before.”

## ***The “Traditional,” Hierarchical Model Does Not Work.***

When I heard this story, I thought, “How dumb can Christian leaders be to give this sort of counsel?” The advice given the young couple was neither Biblical nor sensible. It did not take into account their God-given personalities, natural talents, skills, training, or personal desires. Instead, it sought to squeeze them into a “one-size-fits-all” doctrinal strait jacket. It put unnecessary stress on their marriage relationship and almost caused them to lose their business. Since then, I have often wondered how many couples have been

betrayed, hampered, and stifled by such teaching and how many marriages have actually been destroyed by this sort of traditional teaching. The evidence indicates that the situation is serious. In spite of all the time and resources that evangelicals have poured into seminars, retreats, books, manuals, and DVDs on marriage, about one-third of all born-again, evangelical Christians have been through the agony of divorce. Since this is virtually the same as the national average, it raises questions. Why has all this teaching not had a positive impact? Is the teaching itself part of the problem? And how many Christian men and women are remaining in unhappy marriage relationships because of the children, because of the shame associated with divorce, or for any other number of reasons? It does reveal the fact that many Christian marriages are unhappy and in need of help.

I am convinced that the traditional teaching on marriage that squeezes each partner into a gender-determined role is a major cause of so many painful Christian marriages. For example, the couple that I mentioned was doing their best to comply with their

church's traditional teaching on marriage. They quickly discovered, however, that if they wanted to keep their business afloat and their marriage alive, that they would have to move from the gender-determined roles imposed on them by the church to Spirit-led functions that facilitated their gifts, training, and personalities.

### **Studies Demonstrate that Marriages that Practice Equality Are the Happiest.**

The model in which two equal partners function in marriage according to their gifts and callings rather than according to gender-determined roles is, in fact, Biblical. It is confirmed by the creation account in Genesis, by Jesus, and by Paul (when he is accurately interpreted according to his original intent). This model of marriage is now being confirmed by empirical studies showing that couples who function in a Spirit-led marriage are happier and less likely to divorce than those who are trying to live within the traditional model. These studies show what Scripture has been telling us all along: equality and mutual partnership in marriage works.

Examples of such studies were highlighted in a paper presented by Dennis J. Preato at the 2003 meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society (Preato, [www.godswordtowomen.org/studies/articles/Preato3.htm](http://www.godswordtowomen.org/studies/articles/Preato3.htm)). These studies affirm that the best model for a happy marriage is one in

which there is equality and in which roles are based, not on gender, but on gifts and callings.

### **Study Shows that Equal Partnership Is Good For Marriage.**

Drs. Alan Booth and Paul Amato, sociologists and demographers at Penn State University, did a twenty-year study that demonstrated that egalitarian marriages tend to be happier than traditional, hierarchical ones. They studied two thousand couples over a twenty-year period. These couples were contacted and interviewed six times each year during that period. At the end of the twenty-year period, they interviewed an entirely new group of more than two thousand couples so that they could see, not only how their study group had changed, but how the society had changed. Regarding the results of their study, Dr. Amato wrote,

Equality is good for a marriage. It's good for both husbands and wives. If the wife goes from a patriarchal marriage to an egalitarian one, she'll be much happier, much less likely to look for a way out. And in the long run, the husbands are happier too (Preato).

### **Another Study Shows That Equal Partnership Tends to Produce Happiness.**

Dr. David Olson of the University of Minnesota compiled a national survey of marriages based on 21,501 couples that were interviewed for the study. Couples

were asked to complete thirty background questions and 165 specific questions related to twenty significant marital issues. Published in 2000, this survey is one of the largest, most comprehensive studies of marital strengths and stumbling blocks ever produced.



The study found that 82% of the couples who functioned in egalitarian marriages were happy. In contrast, the study found that only 18% of the couples that functioned in traditional, hierarchical marriages were happy. Happiness, in turn, determined the level of intimacy in the marriage. For example, only 27% of the unhappy couples felt close to each other, while 97% of the happy couples felt close to one another. The study found that the inability to share leadership equally was the major stumbling block to a happy marriage.

### **And Hierarchical Relationships in Marriage Tend to Be Destructive.**

In her book, *Family Ministry: A Comprehensive Guide*, Dr. Diana R. Garland, Director of the Center for Family and Community Ministries at Baylor University, says that

research conducted in the mid-twentieth century has revealed the following:

Wives, in traditional marriages, suffered significantly more depression and other mental disorders than men, working married women and unmarried women (Bernard, 1982). In traditional marriages, wives had been beaten at "a rate of more than 300 percent higher than for egalitarian marriages (Straus, Gelles and Steinmetz, 1980)." Violence is more likely to occur in homes where the husband has all the power and makes all the decisions (Praetor).

### **The Evidence Is Compelling.**

These studies coincide with the surveys done by Christian sociologist, George Barna (<http://www.barna.org/>). His surveys indicate that evangelical Christian marriages are in trouble. They indicate that the hierarchical model of marriage taught by most evangelicals is a major part of the problem. Praeto, who has done a vast amount of research in this area, sums up his investigation by saying,

These research studies accomplish the following: First, they effectively discredit any traditionalists' notion that dismantling hierarchy destabilizes marriage and that the root problem in marriage is the unwillingness of each spouse to accept the role for which he or she was designed. Second, they prove that hierarchy actually destabilizes

and harms marriages. Third, they provide objective data that egalitarian marriages produce the healthiest, happiest, most intimate, and stable of all marriage relationships with the least amount of spousal abuse (Praeto).

### **Conclusion**

I am convinced that marriage based on equal partnership is both the Biblical and common sense approach. It is the only approach that requires such Christian virtues as service and humility in both partners. It is the only approach that allows the nurturing and flowering of the gifts and abilities in both the man and the woman. It is the only approach that facilitates the synergism and multiplication of power Jesus promised in Matthew 18:19 when *any two on earth will agree*.

"Agree" in this passage is a translation of the Greek word *sumphonesosin* from which we get "symphony." A symphony orchestra is made up of different musical instruments with different sounds. But when they all play the same melody in the same key, something beautiful comes forth. Jesus said that if any two of His followers would make a symphony about anything, it would be done.

Christian marriage is the place, more than any other, where such a symphony should be occurring. But such a symphony can only occur when there is equality and partnership in the marriage relationship. I am convinced that as couples today embrace the

Biblical model of equality and teamwork in marriage, they will make such a symphony and discover the key to a Happy Christian Marriage.

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### **Suggested Reading for Marriage**

#### **The Laws of Teamwork** by John C. Maxwell

[Editor's Paraphrase]

1. Personal Significance
2. Seeing the Big Picture
3. Finding Your Niche
4. Climbing Your Mount Everest
5. Strengths/Weaknesses
6. Our Life's Catalysts
7. Personal Vision
8. Dealing with Attitudes
9. Being Able to Count on One Another
10. Paying the Price
11. Making Adjustments
12. Your Depth as God's Team
13. Shared Values
14. Communication
15. Breaking Through
16. Maintaining High Moral
17. Investing in Each Other

#### **Good to Great** by Jim Collins

In *Good to Great*, consider the "Hedgehog Principle" (pp. 118-119). This principle can help sharpen our self-understanding and thereby help us make the best life choices based the gifts and talents God has given us.

1. **What are you deeply passionate about?**
2. **What drives your economic engine?**
3. **What can you be the best in the world at?**

Where the 3 circles intersect, you will probably find your greatest strength. When we are in God's will, we experience His PEACE and this enhances any relationship.

# What about Gender Roles?

## *An Important Report by a Friend of God's Word to Women*

The author earned a B.S. in Economics, an M.S., and a Ph.D. in a technology field, taught full-time, and conducted research at various Universities for over 20 years. In addition, the author earned an accredited M.Div., is an ordained minister in a major denomination, and has served in congregations and other ministries in the Southwest and Northwest of the U.S.

Recently, a local city-wide evangelical group sent out an email announcing an upcoming simulcast that promises to “unpack what biblical manhood looks like.” The organization promoting this event is one of several who claim that the decline in morals in our culture has been caused by a failure of men and women to follow so called “biblical” roles. I recently spoke with a small group of leaders and members of our local evangelical group and asked them to be prayerful, discerning and cautious with these ideas. I reminded my colleagues that role playing distracts men and women from fulfilling their God-ordained purposes for their lives. Furthermore, in some instances, this training has been the cause of marital conflict, confusion, and even divorce. I reminded my colleagues that role playing distracts men and women from fulfilling their God-ordained purposes for their lives. Furthermore, in some instances, this training has been the cause of marital conflict, confusion, and even divorce.

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### **The following paragraphs reflect my part of the discussion.**

Let's reason here. If people are supposed to spend their lives playing roles, wouldn't Jesus have described what these roles are to

be? But we are not called to play roles; we are called to love one another. Clearly men and women have natural differences. God matches husbands and wives and gives them specific gifts and talents so that, together, they can more effectively follow Him. Just as every individual is uniquely created by God, every marriage relationship is unique. The way my husband and I relate to each other differs from the way any other couple will relate. This is how God designed it.

Much of the training in the “proper roles of men and women” is presented through local congregations. When a teaching like this comes into a congregation, couples in leadership are encouraged to be among the first to participate. Christian couples who have been relating to each other based on their God-given talents and individual strengths begin to try to follow the “roles” they are being taught. I have heard firsthand from ministers, elders, and other church leaders about problems that have arisen in marriages when the couple substituted legalistic “role” playing for their formerly Spirit-led relationship. Honest communication is suppressed as couples begin to act and react as they are taught. Couples have been told that men who don't buy into it are “wimps” and that women who disagree are “rebellious Jezebels.”

True relationship and “role” playing don't



mix! Couples should live and love and relate to each other as Jesus Christ tells them to, through His Holy Spirit. They should be honest, open, and REAL with each other. Decisions such as who should handle the money, who works, who stays home, etc. should be handled with prayer and spiritual discernment by the COUPLE themselves, with both husband and wife putting the interests and welfare of the other ahead of their own, as Scripture instructs.

The “role” training material uses terms like “headship” and “submission” that *seem* to be “biblical” because Scripture passages are quoted out of context to support their ideas. However, their **interpretation** of these terms CANNOT be found in the Bible. The Bible does not tell us who should write the checks, who should mow the lawn, or who should load the dishwasher. For the most part events recorded in the Bible reflect the culture in the time and place that they occurred. But there are many exceptions. Jacob cooked. Deborah led a nation. The good wife of Proverbs 31 invested in land, made goods to sell for profit, and took care of the family to make it possible for her husband to serve as a judge at the gate. Lydia of Philippi was a wealthy business woman who supported Paul and his companions while they ministered in her city. And there are many more examples that could be given. The roles being taught by these groups are clearly **cultural** (their own cultural preferences) not Biblical.

Toward the end of the discussion, one of the pastors mentioned Mark Driscoll of the Mars Hill megachurch. He said Driscoll had announced publicly that any man in his congregation who was not the sole breadwinner of his family would be subject to church discipline. I didn't think of it until I got home, but I wish I had said something like, **"It doesn't surprise me that men who let women support them are punished. I know of some men who were supported by women who were even crucified."**

## **IMPROMPTU GWTW GATHERING** July 5, 2012 \* Holiday Inn Express\* Grapevine, TX



**Left to Right : Julissa Antigua (Lawrence, MA), Gladys Raj (Tulsa, OK), Sue Hyatt (Grapevine, TX), Michelle Moore Mitchell (Spokane, WA), Jatonna Morgan (McKinney, TX), Valarie Owen (Irving, TX), Susan Stanton Clarke (Syracuse, NY), Linda Miller (Tulsa, OK). (Taking the Picture: Eddie Hyatt, Grapevine, TX)**

**On July 5<sup>th</sup>, nine of us gathered at the Holiday Inn Express in Grapevine, TX, from 10:30 am – 2 pm. It was an impromptu gathering of friends who share a special interest in God’s Word to Women.**

**My part was made easy, as it was obvious from the word “GO” that the Lord was orchestrating every detail. Each of us had felt a leading of the Holy Spirit to be there—and on very short notice!**

**In a roundtable discussion, we got to know one another and the common concerns about women that are on each person’s heart. Fellowship for strength is a big concern. Getting the Biblical Truth out is another.**

**So God’s strategy is very much on our hearts. I asked that we consider the paradigm that God has given me for my life and leadership assignments.**

The Paradigm God Has Given Me for Life & Leadership	
GOD’S WAY	OUR HUMAN WAY
First, Stay in God’s <b>Peace</b>	First, Get a <b>Plan</b> & Cast a Vision
Then, Reach out to <b>People</b>	Then, Generate <b>Provision</b>
Then, God’s <b>Provision</b> Flows	Find/Use <b>People</b> to Fill Jobs
And His <b>Plan</b> Unfolds	There Is Little or <b>No Peace</b>

**I believe we left with a more informed desire to understand our unique part in God’s Big Plan. And I would share that challenge with you! What is God’s Plan for you in God’s Word to Women?**

# Which Bible Version Should I Use?

☞☞☞ *Suggestions for Studying the English Bible* ☞☞☞

By Eddie L. Hyatt

God has faithfully preserved His Word throughout the centuries through many different translations into many different languages. The Word of God, as penned by the Biblical writers, is infallible and inerrant in their original form. However, translations of these manuscripts are not perfect, which is why we should not be tied to a single translation.

There were several English translations before the King James Version (1611), including *Tyndale's New Testament* (1526), *The Coverdale Bible* (1535), *The Great Bible* (1539), and *The Geneva Bible* (1560). There is no reason to believe that the King James Version holds a special and holy status over all other translations. In fact, such a reverential attitude toward one particular translation has hindered many from study that would enable them to understand precisely what the Biblical writers actually wrote, not in English, but in Hebrew (OT) and Greek (NT).

Understanding how the King James Version came forth can help us realize that it and other translations of the original writings of Scripture are not infallible. We will then see that we must be willing to prayerfully consult various translations and the original language in order to arrive at an accurate understanding of God's Word. By doing so, we will go a long way in fulfilling the admonition of Paul that we show ourselves approved unto God, *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (II Timothy 2:15 NKJV)*.

*The Religious  
& Social Setting of  
the King James Version*

The English Reformation began in the 1530s, largely for personal and political reasons. King Henry VIII had requested an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of

Aragon because she had failed to give him a male heir to his throne. Henry's plan was to obtain an annulment and marry Anne Boleyn. When the pope and the Roman Catholic Church refused his request, he severed ties with Rome and made the English monarch—in this case, himself—the Head of the English church. He was then able to proceed with his marriage to Anne Boleyn.

Because Henry had little interest in doctrinal and ecclesial reform, the Church of England differed little from the medieval Roman Catholic Church. Henry was, in fact, opposed to Protestant reform. Before his separation with Rome, Henry had written a sharp treatise against Martin Luther, for which he was actually commended by the pope, who conferred on Henry the title "Defender of the Faith." This title has continued to be a part of the English monarchy to the present time.

When Henry died in 1547 and

was succeeded by the youthful Edward VI, the work of reform was greatly accelerated because Edward was favorable to the Protestant cause. But when Edward died only 6 years later (1553), he was succeeded by his sister, Mary, who was a staunch Roman Catholic and who strongly opposed Protestantism. As a result, those championing reform came under severe persecution, with many being imprisoned and 288 being put to death for their Protestant beliefs. Many fled to Europe and a number found refuge in Geneva, the city of the Reformer, John Calvin (1509-1564).

### *The Geneva Bible Emerges*

In Geneva, these English reformers produced a translation of the Bible that became known as *The Geneva Bible*. This Bible translation also contained notes that offered commentary on the Scriptures from a Protestant perspective. Although these comments would seem quite traditional to us today, they were groundbreaking at the time for they challenged the concepts of the Divine Right of Kings and the Divine Right of Bishops, doctrines that claimed absolute authority from God for monarchs and church leaders over their subjects.

For example, in Acts 5:29 where Peter told the Jewish authorities, *We ought to obey God rather than man*, the commentators of the Geneva Bible explained to their readers that they were obligated to obey monarchs and church leaders only so far as such

obedience was also obedience to God. Otherwise, they were to obey God and not man.

Another example is from Exodus 1:9 where a marginal note indicated that the Hebrew midwives were correct in disobeying the Egyptian king's orders. These and similar comments were enough to raise the ire of kings, popes, and bishops who were used to exercising unquestioned authority and to receiving absolute obedience.

### *The Rise of the Puritans in the Church of England*

When Mary died in 1558, she was succeeded by her sister, Elizabeth I, who was more favorable to the Protestant cause and who renewed efforts to reform the Church of England. It was at this time that the Puritans emerged as the most passionate advocates of Biblical reform in the English Church. They were called "Puritans" because of their passion to see the English Church "purified" from all forms of worship and doctrine that could not be validated by Scripture.

With more freedom and tolerance because of Elizabeth's reign, many English refugees returned from Geneva to their homeland, bringing the Geneva Bible with them. They began publishing it in England around 1560 and it became the most popular Bible in England, especially among the Puritans.

### *King James I and the King James Version of the Bible*

When Elizabeth I died in 1603, leaving no heir to the throne, she was succeeded by James VI of the Stuart Family in Scotland. He was crowned James I of England and is best known to many as the King James of the Authorized King James Version of the Bible. James was not friendly toward the Puritan cause and he was a staunch advocate of the Divine Right of Kings. He, therefore, saw the Puritan challenge to doctrines and practices of the state-controlled church as an affront to his own authority. Consequently, he ordered, "Conform yourselves or I will harry you out of the land" (Benjamin Hart, *Faith and Freedom*, 69).

King James saw the Bible of the Puritans, that is, the Geneva Bible, as a problem. In fact, he considered the marginal notes in the Geneva Bible to be "a political threat to his kingdom." He, therefore, commissioned a new English translation, completed in 1611, that we know as the King James Version. James called it "The Authorized Version."

Authorized by whom? By King James, of course, who did not want his subjects reading those "unauthorized versions" with their annotations that might give them a sense of individual freedom. In his excellent book, *What if America Were a Christian Nation Again?*, the late Dr. D. James Kennedy wrote,

"His push for that 1611

translation was essentially an anti-Puritan measure. King James I set out to translate the Scriptures in order to replace an influential version he disdained, the Geneva Bible, which came out in 1560 and was widespread for two generations. The Pilgrims and Puritans loved this Bible. It wasn't really the text or the translation that bothered the king it was the footnotes . . . on the sides and at the bottom. Commentaries on passages such as 'We ought to obey God rather than men' (Acts 5:29) were enough to raise any monarch's eyebrows" (D. James Kennedy, *What if America Were a Christian Nation Again?*, 23).

An area of interest to some is that King James had a problem with women and this severely tarnishes his translation. For example, the Greek word *diakonos* or its verb form is translated as "minister" 23 times in the New Testament when referring to men. In the one place where *diakonos* was used in reference to a woman (Rom. 16:1), the King James translators chose to translate it as "servant." The bias is clear.

This same gender bias is obvious in the fact that both *aner*, the gender-specific Greek word for "man," and *anthropos*, the gender-inclusive Greek word for "person" are both translated as "man" or "men" by the King James translators. Just one example will suffice to show how this could be misleading, especially in a patriarchal culture. II Timothy 2:2 reads, *And the things you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to*

*teach others also.* The word Paul used in this passage was *anthropoi*, the plural form of *anthropos*, which means that he saw the possibility of both men and women teaching and leading. By translating the word as "men" instead of the more accurate "people" or "individuals," the King James translators affirmed the views of the king and church tradition that only "men" can function in teaching roles.

### *The Pilgrims Who Settled New England Used the Geneva Bible*

King James was particularly incensed with the Separatist Puritans, who, through reading their Bibles, garnered enough confidence to begin leaving the Church of England and forming their own congregations. When James gave them the option of going to prison or leaving the country, one congregation, whose members became known as the Pilgrims, migrated to America in 1620 and founded the colony at Plymouth, MA. These Pilgrims, and later Puritan immigrants, brought their Bibles with them to America, but it was not the King James Version that they brought. It was the Geneva Bible.

### *Suggestions for Studying the English Bible*

I am not here to demean or to promote a particular translation. I personally use the New King James Version for personal reading and for preaching. For

study, however, I prayerfully consult various translations, and, having studied Hebrew and Greek, I enjoy researching the original texts. Here are a few suggestions for reading and studying the English Bible for all its worth.

- † Remember that the Bible was not written in chapters and verses. These divisions came along in the Middle Ages. It can be helpful, therefore, to use a Bible for study, such as the NKJV or NIV, that indicate the beginning of new paragraphs.
- † Remember that words only have meaning within the context of the sentence in which they are used; and sentences only have meaning within the context of sentences that are before and after. Make every effort to interpret a word or passage within its literary context
- † Remember that the Bible was not written in a vacuum. Each book has a life setting, *i.e.*, a social and historical context in which it was written. This is especially true of the Epistles. Understanding the historical context in which a letter/epistle was written adds tremendous understanding to our reading of the text.
- † Some translations, such as the KJV and NKJV, italicize words that were not in the original text but were added by the translators in their attempt to add understanding to the passage. This sometimes has the opposite effect because the biases of the translators tarnish

their work. Recognizing this can be helpful in getting at the truth.

† Remember that the purpose of Biblical study is not for acquiring knowledge so that we can better argue our doctrinal position. The goal of Biblical study is that we might better know God and His Son Jesus Christ and be more conformed to His will and likeness. As John said in 20:31 of his gospel, *These are written that you may know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*

† Remember that reference works are not infallible and some may be outdated. For example, although *Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* can be helpful, it is very limited and some of its entries have been made obsolete by modern archaeological discoveries.

† Ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you apply your mind and all the tools at your disposal for understanding the text.

† *The New Testament Study Guide* produced by Drs. Hyatt and Rev. Valarie Owen is a helpful tool in reading with understanding. It is a well-researched guide that uses the best of Conservative research and resources helping the reader ascertain the meaning the Bible writer intended, regardless of the translation used.

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path (Psalm 119:105 KJV)*

## *An Email*

Subject: Thanks  
From: Lydia  
Date: Mon, May 21, 2012 11:09 am  
To: gwtw@godswordtowomen.org

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***Too all who make this ministry possible.***

*Thank you for your ministry. I have been wrestling with the issue of women in leadership since I was saved at the age of 4. I believe so much in the fact that Jesus came to set the captives free, and so often the human desire for power, authority and elective privilege distorts passages of God's Word. I have been told now for the past two decades (I am 29 years of age) to leave this issue alone. I cannot, as I know that Christ has placed a special burden upon my heart to help those who are hurting, or who may have even turned away from the Gospel & Christ because of the oppression they feel when confronted with this issue. Christ mandated His Word, His law, and so many people neglect that historically, the text has been translated, punctuation has been inserted to fit our grammar, and context has not been taken into account, though the native tongue in which the Bible was written was ALL contextual. I am pursuing my study of Christ's Word via a university in Virginia. I am confident that Christ will*

*give me strength to pursue this course for the unity of His Church, for His name sake, and to bring other non-believers or past, hurting believers to His grace. It may all be me keeping in line with my namesake as well (considering name origins and meanings!).*

*I respect and uphold the authority of Christ as my head, my source, and my judge. I believe no other perfect authority exists other than Christ. I cannot just pass this issue off or let it go. A majority of Christ's body of workers has been shoved aside or into specific areas where they may not even be called to function or utilize the gifts God has given them - and are being told it is because Christ made it this way! Is there more of a lie, a heresy, a distortion of scripture? Oppression should have been abolished in Christ's Kingdom, yet there are those who would seek to uphold the fallen order (from Eden, after the fall) and deny and negate the saving power of Jesus Christ. I will continually pray for your ministry as you seek to admonish, encourage, and spread the news of Christ to women across the world. Your website proved to be a resting place of healing and grace in a world that is full of lust, power, greed, and selfishness.*

*May you always shine brightly as a light in the darkness for the glory of His Name.*

*In Christ Always,  
Lydia*

# Fearfully Female Wonderfully Woman



*Becoming All that God Created*



*from the book by Cinthia W. Pratt*

## Excerpts from Chapter 1

Psalm 139:14 reads: *“I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are your works, and my soul well knows very well.”*

The original Hebrews translation for the word “fearfully” as used in this verse is: *with great reverence and heart-felt interest and respect*; while the Hebrew word translated ‘wonderfully’ in this Biblical text literally means: *unique, set apart or uniquely marvelous* (Zodhiates, 1992).

Sadly most women today cannot honestly declare along with the psalmist that they praise God because He made them in great reverence with a heart-felt interest and respect for his creation and then set them apart as being uniquely marvelous. Many have not yet realized that they are *fearfully* female and *wonderfully* woman. They cannot in complete honesty state that their soul **knows** the fact of their marvelousness very well. Why do you suppose this is?

I believe that the answer to that question lies at least in part in the fact that for the Christian female, the journey into womanhood.... We are ambassadors, strangers and aliens on a journey with a final destination and all these many stations and rest stops that we encounter along the way are not our journey’s end.... We should not be surprised then to find ourselves confused or in culture shock as we navigate our way through the myriad messages being sent through media, peer groups, social institutions and religious systems regarding what it means to be “woman.” ...



If we believe and desire to follow the teachings of Christ

then we must recognize that we are called to be *in the world* and yet not *of the world*. John 15:18-19 reminds us that Christ chose us out of the world and just as the world hated him, when we decide to follow him, it will hate us as well.

So, what’s a girl to do? How do we reflect the values and principles of our heavenly home while living, growing and interacting in this present culture. How do we choose which messages we will accept and carry with us and which we will leave behind? How do we turn down the clamoring voices of this present world to hear the often stifled and quiet voice of our Lord? Wouldn’t it be great if together as women we could eliminate all the excess baggage that weighs us down and be forewarned of the twists and turns that lie in the road up ahead? That was the goal in writing this book. **The author is inviting all women regardless of their status, age or phase of life to determine to be all that God created them to be, and to dare to be fearfully female and wonderfully woman.**

Taking this challenge to join one another in the journey of life time will require being willing to turn down voices shouting lies and half-truths aimed at distorting God’s perfect plan so that we might hear the wonderful truth that our creator has to say. It may also require some of us to take a second look at once widely accepted and

unquestioned positions in order to gain a fresh perspective or new insight.

... Perhaps as fellow sojourners we can help each other unpack those heavy and entirely unnecessary burdens that have been placed on us by the world systems of media, politics, religion, and gender stereotypes. Hopefully we will have a good time taking an honest look at ourselves, laughing in the full-length mirror and learning to accept our flaws while embracing the truth that the female being was created with intent by God and perfectly equipped to perform His divine will. Along the way we will learn the source of our greatest value and deepest pleasure comes from being uniquely His and His uniquely.

## *Excerpts from Chapter 12*

Each fearfully wonderful woman of God is on a journey. She is a traveler and not a settler. She is an ambassador on the royal assignment of a heavenly king. Her mission will take her through many valleys and deserts and along diverse pathways and up steep and winding trails. At points she will travel swiftly over pleasant and level terrain; while other paths will require a more measured and accurate cadence to avoid the jagged rocks and treacherous ledges of her climb. Some legs of her journey will provide a throng of companions with whom to laugh and to share. These wide and joyful paths of festivity and dance will be intermingled with narrow roads that seem less brightly lit and somewhat desolate or sorrowful. ...

How beautiful, how wonderful and how powerful to know that Jesus walks with us every step of life's journey. Jesus is the life time friend that will never leave us or forsake us...

We are at peace along life's pathways because our companion is the very Prince of peace. His name is Peace (Isaiah 9:6). ...

We find comfort in the presence of Jesus for He himself is our provision of rest and relaxation (Matthew 11:28). ...

We are wholly accepted and unconditionally loved while being held in his strong arms (John 3:17, Romans 5:1, I John 3:1-3). No one ever has or ever

will show us greater love than Jesus does (John 15:13). Therefore we have no need for feelings of inadequacy. ...

In Jesus' eyes we are fully equipped and totally capable (Philippians 2:13). In Him we lack nothing (Psalm 34:9, James 1:2-4). He meets our every need and is our faithful provider (Romans 11:36, Philippians 4:14-19). When we do his will and walk in his way we are blessed and our work bears fruit like that of a well planted tree (Psalm 1:1-3, James 1:25). He gives us grace sufficient for every test and power to defeat any foe (2 Corinthians 12:9, John 4:4).

As fearfully wonderful women of God, we are the body of Christ. Our enemies have no power over us (Romans 12:21). Jesus has delivered us from the evils of this world and because of his great love no evil can overtake us or either our dwelling place (Galatians 1:4, Psalm 91:10). He has provided angels to minister over us and to keep us safe and a shield of faith to stop every enemy attack (Psalm 91:11, Ephesians 6:16). The devil flees from us when we call out the name of Jesus (James 4:7). We have no fear or want for our Shepherd is with us to lead, guide and protect us all the way home (Psalm 23:2-4). When he comes back to get us, we will dwell together with Him forever and ever in our heavenly home (Psalm 23:6, 1 Thessalonians 4:17).

While every fearfully wonderful woman of God's ultimate destination is that of her heavenly home in the eternal presence of her creator; each footstep of her journey will also move her ever closer to the wholeness, wellness, contentment, and fullness of joy that can only be found walking with Jesus. What a friend we have in Him. There is none other more precious than He.

Cindee resigned her position as a successful sociology professor to become a Christian author and speaker. Already a great blessing to many, she continues to see the Lord's plan unfold.

To obtain your personal copy of Cindee's book, contact her at [fearfullyfemale@gmail.com](mailto:fearfullyfemale@gmail.com).

Connect to her blog at

<http://fearfullywonderfullywoman.webs.com/>.

Check [www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMgpX\\_b5f-4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMgpX_b5f-4).

**Shalom!**

[www.icwhp.org](http://www.icwhp.org) &  
[www.godswordtowomen.org](http://www.godswordtowomen.org)

# God's Word To Women



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