

## Contents

Woman Ablaze 2006.....	2
Woman Ablaze 2007.....	10
Women Ablaze 2008.....	22
Women Ablaze 2009.....	26
Women Ablaze 2010.....	31
Women Ablaze 2011.....	32
Women Ablaze 2012.....	33

## Woman Ablaze 2006

(Mumbai | July 2006, Canada | November 2006)

### NOTES: Women's Hall of Fame

#### Women of the World:



Women have excelled in practically every area men have. Astronaut Kalpana Chawla – India; Scientist Madame Curie [Radiology] – Poland; Police Kiran Bedi; Prime Minister Indira Gandhi; Nurse Florence Nightingale.

- Managers; Housewives; Mothers; Doctors; Lawyers; Judges; Actresses; Dancers and so on. They have truly been in the hall of fame!

#### Women of the Bible:

Apostle – Junia  
Authoress – Ruth; Esther;

Builder – Sherah

Barren giving birth – Sarah; Hannah; Elizabeth; Mary

Bad Women – Jezebel [Baal Worship, Persecutor];

Herodias [beheading of John the Baptist]

Core Worker – Priscilla

Disciple – Claudia; Salome; Tabitha

Deaconess – Euodias; Mary; Phoebe

Evangelist – Mary Magdalene; Joanna; Mary; Woman at the well;

Euodia; Syntyche

Harlot – Rahab; Rachab; Gomer

House Church at Nympha's house

Judge – Deborah

Shepherdess – Rachel

Supporters of Jesus' Ministry – Joanna, Susanna, Mary

Ruler – Athaliah

Made Clothes - Tabitha

Maid - Rhoda

Prophetess – Miriam; Deborah; Isaiah's wife; Huldah; Noadiah; Mary [mother of Jesus]; Anna; Elizabeth; Philip's four daughters;

Pastor – Priscilla to Apollos

Queen – Candace [Ethiopia]; Vashti [Persia]; Esther [Persia]; Tahpenes [Egypt]

Servant – Phoebe; Priscilla; Mary; Tryphena; Tryphosa; Persis; Julia;

Singer – Miriam; Barak; Deborah



Mary, first preacher after Jesus' resurrection [Jn20: 17-18]

A woman brings an entire village to hear the gospel [Jn4]

Maria Woodward Etter– Ohio [40s] – greatest American evangelist  
 Kathryn Kuhlman [70s] – one of the greatest healing evangelist  
 Aimee Semple McPherson [20s] – Pastor Angelus Temple Canada  
 Pandita Ramabai, Mukti Mission for widows, [1900s] Pune

God sees men and women as equals made in the image and likeness of God  
 [Gen1: 27-28; Ga3: 28]

God saw man as incomplete without woman and woman, man's rib and co-equal  
 was meant to cleave, adhere, cling, stick, be faithful [Gen2: 18-24]

Jesus welcomed women learners [Lk8 & 10]. Spoke with women [gospels];  
 commended their faith & used them as illustrations

### **Problematic Questions answered**

#### **How were Old Testament [Bible] Women treated?**

Young widows were expected to re-marry [Exo22]

Elderly women were taken care of

Women couldn't divorce, men could

Men couldn't teach women – inequality with men [Num5]

Women couldn't inherit property unless there was no male

Woman's legal position was weaker than man's.

#### **How did Jesus treat Women?**

He treated women as equals with men. How do we know this? – He overthrew  
 centuries of Jewish law, custom, tradition.

He healed the woman with twelve years menstrual bleeding [Mk5] – thus ignoring  
 ritual impurity laws.

He healed the Canaanite woman's daughter [Mt15]

He taught women students [Lk10]

He called a woman the 'daughter of Abraham' [Lk13]

He accepted the women's inner circle Mary, Joanna, Susanna [Lk8].

He expressed concern for widows [Lk2; 4; 7; 18; 20; 21]

He overthrew tradition of divorce stating that neither could [Mk10]

#### **Was Paul a Woman hater?**

No. He had high regard for them. Consider his statements:

Greet Priscilla and Aquilla [wife and then husband]

Greet Mary who bestowed much labour on us.

Greet Tryphena, Tryphosa, Persis [these women had ministry]

Salute Rufus, his mother and mine

#### **Was Paul against matrimony?**

No. He says 'Marriage is honourable. He qualifies the bishop to be husband of  
 one wife.

**Does Paul advise celibacy?**

No. In 1Cor7: 25-40, he advises celibacy only there because of the 'present distress' [v/s 26] i.e. persecution and affliction to Christians during those days – so that they could be free to serve the Lord wholeheartedly

**What is the role of marriage in the Bible?**

To have a lifelong loving relationship and partnership between husband and wife; Husband to love his wife as Christ loved the Church - head of the house; outdoor work; final decisions. [1Pt3: 7]

Both Husband & Wife should fulfill proper sexual roles, promote love and prevent fornication [1Cor7: 3-6; Deut24: 5]

Wives be submissive, respect their husbands – manager of the home, housewife, prepare meals, mother.

Wives should love their husbands & children, adorn herself with good works

Wives should recognize husband's leadership.

Close attachment between parents and children [Eph5]. Parents have equal role in disciplining their children

Older women should encourage younger women to love their husbands and children

Prov31; 10-31 is God's view of a wife and mother

**Is man the head of the woman?**

[Eph5: 21-31] From the natural family and domestic standpoint husband is the head of the wife, on woman, not the head of every woman. From the supernatural standpoint Christ is the head of the Church and man and woman both belong to it. Husband is not the wife's head spiritually. He is not the Lord of his wife's conscience. Jesus is Lord of both spiritually. Women can come directly to Christ without the consent of their husbands.

'Submit yourselves one to another,' – agree, get along with one another. Women should not be made to feel inferior to man.

**Must wives always obey their husbands?**

They should except in areas of sin [1Pt3: 6; Eph5: 24]. Women are not subordinate to men except in the family. Woman was not taken from Adam's feet or head, but from his side [Gen2: 21-22]. God made them to work together. She is to be his helper. She is not inferior. They are both equal. A wife must be true to

her convictions even at the cost of losing her husband if he will not endure her true devotion to Christ [1Cor7: 15]

### **Is divorce, re-marriage allowed in Christian marriage?** [Mt19; Col3; Eph5; Eccl9]

First of all God hates divorce [sinful] – [Mal2: 16]. God intends marriage a lifetime commitment –



“...no longer two..” [Mt19].

In the Old Testament God laid laws to protect rights of divorcees, especially women [Deut24]. Jesus said these laws were given only because of the hardness of hearts [Mt19:8].

God permits divorce / re-marriage – ‘except for marital unfaithfulness’ [sexual immorality, fornication, adultery, prostitution]. Sexual relations are an integral part of marital bond – “the two will become one flesh,” [Gen2: 24]. A breaking of bond by sexual relations outside marriage might give permission for divorce [Mt19: 9]

God recognizes that divorces can occur [infidelity; incompatibility; insanity] among his children, but he still loves and accepts them.

### **Is sex an essential requirement in marriage?**

Yes. The two shall be made one flesh. If the marriage has not been consummated there is no marriage. In the natural realm there is hunger for food as well as sex, but it should be holy.

Prov5: 18-19: “...rejoice with the wife of thy youth...be ravished always with her love.” [Be satisfied with the wife always. Ravished means overcome with emotion, joy, delight].



### **Which is more important in a woman – external charm or internal beauty?**

The external and internal must complement and supplement each other. However, the internal is more important than the external.

Prov31: 30 – “Favour is deceitful, beauty vain: a woman who fears the Lord, shall be praised.”

Prov12; 4 – “ A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband.”

Prov14: 1 – “Every wise woman builds her house; the foolish one tears it down.

Prov19: 14 – “...a prudent [discreet, careful, wise] wife is from the Lord.

### **Is it true that a woman can't wear pants?**

[Deut22: 5; 1Tim2: 9]

The problem at that time was that some homosexuals put on women's clothes to impersonate women. One thing is certain that a woman should be a woman whether she wears slacks or dress. It is important that you follow peace. Wear what your society permits you to wear lest you be a stumbling block to them. If that is not possible pray if you should move to another group that shares your conviction.

### **What is the proper dress and adornment for Christian women?**

[1Tim2: 9-10; 1Pt3: 1-5] – These scriptures deal with a temptation to women from which men are not exempt. The fashions of today are very questionable, where women are scantily dressed and an occasion for sin.

We need to teach women to dress up and look nice [not vulgar] for themselves and their husbands. The advice is not to spend all the time on the outward man. We are to see to it first of all that the inward man is adorned with a meek and quiet spirit. It is important to be modestly dressed. There is no harm for a woman to wear earrings or nose rings. Dressing one way or the other will not get you to heaven or send you to hell [except immodestly].

### **Does the Bible teach that women should have long hair?**

[2Cor11: 14-15] – How long is long? – Only to be covered. Paul doesn't say it is irreverent for women to appear with their heads uncovered; He doesn't say it displeases God; He doesn't say it is the custom [though it is wise to abide by the custom]. He appeals to being natural.

### **Must women cover their heads in Church?**

[1Cor11: 3-16] – Paul did not lay it upon all women for all time to wear the veil or keep their heads covered in church services. Many fear to remove their hats or veils in church lest they go against this passage.

Respect for the Head [Husband] – Paul said a woman who prayed or prophesied with her head uncovered dishonored her head. He did not say that she dishonored God, but her head, her husband who was present. The veil was a symbol of submission to her husband –



this is the significance of the bridal veil.

Respect for Social Customs [v/s 16] – ‘we have no such custom.’

A woman with the head uncovered appearing in church in Paul’s time at Corinth would have scandalized the church. Strangers would have thought such a woman was a city prostitute. It would reflect on her and her husband, dishonoring her head, her husband. – There are social laws and social customs in every country. We would do well. to abide by the custom of that place. However in our day in many places this is not the custom

### **Should women keep silence in Church?**

[1Cor14: 34-35; 14: 27-28] This applies to both men and women when it is disorderly. The words ‘keep silence’ were inserted because unnecessary interruption, disturbance in the Corinthian churches. Paul is not talking here about all women but about wives. He is talking about asking questions and learning something. The women of that day had little or no education. He advised the wives that if they would learn anything to ask their husbands at home. Today women are more well educated and they would be frustrated if they depended on some foolish husbands.

1Cor11: 5 – ‘women praying or prophesying.’ Would Paul be illogical when he asks women to pray, prophesy [preach] in the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter and then in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter to tell them to be quiet?

Acts11: 13-14 – All of the 120 individuals, both men and women at the Upper Room at Jerusalem were filled with the Spirit and all spoke in tongues aloud and the women were not silent.

### **Should women answer the call?**

Anna was a prophetess. God can use them to fill the other offices as well – apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher and so on.

### **Declare God’s Word & Change Your World**

"Hear the Word of the Lord, O women, and let your ear receive the Word of His mouth." [Jer 9: 20]

“...then spoke I with my tongue.” [Ps39: 3]

### **I am able.**

[Phil4: 13] I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

### **I have no lack.**

[Phil4: 19] My God shall supply all your [my] needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

**I have no fear**

[Ps34: 4] "I sought the Lord and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."

**I have the God-kind of faith**

[Rom12: 3] "God has given every man [me] a measure of faith"

**I am strong**

[Ps27: 1] "The Lord is the strength of my life"

**I am victorious**

[1 Jn 4: 4] "Greater is He [the Lord] that is within me than he that is in the world"

**I am winner man**

[2 Cor2: 14] "God always causes me to triumph in Christ Jesus"

**I am wise**

[1 Cor1: 30] "Christ Jesus is made unto me wisdom from God"

**I am in good health**

[Isa53: 5] "With His stripes I am healed"

**I am care-free**

[1 Pt5: 7] "Casting all my cares upon Him, who cares for me"?

**I am free from condemnation**

[Rom8: 1] "There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus"

**I am never alone**

[Mt 28:20] "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world"

**I am curse-free**

[Ga3: 13] "Christ redeemed us [me] from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us [me]."

**I am contented**

[Phil4: 11] "I have learned, in whatsoever state (circumstances) I am, to be content"

**I am the hand-maiden of the Lord**

[Lk1: 38] "Behold the hand-maiden of the Lord, be it done to me according your Word."



**I am rejoicing in the Lord**

[Lk1: 47] My spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour

**I am safe and secure in the Rock of all ages.**

[Deut33: 27] The Eternal God is thy [my] refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms.

**I am delighted in the Lord**

[Ps37: 4] Delight thyself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of thine heart.

**The Lord is my strength**

[Eph6: 10] I am strong in the Lord and in the power of his might

**I am prosperous and at peace**

[Ps122: 7] Peace be within thy walls and prosperity within thy place

**I ask and receive according to his will**

[1 Jn 5:14, 15] If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us...and grants our petitions

**I am a joyful mother**

[Ps113] He makes the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children.

**I am happy I am me!**

[Eph2: 10] "For we are [I am] God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us [me] to do."

**I deny debt, all debts are canceled, I have abundance**

[Phil4] My God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in Christ Jesus

**I am loved & My family loves me**

[Rom5: 5; Prov31: 28] The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit given to us; - Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also and he praises her.

## Woman Ablaze 2007

### NOTES: Equip, Empower and Excel

#### EQUIP

Women are made in the image of God, saved by grace, gifted by God's Spirit, equipped by the church of God Both single as well as married women are a vitally important part of God's church.

In order that Christian women should serve well, they need tools or provisions made freely available to equip them. This has already been supplied to them in part in the form of talents, abilities, skills and gifts of the Holy Spirit. What they need to do is recognize and develop them. This is the essence of being equipped.

Church leadership [main body builders – Apostle; Prophet; Evangelist; Pastor; Teacher] should 'equip the saints,' - men and women of God. Paul encouraged women to teach, nurture, and help each other become mature Christians. [Eph4: 8-12; Titus 2:3-5]

If Christian woman are spiritually immature, untrained in faith, they will not fulfill their ministry role, lose faith and deviate into some false religion or cult. (Eph4: 14) - Women ministries should be formed as a tool where they discover their spiritual gifts, and calling, especially towards their communities and cities. They should function effectively & confidently in every aspect of life.

They should teach Biblical womanhood to younger women [Titus2: 3-5], serve the local & corporate church for the common good, spiritually mother, nurture, develop, encourage the church, be healthy and financially self-sufficient and reach their full potential as Christians, thus building up the Church of God.

Women who are equipped can be used in the local and corporate church.

Women's ministry is all about service; offering love, support, encouragement, developing godly relationships, strengths and gifts, and maturing as Christians into the "fullness of Christ," growing in love for God and his Word, in the context of the local Church, larger corporate Church and world at large.



Those involved with an equipped women's ministry have often found healing, bonding, deeper friendships, prayerful meetings, prayer partnership, biblical studies, and greater fellowship with the Lord. They often relate to each other's experiences and problems and help each other in a setting of women, learning to pray together, studying the Bible and becoming more devoted to walking with Jesus Christ. This in turn will help them not only to love and serve communities in which we live, be involved in providing clothes to the needy, shelter for the homeless, feed the hungry, but also serve the body of Christ with zeal and enthusiasm. (Eph. 4:13)

Women can be equipped by designing courses to help them minister in the local church, and have a closer relationship with Jesus through inspirational teaching for [2Tim3: 16-17].

The Lie that a number of male dominated churches have spread is that God's plan is for women to serve their husbands, fulfill his sexual needs, serve as cook, laundress, maid though the Bible doesn't say so. This has caused them in general to be confused about their roles in church. The Bible says: [Gen2: 18-28] Adam was provided a "helpmate," or "companion," speaking of intimacy and partnership. Eve was originally created to co-labor with Adam so that they could together rule creation as God commissioned them.

Unfortunately, the only opportunities women get in many churches, is keep nurseries, plan fellowship dinners, invite others when reputed men & women of God arrive. So they feel insecure, inadequate and frustrated. They long to serve in situations where their talents and expertise will have full scope within their congregations. Yet they don't know how. So they get confused.

Can the local church offer women challenging, significant, opportunities to serve who are gifted, trained and experienced as executives, planners, implementers especially in business life where they function as managers and professionals?



Is the church the right place for women to develop and exercise their leadership skills?

How does the church use the gifts of stay-at-home mothers and grandmothers and encourage them to develop new skills?

These are some confusing issues women face about their role in Church.

In order to solve the dilemma of the untapped source of the women in Church they need to recognize that Satan seeks to immobilize them through confusion. Women are gifted and have a great- untapped potential within. They need help to discover,

and to exercise their gifts for the good of the Church, to the point of being ordained in positions of authority, as elder and pastor.

There are many hurting people within the church, and a world outside that is falling apart. Women have the God-given capacity to love and nurture hurting people. Let them do so. If God calls them to be ordained as pastors, head a traveling ministry or teach Sunday School and so on, let them loose to fulfill their calling.

## REVIEW

- What does 'Equip' mean?
- Who 'Equips' whom?
- Why should women be equipped?
- Where can 'Equipped' women be used?
- What is women's ministry all about?
- What are the benefits of 'Equipping' women?
- How can women be 'Equipped?'
- Why are women in general confused about their church-roles?
- What are some of kinds of confusion women face?
- What is the solution to the untapped source of the women in Church?

## EMPOWER

Women have been held captive in a number of churches, restrained and in many ways disqualified from public ministry. It's time to hear the Lord saying, "Release my captive daughters to do my will."



Why have they been restrained? Largely, because men who dominated such churches for hundreds of years, brought a male bias to the translation and interpretation of Scripture. But it also appears that the Sovereign Lord allowed the enemy a hand in this as well. Could it really be all three? Man, the devil, and God Himself?

For example, while in Egyptian captivity, the people of Israel were shackled by Pharaoh, held captive by Satan, and restrained by God, at the same time, to fulfill His purposes at His appointed time. He is God Almighty who brings good out of evil. When the time came, Moses told Pharaoh: "Let my people go!" In one night all chains fell away, and God's people walked out of the land of bondage and into the Promised Land of destiny.

Paul said, "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Ga3: 27, 28).

God is preparing us for such a large harvest in which we will need every laborer, men as well as women. It's time to hear the Lord saying, "Release my captive daughters to do my will." Every woman deserves the chance to realize her God-given potential. Just as it took both man and woman, Simeon and Anna, to pray and prophesy over the infant Jesus in the temple, so God is raising up men and women to birth His purposes.

Women must recognize that they are already empowered and need to be empowered, which means authorized, delegated, assigned, sanctioned, enabled, entrusted and so on. The process of empowering would release talent, energy, power, and authority for the task at hand.

Primarily God has absolute authority. It is the Lord Himself who empowers. [Lk10: 19; Mt28: 18-19; Acts1: 8]. All other authority has been delegated by Him. He delegated authority to the apostles and prophets. In turn, the apostles delegated authority (2 Tim2: 2). Elders are commanded to oversee the work of the local congregation (Acts 20:28) and they in turn are commanded to obey them (Heb13: 7, 17). Elders must function within the guidelines of God's Word, be good examples before God's people not dictatorial. (1 Peter 5:1-4).

The Bible teaches us that God made the husband the head of the home, just as He made Christ the head of the church. Husbands are instructed to love their wives and provide for their needs (Eph 5:25-29). Wives must submit to their husbands and children are to be obedient to their parents. When husbands accept their responsibility to guide the home in love, it will help wives and the children to accept their God given authority.

The Bible commands Christians to obey governing authorities (Rom13:1-7). Christians must pray for those in authority (1 Tim2: 2). Governments are a part of God's plan for our protection. (Rom13).

Delegated authority is only binding as long as it does not conflict with God's authority. Elders, husbands, fathers, civil authority have no power to command

us to do wrong. When there is conflict we must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

Women are empowered to serve. They have the ability to break generational curses, make responsible decisions about their lives, and build self-confidence through a positive self-image that enables them to function successfully in mainstream society. Paul desired to equip women so that they could teach the truth of scripture rather than myths and lies.

Empowered women could serve best primarily in the local and corporate Church. Paul told Timothy to employ women with good character and experience to minister in the church.

A woman has more power than she can imagine. The devil has always known the power of a woman. He knew that if he could get Eve to fall, she would influence Adam her husband to do the same. How important it is for women to become Women of God. God did not make her timid, but gave her a spirit of power, of love and of self-control [2Tim1: 7]. This speaks of courage.

Courage comes from 'cor,' which in Latin means, 'heart.' A courageous woman meets danger or opposition calmly and firmly. Such is a 'gentle and quiet spirit' [1Pt3: 4] that God values and enjoys in a woman. He values her ability to rest confidently in him, without anxiety or fear. A woman of courage acts on the knowledge that he who is in me is greater than he who is against me [1Jn4: 4]. In John 16:33 Jesus told his disciples, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart I have overcome the world." [Jn16: 63]. Christian mothers, face so many pressures today regarding their families and children. It takes courage today for a woman to be submissive, not only to God but also to her husband. So women need encouragement.

Empowered women are enabled to recognize and fulfill their potential, make responsible decisions about their lives, build self-confidence and successfully function in the church and society. There is enormous power released when women are able to bless each other and work together

Christian Women should know that they are already potentially empowered. They need to know how to release this God given power. They need to be given new hope in Christ, and supplied with tools needed to live a more abundant life. Teaching and counsel is given to help women become emotionally and spiritually strong and experience restoration and wholeness where life has left emotional scars. Major Teaching Ministries of today are headed by a number of women including Gloria Copeland; Joyce Meyers and so on. What is important is what they do with what they have.

Esther, Rahab, Mary the mother of Jesus faced difficult situations in their lives, yet they risked it all for God's purpose. They were overcomers. So must women

of today be. When life throws difficulties at them, they need to say "So what." God wants women to become over-comers, to encourage one another and join with those who are positive and make them feel secure.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul commended a woman leader, Phoebe, to the Church at Rome. He sent her as a minister of the Gospel or a deacon. This means that Phoebe had the same status in the early Church as Stephen the martyr and Philip the evangelist. He spoke of Phoebe using the word 'prostates,' which means leader, overseer, or someone with stature, responsibility and authority.

In the same chapter Paul greets his relatives, Andronicus, a man, and Junia, a woman. He says that they both were in Christ before he was, and that they are highly prominent among the apostles.

Paul speaks of women as his co-labourers in the Gospel. He worked with a wife-husband team in the tent making business. He traveled with them planting and pastoring house churches and training the great orator, Apollos, to be more accurate in the Word of God. He usually mentions Priscilla, the woman, first before her husband, Aquila.

There have been many examples of women effectively serving at the local church as senior pastors, associate and assistant pastors, youth and Christian education ministers, council members, elders, deacons, teachers, prophets and administrators.

Jesus himself believed that women could lead. They were a vital part of His traveling ministry team [Lk8: 1-3]. They received empowerment on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:14; 2:1-4). They were disciples who had been commissioned to go into all the earth as witnesses. They also prophesied according to Joel's prophecy: ""Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy"" (Acts 2:17).

In the story of the Samaritan woman at the well (Jn4: 7-42), we see Christ the ordainer of women. "Many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of her word." Why would the Messiah send this woman into her village to tell others about His power if He was opposed to the concept of women in ministry?

To whom did Jesus announce His resurrection on Easter morning? And whom did He commission to tell others that He had triumphed over the grave? Was it not His brave women disciples?

When Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, "Go to My brethren and say to them, "I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God"" (John 20:17), was He not affirming her as a witness of the gospel? Was He not commissioning her both to go and to speak for Him? Why then do we deny women the opportunity to carry this message?

Priscilla along with her husband, Aquila, helped launch the apostolic ministry of Apollos (Acts 18:24-26). It would be safe to say that they also functioned as apostles, as "fellow workers in Christ Jesus." Romans 16:3. We are told that they had a church "in their house" (v. 5) and that this brave couple "risked their own necks" to save Paul's life (v. 4).

The prophet Joel predicted that one day the Holy Spirit would be poured out on the church and, as a result, our "sons and daughters [would] prophesy" (Joel 2:28). This passage clearly indicates that when the New Testament age began, both men and women would be empowered and commissioned to carry the message of the gospel to the world. God's Holy Spirit would no longer rest simply on isolated individuals, as was the case under the old covenant.

If preaching were to have been limited to men only, Joel would not have mentioned daughters in his prediction. He would have said instead, "In the last days, I will pour out My Spirit, and your sons will prophesy while your daughters serve quietly in the background and pray for the men."

That is not what the Bible says. It clearly states that women will preach. They will lead. They will be on the front lines of ministry. Like Deborah, they will take the church into enemy territory and watch as the Lord gives victory. Like Esther, they will not keep silent. Like Phoebe, they will co-labor with apostles to establish churches in unevangelized regions.

## REVIEW

- What does 'Empower' mean?
- Who 'Empowers' whom?
- Why should women be 'Empowered'?
- Where can 'Empowered' women function?
- What are the benefits of 'Empowering' women?
- How can women be 'Empowered'?
- Which biblical women were 'Empowered'?
- Can women be 'Empowered' as leaders?

## EXCEL



'I did it my way,' a popular song in which the singer congratulates himself for living according to his personal standards rather than anyone else's seems to symbolize society's understanding of achieving excellence. 'Do your own thing' and 'If it feels good do it,' characterize our age. Society beckons us to succeed – to achieve excellence in our appearance, earning power, family life. - "The Church is almost in as much in trouble as the culture, for the church has brought into the same value system fame, success, materialism, celebrity."

Beauty, ability, in the marketplace and independence are major issues for women who search for meaning and excellence in their lives. We are under pressure to choose the right perfumes, clothes, appliances, and cars in order to establish our value as individuals. In our comparison-shopping for material things we often end up comparing ourselves with society's models of success.

How do I measure up? – Is the question that often comes to our mind? We can always find someone who has more education, is better organized, can entertain more graciously. Is it worth the struggle? What should we be striving for?

Someone said: "Rubies are far more valuable than diamonds, they are valuable, rare, not easily gotten." To be a woman of excellence, you need to identify who you are with honesty. There is a high cost to being a woman of excellence, and those willing must pay a price. Are you a ruby or a diamond?

Women, who excel, shine and stand out in their generation are extraordinary, exceptionally good, skilled, unsurpassed, matchless, and do extremely well. As representatives of Christ they do all things to the best of their ability for His glory. Women desiring to enter the ministry of their God-given privilege should "be all they can be," for the glory of God and the good of the Church.

The Biblical idea of excellence is for each believer man and woman to reach his or her greatest potential.

- Paul prays for excellence in the Philippians, [Phil1: 9-11]

The Bible declares that a virtuous woman is rare and of great excellence. For example the whole city knew that Ruth was virtuous, respectable, honorable and an upright woman [Ruth3: 11].

Let us examine the lives of some of these women of excellence.

Esther the Queen of Persia saved the people of Israel from being executed, by being courageous, cool and calm, using, discretion, wisdom, prayer and fasting, doing the right thing in the right way and at the right time, waiting and trusting in God all the time. She used her position of influence and authority. Her life proves that God can and does use women in strategic positions of influence to further His purposes. Indeed, He singled out this young Jewish woman and put her into

the place of an intercessor and deliverer. Her prayers and courageous actions literally saved her people. She became a woman of excellence of her time.

Jochebed, mother of Moses during Egyptian bondage saved her baby boy from execution, using courage and creativity, by acting on God's guidance. She was a risk taker. She calmly and firmly obeyed what God asked her to do, and it worked. She hid the baby for three months, then put her baby in a basket and placed it in the river. After Pharaoh's daughter discovered the baby, Jochebed was able to continue nursing him till he grew older and went to Pharaoh's court. In an impossible situation, God told her to do something different, creative, something that would go against her logic. She did what God wanted. Moses became the deliverer of the Israelites while she became the woman of excellence. Women when you face danger, are you willing to respond by trying something creative and different?

Rahab risked her life saving Joshua's spies when the Israelites came to capture her home city of Jericho. She was willing to risk her life be caught and accused of treason for hiding them on her roof because she was sensitive, believed and trusted God even though she knew little about him. She excelled as a risk taker. She was a woman of excellence.

Would I be willing to do that? If God asked me to risk my life, would I question him? I need to ask myself how strong my faith in Him is.

Deborah was a judge of Israel, and a prophetess [Judges 4: 4]. Her attentiveness to God's purpose and strategy resulted in a powerful military victory for Israel that secured peace for 40 years (Judg. 5:31). She was a civil ruler respected for her anointing and spiritual insights. She is called "'a mother in Israel'" (Judg. 5:7), which shows that women can function in senior positions of spiritual authority. She was a woman of excellence.

Women followers of Jesus ministered to Him; They stood at the foot of the Cross till His body was taken down; They were first at the tomb on resurrection morning, they came to anoint His body for burial; They were first to give the message that Jesus rose from the dead. (Lk8: 1-3; Mk15:40-41, 47; 16:1-3; Mt28:7-8).

Mary the mother of Jesus was spoken of as 'blessed art thou among women.' She pondered over the Word of God, and willingly accepted God's Will. 'Be it done to me according to thy Word.' She was a woman of excellence.

Eunice was the mother of Timothy, to whom she passed on her sincere faith in God. (2 Tim3: 15). It takes courageous women to teach scriptures to their children, especially with unbelieving husbands. She was a woman of excellence.

Anna was married only seven years before her husband died. She then served God in the temple until she was eighty-four by praying and fasting. She bravely realized that God could meet all her needs, and that serving him was the greatest and most satisfying thing she could do. We see in Luke 2, that she was rewarded for her courageous faith by being allowed to see the infant Jesus when he was brought into the temple. She was a woman of excellence. How would we as women respond if we lost our husband or someone very close to us? How would it affect the rest of our life?

Mary of Bethany in all that we see her do was at the feet of Jesus. She sat at his feet; listened to his teaching, fell at his feet when he came to her after her brother Lazarus died. She wiped his feet with her hair after anointing him with perfume. She was humble, and she respected and honored Jesus.

She had courage first of all to trust in God's sovereignty. When she fell at Jesus' feet after the death of Lazarus, she said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (John 11:32). She realized his power-that he could make a difference and could change things. She realized this even more after he raised Lazarus from the dead. She was a woman of excellence.

She showed courage in sitting at Jesus' feet to hear his words. She was not frightened by her sister Martha, who wanted her to help her in housework. She knew where she needed to be, and she was self-disciplined enough to stay there.

Being truly courageous-meeting situations with calmness and firmness without being frightened-can be done only if we've been at the feet of Christ, and have reverence for him. We can't really be courageous in our own strength. But we can do all things through him who strengthens us.

God has given us a spirit of self-discipline. But how often do we choose work in the kitchen over adequate time each day at the feet of Jesus? Discipline is saying no to yourself, and realizing, I don't need to be in the kitchen just now-I need to be in God's word.

Jesus commended Mary for staying at his feet—"Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:42). Are you choosing what is better? Are you going to Jesus each day, learning from his word and spending time in prayer?

Mary was convinced of the Lord's worthiness. She took what was perhaps the most valuable thing she had—a vial of perfume—and anointed Jesus with it. Her deed and what it means should remind us of Rev4: 11—"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power." - How worthy is God in your life? What have you given him? How do you show him your love?

Mary gave what she had. This was true also of Anna, who prayed and fasted, and of Dorcas, "who was always doing good and helping the poor" (Acts 9:36). They did what they could.

God wants us to be courageous, to trust him in a calm and quiet spirit with all our heart. He has given us this spirit of power, love, and self-discipline to be women who bring honor to his name.

The early Church included both men and women in membership and leadership. There were women at the first early Church meeting awaiting the promise of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1 and 2). Women were present at the outpouring of the Spirit. [Acts 2:17]. Women ministered the early church. Hospitable women opened their homes to missionaries and as centers of outreaches. [Acts 16:15, 40]. There were churches in women's homes.

Proverbs 31 portrays a godly woman of excellence who is faithful to her husband; manages her home and family well; considers the needs and comforts of others; has a good conduct, kind and courteous behavior. She knows who she is and understands her purpose, responsibilities, and roles. A woman of excellence is able to control herself. [In other words, a woman of excellence has found herself and her security in Jesus Christ]. This woman of excellence shall be praised by her children, husband, and outsiders who have been touched with the works of her hands.

Love, Virtue, and Excellence come from God and is given to us through Jesus Christ. God himself beckons women to be godly women of excellence. We must walk in excellence, talk in excellence, pray in excellence, and praise God in excellence! Becoming a Woman of Excellence is a powerful way to reach out and share the good news of Jesus Christ with women everywhere. We must see what the Bible says about becoming a godly woman. In particular the Lord wants women to know what excellence means in areas of surrender, obedience, discipline, discretion, wisdom, purity, gentle quiet spirit.

From the biblical examples shared about the kind of excellent women God delights in, when you face danger, would you be willing to respond by trying something creative and different like Jochebed? - Be courageous and use discretion like Esther? – Wage spiritual warfare and spiritual authority like Deborah? - Be a risk taker like Rahab? - Ponder over God's Word and accept it in faith like Mary the mother of Jesus? – Be prayerful and have courageous faith like Anna? – Be in intimate relationship with Jesus like Mary of Bethany? And be like the godly woman of Proverbs31?

Study these verses and see what they have to say about excellence Ruth3: 11; Prov12: 4; 31: 10; 1Cor12: 31;

## **REVIEW**

- What is the world's view of 'Excellence?'
- What is 'Excellence?'
- What can we learn from biblical women of excellence?
- What does God desire to see in women of excellence?

### **A Word from your heavenly father for you**

My Dearest Child,

"You Are Blessed and highly Favored! You are precious in My sight. The plans I have for you are for good, and not evil. I am your hope and your future. I carefully watch over you till your allotted days are fulfilled.

I have loved you with an everlasting love. I desire to be the center of your life and to bless you abundantly. It is I who have empowered you to be my child and equipped you to excel above all in godliness, goodness, graciousness, and gentleness.

Even though you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you need not fear for I am with you - always and forever. Trust Me. Follow Me.

As you set yourself apart to mother and nurture my little ones, the power of the Holy Spirit will overshadow you. All you need say is, "I am the Lord's servant, be done to me according to Your Word." And it shall be done. I will let life flow from you into many, so that you can teach and nurture them and raise them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

It is My desire that you love Me with all of your heart, mind, soul, body and strength. Only then can you love your neighbor as yourself.

I will provide for you and your children. Do not fear, you are not alone for I am with you and I am your provider. Come to Me and I will meet all your needs according to my riches in glory through Christ Jesus My Son. Call on Me now and ask in the name of My Son, Jesus, and you will receive. I am waiting for you to ask."

Love,

Your Heavenly Father

## Women Ablaze 2008

July 2008, Ontario, Canada | Feb 2008 Mumbai

### February 2008 Mumbai

Rev Lynette and her husband Pastor Tony taught women areas in life where they lost their peace, how they could receive it back, hold fast to it, enjoy it, be led by it, and be blessed. The women were encouraged to cast their burdens on the precious burden bearer our Lord Jesus, to recognize that they are highly blessed and highly favored. They were ministered to and received words of knowledge for the kinds of situations they faced. The response was very good.

The Women's Conference was an astounding success. It was represented by women from different walks of life. Rev. Lynette [wife of Pastor Dr. Rev. Tony Mathias], and women leaders - Shubha Sen and Olive D'Souza conducted the meeting leading women into a new level of freedom and power.

Olive in her brief introduction encouraged women to arise and fulfill their call as women of excellence. They were then led by Shubha Sen and Gia with Rachel on the Keyboard, into a glorious time of worshipping the most excellent One, Lord Jesus Christ. Rev. Lynette next presented a heart warming, thought provoking, anointed sermon entitled 'Precious Burden Bearer.' Shubha sen testified of her remarkable conversion, renewal and transformation by God's imperishable Word after she turned over her life to Lord Jesus.

A question - answer session followed, encouraging Women to receive light over baffling issues. They were asked to testify of what the Lord had done for them. This was followed by a time of fellowship. The whole atmosphere was joyful - a memorable experience indeed!

Now is the time for Women of The Truth to unite and celebrate Lord Jesus Christ!  
 Now is the time to receive the seed of God's word!  
 Now is the time to bear fruit and reap the harvest!  
 Now is the time to discover God's calling and walk into the destiny He has prepared for all  
 His precious daughters!  
 Now is the time for revival and rejuvenation in the hearts of True Women of God!!

### PRECIOUS BURDEN BEARER

All over the world people are trying to find peace with much failure, for the world cannot give you true lasting peace. Then there are a number of peace stealers that come your way and take away whatever peace you have. In the world you

will have your share of troubles but you can overcome. Lord God Almighty invites you to hand over your burdens and problems to him with the assurance of receiving peace and joy! It is his free gift to you. Would you like to receive it?

Mt11: 28-30; Ps55: 22

“God will give you peace, a peace which is too wonderful to understand. That peace will keep your hearts and minds safe as you trust in Christ Jesus.” Phil4: 7

[

### **Are You Enjoying Peace?**

Without peace you cannot enjoy life.

Peace is a Person whose Name is Jesus! Jn14: 27

The peace Jesus offers is special peace unlike what the world offers. The world offers an emotional feeling of peace that operates only when things go the way you want them to go. Whereas the peace Jesus offers is supernatural operating in good and bad times, when you abound or are abased.

### **Do You Know You Can Enjoy Peace? How?**

Stop trying to do anything you cannot do. It will only cause frustration and lack of peace. You can enjoy a peaceful life when you realize that it is useless and extremely frustrating trying to do something you cannot do anything about. Instead you need to learn to wait on God for his timing; you need to rest in God and trust him. Be led by Peace– Disobeying the leading of the Holy Spirit to follow your own ways only leads to a life that lacks peace. Col3: 15

Peace should be the Umpire who decides if a thing should be or not be in your life. Stop trying to do what you feel like doing or think it is right to do; rather follow God’s Word and be led by peace. Often something may turn up that you want to do. It may sound or feel good and it may even be a good thing. However, if you do not have peace, you need to leave it alone and be led by peace. Do not go against the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Live one day at a time. Much can be accomplished in Christ if we live each day as it comes. Life will work out all right. Mt6: 34

Jesus said: “I Am.” He is always with us in every situation at hand. We need to trust him for his grace to live today. Jn8: 58

Worrying about tomorrow is a sure way of losing your peace. Most of us have enough to handle today without worrying about tomorrow. God gives you grace for today. When tomorrow arrives he gives you grace for tomorrow. Therefore do not dread tomorrow. You can be certain, God is faithful. No matter what tomorrow holds, he holds your tomorrow. His grace is sufficient to meet the need. Do not waste today’s grace to enjoy today, by worrying about tomorrow!

Prayer brings peace. The prayer of commitment is a powerful prayer that moves your burden onto Jesus. What a privilege! Many Christians never avail of this great benefit though it belongs to them Phil4: 6-8; 1Pt5: 7, 9.

Are you enjoying the peace that passes understanding and cannot be explained? You can only have this by casting all your care upon Jesus. The sooner you do this the better. You do this through prayer, committing all your problems to his loving care. Do this as soon as the Holy Spirit makes you aware that you are worrying or that you have lost your peace. Cast the care of that situation on God. Phil4: 6 says, that we are not to worry but to pray instead. And V7 promises us that if we do verse 6, we will have the peace that passes understanding.

Who Are Your Peace- Stealers?  
 Why Do They Want to Steal Your Peace?  
 How Would You Get Rid of Them?

Many people do not enjoy peace because they are out of the will of God. They follow their own will rather than God's will. They do what they feel like doing or what they think is right rather than following God's Word and being led by peace.

Trials & Temptations are often the main peace stealers

When initiated by Satan, they could work adversely to steal your peace, strength, make you weak and powerless. 2Cor2: 11; 1Pt5: 8; Eph4: 26-27.

In brief, here is what you can do about them:

Make a list of whatever disturbs your peace; discuss them, with your family. Find out what irritates them too. Then try and help each other to avoid those areas. Ga6: 2

Certain things bother each individual. Satan has spent all your life studying you and he knows what bothers you. It may be noise or humming or teasing that bothers you. Find out what irritates you? What your weaknesses are? These are all peace stealers and everyone's peace stealers are not the same. Therefore Satan uses different tactics with each of us to get us upset. Be smarter than he is.

The devil delights in getting you emotionally upset. Please note, that if you do have a problem and the devil is unable to get you upset he has no power over you. When you lose your joy, you lose your strength.

"The joy of the Lord is your strength." Neh8: 10

"Why are you disquieted within me?" Ps42: 5



“In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.” Isaiah30:15

Satan wants to steal your peace so that he can steal your strength. He wants you weak and powerless so he can control you. Remain in peace.

“Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.” Eph6: 10

During trials be at peace; this will enable you to walk in authority. Quite often something comes along that you want to do. It may sound or feel good or even be good. But if you do not have peace within, leave it alone. Be led by peace.

Exo14: 13; Jn15: 7; 16: 33; Rom8: 37; Eph6: 13; 2: 6;

Our place is in Christ. We need to stand, abide in Christ Jn15: 7. The abiding position is a place of power. In a time of trial do what God leads you to do, then abide or take your position in Christ and watch him work on your behalf. “Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. Exo15: 13 All of these words: abide, be still, rest, stand in Christ – say the same thing. Do not lose your peace!

One of the most powerful scriptures in the Bible that brings this point across loud and clear - Phil1: 28

Go ahead and enjoy your life while God works on your problem. You will have to come to the place which Paul talks about in Phil4: 11-12.

He said he learned to be content, peaceful whether he was being abased or abounding. If you do not arrive at this place, your life will consist of a series of upsets. If the devil can control you with circumstances, he will dominate you. So walk in your authority by always being in peace.

## **In Conclusion**

All over the world people are trying to find peace with much failure, for the world cannot give you true lasting peace. Then there are a number of peace stealers that come your way and take away whatever peace you have. You lose your peace - trying to do something you can't; doing something that looks good while you are restless within; worrying about tomorrow; needless worrying; trials and temptations; being out of the will of God and so on. You can be sure Satan is behind those peace stealers to leave you weak, powerless so he can control you.

Jesus is our precious burden bearer. Peace is his free gift to you. He gives you peace in every situation which is beyond your understanding. Trust him; wait on him; be led by the peace he gives you. Refuse to be upset when things go wrong, for he works in all things for your good. Cast your burden on him and pray!

## Women Ablaze 2009

### Mumbai

<b>Notes: The power of a praying woman</b>
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I would like to show you a simple method to experience the '*power of a praying woman.*'

All you need do is to focus on each prayer regarding the different concerns of your heart bringing them before God the Father, in the name of His Son Jesus.

This will help keep you spiritually anchored and remind you of who you are in the Lord?

It will enable you to get closer to God and know Him better.

It will smoothen your path and make your way simple as God carries the complexities of your life for you.

It will keep your mind free from the concerns and important aspects of your life.

It will help you to know whether you are in the centre of God's Will and are fulfilling the purposes He has for you.

As you use this amazingly effective method of coming before God and experience "the power of a praying woman," I pray that you will be a Woman Ablaze for God, a woman of power, a woman of purpose and a woman in pursuit of God.

**Ps92: 13-15.** "Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing to declare that the Lord is upright."

There are many things to pray about in our lives, and it is hard to think of all of them. As you bring these concerns before the Father in the name of His Son Jesus, you will experience the power of a praying woman.

Jesus said in His Word in **Jn16: 23**, "...whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you."

We also read in **Rom8: 26**, "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses when we do not know what we are to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for the saints according to the Will of God."

Here are some of the concerns of a woman's heart that we can bring before the Father in the name of His Son Jesus and with the help of the Holy Spirit.

- 1 That you may draw into a closer walk with the Lord. Long to dwell in the Lord's presence...meet with the Lord alone daily...would want to know the Lord better and the deeper manifestations of His presence. **[James4: 8]**
- 2 That the Lord may cleanse you and make your heart right before Him. Ask God to cleanse your heart...renew a right spirit within you...to forgive you for the thoughts, words and actions you have done and are not glorifying God...choose to live God's way. **[1Jn1: 9]**
- 3 That you would be a forgiving person. If you have anger, bitterness, resentment or un-forgiveness, that you would confess it as sin...fully forgive anyone you need to forgive unconditionally and walk free...choose to walk in the light as He is in the light. **[Lk6: 37]**
- 4 That you would be taught by God to walk in obedience to His Word. Obey the Word of God so that you will not stumble and fall...so that you can dwell in the confidence and peace of knowing that you are living righteously...that you would hear God's instructions and obey them...do what is right in His sight. **[Jn14: 21]**
- 5 That you may be strengthened to stand against the enemy. Thank Jesus that He has given you all authority over the enemy...use that authority to administer defeat to the enemy...not to be overcome by evil but to overcome evil with good...that the enemy would never bring you down. **[Eph6: 10-11]**
- 6 That the Lord would show you how to take control of your mind.  
  
Would not walk according to your own thinking...bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ...Spirit of truth would keep you free from deception...would not think futile and foolish thoughts. Think thoughts according to **Phil4: 8. [2Tim1: 7]**
- 7 That the Lord would take you deeper into His Word. Give you greater understanding...reveal to you the hidden treasures buried there...comprehend its deepest meaning, ...would be teachable...would change your life as you read it...would memorize it and etch it in your mind... recognize the Lord's voice as you read the Word daily. **[Ps1: 1-3]**

- 8 That the Lord would prepare you to be a true worshipper. Would worship Him with your whole heart...in spirit and in truth...may your first response to every circumstance be praise and worship of God...bless the Lord...declare His glory...worship Him in the splendor of His holiness. **[Ps138: 2]**
- 9 That the Lord would bless you in the work you do. Be grateful to God for the abilities He has given you...that He would show you what work you are supposed to be doing or if you do not know He would reveal it to you...would have open doors of opportunity to use your skills. **[Ps128: 1-2]**
- 10 That you will bear the fruit of the Spirit. Abide in Jesus in order to bear fruit...be filled afresh with love by the Holy Spirit so it flows out of you into the lives of others...may God's peace rule your heart and mind to a degree that other people around you sense it...ask God to prune you in order to bear more fruit...be like a tree planted by rivers of God's living water. **[Gal 5: 22-23]**
- 11 That the Lord would preserve you in purity and holiness. Cling to what is good and keep yourself pure...separate yourself from anything that is unholy...examine your ways so that you can return to God's ways wherever you have strayed...take necessary steps in order to be pure before the Lord...be holy as He is holy. **[Eph1: 4]**
- 12 That the Lord would move you into the purpose for which you were created. Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called...that you would fulfill your destiny...live your life with a sense of purpose...have a vision for your life...that you would clearly know the gifts and talents and abilities and skills that God has placed in you and use them for His glory. **[2Pt 1: 10]**
- 13 That the Lord would protect you and all you care about Never stray from the centre of His Will or stray off His paths...dwell in His secret place and abide in His shadow...that God would protect you from the plans of evil people...keep you from sudden danger...would keep you under the umbrella of His protection. **[Ps91: 1-10]**
- 14 That the Lord would give you wisdom to make right decisions; Would increase your wisdom and knowledge so you can see His truth in every situation...give you discernment for each decision...would give you

godly counsel and instruction you need...would obey His commands...would keep you far from evil. **[Ps37: 30-31]**

- 15 That the Lord would set you free from negative emotions. Would live in His joy and peace...give you strength and understanding to resist anxiety, anger, envy, depression, bitterness, hopelessness, loneliness, fear, guilt...would refuse to let your life to be brought down by negative emotions...would not be insecure and self – focused and overly sensitive to yourself...focus on the Lord and be sensitive to the needs, trials and weaknesses of others **[Phil4: 6-7]**
- 16 That the Lord would enable you to resist temptation to sin. Would deliver you from the evil one and his plans for your downfall...would keep you strong...enable you to resist the evil one...would have no secret thoughts...entertain ungodly desires...have no secret life...would have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. **[1Cor10: 13]**
- 17 That the Lord would free you from ungodly fear. Would be strong and of good courage...know that God is with you wherever you go...guard your heart and mind from the spirit of fear...for fear is never of God...reject and resist every fear **[2Tim1: 7]**
- 18 That the Lord would train you to speak only words that bring life. Be a person who speak words that build up and not tear down...speak life into the situation...would fill your heart with His love and goodness, His peace and joy so that it will flow from your mouth to others...show you when to speak and when not to...would put words in your mouth to bring life and edification to the hearer **[Prov16: 24]**
- 19 That you would be transformed into a woman of mountain moving faith. Walk by faith and not by sight...stand strong on God's promises...believe every Word of God...every time you hear the Word of God faith would increase...then you would pray in power...move mountains that stand tall in your face in Jesus' name...remember that whatever is not from faith is sin...take the shield of faith to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. **[Mt 17: 20]**
- 20 That you would be changed into the likeness of Christ. Yield to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to do the impossible things possible in you...seek to be changed...pray that those changes would begin from today...separate yourself from the world without isolating from it...be obedient, faithful and a giver just the way Jesus was...walk softly before

the Lord in close intimacy and that nearness would bring about Christ-likeness...may God's light so shine in you and through you to others...as you become more Christ-like people who see you would want to know Jesus better. **[Gal 2: 20]**

## **Women Ablaze 2010**

**April 2010 | Mumbai**

The Fifth Annual Women Ablaze Conference was held on 10th April 2010. It was very well attended with enthusiastic women. They received the Word with gladness and were empowered to live to their potential, the higher life of purpose, power & plenty. The program was introduced by Olive D'souza who also led the assembly in praise & worship. Rev. Lynette Mathias broke the word, the theme - 'Your Set Time Is Now'. The Word was then translated in Hindi by Sis. Noreen. The program ended with Ministry, Fellowship & Refreshments.

## **Women Ablaze 2011**

**Feb 2011 | Mumbai**

We had a houseful of women attendees representing different churches of Mumbai. A special feature of this conference was Word on 'Prayer' by Rev. Lynette Mathias which ushered the women into a richer prayer life promising definite and precise results and transport into higher realms of glory.

Sister Olive led the women into an anointed 'praise and worship' creating an atmosphere of God's tangible presence in our midst. In her welcome address, she highlighted the purpose of the conference.

The seminar concluded with Pastor Tony encouraging and exhorting the women to know how important they were in the eyes of God and to fulfill their calling. He stirred their faith with a prophetic word to several with the manifestation of healing anointing where again a number of them received their healing. It was observed that the women lingered long after the service in the tangible presence of the Lord which brought freedom and wholesomeness.



## Women Ablaze 2012

April 2012 | Mumbai

The 7th "Woman Ablaze Conference" was held on Saturday, 14th April 2012. The presence of the Lord and His tangible anointing was noticed throughout the Conference from the very beginning with Derrick D'Souza on the guitar leading the Praise and Worship accompanied with Rachel Mathias on the keyboard.

Olive D'Souza then opened the Conference with an encouraging word to women. A major highlight of the Conference was a teaching expounded by Rev. Lynette Mathias, entitled "A Confident Woman." This was yet another teaching ushering life-transforming moments, impartation, revelation and blessings. The women understood their true identity as being unique with God's divine call and purpose in their lives. They were encouraged and motivated to move forward to live a successful and glorious life with confidence. Pastor Tony Mathias thereafter ministered to the women under the prophetic anointing with prophecies and words of knowledge spoken over their lives. The women were blessed.

Glory to our Lord Jesus Christ for a houseful and successful conference.

<h3>Notes: A confident woman</h3>
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Women are a precious gift of God to the world. God created man [Adam] first then He created a woman out of Adam's rib called her Eve and made her his helper. Eve was created because Adam needed her. God said Adam was incomplete without her.

It is the same today- men need women and they need them to be more than a cook, housekeeper, sex-partner or a baby-making machine. Women and men need each other to work together in harmony side by side respecting each other as equals.

Due to being abused, rejected, abandoned with a false image of what women are supposed to look and act like, many have lost the confidence God wants them to enjoy.

So let's see what confidence really is-

### **CONFIDENCE**

What is Confidence? - Confidence is all about being positive, concerning what you can do. It is fuel to get us started to help us tackle every challenge we face in life. Without confidence, a woman would live in fear and never feel fulfilled. Confidence allows us to face life with boldness, openness and honesty.

When we have confidence in God His love and kindness, we progress to living with confidence and enjoying the life He wants us to have. On the other hand a woman is unable to reach her potential in life when she gives in to fear which is a deadly virus. A fearful woman that lacks confidence can never reach her potential in life. She can never experience true joy. A woman with lack of confidence in the

Lord grieves the Holy Spirit because she hinders Him from helping her fulfill her God-ordained destiny. Fear that causes lack of confidence slams and locks the door of life, filling it with self-hatred, condemnation, fear of rejection and failure and fear of others. People in fear may wind up as being people-pleasers.

With confidence, we can reach amazing heights. Without confidence, even simple accomplishments are beyond our grasp. God has used ordinary people to do amazingly extraordinary things. Yet all of them had to take a step of faith first. Just because ordinary people take steps to accomplish extraordinary things, does not mean, that they do not feel any fear. Many unhappy women are individuals who have let fear rule their lives. They can overcome their unhappiness by banishing fear. A confident person believes she is loved, valuable, cared for and safe in God's will for her life.

Make a decision right now that you will learn, to live boldly, aggressively and confidently. Don't let fear rule you any longer. Take courage move forward God will direct you!

Some women are confident others are not and there are reasons for it. Here are some of them to help you tap into things that will help you live with confidence and boldness.

### Seven Secrets of a Confident Woman

**SECRET 1:** A confident woman knows that she is loved. (1Jn4:18; Jer31:3)

**SECRET 2:** A confident woman refuses to live in fear. (2Tim1:7)

**SECRET 3:** A confident woman is positive. (1Cor13:7)

**SECRET 4:** A confident woman recovers from setbacks. (Phil3:13; Jn6:12)

**SECRET 5:** A confident woman avoids comparisons. (Ps139)

**SECRET 6:** A confident woman takes action. (Eph2:10; Phil4:13)

**SECRET 7:** A confident woman does not live in "if only" and "what if".  
(2Cor5:7; Prov23:7; Phil4:8)

These 7 secrets will help you on your way to being a Confident Woman! Praise God!