

A woman in a white and purple sari with a red border is shown in profile, looking out over a sunset landscape. She is standing on a stone ledge with a large orange pot and a large orange fruit. The background features a sunset sky, mountains, a river, and a forest.

*Women
Are
Special
To
God*

SADHU SUNDAR SELVARAJ

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DEDICATION

To the Almighty God who created woman very wonderfully;
To the Lord Jesus who always honors, respects, and restores
to a woman her dignity and self-esteem;
To the Holy Spirit, who through the revelation of this message,
taught me how special women are to God—
I offer my deepest thanks and highest praise
and
To my spiritual daughter Amutha Arnasalam,
who has untiringly, lovingly, and perseveringly
labored and managed Jesus Ministries
as secretary and administrator since 1989...
the indispensable backbone of this ministry—
I offer this book in celebration
of her labor of love for the Lord Jesus.

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I wish to express my gratitude and thanks to the brothers and sisters who had worked day and night towards the birthing of this book:

Amutha Arnasalam
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and to

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who has painstakingly edited
and proofread this book.

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PREFACE

In January of 1991, a dear pastor in the Himalayas invited me to be one of the speakers in a seminar he was organizing for women. I begged to be excused from it. I told him I was the most unqualified person to speak to the women. But he said, *Don't worry, Sadhuji, I'll just give you one session. Just speak on faith.* His loving persuasion finally moved me to accept the invitation.

I then set about studiously to search the Bible on the subject of faith as it related to women in order to prepare for the message. On the morning that I was scheduled to preach, as I was hurriedly getting things ready, I heard the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit, saying, *Son, when you go to the pulpit, tell My daughters that women are special to God.* I was stunned. Never had I heard anything quite like that before. So I asked the Holy Spirit to teach me how He wanted me to preach that message. The Holy Spirit then gave me the entire outline of that message.

Ever since the message “Women Are Special To God” was delivered—through preaching, books, and audio tapes—thousands of women from around the world have written to testify how they had been greatly blessed and edified. I trust that this expanded third edition of “Women

Are Special To God” will continue to be a great blessing and encouragement to women everywhere.

YOU ARE SPECIAL TO GOD, MY DEAR SISTERS!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sundar Selvaraj". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial 'S'.

Sundar Selvaraj

CHAPTER 1

*Precious
In God's
Sight*



Women Are Special To God

How does God see a woman? Does He see her the way men and society look at her? No, the Bible says that the Lord does not see as man sees (1Sam. 16:7). The Bible also declares that there is no partiality with God (Rom. 2:11; Eph. 6:9).

My dearly beloved sister, in the sight of God, you are not inferior to man. He has made you equal with man. Let's consider the scriptures: So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth (Gen. 1:27-28).

It is clear from these scriptures that God's original plan for the man and the woman was for them to be rulers together over the creation of God. This means that both the man and the woman shared equal position and authority. This equality of position is described beautifully in this way: Likewise you husbands, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life (1 Pe. 3:7). When God created woman, He made her a helper and a companion to man. The Bible says, And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him (Gen. 2:18). Comparable does not mean inferior or second class, does it? The woman was made comparable - fitting, suitable and complementary in all adaptations to man.

God did not make woman to be a slave or a servant to man. She was made "meet for him" - comparable and

complementary to him. The Hebrew word *k'negdo* (from which the word "meet" is derived) means at his side i.e. fit to associate with. The woman is a man's counterpart. She is his other half. With her, he is complete.

The beauty of this equality was marred when Eve, the first woman (and the first man too), sinned against God. The Lord God then cursed the woman, saying, I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you (Gen. 3:16). This truth is exemplified in the New Testament as, Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord (Eph. 5:22).

An act of disobedience carried out on the impulse of the moment brought an imbalance to the otherwise perfect unity and equality of relationship between man and woman. As a result, henceforth it seems that woman has been made subservient to man. However, though woman is commanded to submit to the authority of man, in the eyes of God, she is never inferior to man. When the time of redemption drew near, the Lord God bent down from His heavenly domain, took the form of a man, and removed the yoke of bondage from mankind—both men and women. Just as He turned to the woman with a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years, the Lord Jesus is turning to you, precious sister, and declaring, *Woman, you are loosed from your bondage* (cf. Lk. 13:10-13). Let this word set you free from all emotional bondages.

By the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, my dear sister, you have been restored to your rightful place of co-rulership with man. This truth was revealed to the

apostle Paul: There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:28). My beloved sister, the world may treat you unfairly. Your parents may treat you partially. Your husband may treat you badly, abandon you, even divorce you. Despite such unfair treatments you may have gone through in your life, remember one thing my dearly beloved sister, *you are precious in the sight of God.*

The Apple of God's Eye

In 1995, we conducted a three-day evangelistic meeting at Darjeeling Hills, India. On the last day of the meeting, which fell on Easter Sunday, the morning service at the St Andrew's Cathedral was filled to overflowing. I preached on the message "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). After the meeting, scores of people came forward to see me for prayer. I prayed for everyone of them individually. At the end of the queue I noticed a Caucasian woman. When it was her turn for prayer, I asked her, *What do you want me to pray for you?* Donning a brief smile, she very simply said, *I want your blessings. Where are you from, and what are you doing here?* I enquired. *I am from Germany,* she said. *I came to India to learn more about Hinduism and find peace in my life.* I then asked her: *Have you found the peace you are looking for?* With sadness written all over her face she shook her head. I then told her, *My dear sister, only Jesus can give you peace because He is the Prince of Peace.*

I took hold of her hand and began to pray for her. As I was praying, the Holy Spirit began to reveal to me all about her life—her struggles, her disappointments, and her frustrations. As I began to narrate them, she began to sob so

much that her tears and mucous wet my hands. As I prayed on, I perceived a presence of God coming all over the woman. I then asked her, *How do you feel now, dear sister?* With a brightened countenance, she replied, *I feel so much better now. It's like all the emptiness is gone and there's a great peace in my heart.*

My dearly beloved sister, do you too feel like that woman? Do you feel that your heart is empty? Do you find yourself bitter over life, marriage, family? Are you feeling helpless in trying to make things work out? You tried everything and yet fail again and again. Quit trying. Nothing can fill the emptiness in your heart except the love of the Lord Jesus. He does not despise you. He does not look down upon you. My dearly beloved sister, you are precious in the sight of God. He looks at you as at a newly born innocent baby.

While once fasting and praying for forty days, I beheld the similitude of the Lord Jesus standing at my side (Num. 12:8). The Lord Jesus stretched out His hand and asked me, *Son, what do you see?* I saw a newly born, cleaned, and neatly dressed baby. But as I looked closer, the face of the baby clearly resembled one of the members of our church. So I answered, *Lord, this is Sister ...* The Lord Jesus then looked at me with great love and asked, *Son, what do you think of her?* I answered by telling the Lord Jesus how this woman used to backbite at me and murmur against me. I told the Lord how she was always the instigator behind every slander against me. With a pitiful look on my face I told the Lord that she was a real pain in the neck and a prickly thorn in my flesh.

The Lord Jesus looked at me with great compassion and with a smile that could melt any rock said, *Son, get up and come stand behind Me.* I got up from my bed upon which I was bowed in prayer and went to stand behind the Lord Jesus. The Lord then told me, *Put your eyes directly behind My eyes and look at her.* What I saw greatly shocked me. Through the eyes of the Lord Jesus I saw this woman beautiful, spotless, blameless, and clean in the spirit. Do not scriptures say that we are perfect, righteous, justified, and sanctified in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:30; 1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 3:9; Heb. 10:14)? The Lord Jesus then said, *My dear son, this is how I see all My children in spite of their faults, sins, and shortcomings. That is the reason why I am able to love them unconditionally, without partiality and reservation. This is how even the Heavenly Father looks at everyone of His children—through My eyes. I am their righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.*

My dearly beloved sister, this is how the Lord Jesus looks at you. What a blessed God and loving Heavenly Father we have! So do not condemn yourself. The Lord Jesus has given you the Holy Spirit to help you overcome your shortcomings and to lead you on to the perfection in Christ Jesus. So rejoice, my dear sister, you are precious in the sight of God!

Love So Endearing

There once lived a mother and her only son in a small village. They were very poor. The woman worked day and night as a laborer in order to raise her son. The boy grew up into a handsome young man. He studied hard and was the apple of the mother's eye. Like all young people, he soon fell in love with a very beautiful girl in the village.

The young girl reciprocated the young man's love. Soon a relationship blossomed between them. They made plans to get married. But this girl was very envious of the mother's love for her son. One day, she told her husband-to-be, *If you really love me and want to marry me, bring me the heart of your mother.* The young man could hardly believe what his ears were hearing. He flatly refused her request. To which the girl replied, *In that case, don't ever see me again. If you want me, bring me your mother's heart.*

Torn between his two loves, the young man agonized over his situation for many days. Finally, he made the decision to heed the request of his beloved girlfriend. One night, as his dear mother was soundly asleep, he crept stealthily towards her bed with a dagger in his hand. As he stood beside his mother and looked at her wrinkled face, all the sufferings that she went through in bringing him up flashed before his mind. He just could not bring himself to kill his beloved mother. At that moment, his beloved girlfriend's beautiful face appeared before his mind. In the flash of a moment, he pierced the dagger into his mother's chest.

He cut out her heart and hastily left his house towards his beloved's house. As he was running in the dark, he tripped, and his mother's torn-out heart fell out of his hands. At that moment he heard a familiar voice. It was the voice of his dear mother. As he looked around, he discovered that the voice was in fact coming from the heart of his mother. With compassion, the mother said, *My dear son, did you hurt yourself very badly?* The loving voice of his mother broke his heart to pieces. He cried bitterly. Even though he killed his mother, she only responded to him with lovingkindness.

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My dearly beloved sister, does a woman or a mother really possess such great love? Oh yes she does. Although the foregoing story is fictitious, I once met a woman during a meeting in Perth, Australia, who experienced something similar. Her son shot her point blank with a gun. Praise God that he missed her! Before a crowd of 300, I asked this woman whether she now hated her son. She replied, *No, brother, I don't hate him. Why not?* I queried further. *He almost killed you.* She replied with great love in her voice, *I don't hate him because he is my son!* Where did a mother get that love from? Straight from the image and likeness of God.

Look at the Lord Jesus. When He was hanging from the cross, almost all those who were gathered there cursed and ridiculed Him (Mk. 15:31-32). He had all the reasons in the world to call down fire from heaven to consume his tormentors (Matt. 26:53; 2 Kin. 1:10-12). Observe how He reacted. With great love and compassion, He prayed for their forgiveness (Lk. 23:34). What an amazing love! My dear sister, that love which you have in you is a portion of the love of God itself. That is why you are precious in the sight of God.

A mother is the only person on earth who can divide her love among ten children while at the same time giving each child all her love. How is she able to do that? Once while waiting on God, I found myself in the Spirit (Rev. 1:10, 4:2). The heavens were opened to my spiritual eyes and I saw visions of God (Ezek. 1:1). Heaven was very glorious. I saw many men and women, dressed beautifully in white robes and conversing among themselves. Suddenly, some of them began to wish in their hearts to meet the Lord Jesus. Instantly, the Lord Jesus appeared before them. As

I observed closely, I noticed that the Lord Jesus was all at once standing before each one of them. I was very surprised at seeing this. The Lord Jesus, it seems, divided Himself and manifested Himself before each person, giving each of His children one hundred percent of Himself. Oh my beloved sister, you are precious in the eyes of God!

The Virtuous Woman

My dearly beloved sister, you are so precious in the eyes of God that an entire chapter of the Bible has been devoted to extolling your virtues.

PROVERBS 31:10-31

10 Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.

11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain.

12 She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.

13 She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands.

14 She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar.

15 She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants.

16 She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard.

17 She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms.

18 She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night.

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19 She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle.

20 She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.

21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet.

22 She makes tapestry for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.

23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.

24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies sashes for the merchants.

25 Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come.

26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.

27 She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.

28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

29 "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all."

30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

31 Give her the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.

Let's examine the virtues of a woman as are described in Proverbs 31.

1. She is skilled, trained, and educated in crafts - vv. 13, 19, 22.

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2. She is a landowner and a successful businesswoman - vv. 16, 23.
3. She is a philanthropist (one who donates money) and benefactor of the poor and needy - v. 20.
4. She is a person of wisdom, and her opinion is sought after and respected - v. 26.
5. She is a diligent person - vv. 14, 15, 18, 27.
6. She is an honor to her husband and her children are proud of her - vv. 23, 25, 28.
7. She fears the Lord God - v. 30.

My dearly beloved sister, look closely at all the seven virtues of the godly woman. What are the qualities of this virtuous woman whose “worth is far above rubies”? Her character is praiseworthy because she fears God. Because of her reverential fear of God, she is:

1. A good homemaker and provider. Verses 11,12 and 28 imply that she has ministered well to her family.
2. Hospitable and organised. Verse 1 says that her lamp is always burning. She is ready to welcome guests at all times. Consider Abraham and Sarah: they, too, were always hospitable and ready to welcome strangers (Gen. 18:1-8).
3. Disciplined. Verse 27 says that she carefully watches over her household to make sure that slothfulness and laziness are not residents in her house.

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4. Careful of herself. Verse 17 says that she keeps herself strong. Because she fears God, she recognises that her body is the temple of God and takes care of it.
5. Sensitive to others' needs. Verse 20 says that she always helps the poor. She knows that by helping the poor and the needy, she is pleasing God (Prov. 19:17).
6. Walking perfectly before God. Verse 25 says that her inner man is clothed with strength and honor. As the Lord God told Abraham to walk before Him with a perfect heart, this woman walks in obedience and holiness before the Lord (cf. Gen. 17:1).
7. Moderate in speech. Verse 26 says that she speaks gracious words. The ultimate mark of a person's fear of God is one's mastery over the tongue (Jas.3).

Because she fears God more than anything else in her life, she is found to be of more worth than rubies. My dearly beloved sister, this is the will of God concerning you. You can be and should be a virtuous woman more worthy and precious than rubies. Society, unfortunately, has not portrayed the true biblical image of a woman. You are not a useless good-for-nothing 'thing.' You are virtuous and praiseworthy, and a person of honor! This is how precious you are in the sight of God.

I once read an old Jewish story concerning a pious woman who was married to a pious man. Through some stroke of fate, the couple were childless for many years. They then mutually agreed to get divorced. The pious man later married a wicked woman and she made him two times more wicked than her. The pious woman married a

wicked man and made him a righteous saint. My dearly beloved sister, as a woman you have an incalculable influence over your children, your husband, your society, and your nation. Women - wives and singles, have been known to turn the hearts of their husbands and/or partners away from God and the things of the Spirit. Such was the pityful state of King Solomon. For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord God, as was the heart of his father David (1 Kings 11:4). Exert godly influence on those near and dear to you. Be it far from you to cohort destruction on families and relationships.

My dearly beloved sister, your virtue is your beauty. The beauty of your virtue is displayed through the gentle and quiet spirit in you. Once in 1988, I was invited to conduct a three-day revival meeting for a Lutheran church in South India. One morning, a very dignified looking woman came to see me for prayer. She identified herself as the wife of the elder in the church. I asked her, *What can I pray for you?* She replied, *Please pray for my husband. He is not born again, nor filled in the Spirit. He despises me and we have not slept together in the last 11 years.* I felt very sorry for her and said, *Don't worry, my dear sister, I'll pray that God will change your husband's heart.*

As I began to pray, the Holy Spirit told me, *The problem is not with her husband but with her. She is very prideful that she is better educated than her husband. She is also very prideful of her spiritual condition as she was born again and was filled with the Holy Spirit. Tell her to live with her husband according to what the scriptures say in First Peter Chapter Three and her marriage will be restored.* When I told the woman that it was

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because of her prideful and boastful nature that turned off her husband from God, she became quite upset with me.

After a moment of thoughtful silence, she confessed, *You are right, brother. In my eagerness to see my husband born again, I drove him nuts by preaching at or rather by nagging him every day to pray, read the bible, and get saved. In the beginning he tolerated me. But one day, he said, 'I can't stand your prideful and boastful preaching anymore. We shall no more live as man and wife.'* Since then, though we live in the same house, we have not slept together. Nor go to church together. Hearing all this made me compassionate towards the woman. She then asked me, *What would you counsel me to do?*

I opened my Bible to 1 Peter 3 and showed her the following scriptures: Likewise you wives, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your beauty be that outward adorning of arranging the hair, of wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God (vv. 1-4). I told her, *If you live your life according to these scriptures, I guarantee you that by the end of the year (it was then March of 1988) you will be reunited with your husband.* Three months later, this woman joyfully testified that her husband, seeing a great change in her attitude and behavior, finally got reconciled with her after 11 years. He even got saved and was filled with the Holy Spirit.

My dearly beloved sister, that is your immaculate beauty, a gentle and quiet spirit. Consider the Lord Jesus. He too

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possesses that nature. He tells us in Matthew 11:29, Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. This beauty is like a hidden pearl of great value within most women. When you dig up this pearl and decorate your neck with it by walking in gentleness and quietness, the Lord God will greatly desire this beauty in you. You will then appear before the eyes of God as the beautiful princess of Psalm 45: The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; Her clothing is woven with gold. She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors (vv.13-14).

How beautiful you are my dear sister in the eyes of God. The devil may have stirred up your flesh to make you look ugly and lousy. But my dear sister, lift up the veil of self-condemnation and look up to the Lord your God. His divine light is shining upon you. You are precious in the sight of God.

CHAPTER 2

*The
Motherly
Nature
of God*



Women Are Special To God

The Creator God took great pains and care in designing all of His creations. In the beginning, God made the first woman Eve and placed her in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 2:21-22 offers a touchingly beautiful picture of God's creation of woman. In Psalm 139:14, King David marvels at how every person is "fearfully and wonderfully made."

I was in Western Tibet in May of 1998 in the mountainous area of Mount Kailash. During the time when I was there, it was snowing the whole day. I had read in a science journal of a scientist by the name of Wilson Bentley who did a research on snowflakes. Bentley was fascinated by the infinite varieties of snowflakes. Using an instrument called photomicrograph, he began to take pictures of these snow crystals. His pictures revealed that each snowflake is usually composed of a hexagon with six tips or dendrites forming a perfectly symmetrical design. Yet no two snowflakes were exactly alike. So at that time I was only too eager to see this phenomenon with my own eyes. As the snowflakes fell on my jacket I began to take a very close look at them. They were so beautiful. They were like stars twinkling in the heavens. Each snowflake had many pointed ends, and no two snowflakes were the same. Each snowflake was specially made by a God whose creative imagination is inexhaustible. Likewise in all of God's creation God has endowed beauty, for each of God's creation is uniquely individual, original, and has no duplicate.

Women Specially Made By God

Let us explore the making of a woman. It is written in Genesis 2:21-22, And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and He slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place; Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and brought her to the man.

There is a very interesting fact here for us to take a note of. In the opening two chapters of Genesis we have an account of how God created everything. We read of how “He spoke” and “He made.” But look! when God came around to making the woman we see Him paying special attention to details and exercising extreme care in fashioning her. In His gently beautiful and personal touch of creating the woman, God was in fact unveiling a great truth to the whole world: A woman is not just spoken into existence—she is fearfully and wonderfully made.

When God made the first man, He took the dust and shaped it into a body. Not so for the first woman. He had purposed to make her a special creation—and not just out of the ordinary dust. God first caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam. He then took from within Adam’s body a rib and fashioned a woman, which is what and who you are today. As a woman, you must be particularly special to God since He had taken “special pains” in order to make you.

When God made man, He said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... (Gen. 1:26). The Hebrew word for “make” is *asah*. It means, to work, to labour, to toil, to create, to construct, to build, to accomplish, to handle, to

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squeeze. The meanings convey God's creative activity. This is why you will notice man always full of action and very little patience.

When God made woman, the Bible says, Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, ... (Gen. 2:22). The Hebrew word for "made" when referring to the creation of woman is *banah*. It means, to build, to make, to repair, to set up, to obtain children. How interesting, isn't it? Not only that. The learned rabbinical scholars explain that the word '*banah*' also conveys the meaning understanding and intuition. The Lord God endowed women with this special ability to stand alongside with man to help him.

My dearly beloved sister—there is another deep mystery in the way you were created. Just as God birthed woman from a part of the body of man, scriptures tell us also that the Lord Jesus, in a like manner, took on human flesh, having issued from God the Father. It is written in John 1:1, In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And verse 14 says, And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

An interesting fact is revealed in Genesis 2:22. We will examine the word "woman" mentioned there in greater detail. The Holy Spirit once illumined me on the mystical composition of the word "woman," a term often confused and abused. In this divine revelation lies the mystery of the love of God for women:

The Motherly Nature of God

W O M A N = Within Of Man

(W + O + MAN = WOMAN)

My dearly beloved sister you are so special to God that instead of making you from the dust like how man was made He conceived you from the bosom of man, from within of man (1 Cor. 11:8). The process by which God made a woman from a man is equally similar to the Lord Jesus coming forth from God. As a woman was made from man, the scriptures declare that the Lord Jesus came forth from the bosom of the Father God (John 1:18, 8:42, 16:27). As a woman was made to reflect the glory of a man (1 Cor. 11:7), so did the Lord Jesus come to manifest the glory of God (John 1:14; Heb. 12:1-2). My dearly beloved sister, what lofty similarity you have with the Lord Jesus!

When the Lord Jesus was hanging on the cross being crucified, we read in John 19:34, But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. The Lord Jesus' side was pierced so that, in a spiritual sense, the Father may take a rib from His Son to make Him a Bride, the Church. It is written in Ephesians 5:30, For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. This is that "great mystery" of which the apostle Paul made mention in Ephesians 5:32. My dear sister, please see and understand what an honored, exalted, privileged, and lofty standing you have before God.

God gave special attention to the smallest detail in making woman. This is the reason why even till today women are very particular about minute details in different things. A dear friend from Australia once made a remark to my secretary that goes like this: *A man sees a forest, but a woman sees the trees in it.* Once a newly-married

pastor came with his wife to see me. When he met me, he presented me with a bag of fruits. I told him, You have been coming to see me for the past 10 years and this is the first time you have brought something. With a sheepish smile, he replied, Actually, Sadhuji, it was my wife *who mentioned that we must not go empty-handed*. Is that not one of the natures of the Lord Jesus? When He came to this world, He did not come empty-handed. He brought grace and truth with Him (Jn. 1:17).

The Dual Natures Of God

Genesis 1:26 tells us that God created woman, along with man, in His own image and in His own likeness, which are two distinct aspects of His nature. What are these two sides to the nature of God? In studying and understanding this concept of God's nature, you can know how special you are before God. In Genesis 17:1 we read that God appeared before the patriarch Abraham and declared, I am Almighty God; walk before Me, and be blameless.

Why did God choose to appear before Abraham and give him a revelation of Himself? In the Eastern culture, living together as a large extended family is a common practice. An extended family may even include great grandparents and great grandchildren. It's quite a tribe! Abraham lived in such a family. One day the Lord commanded him saying, Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you (Gen. 12:1). Abraham obeyed God unquestioningly, even though not knowing where his destination was (Heb. 11:8).

The Motherly Nature of God

What can you see or get in a desert wilderness? Absolutely nothing! How many times Abraham may have thought about his paternal home. A woman's life is also like that. In the Eastern culture, when a woman gets married, she leaves her maternal home for the home of her husband's family. At that instant, she "severs" her maternal ties with her own family and adopts her husband's family as her own. How many women have often fondly called to remembrance the joys and happiness of their maternal home?

I know of a servant of God who was called to a foreign land to serve. In 1983, the Lord Jesus asked this man to leave his family, career, friends, siblings, relatives, and country and go to India as a missionary. He faithfully obeyed the Lord despite the cries of his parents and siblings. One day, a few months later, he thought nostalgically about the family, friends, and country that he had left behind. He began to feel very sorry for himself. And he began to wallow in self-pity.

Later in the same day, as he was waiting on God, the Lord Jesus appeared to him and said, *This afternoon, you had sinned in your heart.* This man of God was stunned, and so he asked, *How Lord?* To which the Lord Jesus said, You sinned when you moaned in self-pity for having to lose your family for My sake. Self-pity is a sin. Then the Lord Jesus revealed something to him that changed his perspective. The Lord Jesus told him, My dear son, because you left your father and mother for my sake, I Myself have become a father and mother to you (Ps. 27:10). Because you left your siblings, friends, and relatives, I have caused you to see and commune with angels. Because you left your country, I have prepared a special mansion for you

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in My kingdom (Lk. 18:28-30). That revelation was a great consolation to this man of God.

The state of Abraham was like that too. In the midst of that inner turmoil, feeling like an abandoned orphan in a strange new place, the Lord God told him, I am Almighty God. In the Hebrew language, the word “Almighty” is El Shaddai. It is composed of two words: El and Shaddai. The word El, translated God, has a deeper meaning: The God who is of all might and all power. The word Shaddai occurs 48 times in the Old Testament and is often translated Almighty. Most theological scholars believe that *Shaddai* derives from the word *shad*, which occurs 24 times in the Old Testament, and is translated breast. Drawing from this idea of “breast,” the name Shaddai signifies one who nourishes, supplies, satisfies. The word El Shaddai can therefore be translated as The One Mighty to Nourish, Satisfy, and Supply or as The Strong-Breasted One, the All-Sufficient God.

Two different definitions are found in the one word El Shaddai. The Almighty is the All-Sufficient God and also the Strong-Breasted One. Putting these two portrayals together we see the beauty of God’s nature in His image and in His likeness. In the word El Shaddai is a picture of the Almighty God as the All-Sufficient Father and Strong-Breasted Mother. In the revelation of His name El Shaddai, the Lord God revealed His dual natures to Abraham that he has a fatherly heart and a very tender motherly nature.

My dearly beloved sister, the Lord God has put in you a part of His image and likeness: the God-consciousness of His image and the spirit-consciousness of His likeness. The reason why you are very special before God is because

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He has put in you His motherly nature. He has made you to reflect and demonstrate to the world His mother attributes of love, compassion, mercy, loving kindness, gentleness, meekness, longsuffering, patience, lowliness, and submissiveness.

Do not women possess these qualities? For too long the devil has been deceiving you, my dear sister. Allow the Spirit of truth to lead you, so that you may exhibit the likeness and image of God in your daily walk. The devil—the father of lies—came and told Eve that she would be like God. What a lie! If only Eve had realized that she didn't need to be like God—for God had already created her in His own image and in His own likeness. She only needed to possess what belonged to her. Every woman should walk in the spirit as one who has received abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness, reigning in life through Jesus Christ for she is an heir of God, a joint-heir with Christ (Rom. 5:17; 8:17). My dearly beloved sister, this is your heritage!

My dear sister, why are you sitting in the pool of self-pity and low self-esteem, condemning yourself as useless, worthless, meaningless, and good-for-nothing. LIES. LIES. LIES. These are lies from the pit of hell. My dear sister—you are special to God. The Lord Jesus loves you more than any earthly language could describe.

The name El Shaddai has revealed to the world the fatherly and motherly aspects of the nature of God. All through the Old Testament and the New Testament, we see these two sides of God's nature displayed. Let us examine the dual natures of God.

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FATHERLY

1. A Father to the fatherless (Ps. 68:5).
2. Hears like a father (Ps. 89:26).
3. Pities like a father (Ps. 103:13).
4. The Everlasting Father (Is. 9:6).
5. Disciplines like a father (Prov. 3:12; Heb. 12:7-10).
6. Our Heavenly Father (Is. 63:16; 64:8; Matt. 5:16).
7. Father to Israel (Jer. 31:9).
8. Cares like a father (Matt. 6:25-32).
9. Gives good things like a father (Lk. 11:11-13; Jas. 1:17).
10. The Lord Jesus and the apostles Paul, Peter, James, John, and Jude have portrayed the Lord God as a father in the New Testament.

MOTHERLY

1. Remembers fondly like a mother (Is. 49:15).
2. Comforts like a mother (Is. 66:13).
3. Cares like a mother (1 Pet. 5:7).
4. The entire life of the Lord Jesus Christ was a demonstration of motherly love, care, compassion, silent suffering, and self-sacrifice.
5. The Holy Spirit's personality is also feminine in nature—especially His nature of intercession (Rom. 8:26,27) which is what is in a woman too.

In many families, the father is viewed by the children as the main disciplinarian, strict and uncompromising. When he takes the rod and beats the children, they will immediately run to their mother. The mother then takes them in her arms. She comforts them. She consoles them. She wipes away their tears.

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In the arms of their mother, the children find comfort. They find solace. They find peace. They find security. They find a strong fortress around them. In the warmth of her loving embrace, they seem almost to remember their pre-birth days while still in their mother's womb. Consider the baby in a woman's womb. For nine months, a baby is carried in its mother's womb. The baby feels secure in the womb of its mother. So when it is thrust out into the world at birth the baby suddenly feels quite lost. It finds it difficult to get adjusted to the attention of the father. When its sense of security is threatened, the baby immediately seeks the comfort and security of its mother.

Understanding our nature the way He does, God relates to us always as the perfect parent—as a father and as a mother. As father, God executes His righteousness and justice. After that, as mother, His heart softens and out of it flows compassion and mercy. It is beautifully written in Isaiah 54:7-8, For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you.

After disciplining His children as a good father, the Lord then hugs them as a loving mother would do, showering and comforting her darling children with a thousand kisses. Mothers, women, can you identify yourself with the motherly nature of God? Mothers, you are very special! God has put in you His kind, compassionate, and endearing nature.

My dearly beloved sister, you are a reflection of the compassionate love of God. As in a person's replica, which is like an image reflected in a mirror, likewise God has

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specially created and blessed you with the reflection of His motherly nature. This is the reason why God takes special care and interest in you. God compares His compassionate love to a woman breast-feeding her little baby in Isaiah 49:15: Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely, they may forget, yet I will not forget you.

Once I went to minister to the Tibetans in a place called Lachung in Sikkim, India. This place is located at a height of about 9,600 feet. We had to walk for 24 kilometers to reach this village. As we were walking along the mountain road, we came across some Nepalese road workers. They were busily making repairs to a certain damaged section of the road. Those men and women were toiling with much difficulty, given the high altitude and the severe cold. Fatigue and weariness were written all over their faces. Somewhere nearby, a baby cried. On hearing the cry, a woman immediately threw down her spade, dashed to her baby, and started to breast-feed it. Beads of perspiration were pouring out from all over her face. But with great compassion, she looked at her baby, rejoicing in her heart that she could supply the needs of her baby. That too is the nature of God, my dear sister. The Bible says that if we call unto Him He will answer us (Jer. 33:3). Just as a mother never forgets to answer to the cries of her baby, God—whose maternal attributes a mother possesses—always answers the cries of His children.

Once I was in a certain city preaching the gospel. In the morning we went to a home for a meeting with believers. The mothers had all brought along their little children and they were kept together in a separate room so they would not disrupt the meeting with their noise. Suddenly, in the

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midst of our meeting, there was a commotion from the children's room. There was a small war among them and all the children were screaming. One woman abruptly got up and said, That's my son crying. She quickly went to hug and comfort him. I thought in my heart ... out of so many voices, how did she manage to recognize her own child's voice? My dear sister, that, too, is one facet of the nature of God given to you. We read this in John 10: I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own and My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me (vv. 10,27).

The scriptures also tell us that God does not forget about us (Is. 44:21, 49:15). God always remembers us. He knows all of us by name. And this same caring and sensitive nature has been put in a woman. A woman's heart always ponders her children and her eyes always watch over them. I left home for the Lord's work in 1983. And I seldom get to visit my parents. Whenever I do, my mother would always tell me that whenever she eats, she would think of me and ponder whether I was getting enough food to eat. And I would often tell her that God takes better care of providing food for me than she could. With a sigh, she would then say, What to do? A mother's heart always thinks of her children. This is a likeness of God that God has put in you. This is the reason this likeness flows naturally from you. This is the reason, my beloved sister, God has declared that you are very special before Him.

CHAPTER 3

*Despising
of
Women
Prohitited*



Women Are Special To God

Women are so special to God that He prohibits the despising of them. The scriptures tell us that Leah was unloved and despised by Jacob her husband—simply because she was not as beautiful in form and appearance as her sister Rachel. Leah received second class treatment from Jacob because he loved Rachel more than her (Gen. 29:17, 30-31). In her despised state she cried out to God. The Lord God, who champions the cause of the poor and helpless (Ps.10:14), heard her cries and blessed her seven fold (Gen. 29:31-35; 30:17-21). My dear sister, are you being despised by your husband, family, and society because you are barren? Please wipe away your tears. The Lord God, in whose eyes Leah found favor, will shower His compassion upon you. The Lord God will bless the fruit of your womb.

In this world of sin and misery, we find womenfolk oftentimes despised and taken advantage of by men. Just because they are weaker physically than men and tender hearted emotionally, women are often taken advantage of, their innocence and submissiveness exploited. My dearly beloved sister, to protect you, God has formulated laws and commandments that required that you to be honored and respected. In Leviticus 18, God gives detailed instructions on how a woman's virginity should be carefully protected and properly respected. Above all, God here gives specific instructions how women should be honored. Let us examine the following scriptures.

1. None of you shall approach anyone who is near kin to him, to uncover his nakedness. (v. 6)
- 2 the nakedness of your mother, you shall not uncover: she is your mother; you shall not uncover her nakedness. (v. 7)

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3. The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, whether born at home, or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover. (v. 9; Lev. 20:17)
4. The nakedness of your son's daughter, or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover. (v. 10)
5. The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, begotten by your father, she is your sister, you shall not uncover her nakedness. (v. 11)
6. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister. (v. 12; Lev. 20:19)
7. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister. (v. 13; Lev. 20:19)
8. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother; you shall not approach his wife: she is your aunt. (v. 14; Lev. 20:20)
9. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law —she is your son's wife—you shall not uncover her nakedness. (v. 15)
10. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife. (v. 16; Lev. 20:21)
11. You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter, or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness; for they are near of kin to her. It is wickedness. (v. 17; Lev. 20:14)

12. Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her nakedness, while the other is alive. (v. 18)

Did you read all that, my dear sister? Ever read this section of scriptures before? Fifteen times God makes special mention of womanhood in her different roles: mother, wife, sister, daughter, aunt, granddaughter, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law. Every woman is to be respected, honored, and have her dignity protected. No woman is to be despised or exploited. Rape is strictly forbidden.

Some years ago, I was in the city of Singapore for ministry. One morning, the whole country woke up to a most shocking and tragic news. A young and lovely 18 year old girl was forcibly raped and then brutally murdered. Her badly bruised and torn body was found among some bushes. Her family, friends, and teachers described her as a very obedient, quiet, and shy girl. She was attacked while out jogging that morning.

In our cruel society, a man, in order to satisfy his base lust, might befriend an innocent woman. After satisfying his lust through a sexual relationship with her, he will chuck her away and not care any longer about her. Such is the plight of innocent women who are used, exploited, and taken advantage of. Such a despicable treatment of women is severely forbidden by God. Why? Because He cares for you. Because you, my dearly beloved sister, are special in His eyes.

People everywhere have many different perceptions of how to deal with women. In the East and in the West, women are viewed and treated somewhat differently

by society. Especially in the East, women are sometimes treated like slaves and are not respected and not honored as “heirs together of the grace of life” (1 Pe. 3:7). Her primary function is, in such discriminatory societies, to satisfy her husband sexually, to keep the house, and to bring up the kids. My dearly beloved sister, this is not God’s design concerning you. The views of God with regard to women are high and lofty.

Yet that does not mean that you should take the bull by the horns and step into the role that God has designed for the man. You do, however, need to recognize that the male-oriented culture which dominates much of society does have a wrongful view of the role of women. Consider a snail. A snail typically gets its body out of its shell as it goes about its business. If someone touches it, the snail immediately retracts its body into the shell. The shy and protective manner of the snail is the way how society sometimes looks at women. You just stay in the shell of the kitchen. When you are needed you come out. When you have served your purpose and no longer useful, you hurry back into the kitchen. Isn’t that how women are sometimes used and abused?

My dear sister, do not be disheartened if society or family—or even your own husband—treats you like that. Be of good cheer. You are special to God. He knows you bear His image and His likeness. And He always honors you.

The Sanctity Of Marriage

Sex is a very important part of married life. The Lord God had ordained that sexual relationship be enjoyed only

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between the marriage partners—the husband and wife (1 Cor. 7:3, 5). Sex was intended to be enjoyed by the wife as well as the husband (Gen. 3:16). The Song of Solomon is a revelation from God about how a husband and wife could rightly enjoy the pleasure of sex in holiness.

There are sexual temptations within the relationship of marriage. Do you know that God actually forbids the adultery that can occur within the sexual parameters of the married life? Have you heard anything like this before? Neither have I until the Lord taught me. In April of 1986 I had a visitation from the Lord Jesus as I was getting ready to go preach in a meeting. I saw the similitude of the Lord Jesus. He spoke to me and said, Son, today I am going to teach you about family life. Like a teacher using a chalk to write lessons on a blackboard, the Lord Jesus wrote on the wall seven qualities a husband and wife should possess for a harmonious marriage. The Lord also revealed to me that even a husband and his wife could commit adultery and defile the sanctity of their marriage in their sexual life. I was surprised by this revelation. The Lord directed me to read Hebrews 13:4, which says, Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. Jewish rabbis for long, have taught something similar: [It is taught that a man should] make his house a Temple, and his bedroom a Holy of holies (SKv'Tz, pg. 60).

The marriage bed is used by a husband and wife to consummate their marriage for procreation and for pure pleasure of the sexual act as was ordained by God. It is not used by lovers. When unmarried lovers engage in sexual acts, they do not use a marriage bed because they are not married. They will use the park, the back seat of a car, the

beach, etc. The marriage bed is used only by a husband and wife. Why must the marriage bed be sanctified and not be defiled? Once while I was in Malaysia in 1987 for ministry, a woman who was having problems with her sexual life within the confines of her marriage came to see me for prayer. Being single myself, naturally I had no answer for her. I then sought the Lord for three days in fasting and prayer for an answer to the woman's query. The Lord Jesus manifested before me on the third day and graciously taught me about the sanctity of the marriage life.

It was the Lord God Himself who ordained sexual relations. He told our first parents Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply (Gen. 1:28). When a husband and wife is engaged in the sexual act, the Lord is present in their midst. He places His right hand on the man and places His left hand on the woman. He blesses them to be fruitful. From that blessing issues children. That is why it is written, Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is His reward (Ps. 127:3). Rabbinical sages say, When a man and his wife unite sexually in holiness, the Shechinah (God's glory presence) rests between them. (The Ramban, quoted in Reshit Hochmah, Sh'ar ha-Kedushah).

Jewish rabbinical scholars further teach: There is always present a powerful energy between husband and wife, an energy particularly activated during the time of sex. The tremendous energy between husband and wife can lead them very high, to great holiness and love, or very low. The purpose is not to denigrate sex though, for not only is sex itself not low, but:

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1. When sexual union is done for the sake of heaven, there is nothing so holy and pure as it is. (Igeret ha-Kodesh of the Ramban, Siman 1, #10).
2. Sexual intercourse is an action that is important, good and valuable to the soul also, and there is no act of flesh and blood that compares with it - if it is done with a pure intention, and a pure and clean mind; then it is called 'holy' (sefer Mor v'Ketziyah, quoted in SKv'Tz, pg. 9b, #9).

There are some men who burn insatiably with sexual lust towards even their own wives, imposing their will on them, thereby violating and dishonoring their wives' bodies. Adultery is the offspring of sexual lust. What is "lust"? Lust can be generally defined as any natural human desire which is expressed illegitimately or intemperately. Simply, it can be said that lust is too much desire. As such, many marriages have suffered because one of the marriage partner's sexual urge exceeds normal limits. When lust is an all-consuming desire, the men would then use their wives as objects of self-gratification, rather, than express real love and intimacy through sex. Does not the scriptures say that, each of you should know how to procure himself a wife in holiness and honor, not in lustful passion (1 Thes. 4:4,5 Weymouth). I have had some women come to me in person requesting prayer and counsel on this matter.

I also remember an incident which a saintly man of God once told me. He was praying in his closet. He then fell into a trance and saw a vision (cf. Acts 10:9-10). In the vision, a woman came to him and was crying. When he enquired what her problem was, she said she had

suffered abuses from her husband. Her husband had always compelled her to have sexual intercourse even though she might be feeling physically weak or was not willing to do so. She is not even spared of sexual harassment from her husband during her menstrual periods. [Biblical law actually commands a husband and wife to abstain from sexual relations during a woman's menstrual period (Lev. 18:19)]. He would not take her wish into consideration but would forcibly gratify his insatiable lust on her against her will. Such is the pitiable plight of women!

God Protects Disadvantaged Woman

My dear sister, cheer up! Do not be disheartened or distraught. The Lord Jesus loves you. He honors you. He will restore your lost dignity. We read of the Lord Jesus exalting and restoring the dignity of an openly-abused woman in the gospel of John.

JOHN 8:3-11

3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst

4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.

5 "Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?"

6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

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7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."

8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"

11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

In this incident, we encounter one of the brutal realities in society. Some men had caught this unfortunate woman in the act of adultery. Obviously a trap had been set up for her so that she might be condemned. They had caught her in the very act. Surprised, she could just managed hastily to put back on the barest of clothes in order to hide her nakedness. The men then pushed and dragged her along the streets. Relentlessly they hurled all kinds of abuses and insults on her, tearing away the little that was still left of her honor and dignity. They even called out to everybody on the streets, proclaiming their noble act of honoring the law of Moses, having caught a sinful woman. They had despised her and dealt with her shamefully. Now they intended to stone her. How base and animalistic society could become!

The men brought the woman before the Lord Jesus so that their act of championing Moses' law could be confirmed and congratulated. The Lord Jesus, however, saw their hypocrisy. He also saw the poor woman, standing

half-naked, stripped of all dignity, honor, and respect. He turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to the condemners and stooped down to write something on the ground. The poor woman was probably shivering with fear and had died a thousand deaths because she was just moments away from being buried with stones. At the insistence of the accusers, the Lord Jesus replied that those who had never sinned could stone the woman. *This does not sound like a death sentence*, the woman must have thought, perhaps wondering whether her ears might be playing tricks and deceiving her. But the words of authority which came from the Lord Jesus had convicted each one of the woman's accusers of their own sin, which deserved a greater condemnation. They all left.

When the Lord Jesus lifted his head, seeing no one but the woman, he called out to her, Woman. A great surge of love flooded the soul of this miserable woman. She had probably never thought that anyone would call out to her with such love and tenderness, like a loving father. Again and again the compassionate voice of the Lord Jesus reverberated through her entire being. Hope brightened in her. Mercy reached out to her. The Lord Jesus asked where her accusers were and were there any who condemned her. She lifted her eyes, turned around, and could not see a single person. So she replied, No man, Lord.

My dearly beloved sister, please note that the woman called Jesus "Lord." She knew that almost everyone in her town had condemned her and thirsted after her life. But here was someone who seemed to be the very personification of Love and Compassion. She knew in her heart that only the Lord God could offer such mercy and grace. So she responded instinctually to Jesus as "Lord."

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In the same way, my dear sister, only the Lord Jesus can remove all your condemnation when you recognize him as Lord and as God.

Her accusers having left, the Lord Jesus told the woman that neither did He condemn her. Did you hear that my dear sister? Remember, there is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit (Rom. 8:1). The Lord Jesus lifted up that woman's fallen countenance. So would He lift up yours. He restored her dignity, which was brutally assaulted. So would He also transform you and return to you your honor and pride. Just as the woman received back more than what she had lost, so you, my dearly beloved sister, would be raised and lifted up, and seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:6).

My dearly beloved sister, the Lord Jesus does not see you according to your external appearance as man does. He sees deep into your heart (1 Sam. 16:7). Once in a vision, the Lord showed me a banana. As I observed the banana carefully, I noticed that on its greenish-yellow outer skin there appeared black marks. Then the skin was peeled. On the fruit there was no black spots. It appeared clean. Then the Holy Spirit taught me that though by some reason there appear some spots on a person's outer self, he must be careful not to get his inner man defiled. Externally, the woman of John 8 had sold her body. But the all-piercing eyes of the Lord Jesus gazed into her soul. He probably perceived the circumstances under which she could have sold herself. He probably saw her broken heart crying for mercy. That is why He told her, Go and sin no more. That same graceful voice is telling you, Do not live

in condemnation anymore. I have forgiven you. There is therefore no condemnation upon you. You are clean inside.

I was once invited to speak at a church in Dalsingphara, India, in 1986. As I sought the Lord for a message, He directed me to preach about the encounter between the Lord Jesus and an adulterous woman as is recorded in John 4:6-29. It was a very small village church. About fifty people were gathered that night. After my message, as I closed my eyes to pray, I beheld the similitude of the Lord Jesus standing beside me. He pointed His finger to a certain woman and said, Tell her all things that I will now reveal you about her life.

The Lord Jesus revealed her life to me. She was a happily married woman. Her husband was a lay pastor. They had five children. One day, her boss forced her at gunpoint to have sex with him. Fearing for her life, she unwillingly yielded to him. From then onwards, very regularly he would demand sex from her. When she refused, he would threaten to expose her act to her husband and children. Her life became miserable and meaningless. She did not want to be unfaithful to her loving husband but was forced otherwise. So she passed her days in tears. Without revealing her identity, because her husband was also in the meeting, I recounted her whole story. She was weeping uncontrollably. The Lord Jesus told me to tell her that she was not despised in His eyes. Neither does He see her as an adulterous woman. But she should not sin anymore. The woman repented and gave her life back to the Lord. That night she confessed her sins to her husband. He hugged her and forgave her.

Women Are Special To God

My dearly beloved sister, wipe away your tears. The Lord Jesus is your peace (Eph. 2:14). He does not condemn you. You are not ugly before Him. You are lovable and special to God.

CHAPTER 4

*A
Woman's
Tear*



Women Are Special To God

Sadhu iyya (sir), whenever you visit Palayamkottai you must only stay in my house. Please do not stay in any hotel. We will deem it a great heavenly blessing if you stay in our house, implored a dear sister. Like the Shunammite woman who prepared a room for Elisha to rest whenever he visited Shunem, this Indian woman and her husband accorded me this honor (*cf.* 2 Kin. 4:8-10).

In 1984, I went to Palayamkottai, a town in the district of Tirunelveli in the South Indian state of Tamilnadu, and so visited, as always, this loving family. As soon as the lady of the house saw me entering the compound, she came running from the kitchen and gave me a very warm welcome. I then asked her, How are you, my dear sister? As soon as I asked that question, she fell at my feet and began sobbing uncontrollably. All my efforts to console her failed.

I then perceived in my spirit that this woman was going through some major problem and she was not able to express that grief and pain in words. I then placed my hands on her head, looked up to heaven and sighed, Lord Jesus. Immediately, I saw the similitude of the Lord Jesus standing at my right side. With great love, He asked me, My son, what do you want? I said, Lord, please look at your daughter. See how bitterly she is crying. The Lord Jesus then stooped low towards the woman. He cupped his palm as if to collect water and placed it against the left cheek of the woman. All her tears fell into the palm of the Lord Jesus. A small pool of tears were collected in the nail-pierced hand of the Lord Jesus.

The Lord Jesus then stood up and just glanced at me momentarily. The next instant, I found myself standing in the heavenlies in the Spirit. It was a glorious place filled

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with the shekinah glory of God. At a distance, I saw what looked like the ark of the covenant (Rev. 11:19). Upon the ark and between the wings of the cherubim, I beheld a thick glorious cloud (Ezek. 19:9; 29:42-43). The cloud seemed to pulsate with life and was rotating within. A bright glorious golden light seemed to be shining out from within in all directions. I perceived in my spirit that I was beholding the Cloud of the Heavenly Father's manifested presence. I began to tremble with a holy fear.

The Lord Jesus went near to the ark and placed all the tears of the woman in a bottle (Ps. 56:8). He then knelt down before the ark and began to pray for the woman. When the Lord Jesus prayed, He wept with much tears as He beseeched God's merciful grace (Heb. 5:7; 7:25). Every now and then, He would point His hand to the bottle of tears and say, Father, look at My daughter's tears. Finally, a loud ear-splitting voice thundered from within the cloud, It is granted. Only then did the Lord Jesus stop praying. He rose up from His knees and came near towards me. He looked into my eyes and said, Go back and tell My daughter that her prayers have been heard and answered. Up to that moment, I did not know what the woman's problems were. The Lord Jesus then revealed to me her four problems, answers to which she would speedily receive.

When I found myself back on earth, I lifted the woman up from the ground and narrated to her my heavenly experience. When she heard that God had answered her four problems, she was overjoyed and greatly comforted. While I was in heaven in the Spirit, the Lord Jesus told me something which made an indelible impression on my heart. He said, A woman's tears will never go unanswered!

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A woman's tears will never go unanswered! My dearly beloved sister, inscribe that sentence on your heart. What are you weeping over? Have you been cheated by your husband? Have you lost your husband? Have you lost your confidence? Is the future before you dark and gloomy and bleak? Have you cried and cried until there are no more tears in your eyes? My dearly beloved sister, please be of good cheer. The same Lord Jesus who manifested Himself to collect the tears of that Indian woman is also right now standing before you. As I am writing this paragraph, the Lord is enabling me to see in the Spirit that He is standing right now before you my sister as you read this book. Stretching forth His nail-pierced hand to you, He is saying, My daughter, the blood that is oozing out of My hands for the pains you are experiencing is more than the tears that are flowing from your eyes. Weep not, my dear sister. Come on now, wipe away those tears. Did not the Lord God promise that, as one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you (Is. 66:13)?

My dearly beloved sister, the Lord Jesus is not unmindful of the tears which you shed in secret, I was once invited to speak at a conference in Sydney, Australia, in 1996. As I began to pray just before I started to preach on one particular night, I saw the heavens opened before me (Ezek. 1:1). I saw the Lord Jesus standing and praying with outstretched hands before the Glory Cloud of God. The Holy Spirit allowed me to hear His prayer. I heard the Lord Jesus praying thus: My Father, many of My children have gathered in Sydney for a conference. Among them is a poor daughter of mine whose teenage daughter had left home without informing her mother. As a result, My daughter has been constantly crying to Me to bring back her daughter. Please grant My daughter's petition. As I narrated to the

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crowd what I was seeing, everyone heard a loud moaning cry from the back of the auditorium. At the end of the meeting, an elderly woman came to see me and said that she was the one who was weeping for her lost daughter.

My dearly beloved sister, your tears are not hidden before the all-seeing eyes of God. His unfailing compassion will never allow Him to remain blind to the tears which flow forth from your broken heart (Lam. 3:22). My dear sister, shall we now examine a few biblical examples of how women's tears never go unanswered?

1. The tears of Hagar (Gen. 21:16-20). She cried out bitterly for death after having been chased out by Abraham and Sarah. Was the Lord God blind to her tears? No. He sent an angel to console, comfort, and deliver her from her predicament.
2. The tears of Hannah (1 Sam. 1:7,10,19,20). She was greatly despised and looked down upon for being barren. She cried out to God. Her heart was so broken that she could not even form words to pray. Her heart became a fountain of tears. The Lord heard her cries, opened her womb, and blessed her with a son.
3. The tears of the widow of Nain (Lk. 7:11-15). A widow's only son had died. Her only hope of survival was through her son. She had nobody else to support her. She cried with her broken heart. When the Lord Jesus saw her, He perceived all this. He wiped away her tears and replaced them with hope by raising to life her dead son.
4. The tears of a prostitute (Lk. 7:36-38, 48-49). A repentant prostitute came and cried uncontrollably before the Lord

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Jesus. He saw her truly repentant and contrite heart. He wiped away her tears and gave her the hope of salvation by forgiving her of her sins.

5. The tears of the Virgin Mary (Jn. 19:25-27). The prophet Simeon prophesied to Mary at the circumcision of the Baby Jesus that a sword shall pierce her heart (Lk. 2:35). Standing at the foot of the cross, Mary was shedding copious tears on account of the piercing of the sword into her soul in the crucifixion of her first-born son. She might have recalled all the strange events that accompanied the birth of the Lord Jesus. The angel Gabriel appeared to her and said that the Lord Jesus would reign on the throne of David as King of Israel (Lk. 1:32-33). Instead of reigning as a king, O my son, lamented Mary, you have been condemned to die. Instead of a king's crown, a cruel crown of thorns has been put on you.

Mary might also have recalled the visit by the wise men from the East: Son, when the wise men worshiped you as king, how much my heart was thrilled (Matt. 2:11). How many times I came to see you to warn you of the evil plot of the Pharisees and Sadducees but you refused to see, adding that all those who do the will of God are your father, mother, brother, and sister (Matt. 27:41-44). Even at His dying moment, the Lord Jesus lifted up His eyes and looked at His mother. Probably during those fleeting moments, He had called to remembrance how Mary bore and nursed Him. He wiped away her tears and comforted her by giving the apostle John as a son to her (Jn. 19:26).

My dearly beloved sister, the preceding examples are sufficient proof that a woman's tears will never go unanswered. Why do women frequently weep for every

small thing? My dear sister, that too is an aspect of the image and likeness of God given to you. Look at the Lord Jesus. The prophet Isaiah prophesied that He would be a man of sorrows (Is. 53:3). We read of the Lord Jesus frequently weeping for others (Jn. 11:35,38; Heb. 5:7). My dearly beloved sister, whenever you weep, the Heavenly Father will remember the tears of His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus, and grant you your petitions.

Taking Hold of God

Whenever a prayer meeting is organized for prayers of intercession, women will invariably be gathered in large numbers. Why? My dearly beloved sister, the Lord God has given you a very special ability to take hold of God like the way the Lord Jesus does. Let us examine a parable which the Lord Jesus told concerning taking hold of God.

LUKE 18:1-7

1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.

3 "Now there was a widow in that city, and she came to him, saying, 'Avenge me of my adversary.'

4 "And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man,

5 'yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'"

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*6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said.
7 "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry
out day and night to Him, though He bears long with
them?"*

By telling this parable, the Lord Jesus has revealed a secret weapon that a woman, unknown to herself, possesses. In fact, you have used it regularly but you have not realized its full power. The woman of Luke 18 besought a judge to avenge her enemy. The judge turned down her request. She came to him again on the second day. He did not even lift up his eyes to see her. She came again on the third day... fourth day... fifth day... sixth day... seventh day. Finally, the judge, being wearied by the woman troubling him every day, gave in to her request. This woman used her God-given nature to her fullest advantage.

Look at this woman. She came and troubled the judge every day. She was a nag. She was a pain in the neck. She was very stubborn. She would not give up. She was very persistent. My dear sister, take note of this woman's behavior. For too long, the devil has misguided you so that you have misused this nature by acting in the flesh. You nag at your husband. You pester him until he gets frustrated with you, and in the end divorces you. This is one of the ways how the devil is breaking up marriages.

My dearly beloved sister, use that God-given nature in you to take hold not of man but of God. Like the woman who troubled the judge, be stubborn in your faith. Take hold of God. Do not give Him rest until He answers you (Is. 62:6-7). Go ahead and pester and nag at God. He will patiently listen to you. That is also one of the nature of the Holy Spirit. He also continues to make intercession for us

until the answer is manifested (Rom. 8:26-27). If you will yield this nature to the Holy Spirit, He will stir you up to take hold of God. Do you know, my dear sister, that the Lord Jesus too takes hold of God in intercession?

Once in 1991, I was in my office in Kalimpong, India, answering my mail. On one corner of my table stood a pile of letters from people requesting prayer from all over the world. Most of the letters, however, were in the Nepalese language. My secretary would first translate those prayer requests into the English language for me. As I was in the midst of answering some of the mail requests, I felt the gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit for me to take all the letters into the prayer closet to pray. In obedience to the Holy Spirit's prompting, I took all the letters with me to pray. As soon as I knelt down to pray, I beheld the similitude of the Lord Jesus standing before me. He then knelt down beside me and said, *Let us pray for all these requests*. I said to the Lord Jesus, Lord, all these letters are in the Nepalese language and I don't know what these requests are. The Lord Jesus smiled at me and said, Put your hands on these letters and let's pray. When I placed my hands on the pile of letters, the Lord Jesus placed His hands on mine, and looking up to heaven, began to weep and sigh (Jn. 17:1; Mk. 7:34, 8:2).

The Lord Jesus began to pour out His heart in prayer. Tears flowed forth from His eyes like rivers. Before I realized fully what was happening, I found myself together with the Lord Jesus up in heaven. At a certain part of heaven, I saw the ark of the covenant (Rev. 11:19). On the ark and between the cherubim, I saw the Cloud of Glory. The Lord Jesus went before the ark, knelt down before it, and took hold of the horns and prayed. He prayed fervently for a

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long time just for the first of the prayer requests. The Lord Jesus did not stop praying until a voice thundered from within the Cloud saying, I will bless her. The Lord Jesus then stopped praying. He then revealed to me the content of that first prayer request and how I was to answer it.

My dearly beloved sister, you have in you, like in the Lord Jesus, the nature that takes hold of God. Don't let God go until He answers you. Does not the scripture say, Put Me in remembrance; let us contend together; state your case, that you may be acquitted (Is. 43:26). The Lord God is waiting for you to take hold of Him. My dearly beloved sister, whenever you take hold of God, He will remember His only begotten Son kneeling before Him and taking hold of the horns in intercession. When you weep before His majesty, He will remember the tears of His Son in whom He is well pleased. How can the Lord God not wipe away your tears, my dear sister?

CHAPTER 5

*Women's
Simplicity
and
Loyalty*



Women Are Special To God

My dearly beloved sister, you are special to God because of your simplicity, the childlikeness deep within your heart, in your innermost being, and your unfailing loyalty. Isn't it written in Isaiah 57:15, For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

This attraction to lowliness and humility is also an attribute of God's nature. Surprised? Have you never heard or never been told of the motherly nature of God? Let's look at Zechariah 9:9: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding upon a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. It is also written in Matthew 11:29, I am meek and lowly in heart. My dear sister, can you understand now why you are special and just how special you are before God? It is your simplicity in believing and in trusting, your ability in offering love and devotion, your willingness in being submissive and obedient, and your untiring rendering of loyal service that have specially endeared you to God. Blessed are you, my dear sister.

Some of the Biblical characters who received the highest commendation from God were women. Why? Because, Women, you are special to God. In the gospel of Mark, we read an account of Mary of Bethany anointing Jesus for His burial.

MARK 14: 3-9

3 And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an

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alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. And she broke the flask and poured it on His head.

4 But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted?"

5 "For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply.

6 But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me.

7 "For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always.

8 "She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial.

9 "Assuredly, I say to you, whenever this gospel is preached throughout the whole world, what this woman did will also be spoken of as a memorial to her."

From quite early in His ministry, Jesus had been telling His disciples that He must suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day (Matt. 16:21). But not even His closest disciples understood or believed in His words. It was a woman who understood who Jesus really was and for what purpose He had come. How is it that only a woman could comprehend that? Because, my dear sister, you have the divine nature of God in you that enables you to believe and trust in a simple childlike manner. Mary followed the impulse of her God-given nature and anointed her Master and her God whom she so dearly loved. Quite possibly she also believed that the Lord Jesus would rise again the third day and as such there would not be any more opportunity

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to anoint the dead body of the Lord Jesus. Simplicity of faith generates the power of visualization, even of things and events eternal, whether timely or untimely. Isn't that what faith is all about (Heb. 11:1)?

My dear sister, can you now see that you possess the "God-kind" faith that can move mountains (Mark 11:22-23)? It's there, dear sister. Don't cower in fear because of the lies of the devil, that women do not have "mountain-moving" faith, but only men do. These are lies from the pit of hell. Cast down such ungodly thoughts because they are not God's thoughts concerning you. Like Mary, some of you may be going through opposition for believing Jesus regarding what He said and what He would do. Yet when Mary was mercilessly criticized by the disciples, the Lord Jesus, the defender of women, came to her rescue. The Lord Jesus will come to your rescue and defend your reputation. You shall hold your peace. He will fight your battles (Ex. 14:14).

The Lord Jesus praised Mary highly for her noble act. Why did He praise her very highly? How could the mere breaking of an alabaster box be a praiseworthy act? There is an interesting Jewish custom concerning a woman breaking the alabaster box. The alabaster box of very costly spikenard is a bride's gift to her bridegroom on the wedding night. It would cost the Jewish bride's parents their lifetime savings to purchase such an alabaster box. On the night before the consummation of their wedding, the bride would break the box of perfume and anoint her bridegroom's head and feet (cp. Matt. 26:6; Jn. 12:3).

It is a woman's honor, prestige, and dignity to meet her husband on the wedding night with the alabaster box. By

breaking her only life-treasure, Mary was taking a risk that might cost her her marriage. She took that which was so precious and dear to her and surrendered it to the Lord Jesus. In that act, she had declared that the Lord Jesus was her bridegroom. She entrusted her entire future into the hands of the Lord Jesus. My dear sister, don't you too do the same? That is the reason why you are special to God.

Not only that my dear sister, the Lord Jesus will openly reward all the seemingly small, insignificant, none-so-extraordinary things that you do for Him in the simplicity of faith. Note how the Lord Jesus honored Mary: Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial of her (Matt. 26:13).

What an honor! An everlasting memorial written and remembered in God's Word on this earth in the Bible and in heaven in the eternal celestial annals. I know of a precious family living in the United States of America. The wife and her husband live a very sacrificial life. They are always giving to others. Once someone gave them money to purchase a new carpet to replace the tattered one in their living room. As they were setting about to get their new carpet, they received an urgent letter requesting aid for an orphanage in Romania. Without a second thought, they immediately sent the money meant for the carpet to the orphanage. One day, while I was praying for them, the Lord Jesus opened my spiritual eyes to behold the glorious in heaven. I saw a particular mansion which was arrayed with all manner of precious stones of different sizes. The Lord Jesus then told me, Each precious stone represents monetary sacrifice this daughter of Mine had made for Me. Here in heaven, her sacrifices on earth are remembered for eternity (Matt. 6:20).

Hidden But Not Forgotten

Have you been neglected? Unrecognized? Living in obscurity? Forgotten? Be of good cheer my dear sister. This is what the Lord God is saying to you, Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget her nursing child, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me (Is. 49: 15-16).

Your walls are continually before Me. What a declaration! Most husbands and wives carry in their wallets each others' or their families' photographs. Whenever they open their wallets, they will catch a loving glimpse of their loved ones. Notice the phrase "whenever they open their wallets." But what does the Bible say?—Your walls are continually before Me. I saw a vision in November of 1983 that directly related to this beautiful divine promise. I saw a gigantic hand stretched out across the universe. On the palm, I saw a nail-pierced hole. As I looked closer at the hole, I saw millions of photographs of people that were neatly arranged. The Holy Spirit then said, This is what is written in the Word, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands. My dear sister, you are not forgotten by the Lord God. He loves and cares for you as the apple of His eye (Deut. 32:10).

Once a pastor's wife came to me for prayer. Sobbingly, she told me that nobody treats her with honor and respect. The church members for whom she cares very much do not even care or show concern for her. Everybody treats her as if she does not even exist. I even wonder if God knows whether I exist, she said with much tears. As she

was speaking with me, the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Tell My daughter that not only do I know that she exists, but I have also not forgotten all the sacrifices she had made for Me. The Lord then told me that once her husband had given her some money to buy a new pair of shoes. But instead of buying a new pair of shoes, she put the money in the offering bag for missions. Nobody knew about this. But “the eyes of the Lord which run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him” saw the act of sacrifice (2 Chr. 16:29).

When I recounted all that the Holy Spirit had revealed to me concerning her, she first stared at me with disbelief. Then she sobbed like a baby, overwhelmed with gratitude that the Lord had not forgotten her. My dearly beloved sister, how can the Lord forget your selfless sacrifices? The Lord God has declared in His Word: For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister (Heb. 6:10). My dearly beloved sister, the Lord Jesus will certainly honor you who suffer in silence on his behalf. The Lord God of all comfort will certainly comfort and reward you openly (2 Cor. 1:3, 4).

The Lord Jesus even entrusted solemn and important tasks to women. Why? Because they are simple of mind and quick to believe with all their heart. We read in the gospel of John, Chapter 20, that Mary Magdalene had gone to the place of burial where the Lord Jesus' body was kept. Who is this Mary Magdalene? She was a woman out of whom had come seven demons (Lk. 8:2). Out of gratitude to the Lord for delivering her she began to serve the Lord everywhere He went. The thanksgiving and gratitude in

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her heart to the Lord for her deliverance were translated into loyalty and service. After the Lord Jesus was crucified and buried, Mary's great love and devotion to her God took her to the sepulcher. But she was faced with a great disappointment when she found the tomb empty. My dear sister, are you, too, greatly disappointed in the Lord Jesus for not meeting your expectation? Please remember, my dear sister, God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6). Thus shortly after, in the garden of the empty tomb, the resurrected Lord Jesus appeared before Mary Magdalene. What a blessed privilege for this woman!

Consider also how God chose the womb of another woman, the Virgin Mary, for the Lord Jesus to be born into this world. If by her giving birth to Jesus, "all generations will call [her] blessed" (Lk. 1:48), how abundantly blessed must Mary Magdalene also be, being the first person to behold the resurrected and glorified Lord. Why did the Lord Jesus manifest Himself before her? Possibly for the same reason confessed through the lips of the Virgin Mary, For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant (Lk. 1:48).

The Lord Jesus gave Mary Magdalene the grand honor and privilege of going to announce His resurrection to his skeptical disciples. He told her, Go to My brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God (Jn. 20:17). Why did the Lord Jesus choose a woman for that job? Because only a woman, it seems, has the simplicity of faith to believe and obey. Read the scriptures. The men, the apostles who were with the Lord Jesus day and night, did not believe her words. It is written, It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who

told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them (Lk. 24:10-11). My dear sister, let not the men dismiss you as a simpleton and deem you not "technical" enough to understand the depths of the mysteries of God. Let it be known to you that the Lord Jesus knows assuredly that he could count on your simplicity of faith to obey Him.

Let us also consider further the simplicity of faith, trust, and obedience which the Virgin Mary demonstrated.

LUKE 1:26-38

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth.

27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.

32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

33 "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and of His kingdom there will be no end."

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

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35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

36 "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.

37 "For with God nothing will be impossible."

38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

God chose a simple-minded, obedient woman to bear forth the Messiah. The angel Gabriel told Mary that she would conceive a son without the natural process of sexual intercourse. She was neither wrong nor faithless to have asked the question, How can this be? (v.34). Such an event had never happened in history before. Observe closely Mary's simplicity of faith. The angel went on to give her a technical explanation of how she would be conceiving her baby (v.35).

I doubt Mary could have grasped the mystery of virgin conception. She did not protest by saying, I need at least two or three confirmations for this. For a fleeting moment, she might have weighed the cost. For a virgin to become pregnant before marriage was and still is a great dishonor and disgrace in the Eastern culture. She did not rebel against the annunciation. In all her simplicity, she humbled and surrendered herself to the will of God. When she said, Let it be to me, she was actually saying, God I am your handmaiden. I am willing to accept whatever You want from me. I don't mind the humiliation, dishonor, and disgrace. I am your handmaiden willing to do your will. She

did not fully grasp all the implications of her obedience, and she definitely did not know what lay ahead, but she only had one thing in her heart and mind. That is to obey God at all costs. What devotedness!

When Mary accepted her calling, she accepted humiliation and disgrace. But when God saw her willingness to obey, instead of disgrace, He crowned her with honor. All over the world, people have been calling her "blessed" (Lk. 1:48). My dearly beloved sister, have you gone through or are you also going through humiliation and disgrace simply because you obeyed the call and will of God in your life? Be of good cheer! The days are not far now when the Lover of your soul will magnify and honor you publicly.

My dear sister, have you ever noticed that women were also a part of the itinerant ministry of the Lord Jesus during His earthly days? O yes! They were not excluded. They played a crucial role as the ministry support team. The scriptures bear record of them in Luke 8:1-3, Now it came to pass afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.

My dearly beloved sister, please take a note of two phrases in the abovementioned scriptures: And the twelve were with Him, and certain women and many others who provided for him from their substance. The

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women were financial partners of the Lord Jesus' ministry. Women, it seems, have a great tendency to give. When the prophet Elijah was hungry, a poor widow, without considering her own need for food, provided for his need (1 Kin. 17:8-16). A Shunammite woman made a room for Elisha and regularly took care of his personal needs (2 Kin. 4:8-11).

Most women, it seems, are quite self-sacrificing. In 1992, I was preaching in a city in Michigan, USA, when a woman came up to me and said, Brother, I am one of your partners. She said that she was a full-time minister living by faith. When the Lord Jesus called her to become a financial partner in our ministry, she had to go out and get a job. From that income, she began faithfully to send us a monthly contribution. Her sacrifice moved my heart with compassion for her. I thought in my heart, what simple-minded faith, loyalty, devotion, and obedience this woman possesses!

My dear sister, the Lord Jesus knows that He can count on you. He knows that He could rely on you to take care of His servants and His ministry. The Lord Jesus knows that He can count on your faithfulness to obey His promptings. Why are you so very faithful? It is because you possess the motherly nature of God. Do not scriptures say that God Himself is faithful (1 Thess. 5:24; 2 Tim. 2:13)? Because of your simplemindedness, you are willing to obey and do anything that the Master demands. Actually, the Lord does not even have to demand. All He has to do is simply whisper gently in your spirit and you will hasten to obey and carry out His will (Ex. 35:21, 22, 25, 26, 29; 38:8).

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I once read a humorous, yet, a convincing story. Three men making their way through the Amazon forest came upon a raging, violent river. It was imperative that they cross it. The first man prayed to God, saying: Please God, give me the strength to cross the river. Immediately muscles swelled up on his arms and legs, and using the great strength suddenly made available to him, he was able to swim across to the other side. Seeing this, the second man too prayed to God, saying: Lord, give me the ability and the strength to get to the other side. A small roving boat suddenly appeared beside him. The moment he got into it, it shot forward into the middle of the swollen river. It was only the great strength that suddenly flooded his body that enabled him to row safely to the other side.

Now it was the third man's turn. Please God, he prayed, give me the ability and the intelligence required to cross the river. He immediately turned into a woman. She looked at the map, located a bridge nearby, and walked across. We may laugh at this story. The men may feel insulted. However, the truth is, when God created woman, He specially endowed her with intelligent intuition. This ability will enable every woman, though at times downcast, to rise above their circumstances.

My dearly beloved sister, forget about how demeaningly society may look at you. Forget about how others may even look down on you. Look at yourself how God would look at you. If we were to stand up close to someone and look straight into her eyes, we would see our own image reflected in her eyes. Likewise, my dear sister, go up close

Women Are Special To God

to the Lord Jesus and look into His eyes. You will see your image reflected there the way our God Himself sees you. As you gaze into His eyes, allow the image of how God sees you affect your spirit with all its power. When you do that, you will feel sorry for yourself no more. You will look down on yourself no more. You will feel inferior no more. So what should you do now? The Lord your God is saying to you, Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you, for behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; and His glory will be seen upon you (Is. 60:1-2). Yes, my dear sister, the Lord shall arise upon you, and His glory shall be seen upon you. Hallelujah.

So take the timbrels in your hands, dear sister. Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion [Sister]; put on your beautiful garments, for the uncircumcised and unclean [dishonor, disrepute, humiliation, disgrace] shall no longer come to you. Shake yourself from the dust, arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem [Sister]; Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion [Womanhood]! (Is. 52:1-2).

When the Lord God causes His light to shine upon your face, do you know what will happen to you? Hear the Word of the Lord my dear sister: For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree You shall also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; But you shall

Women's Simplicity and Loyalty

be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the Lord delights in you (Is. 55:12-13, 62:3-4).

There lived a man of God in the United States of America who was frequently visited by angels. He once went to Alaska for ministry. While there, he stayed in the house of a certain pastor. This pastor's wife, being an American Indian, had a very poor self-image. Early one morning, the angel Gabriel visited the man of God and told him, Tell the pastor's wife that she is very special to God. She has a poor image of herself. She thinks she's worthless. She thinks that she's not accepted like she ought to be because of her race. But tell her God loves her. God has put her right where she belongs. Tell her she is special!

Wow! Tell her she is special! My dearly beloved sister, can you now see how special you are to God?

God believes in you.

God respects you as a person, not as a thing.

God values you highly.

God honors and rewards your selfless labors of love for Him.

*God is always thinking about you
and watching over everything that concerns you.*

*God is constantly thinking
an uninterrupted stream of loving thoughts towards you
as though nobody else exists.*

Why? Because ...

You, O Woman, are special to God!



Testimonies

Women Are Special To God

Since this book was first published in 1991, we have received hundreds of testimonies of changed lives. We produce here some of them for the glory of God.

1. I have been blessed by the message "Women Are Special To God". This is what women need to hear also here in America. Thank you very much.

Dr Gwen Shaw, USA

2. Women in India are treated very badly. Wives allow husbands to do anything to them as they feel that they have no where to go. Women are brought up to believe that they are only good as servants to their husbands and in-laws. It is heartbreaking that because of this women are changing their natures. The devil has been pressuring and changing women's character. I find women become hard in their hearts because of self-defense so as not to get hurt. Your book has opened my eyes to know how precious women are in his eyes. Thank you for writing this wonderful book!

Yasmin Chung, India

3. I have enjoyed listening to your wonderful message "Women Are Special To God" on tape. The concept of God as Father and Mother is a very interesting one.

Betty Cook, USA

4. Although your book Women Are Special To God is specially for women, it has been a great blessing to me as well. I am glad to know that Jesus is not only my Father but also my Mother. I am really more than glad for this wonderful revelation which I received through your book!

Ashok Sangma, India

Testimonies

5. *Your book "Women Are Special To God" really blessed me. How often we wallow in self-pity and self-hate because our minds are thinking about our perceptions of ourselves. I pray that women all over the world will be brought into the light concerning their special place as God's princesses!*

Abena Cabbil, USA

6. *I read your book "Women Are Special To God" in detail. It really helped me and I got lots of blessings from it. Being filled with joy, I really cried while reading the book.*

Alenuo Angami, India

7. *There have been occasions to share with various women about your book "Women Are Special To God". Each and everyone has been so encouraged in the Lord, especially that part where you mentioned that God enjoys our insistence with Him in prayer.*

Lynda Cruz, Italy

8. *Through your book "Women Are Special To God" I came to know how special women are in the eyes of God. The paragraph "Sister, why are you sitting in the pool of self-pity and low esteem ..." (pg. 26) greatly touched my heart. At that moment, I knew my value and decided to cheer myself in the Lord!*

Srijana Rai, India

9. *Your book "Women Are Special To God" was very special to me. Because it was the first time in my life when God through a man told me that I am not a less important person than a man. But I am a special creature with my own responsibilities as important and precious to God as a man is.*

Olga Atroshenko, Kazakstan

Women Are Special To God

10. *Your book, "Women are Special To God" was given to my mother to read from one of my relatives and so I got to read it too. It was very touching and inspiring. There were times I shed tears reading this special book.*

Michelle Jyoti, Fiji

11. *I'm very blessed and touched by your book "Women Are Special To God." Even while I was reading it, I could feel the presence of God's love.*

Hui Yi, Singapore

12. *Thanks for your book, "Women Are Special to God." I got a chance to go through it and really it has brought lots of new blessings for me. This book has encouraged me in my ministry.*

Shanti Gurung, Nepal

13. *My friend gave me a book of yours to read called "Women Are Special to God." I read it all in a couple of hours. I found it incredibly lifting to my spirit and not only do I feel loved as a person, but loved as a woman.*

Renee McClelland, Australia

14. *I've read your book entitled, "Women Are Special to God" and was very blessed by what you have brought across. I've known before that women are precious to God but never really thought about this in-depth. My eyes were opened as you unfold from the Word of God of how God sees women and what a special place we have in the heart of God.*

Iris Lim, Singapore

Testimonies

15. *Your book “Women Are Special To God” inspires me a lot. It reminds me how I am precious and loved by God in the way He created me. I want to buy some more books for my female friends around me.*

Kay Ye, Taiwan

16. *What an incredible blessing your book “Women Are Special To God” has been for me and my sisters in Christ. We see the feminist movement rampant in our society and the world around us. As God’s daughters and through the blessings He has given us in our Godly husbands and marriages, it is the desire of our hearts to come against this abomination of the Lord and to see God’s righteousness restored. What a help and direction your book has been in this area!*

Kim A. Calvi, USA

17. *I just wanted you to know how blessed I have been by your book “Women Are Special To God.” I have been going through a difficult time lately and different wounds (and flaws!) have been coming to the surface by the grace of God. I spent this morning waiting on the Lord and reading your book. It so ministered to me and God’s grace and immense love is so evident through your ministry. After reading the first chapter of your book I was filled with faith and felt the peace and love of God.*

Anna Gerhauser, Australia

May We Hear From You

Dear friends, we believe this book has been a blessing and challenge to you. Millions of people from around the world have been blessed by Brother Sadhu's messages on books, CDs and DVDs. We believe that even now you have been blessed by this book. Why don't you take a minute and write to tell us how you have been blessed by this book.

If you would like Brother Sadhu to pray for your needs, write to him today. He will personally read your letter and pray for you with much compassion beseeching the Lord Jesus Christ to bless, comfort and grant the miracles you need.

If you would like to know more about the ministry of Sadhu Sundar Selvaraj and receive our free quarterly newsletter "Healing Love", feel free to write us. We will send you one immediately and you, too, can uphold Sadhu and this worldwide ministry in your intercessory prayers.

For further information write to:

*Jesus Ministries
Villivakkam, Chennai 600 049
Tamilnadu, INDIA
jmchennai@jesusministries.org*

*Jesus Ministries
P.O. Box 9055
Lancaster CA, 93539-9055
USA
jmusa@jesusministries.org*

Do You Need Prayer ?

Oh, that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleads for his neighbor! (Job 16:21). Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven (Matt. 18:19).

Brother Sadhu, please uphold me before the throne of God and agree in prayer with me for

My Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Tear out and mail to:

*Jesus Ministries
Villivakkam, Chennai 600 049
Tamilnadu, INDIA
jmchennai@jesusministries.org*

*Jesus Ministries
P.O. Box 9055
Lancaster CA, 93539-9055
USA
jmusa@jesusministries.org*

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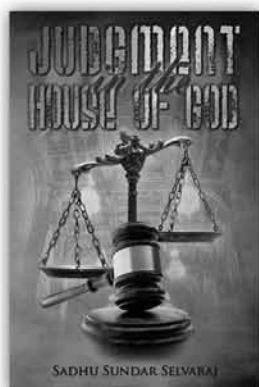
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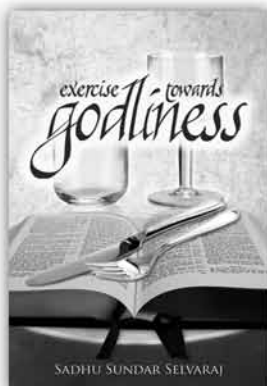


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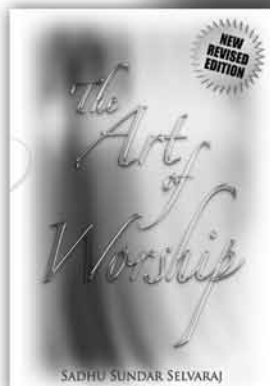
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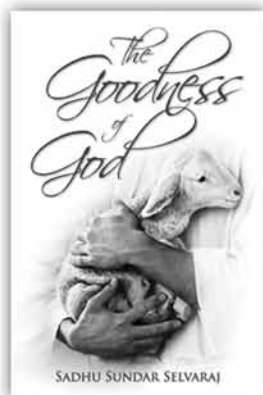
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EXERCISE TOWARDS GODLINESS



THE ART OF WORSHIP



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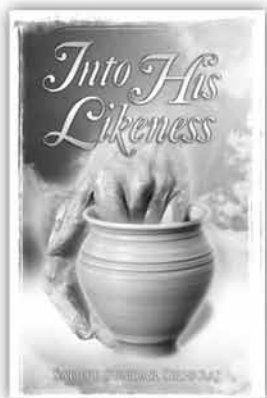
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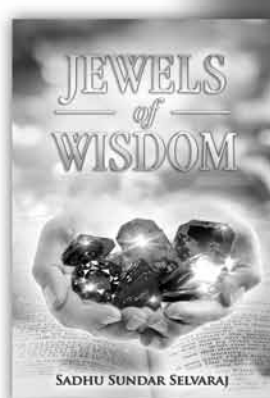
PRAYER SECRETS IN THE TABERNALE



LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY



INTO HIS LIKENESS



JEWELS OF WISDOM

And the rib which the Lord God had taken from man made He a woman

Not just every woman — but also every man — should read and pray over this little instructive and inspiring book from a true man of God, Sadhu Sundar Selvaraj.

With deep scriptural insights and direct revelations from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Sadhu shares this timely message from the heart of God concerning women. *Women Are Special to God* is the true testament of the beauty of womanhood. It should replace the many confused and sometimes self debilitating manifestos of women liberation organizations around the world.

In his usual clear and interesting manner of teaching, the Sadhu is once again used by the Lord Jesus Christ to offer us all a most precious meditation. Womanhood is finally given the proper, exalted place that she deserves — just the way the Lord God Almighty intended it.

You will be inspired, challenged, comforted, elevated, humbled, and strengthened. You will be brought to tears, filled with joy and laughter, and overwhelmed with God's goodness. Why? Because women are special to God!



SADHU SUNDAR SELVARAJ is a forerunner who has been privileged to be called to prepare the way for the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. At age 16 he experienced a dramatic and supernatural encounter with the Living Christ. He has been preaching the Gospel and bringing the healing power of God to his generation since 1979 in over 50 nations. His television network, Angel TV, currently reaches out to approximately half the globe. Brother Sadhu has had numerous encounters with the Lord and has been specifically commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ "to prepare the Bride" for His second coming. His life and ministry will provoke, encourage and teach you how to walk intimately with Christ.