

Newsletter: Spiritual Maturity

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Mission: To equip women to overcome life challenges and find God's purpose and fulfillment through prayer, teaching and mentoring relationships

Vision: Daughters of Hope is called to lead women towards spiritual, emotional and physical wholeness through the application of biblical principles to their lives.

October 10-12, 2019 – Phenomenal Grace

DOH Women's Retreat

1 Corinthians 15:10 – "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

Come join us at the 2019 Daughters of Hope Women's Retreat as we celebrate, expound upon, and just bask in God's phenomenal grace. This will be an elegant affair.

For more information and to register, visit www.daughtersofhope.org or email us at daughtersofhope@aol.com.



Preparation

In listening to the "The Parable of the Ten Virgins" (Matthew 25:1-13) again, I saw something different. There were five that were seen as wise and the others as foolish. The women who had obtained extra oil did not share what they had with those who asked when the announcement came for the bridegroom. One could say without knowing the significance of the story, aren't people supposed to share. I mean it was late, five of them did have extra, but the answer was no, you have to get your own. It could almost seem cruel or selfish. But this scripture also speaks to being prepared; being ready and being wise in not allowing something or someone pull you away from your destiny. This parable can also be a lesson that there is a constant state of preparation and getting ready.

We are to be busy doing as we feel the Lord directing; it is careless getting too laid back. There are periods of rest, but we don't throw caution to the wind and think it doesn't matter what we do or how we conduct ourselves. The Bible tells us to watch. So, continue to read His word, seeking how to apply it, ask God for clarity and wisdom. Preparation defines an action, movement with expectation.

--Min. Connie Lowe, DOHM Treasurer



It's Wedding Season (Wanted: A Few Good Godly Men)

A well-known slogan the Marine Corps use to recruit candidates is, "We're Looking For A Few Good Men." Well ladies, I would suggest that, if he has not found you yet, you should position yourself in an area that is conducive to this outcome. Now I am quite aware that many of you are content in your singleness, and to that I say, Praise the Lord! Continue to let God use you, but for those of you who feel you are called to be married, perhaps this word will be a kind of guideline.

1. First, the Bible is (and should be) your handbook.
2. Know who you are, (Ps.139:13-14).
3. A Godly man will not pressure you into lowering your standards (Romans13:12-14).
4. A Godly man is employed (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12).

5. A Godly man can dress himself (Exodus 28:42) **PULL THOSE PANTS UP!**
6. A Godly man is a servant rather than demanding that he be served (Mark 10:45).
7. A Godly man is not a perfect man. We will never reach perfection until we are in the physical presence of Jesus, but the Godly man embraces his manhood and knows that Jesus, not the world, has set the standard for what it means to be a real man. So, he strives daily to model his life after Jesus. He does not excuse the sins and weaknesses he finds in himself but continually surrenders those areas to God and asks for His help in overcoming them.

Regardless of physical appearance, social status, or economic standing, any man can be a Godly man if he loves God with all his heart and seeks to obey Him in every area of his life (Galatians 2:20).

--Min. Geri Stancil, DOHM Vice President



Galatians 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Are You An "Eagerly" Christian?

Hebrews 9:28 states, "so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him, He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."

The word eagerly, for those who have put their faith in and live their lives for Christ, means that they are excited and ready for His return; knowing that this present life here on earth is not our final home, but to fervently look forward to seeing our King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This should bring such excitement that cannot compare to the riches of this world in just knowing that we have the victory, and this rebellious world will finally be judged and defeated. There are Christians who are not eager; they are not living God-honored lives but are still looking to worldly things and have not accepted the pathway to eternal life. What is your anticipation about the return of Christ? Are you eagerly waiting?

--Linda Price-Smith, DOHM Member





Communication

Communicating With God

It's ironic that in today's society, there are numerous forms of communication, and yet communication is an ongoing issue. Communication requires listening to the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to live a self-controlled life with integrity. If we are not listening to the Holy Spirit, then how can we hear and effectively communicate with one another. Our primary communication is with God through His word and the Holy Spirit. First, we must take the time to listen to what God has to say through His word, meditation, and prayer. Jeremiah 29:12 says, "Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you." Psalms 17:6 reads, "I have called upon you, for you will hear Me, O God; Incline your ear to Me, and hear My speech."

Communicating With One Another

As difficult as it may seem, we can communicate with one another. Some of the things that can make it challenging to communicate are our temperament, love language, culture, our upbringing, and being from different generations. We must work at communicating with one another because we need each other in this world. Effective communication is essential. We have to start by listening to the other person and not letting personal feelings and what has happened in the past hinder being a witness and supporting one another. Matthew 12:34b confirms, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." A heart filled with anger, resentment, and discouragement can lead to the toxic flow of words. When communicating, be slow to share your story and reframe from providing immediate solutions. James 1:19 relays, "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." We need to take a good look at our heart and ask the Holy Spirit to purify our heart so we can communicate God's truth.

As believers, we should continuously examine our communication. Remember, we are witnesses of Jesus Christ, and we are to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. Our heart must be surrendered to the Holy Spirit to communicate the gospel and be a witness effectively.

--Linda Gary, DOHM President



Vendors Wanted

If you have a business and products and/or services you want to promote, this may be the opportunity you are looking for at our upcoming **Daughters of Hope 2019 Women's Retreat**, October 10-12, 2019, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

You must complete a vendor form. Visit our website at www.daughtersofhope.org for more information. At this event, vendors are expected to register and attend at least one day of the retreat.

A Shield of Faith

In Ephesians 6, the scripture tells us to put on the whole armor of God that we might withstand in the evil day. I believe this is God telling us to gird ourselves with HIS protection so that the enemy cannot harm us. I am going to concentrate on the "Shield" portion of this armor. Let's think about what a Shield is and its purpose. Webster's dictionary defines a shield as a device or part that serves as a protective cover or barrier or structure. Your home is a shield from the elements of cold, wind and rain. A coat can protect the body from cold and a hat from the sun and rain. The shield is what soldiers would use in battle to protect themselves from enemy fire. They keep this shield around them to protect their bodies from getting hurt or killed. As you can see having your shield protects you from many different things. So, if we trust in man-made materials to shield us then how much more should we trust in our Lord and Savior to protect us from the enemy who wants to destroy us. Our unabashed "Faith" is what protects us against the "fiery darts" of the wicked one. Understanding that the enemy comes to kill, steal and destroy, we must protect ourselves. The Shield of Faith is vital to our very survival.

You may encounter many adversities in life, but our Godly Shield is what provides our safety. Our Faith is our strength that guides us in this life's journey. In this season of my life I am learning that I need to increase my faith as I care for my mom who is ill. Each day is difficult as I watch the drastic changes to her physical body, but she is showing me how faith works with her inner joy. Even in her sickness, she has a smile and a chuckle in her spirit.

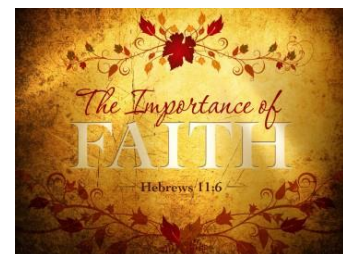
Faith in the God she has served all her life to sustain her during this season of sickness.

HE said all we need to have is the Faith of the grain of a mustard seed and we can tell that mountain to move, and it shall move. Do you know how tiny that mustard seed is? If miracles happen with only this tiny grain, then how much more will occur when our Faith increases and grows stronger. Our Faith can only mature as we get more into HIS word and understanding HIS purpose for our lives individually and collectively.

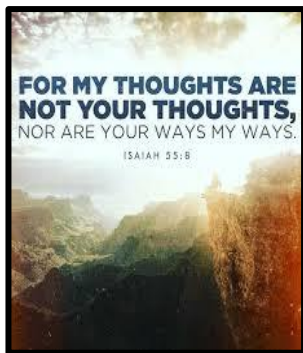
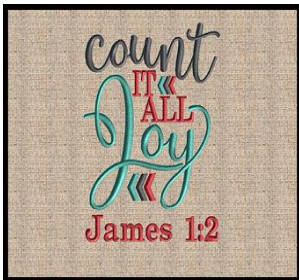
When things seem like it's all going awry, keep the Faith, when your children are acting out, keep the Faith, when the job is stressing you, keep the Faith. Our Faith is our Spiritual Shield that covers us and shields us from the enemy.

But without Faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6).

--Tomiko Hankerson, DOHM Secretary



His Ways Are Not Our Ways



The emotions displayed by Job during his suffering as depicted in the book of Job are typical of people in general and some (especially new) Christians when they experience suffering. They are indicators of our need to grow in our relationship with God and in the revealed knowledge of who He is. Some of the emotions displayed by Job gives credence to the scripture that says, "my people are destroyed due to lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). The narrative starts with Job being content with His life while he is enjoying the protection and provisions of God. Job is a righteous man in the sight of God who prays to cover the sins of his children and himself. It is relatively easy for us to express positive emotions and have a trusting attitude toward God when our external circumstances are going well. For many of us, our emotions sometimes get the better of us as the battle intensifies, the test becomes more difficult, or the degree of suffering increases. As Job's circumstances grew worse, his emotions grew darker, and he became more and more depressed and hopeless.

Due to our lack of knowledge and understanding, we most often, as Job did, incorrectly use human reasoning in an attempt to understand our circumstances and we can end up concluding that because we believe our suffering is undeserved, God is not fair. When God appears to be silent during our suffering, we can lose hope, and our trust in Him may diminish. We sometimes reject this unfair God because we are not pleased with the negative events that we believe He has caused to occur in our lives. We may even reject the life He gave us. In Job's defense, when the events in the book of Job took place (between the time of the flood and the life of Moses), God had not revealed much of Himself to mankind up to that time; so, in light of this, Job's application of human wisdom and understanding to the things of God are not so egregious.

We modern day Christians, on the other hand, cannot use the same defense. We have been given the entire Bible and are the recipients of a wealth of revelation and wisdom from God to man. Isaiah 55:8-9 states, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." In the New Testament, we are admonished to "renew our minds" (Romans 12:2) and to "have the mind of Christ" (Philippians 2:5-8). We accomplish this by reading, meditating on, and submitting to His word and yielding to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. When we do, we have a better understanding of negative events that occur in our lives, and we would know that suffering has its place in a Christian's life.

In James 1:2-8, the scripture says we should "count it all joy when we face trials of many kinds" and that testing produces patience. In 2 Timothy 2:12, it says that if we suffer with Him, we'll also reign with him. At the end of the book of Job, God speaks to Job, asking, "Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words?" (NLT) Then He follows with a series of questions that point to His sovereignty. Afterward, Job says, "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You." His perspective changed with his increased knowledge of who God is. Each of us must take the time to get to know Him.

--Cornette Cole, DOHM Member

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