

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes:

It's natural to want what you say and do to make a difference - to influence others. We're wired this way. And when this happens we tend to feel successful. But is this really what God calls success, or is it just a byproduct of being successful?

Success in our society, means having power, influence, money and prestige. But in the Christian arena, it means pleasing God. And when we please God, He will see that our efforts result in making a difference for HIS Kingdom.

With that thought in mind, our host, Barbara Sandbek, will take us through the Scriptures in a series of programs to find out how to please God, our Father, and how to influence others for His Kingdom sake.

Jot the Scripture references down, meditate on them, and allow them to influence YOUR thinking.

I often quote poems I have written in my concerts. The one I wrote, called 'Our worth' was written to encourage myself and others in our Christian life.

OUR WORTH

By Barbara Sandbek

**You may not be called
to be a great preacher,
a strong, gifted leader,
or inspiring teacher.**

**You may not achieve
what the world would call fame.
There may be no cheers
when one mentions your name.**

**But if you are doing
what God tells you to do,
then you will be happy
that He's PLEASED with you.**

**For He's more concerned
in who you've become
as you grow in the likeness
of His blessed Son.**

**It's much more important
to know that you're storing
rewards up in Heaven
when you work for His Glory.**

**It doesn't take much
for Him to be grateful.
All He asks
is that we remain FAITHFUL.**

A man spoke to me after a concert where I read this and said that it was not possible to please God. I knew the poem was based on Scripture, so I checked again to make sure I was right.

The main verse concerning what pleases God is Hebrews 11:6. It reads...

...without FAITH it is impossible to please God. For he that comes to God must believe that He is (or exists) and that He is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

It is certainly easy to believe that God exists – look around you. Romans 1:19 says that God can so clearly be seen in creation that mankind has no excuse for not believing.

But there is more to this verse. We must also believe, both IN His promises, AND that He will keep them. He promises eternal life (our very great reward) to those who believe He is what He has revealed Himself to be in Scripture. Jesus died and rose from the grave to pay the penalty for our transgression against God. He will give us eternal life if we put our trust in Him as our Savior. We can't conger faith up on our own. We just need to ask for the faith to believe. God then places Himself in us through the blessed Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:7-9, written to Believers, reiterates this...

...the carnal (or merely human) mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

The point in this verse is that we can't have any fellowship with God unless we believe these things. And furthermore, to please Him we must come diligently, seeking to know Him with all our heart.

Once we've received Him into our lives, it should be natural for us to want to do things that would please Him, as Hebrews 13:15-16 states...

...let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His Name.

***** I LIFT MY HANDS *** 3:45**

The verses I will be quoting are written to Believers in Christ. Keep in mind that it is NOT good works that saves our soul. Our salvation is not of OUR works, rather of Jesus' work on the cross for us.

God can only begin to be pleased with us when He sees us a righteous (in right standing with Him) because of the blood Jesus shed for us. Jesus takes our sin and gives us His righteousness.

After we have believed, God expects us to work OUT (not for) our salvation through displaying Christ-like attributes.

Verse 17 of Hebrews 13, written to Believers states...

**...do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices
GOD IS WELL PLEASED.**

Here are some verses concerning the 'doing good' required of us and the rewards we may receive for it.

1 John 3:22 reads...

...whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Success in 'doing good' isn't measured by the position we reach in life; it's measured by the obstacles we overcome.

Hebrews 10:36 says...

You need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

Galatians 6:9 reads...

Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up.

Success also means the development of a mature and constructive personality.

James 1:4 states the reason hard work is necessary...

Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:12 cites the need to stand strong...

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trials, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.

Every morning before my husband goes to work, I pray for him and try to encourage him. I remind him that what he does is important, but if it should go unnoticed, he shouldn't be upset because he is working for the Lord and not men and God smiles when he does his best.

Colossians 3:23-24 confirms this...

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

But, you see, for Believers, it's not just about us developing for our own sake, it's about us developing and persevering for the sake of others.

Matthew 5:16 tells us...

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

When I plant my gardens I sprinkle tiny seeds on top of the soil, pat them gently, then give them water. I am always amazed at how many flowers and veggies come up and in such a short time. I had nothing to do with the growing, but I did have to make the effort to plant those seeds. I sow a little, I get a lot.

God calls us to plant seeds into the hearts of those with whom we come in contact. We share the truths of God, we live a Christ-like life in front of them, we water those truths by sharing how God is working them in our lives, and God makes the increase.

Yes, it is natural to want a reward for a good job done here, but what is the best reward we could ever receive? Sharing eternity with someone we've led to Jesus.

So sow into people's lives. Little is much when God is in it and He is pleased with our efforts.

***** LITTLE IS MUCH *** 2:18**

***In a harvest field now ripened
There's a work for all to do.
Hark the voice of God is calling
To the harvest calling you.***

***Does the place you're called to labor
Seem so small & little known.***

***It is great if God is in it
And He'll not forsake His own.***

***Little is much if God is in it.
Labor not for wealth or fame.
There's a crown and you can win it.
If you'll go in Jesus' Name.***

***Little is much if God is in it.
Labor not for wealth or fame.
There's a crown and you can win it.
If you'll go in Jesus' Name.***

If you'll go – in Jesus' Name!

You've been listening to Grace Notes. If you have been blessed by this ministry, your note of encouragement would be greatly appreciated. You can write to us at Sandbek Ministries P.O. Box 581 Fallston, MD 21047 or email us through our web site at www.gracenotesradio.com. Join us on our next program. Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!

I've been thinking lately about Enoch – one of two people who never Experienced death. What kind of relationship must he have had with God to warrant such treatment?

Heb. 11:5 records this...

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.

Godliness is walking with God: which shows reconciliation to God, for two cannot walk together except they be agreed, ([Amos 3:3](#)) . It includes all the parts of a godly, righteous, and sober life. To walk with God, is to set God always before us, to act as always under his eye. It is constantly to care, in all things to please God, and in nothing to offend him. It is to be followers of him as dear children. The Holy Spirit, instead of saying, Enoch lived, says, Enoch walked with God. This was his constant care and work; while others lived to themselves and the world, he lived to God. It was the joy of his life. Enoch was removed to a better world. As he did not live like the rest of mankind, so he did not leave the world by death as they did. He was not found, because God had translated him, ([Hebrews 11:5](#))

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WALK WITH ME

***** WALK WITH ME *****

*Walk with me -Walk with me
Lest mine eyes no longer see
All the glory -All of the story of your love
Talk to me -Talk to me
As you spoke so tenderly
As you walk there, as you talk there
By the sea.*

Chorus

*Let me follow in the footsteps
That trod the shores of Galilee.
And let me learn to pray as He prayed.
In the garden of Gethsemane*

*Take my hand -Take my hand
Teach me, lord, to understand
All the beauty -All the duty
Of your love.*

repeat chorus

*Take my hand - Take my hand
Teach me, lord, to understand
All the beauty - All the duty
Of your love.*

the capacity or power of persons or things to be a compelling force on or produce effects on the actions, behavior, opinions, etc., of others:

Influence bad or good?

Because I am a woman, I am always interested in the influence women can make.

The Bible calls us the weaker vessel, but after studying this, it is not in potential, rather physically.

I remember that song years ago by Helen Reddi called "I am woman". She sang "I am woman – hear me roar" throughout and ended with I am woman - I am invincible -I am strong -I am woman.

I always thought that to be a bit presumptuous in that we are the weaker vessel And we certainly aren't invincible!

EvE

3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he ^f did eat.

(f) Not so much to please his wife, as moved by ambition at her persuasion.

John Gill's commentary on EVE

that he might eat as well as she, and partake of the same benefits and advantages she hoped to reap from hence; for no doubt it was of good will, and not ill will, that she gave it to him; and when she offered it to him, it is highly probable she made use of arguments with him, and pressed him hard to it, telling him what delicious food it was, as well as how useful it would be to him and her. The Jews infer from hence, that Adam was with her all the while, and heard the discourse between the serpent and her, yet did not interpose nor dissuade his wife from eating the fruit, and being prevailed upon by the arguments used; or however through a strong affection for his wife, that she might not die alone, he did as she had done: **and he did eat;**

MacLauren puts it :The woman's more emotional, sensitive, compliant nature made her the first victim, and her greatest glory, her craving to share her good with him whom she loves, and her power to sway his will and acts, made her his temptress. 'As the husband is, the wife is,' says Tennyson; but the converse is even truer: As the wife is, the man is.

Artist: Helen Reddy from peak Billboard position # 1 for 1 week in 1972

-

I am woman, hear me roar
In numbers too big to ignore
And I know too much to go back an' pretend
'cause I've heard it all before
And I've been down there on the floor
No one's ever gonna keep me down again

CHORUS

Oh yes I am wise
But it's wisdom born of pain
Yes, I've paid the price
But look how much I gained
If I have to, I can do anything
I am strong (strong)
I am invincible (invincible)
I am woman

You can bend but never break me
'cause it only serves to make me
More determined to achieve my final goal
And I come back even stronger
Not a novice any longer
'cause you've deepened the conviction in my soul

CHORUS

I am woman watch me grow
See me standing toe to toe
As I spread my lovin' arms across the land
But I'm still an embryo
With a long long way to go
Until I make my brother understand

Oh yes I am wise
But it's wisdom born of pain
Yes, I've paid the price
But look how much I gained
If I have to I can face anything
I am strong (strong)
I am invincible (invincible)
I am woman
Oh, I am woman
I am invincible
I am strong

FADE

I am woman
I am invincible
I am strong
I am woman

Helen Reddy (I'm am woman) Nahor's wife, Deborah, Abigail, sarah, Eve Esther, Delilah, Jezabel

Esther was a young, beautiful, Jewish woman living in Persia. She was unknowingly thrust into one of the greatest stories of all time, due to a very strange turn of events. Esther proved to be a woman of unusual wisdom and courage, facing adversity and wickedness with a quiet confidence and grace. While God is not directly mentioned in this book, His hand and perfect timing are seen in every turn of events.

1 Peter 2:12 - Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by [your] good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Proverbs 9:9 - Give [instruction] to a wise [man], and he will be yet wiser: teach a just [man], and he will increase in learning.

1 Peter 3:15 - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Proverbs 15:1 - **A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.**

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 - **Your glorying [is] not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump**

⁷ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened [bread] of sincerity and truth.

A godly woman is a precious and priceless gift of God. A woman shapes the way people speak, behave and even influence others. What makes a woman influential in a lasting and God honouring way is not her position, education, personality or background. The basis of her lasting influence is her character ([Prov. 31:10-31](#)). A godly woman is the best kind of woman to have around. [Proverbs 31:30](#) says, “charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised”. A godly woman is a woman who knows God and fears Him. To fear God means to reverence and respect Him. If we could all grasp the importance of fearing God, this would sort out a lot of divisive quarrels. What kind of influence does a godly and God fearing woman have? A godly woman can influence the direction of an entire nation. Her influence begins in the home and then permeates throughout the life of the church and ultimately society. As a mother shapes the character of her children, they will grow up with an understanding and worldview that was primarily influenced by her. In this post we will observe three key areas in which a woman can have a powerful influence.

In the Home

A woman is granted a unique and influential role in the home. The home ought not to be viewed as a place of little or secondary importance ([Prov. 14:1](#)). Instead, the home ought to be viewed as a domain of joy, training and influence. If she is married, in the context of home life she has a particular role in relation to her own husband, namely submission ([Eph. 5:22](#); [Col. 3:18](#); [1 Pet. 3:1](#)), respect ([Eph. 5:33](#)), helping ([Gen. 2:18](#)) and being affectionate ([Titus 2:4](#)). If she has children, her role (with her husband) in relation to her children is to love them ([Titus 2:4](#)) and instruct them the Lord ([Prov. 6:20](#)).

In the Church

A woman also has an influential role in the church. In a way that only a woman can, she is able to teach other women the word of God ([Titus 2:3-5](#)). Also, when it comes to marriage and parenting, older women – seasoned in the word – are able to help the younger women with marital and parental advice ([Titus 2:4-5](#)). Men are very limited in the depth in which they can instruct ladies on such matters. But a seasoned woman in the word is a powerful influence in such areas. Though a woman cannot fill a position of authority or leadership in the church ([1 Tim. 3:1-7](#) and [Titus 1:5-9](#)), she still has an important role and influence in the church. In addition to the above-mentioned roles, she can sit on appropriate committees, teach in the appropriate contexts, give, serve, show hospitality, care for the afflicted and devote herself to godliness (cf. [1 Tim. 5:10](#)). A godly woman in a church is a valued and precious gift with an untold influence!

In the World

When it comes to a woman's influence in the world the sky is the limit. However, such an influence will never abandon who she is by God's design and what pleases the Lord. The level of value of her influence in society is not defined by positions of prominence (though it may include that), but by her faithfulness. She may influence society by faithful prayer, excellent work, training up faithful children and/or serving overseas as a faithful missionary (eg. Amy Carmichael and Mary Slessor). Her actions may be private or prominent and yet can still have great influence (cf. Rahab and Esther).

The importance and influence of a godly woman is priceless. To suggest that the biblical teaching on the role of a woman is limiting and demeaning is a reflection of an ignorant understanding. Instead of being deceived by worldly movements that promise a false "liberation", a godly woman will know who she is before God, and will respond by being what God requires of her. When this happens, it will influence the home, church and society for the glory of God.