

TOPIC: HOW TO PLEASE GOD & INFLUENCE PEOPLE – part 2

SONGS: Whom shall I fear?

These things are true of You

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes.

We are in a series entitled, ‘How to please God and influence people’.

So far we’ve found that it is impossible to even begin to please God unless we’ve been forgiven of our sin by receiving the Salvation Jesus died and rose again to give us. Saying we believe in God isn’t enough, though. According to Hebrews 11:6, to truly please God we must not only believe He exists, we must also believe that He will keep His promise to save us, give us eternal life, AND reward us if we diligently seek Him. When we choose to take this to heart, our efforts for Him will be pleasing AND they WILL make a difference for His Kingdom.

As Believers, we are called to do good works – not FOR our salvation but rather to demonstrate that we ARE saved. These works also show our gratefulness to God for what He has done for us.

God is quick to reward us for our works and for keeping His commandments. This pleases Him. These things take endurance but if we persevere, we’ll develop a spiritually mature character and reap a harvest of blessing.

Our works are not to be done just to benefit ourselves, but so that others will see what is done and Glorify God. This is where our influence for God comes into play.

Today, on Grace Notes, our host, Barbara Sandbek, will take a look at some Biblical characters whose influence made a great impact in their time.

‘Influence’ is defined as...

The capacity or power of persons to be a COMPELLING force on, or produce effects on, the actions, behavior and opinions of others.

Influence can be used for either good or evil. Adolf Hitler used his charisma to entice the masses to follow his diabolical plans and annihilate millions of people. Countless other famous individuals have used their charm to draw supporters to their cause.

To ‘charm’ means to delight or please greatly – to gain influence through the power of pleasing or attracting.

It’s ok to use charm as long as we use it for the Glory of God and to benefit others rather than ourselves.

This reminds me of the 30th verse in Proverbs chapter 31.

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who

fears the LORD is to be praised.

**Charm must be coupled with the fear of God to produce a good result.
We must acknowledge where our gifts and abilities come from. Then
with God's help, we can attract people and influence them for Him.**

**When we fear (or revere) God, we show Him and others that we trust
Him. We don't have to fear earthly foes. We CAN hold fast to His
promises because He keeps them.**

******* Writer: Chris Tomlin**

***** WHOM SHALL I FEAR *** Length: 4:17**

Verse 1

**You hear me when I call – You are my morning song
Though darkness fills the night – it cannot hide the light
Whom shall I fear?**

Verse 2

**You crush the enemy – underneath my feet
You are my sword and shield – though troubles linger still
Whom shall I fear?**

Chorus

**I know Who goes before me – I know who stands behind
The God of angel armies is always by my side
The One who reigns forever – He is a friend of mine
The God of angel armies is always by my side**

Verse 3

**My strength is in Your Name – For You alone can save
You will deliver me – Yours is the victory
Whom shall I fear – Whom shall I fear**

Repeat Chorus

Bridge

**And nothing formed against me shall stand
You hold the whole world in Your hands
I'm holding on to Your promises
You are faithful – You are faithful**

Repeat bridge

Repeat Chorus 2X

The God of angel armies is always by my side.

In studying women of the Bible I've noticed how much their lives influenced people in their day.

Let's go way back in time as we know it to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. We all know the result of Eve's influence over Adam. He chose to forget everything God told him and follow her suggestion to eat the forbidden fruit. Genesis 3:6 reads...

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Some say Adam knew what he was doing but didn't want to be without Eve since she had already partaken. This may well be true as God said only Eve was deceived. The point is – her great influential powers changed their lives forever. She charmed him into falling for a snake's suggestion.

Another negative influencer was Delilah, one of Samson's girlfriends. He was a Judge of Israel at the time and the strongest man in the world. Yet, he continually fell for her deceitful charm and her lies, to his final demise.

King Solomon was greatly influenced by his wives. 1 Kings 11:4 says...

As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.

The perfect example of a woman who used her charm for good, though, is Esther. Here's a recap of the story.

Esther was a Jewish woman living in Persia. The king of her province, Xeres, was disappointed with his queen, Vashti, because she refused to allow him to show off her beauty to his drunken guests. He divorced her and sought to find a suitable replacement by conducting a beauty contest. The Bible says Esther was fair and beautiful – she was charming - but in a good way. Esther pleased and won the favor of everyone who saw her. The King chose her to be his new queen. A situation presented itself that could have resulted in the annihilation of the Jewish people. Esther was in a position to influence the King since she had not divulged her race to him. What would she do? Proverbs 9:10a says...

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. Wisdom is needed in order to influence others for the good and for God. Esther feared God and called on her people to pray and fast for her. It was a difficult position to be in; knowing that she could be killed for entering the King's presence without an invite, but she chose to do

God's will. She used God's wisdom and her charm to convince the king to spare the Jewish nation.

There are so many other Biblical women we could cite, Jezabel, Abigail, Deborah, Sarah, Rebecca, Lydia. Why not check them out for yourself.

We are wired to want to make a difference. We can if we are living for Jesus and ascribing to know Him better each day. His character, His wisdom, and His beauty will shine through us and we can influence everyone in our path.

***** **WRITER: Tommy Walker**

***** THESE THINGS ARE TRUE OF YOU *****

**Unshakable, immovable,
Faithful and true
Full of wisdom,
Strength and beauty
These things are true of you**

**Fearless, courageous
Righteousness shines in all you do
Yet you're so humble
You laid down your life
These things are true of you**

**And as I turn my face to you
Oh Lord, I ask and pray
By the power of your love and grace
Make these things true of me too
Make these things true of me, too**

**Patient, compassionate,
Love flows thru you
You never give up on the hopeless ones
These things are true of you
Holy and blameless,
You stand up for justice and truth
Yet you love mercy and forgiveness
These things are true of you.**

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!