

How to Claim Your Place as a King's Daughter

"Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esth. 4:14).

When I stood at the front of Cornerstone Church, the church my husband pastors, and looked out at the 300 teenage girls who were attending our first Woman of God class, I was excited and frightened. This was one of the first times I had conducted a large teaching series, and I knew the Lord was counting on me to make a difference in these young girls' lives.

The series was inspired by the book of Esther. In my study of this book, I realized that when God positioned Esther to become the queen of Persia, she had to prepare herself to fulfill His call. "Why do we not prepare ourselves to follow God's call on our lives in the same way Esther did?" I wondered.

The result of this thought was a 12-class series at our church for young women 13 to 19 years old to equip them to become women of God. I expected 25 to 50 young women to register for the class. Instead, more than 300 girls flooded the registration tables.

During the series, mothers of the girls as well as other women began coming to the classes and sitting in the back of the room. So the next year I began a Woman of God class for women ages 21 to 100.

When I first faced this older group, I had the same queasy feeling I'd had with the younger women. I wanted these adults to grasp God's love for them and come to know who they are as daughters of the King. I asked the Lord, "Help me to minister to these women as Your servant. Help me to show them Your plans for them as Your beloved daughters."

The Lord answered my prayer. During the years these classes have been held, He has blessed the women in our church. Approximately 2,500 women have participated in the Woman of God teaching series.

What's the attraction? Why do women of all ages benefit so much from these classes on becoming a woman of God? Because they are learning that they have a divine identity, a divine destiny and value in God's eyes. Some of them are discovering their purpose and worth for the first time in their lives.

Divine Identity

When we accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we become daughters of the King and obtain the privilege and responsibility of representing Him in every area of our lives. However, we must claim that position before we can walk in it. I learned this truth through an experience I had a number of years ago.

In 1981, my husband, John, and I were invited to meet with Prime Minister Menachem Begin because of my husband's support of the nation of Israel. It was a special honor to meet the man God had used to form the Jewish state.

Naturally, I was very nervous. The devil took advantage of my condition by attacking my mind. "Who are you to meet with this head of state?" he demanded. "You are a hindrance to this meeting. You should not even be in the room."

As I considered his assessment, I became overwhelmed by a wave of insecurity and had difficulty breathing. I began to walk toward my husband to ask to be excused from the meeting.

Suddenly, I heard a voice in my mind that was louder than that of my accuser: "Why are you leaving something I have ordained?"

"Because I am not worthy to meet with such an important

person," I told the Lord. "I am about to meet with the leader of Israel!"

Immediately that same strong voice made a statement that changed my life forever: "And he is about to meet the King's daughter."

The wave of insecurity receded. I squared my shoulders, walked over to the prime minister, shook his hand firmly and introduced myself.

If you didn't know me at the time you can't comprehend the miracle of that moment. I had been bound by insecurity and low self-esteem for years. But when the Lord clearly confirmed my identity in the Spirit, I knew I would never be the same again—because I had taken my rightful place in the society of the kingdom of heaven. I was, and always will be, the King's daughter.

No matter what your age, it's not too late for you to claim this position in God's heart. We are all His daughters! And as a daughter of the King, you are:

- A joint heir with Jesus (Rom. 8:17)
- A fellow citizen with the saints (Eph. 2:19)
- The apple of your Father's eye (Deut. 32:10; Ps. 17:8)
- Beloved of God (Col. 3:12)
- Blessed (Deut. 28:1-13; Gal. 3:9)
- Qualified to share in Jesus' inheritance (Col. 1:12).

Don't allow the enemy to continue to hold you back from all God has for you. Accept your identity and begin to walk in it!

Divine Destiny

When you do, you will be on the path to fulfilling your destiny. Ephesians 1:4 says that every believer has a divine destiny determined by God from the foundations of the world, "that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."

And in Ephesians 1:17-19, the apostle Paul identifies another aspect of your calling: "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe."

But God also has a specific calling that you and you alone can fulfill. Esther is a good example.

Orphaned as a young girl, she became the ward of her relative Mordecai and was chosen along with many other beautiful young women to go to the palace and prepare to be considered by King Ahasuerus as his next queen. During the selection process, Esther obtained the king's favor, and he "set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen" in place of the former female monarch, Vashti (Esth. 2:17).

After Esther's coronation, Mordecai discovered a plot by the man next in power to the king to destroy their people, the Jews, and he encouraged Esther to appeal to the king in an attempt to save them. "Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" he told her. Ultimately, Esther received the king's favor once again and was able to convince him to repeal the decree sentencing the Jews to death. She truly had been called by God and placed in the palace at just the right time for just that purpose.

The Bible contains many other examples of how God uses women. God called Sarah to have Isaac when her womb was barren, to prove once and for all to humanity that "with God nothing will be impossible" (Luke 1:37) and to fulfill His promise to Abraham that he would be the "father of many nations" (Gen. 17:5; see also 12:2).

God called Ruth, a Gentile, to leave her country following the

death of her husband and accompany her mother-in-law, Naomi, to Naomi's homeland. Ruth's destiny was to marry Boaz, a wealthy man, and to be the mother of Obed, the great-great-grandfather of Jesus. God called Mary to submit her body, her life and her reputation to give birth to the Son of God, determining by her obedience the destiny of all mankind (Luke 1:31).

You, too, are an important person in the kingdom of God, and you were created for a purpose. This purpose will prevail in your life once you have surrendered yourself completely to His will (Prov. 19:21). When you are walking in it, your speech will bless those around you, your actions will strengthen your relationships, your prayers will move mountains, your character will influence others for Christ and you will bear much fruit as His disciple.

Value in God's Eyes

Psychologists say that we form opinions of ourselves early in our lives. These opinions are often developed by positive or negative experiences, by others' comments about us or by our perception of ourselves. Our society has given us role models that are bigger than life: fashion models, sports figures and movie stars. We evaluate our self-worth based on standards set by a world of which Christians are not a part.

Yet the image that the world presents does not exist. Why do we even try to attain it? Because we look at ourselves through the eyes of a secular society, not the eyes of a loving Creator. We need to learn to see ourselves as He sees us.

When I was about to marry my husband, I received an anonymous letter that declared I would ruin my husband's ministry because "as a Mexican-American I was a second-class citizen." The letter said that no one would come to our church because of who I was.

I was devastated! I decided I would not marry John for fear my accuser, the devil, was right. I'm thankful John finally convinced me the letter should be ignored! But it was not easy for me to overcome the sense of inadequacy I felt.

One Sunday, my husband preached a sermon on righteousness that set me free. He asked for a volunteer to come from the pews and stand in front of the altar facing him. Then he eloquently described a sinner saved by grace coming to the throne of God with a petition.

Instantly, he said, Satan comes to the throne and begins to recount all the sinner has done to bring shame and dishonor to the name of Jesus. Satan reminds the sinner of his unworthiness to receive anything good from God.

John then took a white robe and draped it over the shoulders of the person standing in front of him. He said: "Whenever a person comes to the throne of God, Satan begins to accuse him of all the sin he has ever committed. But the Father responds in His infinite wisdom, 'I see no fault in this man, only the pure white robe of My Son, Jesus. I see the goodness of My Son imparted to those who call themselves My children. I see the righteousness of My Son. I will grant him the desire of his heart.'"

I realized in that moment that God was not looking at the ugly person I saw myself to be. He could not see my imperfections and failures. Because I was clothed in the righteousness of Christ, He could see only the perfection of His Son.

It doesn't matter how you see yourself, on the inside or the outside. What matters is how God sees you. And to Him, you are beautiful. To Him, you are special because you were created as an extension of Him. And to Him, you are full of potential, a woman created to accomplish the works He preordained for you to do to expand His kingdom and bring Him glory.

You may think you need a sinless past, years of theological

training or a ministry license to become a woman of God and fulfill His call on your life. That's not true. But you will need to acknowledge your divine identity as a daughter of the King, to pursue your divine destiny and to see your value in God's eyes.

As difficult as it may be for you to believe, God made no mistakes when He formed you. You are beautiful to Him, and the more you believe this truth, the more beautiful and the more mature a woman of God you will become.

Read a companion devotional.

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