

The shape of the battlefield in any generation will be determined largely by what the women did in the preceding generation.

Many women will have bitter regret as they look back and consider the vows they didn't keep, the husbands they didn't support, the babies they didn't have, the children they didn't nurture, the Bible stories they didn't tell, the good works they didn't do, and the prayers they didn't pray.

We need to be busy so the shape of the battlefield in 2050 will be marked for Christ by our prayers today!

Logo Prayer Challenge 2007

Five Aspects of Woman Ministry

Renewed Call for Women to Pray

2007 marks the seventh year that we have distributed the Aspects Prayer Challenge. I cannot improve on the statement of our motive other than the one offered in previous years:

I do not believe there is any one thing that women can do to more glorify God, strengthen our nation, nurture our children, build up the church, expand missions, and fight the forces of evil than to pray for men in committed and persevering ways.

As in the previous years, I am challenging *Five Aspects* women to pray for 50 men 50 times during the year. I trust that those of you who have joined with me in this spiritual work have experienced, as I have, the blessing of answered prayer and the benefit of spiritual growth.

This is our fourth year to focus on great men of Scripture as models for our prayer petitions. This year we will focus on the men and times between Samson and Saul.

Tumultuous and Transitional Times

The time of Samson through the time of Saul (Judg. 13- 1 Sam. 31) was a tumultuous and transitional period for God's people. Three great institutions of God—the rule of the judges, the priesthood, and the monarchy—failed because the men appointed to these institutions failed.

The judges failed.

The period of the judges which began with so much promise for freedom and godliness ended in anarchy and moral chaos (Judg. 17-21). Samson began to deliver the people from the Philistines. But due to moral failure, he was unable to complete the job. Because of his immorality with Delilah, he was taken captive, blinded, and made a laughingstock.

While Samson killed many Philistines in his death, he and the judges before him failed to establish Israel in godliness.

The priests were corrupt. (1 Sam. 1-4)

Shiloh was the first home of God’s tabernacle and the first center for the feasts of the Lord in the land of Canaan. The godly came there to worship the Lord. However, Eli the priest and his sons failed to lead Israel in holy worship. Eli, as high priest, honored his corrupt sons more than God and did not reprove their immorality, their theft of God’s offerings, or their arrogance in taking the ark of God to war. As a result, God cursed Eli’s line and removed the priesthood from his family. Israel was defeated in battle by the Philistines, Eli and both his sons died in one day, the ark of God was lost, and Shiloh was abandoned forever as the site of God’s house.

The first monarchy ended in death and defeat. (1 Sam. 13:5-14; 15:7-23; 18:6-12; 28:4-25; 1 Sam. 31)

Saul, the first king of Israel, was handsome, brave, and a crowd-pleaser, but he lacked godly maturity and depth of character. After winning one victory for God, he rebelled against God, by seeking to usurp the priesthood, by making friends with God’s enemies, and by hating David, God’s choice as Saul’s successor. Saul ended his days oppressed by demons, and defeated in battle by the powerful Philistines.

What Is God Doing When Men Fail?

What is God doing when men are failing and his institutions are, apparently, crumbling? Even while God judges corrupt men, He works behind the scenes to raise up faithful men to work. Particularly in and through the lives of faithful women, God works to raise up other men, as we see in the book of Ruth and in 1 Samuel 1-4.

In place of Samson, God gives an Obed. Samson was the supernatural son of a barren couple. If Manoah and his wife lived to see the full outworking of Samson’s immorality and captivity, they were no doubt deeply grieved.

Obed was a “supernatural” son of redemption by the law of the kinsman redeemer (Ruth 4). He was set aside to be a restorer of life and a nourisher of old age from birth.

Young men who will lead for God

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Core Couples for the 21st century

As you observe couples that seem qualified to be future leaders, add them to this list. Of course, as God answers your prayers and men and women from the two lists above marry “wisely” then move them to the list below.

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A Prayer Strategy and Challenge for 2006-2016

What to Pray

This prayer campaign is dated 2006-2016 because we want to focus on Core Couples for the first half of the 21st Century. When we are specific in our requests to God, we can more readily see His answers!

Pray:

1. For prudent girls to continue to walk in wisdom.
2. For young men to rise up worthy of such women from God, particularly men who will lead for Christ in the next generation.
3. That many wise marriages will be consummated in the next 9 years (this is the second year of our ten year goal), between the future leaders and prudent young women especially suitable for them.

An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rottenness in his bones. Prov. 12:4

4. That these wise and potentially highly productive matches will not be set aside for worldly or fleshly reasons; that the destruction and incapacitation wreaked by foolish mates might be avoided. (How effective can one be with rotten bones?)
5. That these core couples will, in fact, be united and flourish, and that our future leaders will thereby be strengthened with the crown of excellent wives.

For whom should I pray?

List specific young men who have the capacity to be Christian leaders in the next generation. List specific young women who are seeking to be wise and godly. Pray for these people by name and for others as a group— “the future leaders,” “the prudent girls.” Pray against the world, the flesh, and the devil’s machinations. A foolish marriage can be contracted in a few weeks, with a lifetime of havoc and destruction. If you don’t think the enemy is interested in this, think again. On the other hand, well-matched pairs of godly men and prudent women are a power for decades and generations.

Ruth 4:14-15 Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵ He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, ...

In place of Eli, God gives a Boaz.

Eli was an old man, without courage or character (1 Sam. 2:22-29; 3:12-13). He allowed the sacred work of God to be polluted with theft and immorality. In contrast, Boaz was an older man of integrity and honor who would not rest until he had done God’s work God’s way (Ruth 3:18-4:10)

In place of Hophni and Phinehas, God gives a Samuel.

In the very precincts where Eli’s wicked sons stole the sacrifices of God and committed immoral acts, God raised up Samuel as a faithful priest and prophet.

1 Samuel 3:19-21 And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord.

In place of Saul, God gives a David. Saul was a king like all the other nations had. David was a king after God’s own heart. In place of a dynasty that was stillborn due to Saul’s sin, God provided the one dynasty that will endure forever.

1 Samuel 13:13-14 And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. ¹⁴ But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”

Pray for the Men God is Preparing!

If you find yourself discouraged when you see men failing and institutions apparently crumbling, consider that even now in our midst God is at work to glorify Himself and provide for future generations. Eli and Saul were high-profile leaders, known on a national level. But during the very years that Eli was squandering a priestly line, Boaz was redeeming the messianic family. While Hophni was stealing God's offerings, Samuel was faithfully speaking His words. While Saul was preening in human strength, David was training for supernatural service!

Boaz prayer: Pray for faithful older men who will use their wealth and position to bless the needy and re-establish families. (This prayer request is not to be taken as endorsement of the remarriage of the divorced. Ruth was truly a widow; her husband was dead.)

Obed prayer: Pray for God to raise up young men who will restore and nourish the life of the elderly. It is very likely that we will see great pressure for euthanasia in coming years as the large numbers of "baby boomers" enter their elderly years and need care. There may be few to give care because many in this generation have spurned having children and have lived selfishly. Pray for Obeds to stand in the gap.

Elkanah prayer: (1 Sam. 1) Pray for those hampered by poor choices. Elkanah was a God-fearing man who made foolish choices, destructive of the nuclear family. Divorce and remarriage saddle many men with unworkable family configurations today just as polygamy made Elkanah's home a war zone in his day. Yet Elkanah persevered in his worship of God, and God brought Samuel forth from his home ready to lead in the coming generation.

Samuel prayer: Pray for future pastors, teachers, and evangelists who, like Samuel, grow up in the midst of corrupt and apostate religion. Pray that they would learn from bad examples and not repeat them (Ezek. 18:14). When Samuel rose, Israel knew that there was a prophet in their midst. The words he spoke came true because he spoke the Lord's words. In the midst of many failures and defeats, Samuel led Israel in victory (1 Sam. 7:7-13), and he laid strong foundations for the future. He anointed David, to whom God would give the eternal dynasty, and he maintained a ministry of intercession for the nation his whole life.

The Arranged Marriages of God A Wisdom House Prayer Challenge

"The Arranged Marriages of God" Prayer Challenge was initiated last year in a limited edition. This year it is expanded and incorporated as a special focus in our overall prayer for men and as an investment in future generations of Christians.

*He who finds a wife finds a
good thing and obtains favor
from the Lord. Prov. 18:22*

*House and wealth are inherited
from fathers, but a prudent wife
is from the Lord. Prov. 19:14*

Proverbs reveal the ways of God

According to the book of Proverbs, God takes a special and direct hand in one kind of marriage more than any other. This special wedding is the giving of a prudent woman. God is sovereign over all. For example, He is sovereign over the transfer of money from one generation to another. However, according to Proverbs 19:14, He allows that to proceed under the providence of delegated authorities (fathers). But if a man gets a prudent wife, this is a gift so rare and valuable, he should know that she comes directly from God, *she is from the Lord. A man with such a wife obtains favor from the Lord.*

Shall we pray for the blessing or let the curse have its way? When God is angry with His people, He brings many judgments upon them, one of which is described in Psalm 78:63: *Fire devoured their young men, and their young women had no marriage song.* Generally, this curse is fulfilled when a nation is judged with military defeat and the number of young men is greatly reduced due to death in battle. But we can also see this curse because of decadence, immorality, and homosexuality. Young men don't marry because they are not manly enough to need wives.

Featured Men's Ministries

During the last six years of this prayer ministry for men, two specific ministries have arisen for which we would like to give thanks, and for which we would like to intensify and focus prayer.

Christian Disciple Makers

Christian Disciple Makers is a men's organization dedicated to building men as the spiritual leaders in their homes, churches, and communities. CDM is founded on a four-year systematic study of the Bible in combination with training in small group leadership, team building, and in the use of computerized teaching packages. CDM training is conducted within a structured seminar format where active participation is required and performance is evaluated by leaders and peers.

<http://www.christiandisciplemakers.com/>

CDM is founded by Col.(R) Jan Beer, and is centered in Columbus, Georgia. Col. Beer is Barbara Mouser's brother.

ICGS Iowa Team

God has raised up a team of men in Orange City, Iowa, who have responded to the teaching of the *Five Aspects of Man* with an eagerness to go farther with instruction and training. Pray for this group to continue to flourish in worship and as collaborators with Bill Mouser in planning future training for men and boys.

Who should I pray for?

Compose a list of 50 men (or 25 if that is better for you)—men in your family, in your church including pastor and elders, fathers and sons, men in other churches, theologians, publishers, missions leaders, men in government, men in the military, lay men, young men, and boys.

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