

Biblical Study Guide

for

God's Gift to Women

Note from Eric:

I have prepared this basic study guide for those who would like to examine the Biblical basis for this book a little closer. I have chosen the seven major themes used throughout the writing of *God's Gift to Women*, and have provided commentary and Biblical references for each of them. Some of the material here deserves a twenty-page study guide of its own. Please forgive the brevity. If you have a hunger to take this even deeper, I've included a brief recommended reading list at the end of this document that I'm certain will infuse your spiritual life with the purest heavenly fuel. May God bless your pursuits of His majesty.

Theme#1

Warrior Poet Manhood

The Bible is chock full of great pictures of manhood. One of my favorite displays of manhood is found in the book of Job. If you read the book of Job just to witness Job's manhood, it is quite an inspiring journey. But the chapter that really packs a wallop is Job 29. In the context, you don't naturally focus on Job's manhood, but if you read it with that thought in mind it is extremely powerful. It is quite a demonstration of a warrior poet in the making!

Reading the Song of Solomon with the idea of viewing how a Christ-built man should tenderly and affectionately love a woman is also a great heart-stirrer. David, the psalmist King, is by far the most perfect enunciation of warrior poet manhood, outside of Christ. Read about him as a warrior in the books of 1st and 2nd Samuel, as well as 1st Chronicles, and then discover him as the world's most amazing poet in the book of Psalms.

Following are some of my other favorites: 2 Samuel 23 (David's Mighty Men), Judges 6-7 (story of Gideon), Acts 16-28 (Acts of Paul the Apostle), Revelation 19:11-16 (Christ the Warrior King).

Theme#2

The Brotherhood

The Brotherhood is the term I chose to use to describe the world's deceitful male education system. The Bible describes this deception in many different ways: Satan, the devil, Belial, accuser of our brothers, ancient serpent, father of lies, evil one, power of darkness, and even the spirit that works in the children of this world. Long and short, as it says in 1st Peter 5:8, Satan continually seeks to defeat the divine plans of grace toward mankind. The Brotherhood is the voice of deception, the power of darkness working to destroy everything of God.

The Brotherhood is the twister of Truth. Back in the Garden of Eden, Genesis Chapter 3, the ancient serpent first appears, revealing his historical objective – to twist the words of God and therefore pollute the souls of God's children. The Bible is loaded with references to his crafty and wily antics to gain sway over the hearts and minds of men. (2nd Corinthians 11:3; Job 1:13-22; 2:7-10; 1 Chronicles 21:1, Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:13; Luke 4:1-13; John 14:30; and John 13:2,27 are some of the most notable references.)

Theme#3

Counterfeiting Truth

Satan's goal is to twist Truth to the point where it loses its efficacy. Throughout history he has created counterfeits; twisted versions of God's originals. From Cain's offering in Genesis 4, to today's counterfeit versions of Christianity, Satan's goal has always been the same – to pattern something that looks, sounds, and smells similar to God's Truth on the outside, but on the inside is wholly and completely different.

The Bible's infamous counterfeiters are all carefully cloaked in seemingly harmless outfits: the self-righteous Pharisee, the false prophet, the false apostle, the false Christ, the hypocrite, the angel of light, and the wolf in sheep's clothing. But though they seem harmless on the outside, they are some of Satan's most dangerous weapons in the world. The Bible is loaded with anti-counterfeit sentiment. Let's look at a smattering of it:

Christ's thoughts on Pharisees: Matthew 23; Luke 9:37-44; Matthew 16:1-6; Matthew 21:33-46

Christ's opinion of hypocrites: Matthew 6; Matthew 15:1-9; Matthew 22:1-22

Pharisee's treatment of God's Truth: Luke 7:30; Matthew 15:12; John 7:48

Christ's thoughts on false representatives of Himself: Matthew 24:4-14, 23-25; Mark 13:6,21-23

Paul's thoughts on false Gospel representatives: 2 Corinthians 11:12-15

The Bible is clear that a counterfeit of the Truth is not the Truth. It's an enemy against the Truth. The Bible warns us to beware of all that masquerades as Truth, because it's a trap meant to disable the transforming power of Truth in our hearts and minds. One of my favorite passages of Scripture that speaks to the emptiness of counterfeit Christianity is 1st Corinthians 13:1-3. We can do all the right things on the outside, but if the Life and Love of Christ haven't transformed our soul inside, then all we do is empty and hollow in the eyes of God.

Theme#4

Self

Self is an active concept in the Bible and in each of our lives. Self, described in its most simplistic term, is you and I. Self is our power to control our life and to make choices. Self (or you and I) was designed by God to be ruled by God, and was never meant to be a ruler. Self (you and I) was built to obey, it was not intended to be the one giving orders. Self (you and I) was crafted by God to be the ultimate servant, the perfect friend and companion of God, but something went terribly wrong. In Genesis 3, Satan clothed in his serpent's leathery costume, whispered to Self, offering Self godlike status if it would but sit on the soul's throne meant only for God. Adam's Self and Eve's Self both chose, by overruling God's commands with their own desire, to sit on the sacred throne of God within their souls and thus Sin was born. Self usurped God's position. The Gospel message offers the only hope to this Self-ruled condition – it offers us the key to unlock us from the rulership position of our soul and frees us to step down and give the controls back to God.

Throughout the Bible, it is made clear that there are only two ways of living life – with Self on the throne of the soul or with God on the throne of the soul. In 2nd Corinthians 5:15 Paul clarifies that the purpose of Christ's sacrificial death was to enable a new King to rule in the soul of man. Paul said, "*And he (Jesus) died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves (their Self) but for him who died for them and was raised again.*" When Self is on the throne of our soul it produces all sorts of very bad things:

1. **Self-righteousness** – the delusion that we have made ourselves good enough for God without the assistance of God. (Isaiah 64:6, Jeremiah 2:13, Jeremiah 2:34-35, Matthew 9:10-13, Proverbs 30:12-13, Romans 10:3, 2 Corinthians 10:17-18, Job 32:1-2, Job 33:8-9, Luke 18:9-14, John 9:39-41)
2. **Selfishness** – seeking to gratify your own personal needs above everyone else's, including God's. (2 Corinthians 5:15, 2 Timothy 3:2-4, Zechariah 7:6, Proverbs 28:27, James 2:15, Philippians 2:21)

3. **Self-exaltation** – placing your life's value as higher than everyone else's, including God's. (2 Thessalonians 2:4, Luke 14:7-11, Proverbs 25:27, Proverbs 27:2, Zephaniah 3:11, Galatians 6:3, Ezekiel 31:10, Obadiah 3)
4. **Self-confidence** – assurance that you, in and of yourself, are perfectly capable of success without others and without God. (Isaiah 5:21, Proverbs 28:26, Romans 2:17-20, Galatians 6:3)
5. **Self-indulgence** – feeding our appetites, giving ourselves everything we want or desire (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11, Luke 12:16-20, Luke 16:19-25)
6. **Self-will** – unwilling to yield the throne of your soul to Truth (Psalm 32:9, 2 Chronicles 30:8, Psalm 75:5, Acts 7:49-51)

Yet when we allow God to rule our life from the throne of our soul, everything that is good and pleasing to God is produced:

1. **Self-Control** – evidence that Christ has gained rulership of our soul. When the Spirit of God becomes master of our life, Self is no longer the controlling power, and it is now controlled by God. No longer does Self feed its appetite and exalt itself above others, but it is now humbly submitted to the person of Christ, bowing before His mighty reign. (Galatians 2:20, Galatians 5:23-24, Galatians 6:14, Romans 6:6, Proverbs 25:28, Acts 24:25, Titus 2:12,)
2. **Selflessness** – seeing the needs of God and of others as more important than your own personal needs. (Philippians 2:4-8, 1 Corinthians 9:18-19, Romans 15:1-5, 1 Corinthians 10:24)
3. **Self-denial** – obeying the wants and desires of God rather than following after Self's wants and desires. (Philippians 3:7-9, Acts 20:24, Acts 21:13, Matthew 10:37-39, Matthew 16:24-25, Luke 14:33, Revelation 12:11, Romans 8:12-13, Romans 13:14, Colossians 3:5, Genesis 22:12, Luke 5:11)
4. **Self-examination** – a constant watchfulness of the soul, making sure that Self is not allowed to creep back onto the throne of your soul. (Psalm 4:4, Haggai 1:7, 1 Corinthians 11:28, 1 Corinthians 11:31, 2 Corinthians 13:5, Galatians 6:4, Lamentations 3:40, Job 13:23, Psalm 26:2, Psalm 139:23, Matthew 18:8)
5. **Self-discipline** – daily and moment by moment yielding to the rule, the wisdom, the Truth, and the authority of Christ in our life. (1 Corinthians 9:27, 1 Peter 4:1, Romans 6:12-14, 2 Timothy 1:7)

Theme#5

Crossing the sacred threshold of obedience

When we submit our Self to the kingly rule of Christ, the natural result of that decision is to begin obeying Him. We are used to being in control of our life, so it is a bit strange at first bending our will to His. But obedience is the beautiful hallmark of a Christ-ruled existence (1 John 2:3). An obedient life is also evidence of our love for Him (John 14:15). Obedience is a statement of ownership - we are slaves to either sin or God depending on which one garners our obedience (Romans 6:16, Matthew 6:24). The Bible is loaded with great passages about the significance of obedience. Following are a few of my favorites: Genesis 22 – the story of Abraham and Isaac, Joshua 24:14, James 1:22-25, John 14:21, 1 John 2:5-6, and John 15:10-14.

Theme#6

Preparation for Covenant

There are so many things that can soil us and stain us, and that hinder us from intimately sharing our life with Christ. In Hebrews 12:1 the writer states, *“let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles . . .”* In any relationship, whether it be with a friend, a family member, or even a lover, there are things that can creep into the relationship that make it difficult for the relationship to grow (i.e. - lies, harsh words, and unforgiveness, just to name a few). In our relationship with Christ, it is the same. When we have undealt-with sin lingering in our life, it creates a spiritual rift between us and our Lord. The Bible says that if anything is hindering us in our spiritual growth we

should ruthlessly cut it out of our life (Matthew 5:29-30). To enter a covenant is a serious business - especially to enter a covenant with our God. Communion is the most common reflection on covenant that we have in our day-to-day Christian lives. It's a reminder of our covenant with God. In 1st Corinthians 11:27-30 Paul warns of the serious nature of our covenant with Christ and warns that *"a man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."* Following is a list of scriptures that will help illustrate the importance of self-examination, forgiveness, and confessing sins prior to sharing in covenant intimacy with Christ: Matthew 5:22-24, Matthew 6:15, James 5:16, 1 John 1:8-10, Psalm 26:2, Psalm 139:23, Matthew 18:8)

Theme#7

The Covenant Life

What Jesus Christ came to earth to give us was more than a mere covering for our sins, He came to impart to us His very Life – a Life that will free us from the tyranny of sin, the deluded rulership of Self, and enable us to follow in His sacred footsteps. The Covenant Life is the term I use to describe His imparted Life to us. Jesus said, *"The Kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:21)."* Paul said, *"Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:25-29)."* Throughout the New Testament this new imparted Life is discussed. It's a Life that lives as Self is denied (Romans 8:12-13). It's a Life that flows out of utter dependence on Christ as a branch relies on a vine to supply it with life giving sap (John 15). Probably my favorite scripture on the Covenant Life is Paul's statement to the Galatians, in Galatians 2:20 – *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* Following are a list of scriptures that powerfully illustrate the Covenant Life God desires to impart to us: John 15: 1-8, John 3:3-8, Romans 6:1-14, Matthew 10:37-39, Matthew 16:24-25. Some great scriptures that enunciate the importance of protecting this life and the message of this life are 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, 2 Timothy 2:20-24, 2 Timothy 1:13-14, 2 Timothy 3:14 to 4:5.

To take it even deeper:

Recommended Reading List

They Found the Secret by V. Raymond Edman

The Pursuit of God by AW Tozer

Power of the Spirit by William Law

The Divine Conquest by AW Tozer

The Complete Works of Oswald Chambers by Oswald Chambers

Christian in Complete Armor by William Gurnall

The Apostle's Inner Life by Andrew Murray

Abide in Christ by Andrew Murray

Of God and Men by AW Tozer