

## WONDER WOMAN

I come from a long line of “doers” among whom what you did was more important than who you are. That would never have been voiced, of course, but the fact remains that what could be accomplished (something visible) during any period of time was the goal. To sit and do nothing was almost impossible and bordered on the shameful. Even though I know now what prompted that compulsion, I still have to work on the emotional impact of letting go of it: “Being” instead of “doing”. The ironic thing is that no matter how much or how hard I can/do work, there is always more to do....I never really finish. I could never achieve my goal....the bar is set so high (by myself) that I can never reach it. A vicious circle is created where the goal isn't reached (whatever that might be) so you work harder (setting the bar higher) which, in turn, causes the goal to be unmet once again. Wow! Talk about a recipe for disaster! Around and around I go in my performance mentality; trying to achieve something; a goal that is unidentified and certainly unattainable. Jesus had me in mind when He said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your soul. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matt.11:28-30 He knew what kind of burdens I would pick up and try to manage all by myself and they certainly weren't the ones He designed a special yoke for....one He helped me carry!

Our Mother's Day message at church this year was based on Proverbs 31: 10-31 which is a vivid word picture of an “ideal” woman who I like to call “Wonder Woman”: “She gets up while it is still dark; (vs.15) and, “...her lamp does not go out at night.” (vs.18) This woman's life was the inspiration for the term “super-mom”. Amazing....and, impossible. One commentary I read says “...she may not be one woman at all---she may be a composite portrait of “ideal” womanhood. Do not see her as a model to imitate in every detail; your days are not long enough to do everything she does! For those of us with a performance mentality, who are compelled to do, do, do and not ever just rest in God's presence, we need to focus on the process of “being transformed” into that woman God wants us to be. The “burdens” we carry are many times those of trying to be someone that God never meant us to be instead of letting Him fashion a “yoke” that fits us personally and that He carries with us. Sometimes we are unduly influenced by what others think we should be or do, again taking on a burden we're not meant to bear. Should we strive to learn from this Proverbs 31 woman? Absolutely! The commentary quote goes on to say: “See her instead as an inspiration to be all you can be.”

Prov.31:28, 30 "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her; Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."

For me it is absolutely true that the most important part of a mother's life is for her children to have their own relationship with the Lord and are "safe" in the eternal sense. As mothers, we work from the time our children are born to protect them from dangers from every direction. They get hurt or have accidents anyway, but scabs heal. The blessing of children serving the Lord is without comparison.

The bottom line, though, is the motivation behind all we do and who we are as women, as mothers. "A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." (vs.30) The relationship we have with Christ, loving Him and serving Him, is what should drive us in everything we attempt and or any goal we set. Love for Him, love for our husbands, love for our children....that's what drives us and is summed up in I Corinthians 13:1-3 "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing." Serving God comes out of loving Him and that is the best example we can gain from the Proverbs 31 woman; her love for God. "Many woman do noble things, but you surpass them all. Give her the reward she has earned." (vs.29, 31)