



Michael Favor Adomako II

How I Got Saved

Michael Favor Adomako is a part of the Gospel music evangelistic duo Willie and Mike aka the Fire Worshippers. They have travelled extensively around the world ministering in music and winning souls for Christ. They share a special relationship with FFMI in pursuing the kingdom agenda!

When I was 9 years old, I used to doubt in my heart that God existed and often questioned my faith, as I suffered from a chronic asthmatic condition. Did God really exist? One day, I was terribly ill and could not go to school. I shut myself up in a room and said "God I want to see you, if you truly exist, heal me from this attack of asthma." Suddenly, I felt the room so heavy, I was terrified. I felt so weak and drowsy and sleepy...and fell into a trance. In the trance, I found myself near a river with a man clad in all white attire holding my right hand. He sat me on a stone and started narrating to me all the mischievous acts I had been engaged in for all my years alive. I felt very guilty and started to shed tears. Angrily, I asked; "Is that why you are punishing me with this sickness?" He responded, "NO". He then showed me the scar in his hand and I suddenly heard many voices like a crowd repeating in unison "By my stripes you are healed" over and over again. Suddenly, a flash of light separated the two of us and I came back to my senses. As I came to, I realized that I was lying helplessly on a hospital bed at Asawase a suburb of Kumasi- a city in Ghana, West Africa. I saw myself surrounded by family; uncles, aunts, neighbors, a doctor and supporting medical staff. Seeing me stirring, they begun to jubilate and shout in joy. I heard shouts of "Thank God, Kofi is back to life..." I narrated my strange encounter to my mother and others.

At the age of 12 years, I had another encounter with Christ and begun from that time to preach to friends and anyone that would lend me audience. I preached at dawn, in the markets, in school wherever there was an audience. That dreaded chronic asthma that made my life miserable has to date never reoccurred! Praise the Lord! It's sheer FAVOR! Today many of my converts are pastors, evangelists, and worship leaders. For the past 20 years since I dedicated my life to Christ, there has been no regret. As you read this article, I pray a divine encounter for your life too and challenge you to surrender your life to Jesus Christ-he will NEVER fail you. It has worked marvelously for me and will do same for you too. Jesus is real and he is Lord.



THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

Volume Four



Rejection

KAYANA JAMES

REJECTION

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rage and irritation, but out of patience and humbleness. Just as we teenagers do not like to get rejected or have the feeling of being rejected, we should not reject other individuals, just as God never rejects us.

Sometimes being rejected can hurt to the point where we use our past mistakes and experiences to block us from our future. No more excuses! We have to stop fearing rejection because God will not reject us and that is what is important. In Matthew 20:1-16, the parable of the workers in the vineyard confirms that God is a never changing God. It explains that a vineyard owner was looking for workers and when he found some, he told them what they would earn at the end of the day. The vineyard owner would walk out the vineyard and see men standing around the market place and hire them. Even at the 11th hour he hired men to work, although the work day ended at the 12th hour i.e. 6pm.. The men who worked since the morning and the men who came later, received the same amount of pay because that is what was promised.

This parable shows us that no matter what our past looks like, God welcomes us with open arms to receive of him. It is never too late to come to him or be accepted and appreciated by Him. Others may query, oppose, murmur or be vexed at His acceptance of and reward to you but God remains faithful and true to his word and invitation in Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest". No matter the struggle and difficulty we face daily, we have to cope with rejection, because whether you are doing good or bad, some individuals will continue to put you down and bash you. By God's grace we will get through harsh times. Rejection is simply a passing phase. God will never reject us, He is not a man that will lie, but He is God who remains faithful.

What is rejection? Rejection is simply the state of being rejected, and rejected means refusing to accept someone or something. We teenagers have watched stars on TV with flashy cars, big houses, nice clothes etc., thinking in the back of our minds, "When I grow up, I want to have all of that and more." We have trained our minds to think if you have all the money in the world and the pleasures that come with it that you would have succeeded in life.

Many teenagers are forcing themselves to fit in with society's idea of living, dressing, and acting instead of creating their own identities because they are afraid of rejection. No one likes being rejected because not only is it embarrassing, it is also hurtful. So, we tend to put on an act to please others that put us in certain situations that make us feel and think fast money, gangs, drugs, liquor, fighting, fornicating, and etc. are normal, okay and even cool. In reality, we are hurting ourselves by trying to fit in with people who have bad

influences on us.

In Genesis 21:8-18 the Bible says Abraham's wife Sarah said that she wanted Hagar and Ishmel gone. Although Abraham did not want them to go, he listened to God and sent them packing and on their way. Hagar and Ishmel having no idea of what they had done wrong, left and walked through the desert. While they sobbed, God was there to comfort them. An Angel said to Hagar, "God has heard the boy crying...I will make him into a great nation." Even though they were being rejected by Sarah, another human being, God who holds our lives in his hands, did not reject them. Being rejected by "friends", teachers, family and society, always can be tough but if you have faith in God and know that he has not rejected you, you will be fine!

Rejection is a part of life, and although many will not realize it, many people go through it. In 8th grade, throughout the school day, I would get called names and get teased because

society classified me as having a "5 finger" forehead. At first, I thought laughing with those making fun of me would let them know that I did not care, but after a while, I became angry. My classmates would draw pictures that made my head look disproportional and it hurt me. I tried fitting in any way I could. I always had braids straight back, but I decided to get front bangs. No matter what, I was determined to wear bangs to school. It was to the point where even if my bangs were frizzy, I would wear them because I thought I had to hide my forehead. I look back now and laugh because I currently go to the mirror and say, "Wow, I am beautiful," with my bangs held back and I thank God. He gave me confidence and the mindset to know whenever others will reject me and turn their back on me, He never will.

As children of God, we should not try to live to please others, but instead know that we live for God alone. We have to take note that we cannot deal with rejection out of anger,

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WHO WE ARE?

FFMI is a multiethnic and multicultural church. We exist to disciple Christians and fit them for the master's use irrespective of race, tribe or culture.

"There comes a point in your life when you realize Heaven and Hell are real. You come to a sense of realization and ask yourself where do you want to go?"

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THE MEASURE OF Faith

Bro Julius

Hebrews -11:1 "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see

God has dealt to every man the measure of faith. Do you think maybe God gave you a smaller measure of His Faith than he gave anyone else? God is not a respecter of Persons. The measure you were given when you received Jesus as Lord was enough to cause you to be born again and enough to bring victory over anything the world can throw at you.

Faith is a gift and the giver is God .Ephesians 2:8-'For by Grace we are saved through faith and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God'. God has given us this measure of faith to sustain us in this life and is there to be used in our daily lives.

One of the essentials of the Christian walk in building your Faith is the need to attend church (have Christian fellowship) regularly so that we can

be taught the word of God (Hebrews 10:25).The Bible says 'Faith comes by hearing of the word of God.

Being at FFMI you will be taught the Word of God and the word of God will produce Faith in your heart. There is no other source of faith apart from the word of God. When you are filled with God's word your faith is built up and comes up strong. Like any other force, the application of faith produces the fruit or benefit. 'Faith without works is dead (James 2:14-20)

As we eat physical food, our bodies turn that food into strength, that strength in the body then is applied to fulfill a particular function. The same is true with faith, the spirit man consumes food (i.e. God's word), and that spirit food produces Faith.

We all have a promise from the Lord concerning our Lives, we need the very Faith to access what God has for us.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:6

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Seeking divine direction?

Life has always been a mystery with tough unresolved questions. Today, the tough socio-economic state of our world further complicates matters. People are looking for solutions to their problems by turning to the spiritual realm to find answers to physical issues and questions. A common cliché in the charismatic bloc today is the oft used and abused "spiritual direction". The phrase speaks of the inherent desire of man to gain insight or advantage in life by seeking what is on the mind of God concerning his/her life. Man has dual components of humanity and divinity in his personality. Seeking divine/spiritual direction is the believer's acknowledgement that God controls the affairs of men and that He is the author and finisher of our faith. In this article, we opt for the phrase divine direction because what is spiritual is not necessarily divine-there are two dimensions to the spiritual world, what is of God and what is of the enemy. Unfortunately many people seeking spiritual guidance in their life's journey end up confused, misled and rather uncertain about which way to turn. Man needs God to provide a road map for his success. The bible describes God as our caring shepherd guiding us to the right paths, pastures and resting places- Psalm 23. In Jeremiah 10:23 we are reminded that "The way of man is not in himself. It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps." The bible is the authority on spiritual direction. As Isaiah 55: 8-11- "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so

God has the road map for each and every one of us. He knows exactly where to take us. He knows the minute details of our lives. He has the blue print for our whole life already. We do not have to ask Him to put a new plan for our lives. All we have to do it just fit in His plans for our lives. Jeremiah 29:11, 'For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope'. The problem arises when we try to create and determine our own paths devoid of his input. God does his work step by step, precept by precept and though He knows the end from the beginning, He does not tell you the destination right away. All He wants you to do is take one step at a time because He orders each step. 'The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way' -Ps 37:23. He brings order to every step in the process of our lives. In Proverbs 16:9, we find that "a man's heart plans his way but the Lord directs his steps". You plan i.e. deliberately strategize a process that will bring your goals to pass but trust the Lord to provide oversight and lead in that endeavor. Understand that everything around you revolves around process and takes time. You might be in Canaan but have to battle one step at a time to see the promises of God fulfilled. Exodus 23:30 "Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land". We cannot bypass process though we live in a generation that finds waiting tedious and unnecessary. The word of God is unchanged and Isaiah reminds us that those that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, mount on wings, run and not get weary, walk without fainting. It takes a heart that understands the precepts and instructions of the Lord to do that. Knowing our penchant for unnecessary pressure and building anxiety over nothing, Paul stresses that we need the wisdom of the Lord. We worry about irrelevant things which may never happen and get our hackles up over things that are totally unnecessary. In Matthew 6: 25-34, Jesus cautions against anxiety and fretting. He states that we are provided for by our father and need to eschew all worry. He notes that even sparrows are accounted for and watched over by the Father. Paul echoes these sentiments in Philippians 4:6-8. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Meditate on These Things... Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. As children of faith, we know that the Just shall live by his faith and not by what he sees. May I suggest a few steps towards receiving God's wisdom? Acknowledge that God has the answer Proverbs 2:6, Pray James 1 :5 i.e. communicate to God about the situation- whatever it might be, have faith in Him to guide you- surrender it to Him Proverbs 4:18, Act upon your faith James 2 :17 and please check to see whether the direction you receive is in accordance with his instructive word- James 3 :15-17.

prayer life. Prayer is communication with God freely and if we come to Him, he will direct us by his word- Psalm 119:136. His word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path- Psalm 119: 105. His word reveals his heart and contains written instruction, revelatory power and personal direction as we seek Him. The word is only understood by the voice and ministry of the Holy Spirit who was the inspiration and co-author of the 66 books written in our bible. Listen for the voice and promptings of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah 30:21 says, "Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it." Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left". Jesus says in John 10:27 'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me'. We need to fine tune our spiritual ears all the time so that we can hear Him. We are called to walk by faith and not by sight. The just shall live by his faith. Paul in Hebrews 11 defines faith in verse 1 and states that it's the principal element that pleases God without which no man can gain his approval-verse 6. The bible stresses the importance of seeking Godly counsel. Proverbs 11:4 buttresses the point that seeking Godly advice from different sources is important. Plans, Solomon stresses in Proverbs 20:18 are established by seeking advice and in our daily lives we need it. Isaiah 11:2 confirms that the seven parts of the spirit of the Lord has the spirit of counsel, wisdom, understanding, knowledge and fear of the Lord. The importance of a mentor/ father figure cannot be discounted. Isaac's blessing makes Jacob, Eli's direction helps Samuel identify God's voice, and Isaac re-digs the wells of Jacob to come into his blessing. Moses' mantle makes Joshua as Elijah's makes Elisha. The counsel of a predecessor, forerunner with experience can be a difference maker as you seek divine direction. Visions and dreams are also very important. They provide a window into the supernatural and allow the ordinary man to access mysteries of another realm. The bible is replete with stories about prophetic dreams and visions from Joseph to Job to Daniel. Genesis 37:5, 40:16-17, 46:2. Also Daniel 2:1, 19; Matthew 2:12, 27:19 and Job 4:12-17, 33:14-18 all refer. Finally seeking the face of God via diligent study of his word, prayer and fasting can unlock divine direction, Isaiah 40:31. Finally, let me note that we can receive divine direction from folks around us through whom God will speak. Confirm the veracity of the message/direction by the word of God and seek God's face for divine confirmation on the word received. Also note that Men of God anointed and appointed by God in whatever ministerial calling-apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists or pastors provide direction on the intentions and purposes of God for your life. Saul would never have become king but for his encounter with Samuel, 1 Samuel 9&10. I will also urge you, child of God to build a consistent lifestyle with and in God. He is a God of prayer but also likes patterns. If you build a pattern of meeting with Him at specific times he will be there at the place and time that you need Him to be. The Jews maintained a specific hour of prayer and it was a time when God's visitation would come. They would assemble at the temple at that time to pray and God would be there to meet them. Elijah in 1 Kings 17:1 declares that he stands in the presence of God i.e. remains in the continued presence of God, he lived on earth but maintained a consistent patterned relationship based prayer/spiritual life in the Lord. When he engaged the prophets and adherent of Baal on Mount Carmel in 1 Kings 18:36, the bible notes that he waited till the time of the evening sacrifice to make his move i.e. pray for fire to fall. Having built that habitual pattern he knew when, where and how to gain heaven's attention and maximize that which he sought from the Lord. God is not an occasional acquaintance or fair weather buddy; he is there at all times and we must build up our relationship with Him to the point that we easily pick up his signals to us and thence gain our spiritual direction.

From Genesis 1:27, we find that THE WOMAN LIKE THE MAN IS CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE. Neither was made more in the image of God than the other, so we cannot say that because the man was created first he is more like God than the woman. We are not an inferior breed. Women also are a reflection of God's glory, His love, patience, forgiveness, kindness, faithfulness among other qualities. You should then not let anyone make you feel like a second class citizen just because you are a woman. God did not exalt one and depreciate the other.

Proverbs 31:30 teaches us that THE GODLY WOMAN FEARS THE LORD- "Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised". The key to this woman's success and effectiveness is not her beauty or charm but her fear of the Lord. She reverences the Lord and exalts him above all else. Her priorities are determined by God's will, not her own and she is concerned about what God thinks of her rather than with what other people think. This woman does not depend on beauty and charm for her success. She recognizes her need for God. That is not to say as godly women we should pay no attention to outer beauty. The Proverbs 31 woman is "clothed in fine linen and purple." It means she has high standards and dresses properly for the occasion. She carries herself with dignity and beauty.

The GODLY WOMAN IS AUTHORITATIVE (HAVING POWER, DOMINATION, CONTROL OVER SOMETHING) YET SUBMISSIVE. Her authority stems from Genesis 1:26, 28. That authority was given to us by God at creation. We have the power to exercise control over our surroundings and even over our bad habits. Ephesians 5:22-24 tells us to submit to our husbands. Submission is a touchy issue for everyone but especially for married women, because submission has been associated with weakness. Modern women who are educated and feel too liberated do not want to submit. Women's movements and Feminist

There are many schools of thought on how a Christian woman should behave. Men have their own expectations of us and some women have their own expectations of other women. Most men love to stop at the "be submissive" part, whereas Modernism and Feminism teaches us that we are equal to men or perhaps even superior. How then is a Christian woman to navigate between these two seemingly opposing stands? Most of us use the profile of the Proverbs 31 woman as the ideal of godly womanhood and from her we learn that the godly woman can be submissive as well as courageous, industrious, wealthy and wield authority.

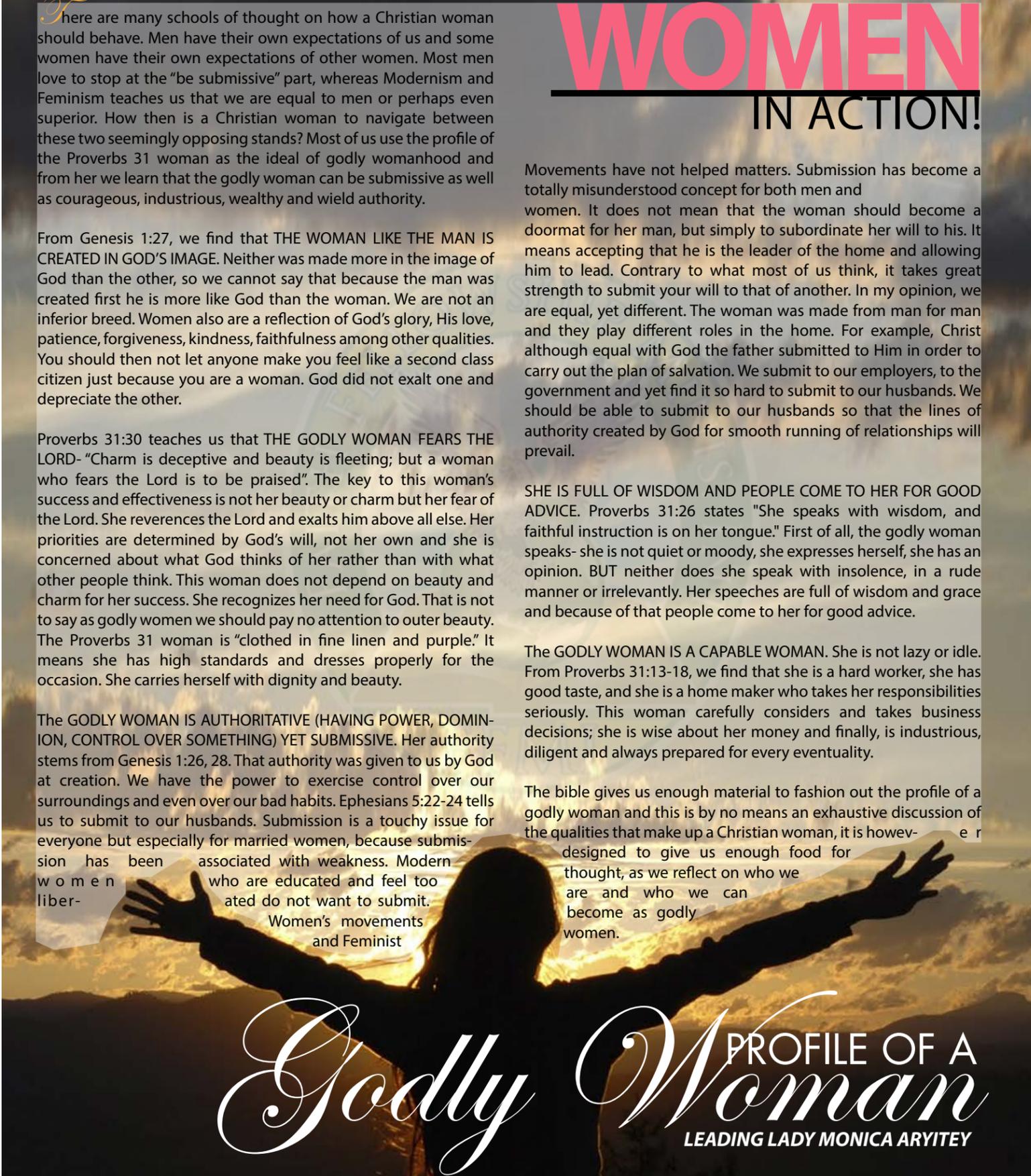
WOMEN IN ACTION!

Movements have not helped matters. Submission has become a totally misunderstood concept for both men and women. It does not mean that the woman should become a doormat for her man, but simply to subordinate her will to his. It means accepting that he is the leader of the home and allowing him to lead. Contrary to what most of us think, it takes great strength to submit your will to that of another. In my opinion, we are equal, yet different. The woman was made from man for man and they play different roles in the home. For example, Christ although equal with God the father submitted to Him in order to carry out the plan of salvation. We submit to our employers, to the government and yet find it so hard to submit to our husbands. We should be able to submit to our husbands so that the lines of authority created by God for smooth running of relationships will prevail.

SHE IS FULL OF WISDOM AND PEOPLE COME TO HER FOR GOOD ADVICE. Proverbs 31:26 states "She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue." First of all, the godly woman speaks- she is not quiet or moody, she expresses herself, she has an opinion. BUT neither does she speak with insolence, in a rude manner or irrelevantly. Her speeches are full of wisdom and grace and because of that people come to her for good advice.

The GODLY WOMAN IS A CAPABLE WOMAN. She is not lazy or idle. From Proverbs 31:13-18, we find that she is a hard worker, she has good taste, and she is a home maker who takes her responsibilities seriously. This woman carefully considers and takes business decisions; she is wise about her money and finally, is industrious, diligent and always prepared for every eventuality.

The bible gives us enough material to fashion out the profile of a godly woman and this is by no means an exhaustive discussion of the qualities that make up a Christian woman, it is however designed to give us enough food for thought, as we reflect on who we are and who we can become as godly women.



Godly Woman PROFILE OF A LEADING LADY MONICA ARYTEY

are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts are more than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. The bible thus spells it out clearly. It is the word of God that will provide divine direction and the Bible has the true answers to all questions. It is our road map to success in a life that remains a mystery- Psalms 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." We can trust the word of God because John says Your word is truth John 17:17 and -Paul declares in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Retreated, Restored & Revived

Lessons from 2013 WOF retreat

Irene Njeri Kiarie

I was very excited to join the 2013 WOF retreat. It was held at Rolling stone retreat center in Andover MA. We left on a Thursday afternoon looking forward to spending some quality time with God. I believe everyone was looking for something; answers, solutions, just a time away to seek God, space to breath. It did not matter what anyone was seeking I knew that we would all find what we were looking for.

We arrived very excited. The place was beautiful with trees, flowers, gardens. I thought I spotted horses too.. Yes I could see ourselves having good quality time here as this location was an improvement over last year's venue.

We were assigned our rooms and proceeded to get acquainted to our surroundings. It was a place where one could easily become one with nature; with beautiful grounds, a swimming pool, a lake that supplies all water needs and some good old fresh air. A lady was there to welcome us and gave an orientation of the place, some history of how it began, who founded it and why they do what they do.

There was dinner and after dinner we went to our meeting hall and had an awesome time of worship. This is where it all began. Our retreat had started and the lord we right there with us. The Holy Spirit showed up. We had one goal, one aim, to come together in oneness and lift up the name of the lord.

The theme of our retreat was "Empowered to Succeed" Phil: 4:13. I learnt that we get power through reading the word of God, understanding it, living it and using it. We should all learn how to use the power that God has given us in order to succeed. Jesus knew the power He had and understood how to use it and thus He was very successful in His mission here on earth. Luke: 13:13, John: 1:12-13.

We should have confidence in God and the power He has bestowed on us. 1John: 5:14. The power is in us. 2Tim: 1:7. We have a spirit of power endowed by the Holy Spirit. Acts: 10:36. Trust God in everything that you do because He has good things in store for you. Jeremiah: 29:11. We should also be humbled after we receive the power; 1peter: 5:6-7. It is important to come together and fellowship, come together and pray in oneness, have one common goal which is to seek God diligently. Heb: 10:24-25.

I would like to share some personal highlights;

1. We have difficulties in order to succeed and strengthen us.
2. We have problems in order to solve them and gain wisdom.
3. We have danger in order to overcome and get courage.
4. We have troubled people to help them and develop love.
5. We have brains and hands to work and gain prosperity.
6. We have disappointments in order to get other opportunities.
7. In a nutshell God has given us what we needed not what we wanted.

We read the parable of the talents Matt: 25:14-30. The two servants that did something with their

talents, received the same amount of praise even though the talents were of different amounts. This tells me that the amount of what you do does not matter as much as fulfilling your purpose here on earth. They each accomplished their purpose according to the capacity they were given. So it does not matter if someone else has more or less than you, stick to your race. Faith is not a marathon! Here are some keys to success;

1. Stay connected to God. John: 16:33
 - a. Abide in Him.
 - b. Meditate on Him.
 - c. Seek counsel.
2. Commit all your plans to God. Prov: 16:3
3. Trust in the lord. Jeremiah: 17:7-8
4. Act on what you know through the Holy Spirit. Don't sell yourself short.

Some obstacles to our success are;

1. Fear; we have placed mental barriers. Deut: 31:16, Isaiah: 41:10. But in Phil: 2:5 we are told to have a mind like Christ. Change your mind. Believe and don't be afraid. Mark: 5:36
2. Past failures Ecl: 7:8
3. Lack of skills and unwillingness to improve on it. 2peter: 1:5
4. Failure to plan is planning to fail. So plan.
5. Doubting one's abilities. Eph: 3:20 says that God (not you, not me) is able to do exceedingly much more than we could ever ask or think. God is able.

Establish a relationship with God; learn how to communicate with Him. Obey His word and follow His instructions. Be willing to make sacrifices for Him. Love Him enough to want to be around Him. Trust Him enough to share everything you are going through. Yearn for Him enough to never want to let Him go. Know the power you have in Him. Understand how to use this power and you shall succeed.

We returned as women who had encountered God face to face. Women who had come in with various issues, expectations, yearnings, cries, hurt aches, burdens, worries left fulfilled, uplifted, encouraged, satisfied, bolder, wiser and closer to God. We carried each other's burdens and shared in each other's pain. We cried and prayed for each other like it was us going through the issue; we learnt what standing in the gap is all about. We formed new friendships, new alliances. I believe that is what this is all about, forming one union, carrying each other's burdens, no judgments, no drama, just pure love.

We crowned it all with an art project that helped us pick out prayer partners. It was awesome. As the beautiful grounds grew smaller and the trees disappeared, I could not help but feel a hint of sadness. I would miss this place. But looking on the bright side next year is just a few months away. I cannot wait to go again with all my sisters and experience greater things with the lord.

As we keep the fire burning let us also keep each other in our prayers just as we promised. See you all next year and please, do not miss out!



When the women of FFMI gathered together under the umbrella of WOF during the 3rd annual Retreat from 25th-27th July, 2013 at Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center, 660 Great Pond Rd. North Andover, MA 01845, we had no idea how the Lord would visit us but we had a great expectation that He was going to come and make His dwelling among us, individually and as corporate body. Leading Lady Monica, had sent forth a request to fast from the beginning of July. We thank God for giving us the grace to fast and preparing our hearts to meet with the Master.

The Theme for this year's conference was "Empowered to Succeed" based on Philippians 4:13. Lady Monica poured herself out as she shared with us that there was need to realize that because we were born again the Holy Spirit within us, He who had made His dwelling within us, had already empowered us to become what we were predestined to be. She shared about how the decisions yesterday had affected our today; which meant that what we decide to do today will affect us tomorrow. She got practical and gave us nuggets on "how to" pattern our lives in alignment with the purpose for which we were to be. She told us to aim for the best we can be and to excel in life. Just because we were women did not imply we were to settle for 2nd place.

The worship sessions were off the hook. Sisters Njeri, Chioma and Magdalene led us as we entered into another realm in the presence of God. His presence rested on us like a heavy cloud. The heaviness of His glory was hungrily embraced. Women fell under this glory.

The prayer sessions were made in heaven. Sisters Abby, Venice, and Winnie helped us to connect with God. It was as though there was no ceiling. The presence of God was evident. We literally felt as though God's angels had been released and they carried our requests straight to His throne.

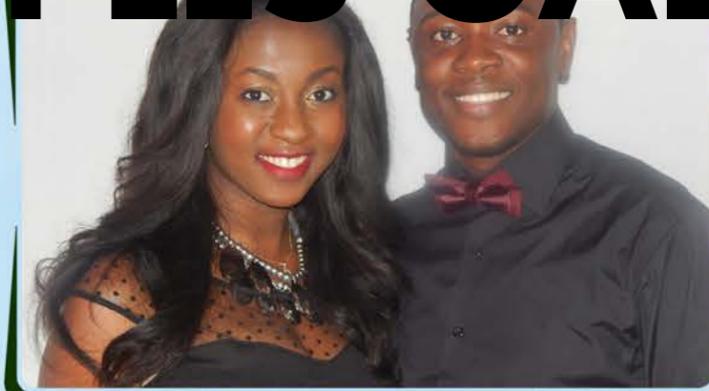
An impromptu testimony time and intercessory arose out of this gathering. Women shared heart-felt testimonies, asked for prayers over very personal issues and we surrounded them with love and prayers. The Holy Spirit was at work touching and bringing healing into the souls of His daughters.

It was not all without play. Sister Josie engaged us in craft activity that looked like we were engineers repairing our lives. The theme was how to organize our quite time with God. She taught us how to make journals, with the aim that we would be praying one for another till our next Retreat. To crown the Retreat, Lady Monica took time out to anoint every woman and to pray for each individually. She spoke into each life destiny. She never left out anyone. She loved on each of us women. We all felt included and that strengthened the times we shared together. She is a woman with a different spirit.

We had a few new comers, who have already started to make arrangements for the next Retreat. They promised themselves that they would not be drop-outs at any of the Retreats. I cannot wait for the next Retreat and just see how far God has brought us. Perhaps between now and then I may write what the Retreat meant to me as an individual. Till next time, Women! We serve. Women! We serve unto the Lord. Stay empowered, and may the men embrace that same spirit!

SOPHIE NJAU

FFMI COUPLES' GALA 2013



F FMI's maiden couple's Gala Dinner was held on the evening of August 31st 2013 at the church hall. There were over 40 guests in attendance. From elegant cocktail dresses to dramatic full length evening gowns the ladies in attendance were bejeweled in their finest looks, while the men showed off their best attire. Among those who attended were Pastor Stephen and Leading Lady Monica Aryitey, Mr. and Mrs. Benson, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mensah, the newlyweds- Mr. & Mrs. Amoakohene, Mr. and Mrs. Ransford Opong, Mr. and Mrs. Moise Robert, Mrs. Hanson, Mrs. Bembridge, Mrs. Acheampong, Mr. and Mrs. Cherenfant, Mr. and Mrs. Kamau, Mr. and Mrs. Agyepong, Mr. and Mrs. Twum-Barimah, our guest speakers Maurice and Sonji Neverson amongst countless others. Worship leaders Irene Kiarie and Chioma Agunwamba treated us to a fantastic opening performance that set the mood for a lovely evening and complemented the night's theme "Strengthening our Love in God". Couples had their portraits taken as they arrived followed by an invitation to sit at their glamorously decorated tables. The hall was transformed into a romantic and inviting environment that everyone admired. The night featured several other performances, fun bible trivia and jovial music performances by our co-host Mr. Edmund Twum-Barimah. The evening progressed smoothly as couples interacted;

others reacquainted and appreciated the amenities of the event. After a delightful Dinner, gala committee members Serah Kamau and Fazezy Agyepong led the audience in icebreaking biblical trivia. Everyone participated and enjoyed the games. Couples arose and danced to beautiful music. Following these memorable fun times and diner, guests

speakers Maurice and Sonji Neverson highlighted the evening with a marital speech that served our guests as a reminder to love and be tolerant towards one another. They used several demonstrative objects, quoted biblical verses and wisdom nuggets that bolstered their talk. Finally the speakers handed out several souvenirs as they wrapped up

months from the event that FFMI's population will multiply. "Tonight was wonderful" one guest expressed. Our prayer is that marriages will be strengthened and we look forward to next year's event being even better. Josie Talabert Cherenfant

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