



50-DAY PRAYER AND FASTING SEASON
19th August – 7th October 2024

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY SPHERE

EPHESIANS 3:14,15

*For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named*

PRAYER GUIDE

Written by Dr. James Magara

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS 2024

Week 1	19 th – 25 th August 2024	Men, Husbands, Fathers, Boys
Week 2	26 th August – 1 st September 2024	Women, Wives, Mothers, Girls
Week 3	2 nd – 8 th September 2024	Extended Family
Week 4	9 th – 15 th September 2024	Church and the Family
Week 5	16 th – 22 nd September 2024	Educational Institutions and the Family
Week 6	23 rd – 29 th September 2024	Celebration and Media and the Family
Week 7	30 th September – 6 th October 2024	Government and the Family

THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE 2024/25 PRAYER SEASON ARE:

1. To pray for the restoration and preservation of divine order in family life in our nation (Psalms 22:27-28)
2. To pray for the protection of the next generation
3. To pray that God will be greatly glorified in the families, clans, and tribes of Uganda.
4. To renew our covenant with God concerning our nation
5. To seek God's enablement to fulfill our roles in seeing God's plan for our generation come to pass.

MAIN PRAYER FOCUS OF THE WEEK:

To pray for the restoration and rise of authentic Biblical womanhood.

WEEK TWO: FOCUS ON WOMEN, WIVES, MOTHERS, GIRLS

26th August – 1st September 2024

GALATIANS 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

PROVERBS 14:1

The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down.

THE BIBLICAL ROLE OF WOMANHOOD

The role of women is a topic that has been interpreted in various ways across different Christian traditions. The Bible provides several profound insights for understanding the essence of womanhood. Women are portrayed in diverse roles, ranging from leaders and prophets to wives and mothers. Despite this, it is getting increasingly difficult to understand and accomplish one's role as a woman due to the many voices speaking in society today. Traditional societies universally suppressed the significance of womanhood. However, all over the world, the past few decades have brought a dramatic shift in the perception of women and their role in society. The following are some of the key mandates of biblical womanhood:

1. To Lead Alongside Man

Genesis 1:26-28

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And **let them** have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

*So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.*

*And God blessed **them**. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Though the biblical order of creation shows man being created first and being given responsibility and work before the creation of the woman, the mandate to have dominion on earth was given to both males and females. In Genesis 1:27, it is stated that both men and women are created in the image of God. This verse establishes the equal dignity and worth of women and men, reflecting God's image. The fall of man led to the woman losing some of her leadership just as man lost some of his relational ability. However, Jesus came to restore all that was lost in the fall.

Even though they believe in the equal treatment of women, many believers find themselves in a dilemma. They are repulsed by what they see and read from the classical feminist authors and advocates, so they reject the whole message of equality. The feminist movement has messages that believers reject such as the woman's "right" to abortion, special rights for homosexuals, or the "right" to sexual promiscuity.

Women comprise over 50% of the church's members on earth: an enormous force that has often been immobilized because of prejudice, male chauvinism (male prejudice against women; the belief that men are superior in terms of ability, intelligence, etc.).

2. Helper and Companion

Genesis 2:18 describes the creation of Eve as a "helper" for Adam:
"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

The Hebrew word for "helper" (ezer) is often misunderstood as a subordinate role, however, the same word is used elsewhere in the Bible to describe God's role as a helper (e.g., Psalm 33:20). This suggests a supportive, complementary partnership rather than inferiority.

3. Role in Marriage and Family

Ephesians 5:21-24, 33

"...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands."

However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

This passage speaks about the role of wives in marriage, encouraging mutual respect and love. It teaches that wives should respect their husbands, while husbands are called to love their wives sacrificially, modeling Christ's love for the church. In this verse, the word "head" refers to the man's authority over his wife. It in no way implies that he is her employer or superior. The idea is that husband and wife share equal value as human beings, but the husband is the source of strength for his wife and family. He is responsible for providing his home with love, safety, and guidance.

Proverbs 31 presents an image of a godly woman, highlighting her industriousness, wisdom, and leadership within her family and community. She is described as a "wife of noble character" who works hard, cares for her household, and contributes economically.

4. Motherhood and Nurturing

Proverbs 31:28

"Her children rise up and call her blessed,"

The role of a mother in the home is vital and multifaceted; it is a sacred calling. The Bible often highlights the nurturing aspect of womanhood, with women playing key roles in raising and shaping future generations. Mothers are the primary providers of emotional support, physical care, and nurturing to their children. They often take on most childcare responsibilities, including feeding, bathing, and grooming. They offer emotional support, validation, and guidance, helping children develop self-esteem and confidence.

Mothers teach children important skills, values, and behaviors, playing a key role in the children's educational development. Mothers are role models, and educators, teaching children important values, skills, and behaviors. Mothers provide unconditional love and support, offering a sense of security and stability to their children. The role of a mother is essential to a child's development and has a profound impact on a child's life.

5. Homemaker and Manager

Mothers manage the household, including cooking, cleaning, and organizing. Mothers often manage the family's finances, including budgeting and financial planning. Mothers often take on the role of healthcare advocate, ensuring their children receive proper medical care and attention.

6. Spiritual Leadership and Influence

Women in the Bible played significant spiritual roles. For example:

- **Deborah** (Judges 4-5) served as a prophetess and judge, leading Israel during a time of crisis.
- **Priscilla** (Acts 18:24-26) is depicted as an early church leader who taught Apollos, a man, with her husband Aquila, indicating that women played teaching and leadership roles in the early church.
- **Mary, the Mother of Jesus** (Luke 1) is honored for her faith and obedience, exemplifying a model of devotion to God's will.

7. Support and Ministry Roles

Throughout the New Testament, women are seen as vital contributors to the ministry of Jesus and the early church. For example:

- **Mary Magdalene** and other women supported Jesus' ministry (Luke 8:1-3) and were the first to witness His resurrection (John 20:1-18).
- **Phoebe** (Romans 16:1-2) is mentioned as a deaconess and servant of the church, highlighting women's active roles in church ministry.

CONCLUSION

In the Bible, women are seen as equal bearers of God's image, called to serve in various roles, ranging from wives and mothers to spiritual leaders and disciples. The roles emphasize complementarity in partnership with men and the ability to lead, teach, and nurture in different capacities within the church, family, and society. While the Bible emphasizes submission and humility in women, it presents a broader picture of leadership through service and self-giving love, which applies equally to men. Women, like men, are called to follow Christ's example of servant leadership. Christian interpretations of these roles can vary, but the consistent biblical theme is one of mutual respect, service, and honor. There are other things women need to do, but this list provides a solid foundation for biblical womanhood.

Pray that Ugandan and African women in our generation will understand biblical womanhood and teach their daughters and younger women to do the same. Pray that they will:

- Worship God and obey His commandments.
- Play their divinely ordained role in the family as they serve as wives and mothers.
- Play their divinely ordained role as helper, companion, mother, nurturer, and homemaker.
- Model godly behavior in their homes, churches, and communities for others to realize what it means to be a godly woman who walks after Christ.
- Nurture and care for their families while exercising the same gentleness and loving control over them that Christ does for His Church.
- Serve sacrificially.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES FOR PRAYER

PROVERBS 31:10-31

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. ...

TITUS 2:3-5

Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

PROVERBS 11:22

Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion.

PROVERBS 18:22

He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.

1 PETER 3:1-5

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

PROVERBS 68:11

The Lord gives the word; the women who announce the news are a great host:

EPHESIANS 5:20-24

giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

LUKE 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. **Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.**"

PROVERBS 31:17

She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong.

1 TIMOTHY 5:2

Older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

ACTS 9:36

Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity.

ACTS 2:16-18

But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

JOHN 4:27

Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?”

JAMES 1:27

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and **widows in their affliction**, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Prayer leaders should draw prayer points from the weekly envisioning meetings given every Sunday