



CALLED TO SERVE

Women in the ministry



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Prologue

The purpose of this book is to break the conventions that hold back women from serving Lord JESUS CHRIST and to encourage the women believers to serve the Lord.

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1. Women and the Ministry of the Lord

The word of the Lord has spread far and wide since Jesus ascended heaven giving ***The Great Commission*** - Mat 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority is given to Me in Heaven and in earth. Therefore go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world. Amen." But the work is still unfinished because the labourers are few as compared to the work at hand. Throughout centuries the ministry of the Lord has been done to a great extent by men only. But now is the time women need to take up the yoke of the Lord so that the Gospel of the kingdom is preached to all the nation and Jesus comes back soon.

By this short book I wish to address a few issues that make the women hold themselves back from serving the Lord in their full capacity.

2. Creation of Woman

Woman was created by God, by the desire of God and will of God. So, woman is very much in the plan of God. Adam never realized that he needed a companion, it was God who said 'it is not good for him to be alone I will make for him a helper' (Genesis 2:18)

God made woman neither less than man nor more than man, God made her compatible to man. The purpose of God to create woman for man is stated in **Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10** Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he does not have another to help him.

If we look at Genesis **5:1**; 'this is the Book of the Genealogies of Adam: When God created Adam, in the likeness of God He made him.

This means Adam had the qualities and characteristics of God, this is the reason why God could not find for Adam any match from any of the animals that were created. Thus, what God did? He put Adam in deep sleep; took one rib from his side and made it into a woman. The woman was taken out of Adam; she also was created in the image and likeness of God.

Gen 5:2; Male and female He created them, and He blessed them and called their name "Adam" when He created them.'

God does not make any differentiation between man and woman. When he made them he named them Adam, it was Adam who named her woman, and after the fall named her Eve (Genesis 3:20).

3. God is God of Order

Our God is a God of order and harmony. He made everything in a hierarchal fashion so that there is perfect order. He Himself follows the Hierarchy- Father, Son and the Holy Ghost. Jesus says John 14:28; You have heard how I said to you, I go away and I am coming to you again. If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, I go to the Father, for My Father is greater than I.

John 8:28 Then Jesus said to them, When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you shall know that I AM, and that I do nothing of Myself, but as My Father has taught Me, I speak these things.

For the Holy Spirit Jesus says-

John 16:14 He (Holy Spirit) will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will announce it to you.

Even the angels have a hierarchy Col 1:16thrones or dominions or principalities or powers..... So, when it comes to a family the husband is the head of the family,

Ephesians 5:23; For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Everyone is assigned different role and responsibility.

Biblically as the head of the wife and family it is the duty and responsibility of the husband to provide for her and the family, have the children in subjection with all honour.

Bible asks the wives to be subject to their husbands as church is subject to Christ and asks husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it.

4. Women and Preaching the Word of God

Women have been hindered from preaching the word of the Lord by quoting Paul who says in **'1Ti 2:12** But I do not allow a woman to teach, or to exercise authority over a man, but to be in silence.' You can see I is bold, italicized and underlined to point out very clearly this is what Paul is saying, not God. All the epistles that are written by Paul are letters that he wrote to specific churches that he has established/ planted or to Pastors (Timothy, Titus) and by the letters he is addressing the specific issues that those churches or pastors are facing. Thus, what is written is in context to certain problem area. When Timothy and Titus received the letters, they got the advice regarding how they were to solve the problem they were struggling with. Their problem was false teachers who influenced affluent and influential women (probably Jewish) in the church and these women started preaching the false teachings of their false teachers. So, to shut them up Paul uses against them what they were preaching. They were preaching grace alone is not sufficient, to be saved works of law as per the Torah are also to be followed.

So, Paul says "You want to talk law? Fine then I will give you law. As per the Torah women are not supposed to teach or have authority over men, so stop teaching your heresy." Paul was exactly dealing with these problem causing women in the way Jesus Himself dealt with the Sadducees, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law.

Take another example, in **1Ti 5:23** (No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach and for your frequent ailments.), Paul's advice to Timothy cannot be taken as a license to promote drinking of wine, it was just an advice for Timothy because of the ailments he suffered. Paul's letters are hard to understand even for Peter as he says in

2Pe 3:15 Bear in mind that the patience of our Lord means salvation—just as our dearly loved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom given to him.

2Pe 3:16 He speaks about these matters in all of his letters. Some things in them are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist (as they also do with the rest of the Scriptures)—to their own destruction.

Paul's aim throughout his ministry was to win as many souls for Jesus as possible. **1Co 9:20** To the Jewish people I identified as a Jew, so that I might win over the Jewish people. To those under Torah I became like one under Torah (though not myself being under Torah), so that I might win over those under Torah;

1Co 9:21 to those outside Torah, like one outside Torah (though not being outside God's Torah but in Messiah's Torah), so that I might win over those outside Torah.

1Co 9:22 To the weak I became weak, so that I might win over the weak. I have become all things to all men, so that by all means possible I might save some.

The man or woman who tastes the Lord cannot keep quiet, because the spirit of the Lord stirs him/her. Once a person gives his/her life to the Lord, it is the Spirit of the Lord who works through them then onwards. God does not pour His Spirit on people by measure, differentiating between rich-poor, man-woman.

Joh 3:34 For He whom God has sent speaks the Words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.

Joe 2:28,29 And it shall be afterward, I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh. And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy; your old men shall dream dreams; your young men shall see visions. And also I will pour out My Spirit on the slaves and on the slave women in those days.

5. Women in the ministry of Jesus

Jesus did not make any differentiation between rich/ poor, man/woman. In fact the gospel records that it was the women who financially supported His ministry, of course there must be men too, but the record is made to highlight the contribution of women. Apart from this women disciples like Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary sister of Lazarus were there with Jesus till His crucifixion even when all the other disciples except John had fled. Women were the first to reach the tomb on the day of resurrection.

Jesus did not stop the Samaritan lady from going and telling the people about him. He asks Miriam to tell about his resurrection to the rest of the apostles.

Joh 20:17 Yeshua says to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet gone up to the Father. Go to My brothers and tell them, 'I am going up to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'"

Gospel of Matthew and Mark record that the Angels asked the women to go and tell the disciples about the resurrected Christ. **Mar 16:7** But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you to the Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.'"

Mat 28:7 Go quickly now and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead. And behold, He's going before you to the Galilee. There you will see Him. See, I have told you!"

Now it is very much clear that these women were actually preaching the risen saviour. The Samaritan lady was preaching the crowd that she met the promised saviour. The very truth is that one who tastes the Lord cannot keep quiet, you are filled with the urge to tell the world what you have found.

I feel Jesus appeared to the women after resurrection and asked them to tell the apostles that He was going to Galilee before them because he knew women will be stopped from ministering Him in the name of custom, traditions and law. So, He Himself sets them free, He asks them to go and Preach the good news "He is Risen".

The reason why women are not so much in the ministry is because they have been silenced since long in the name of religion, custom and tradition. But now we need to break lose all the bindings because the word of the Lord says "1Th 5:19- Do not quench the Spirit"

It is everyone s responsibility to proclaim the gospel and to do what God has ordained them for. Jesus says Joh 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I selected you so that you would go and produce fruit, and your fruit would remain. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name."

Utterance is always from the Lord Pro 16:1 The plans of the heart belong to man, but the tongue's answer is from Adonai.

Mat 10:27 What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear in your ear, proclaim from the housetops!

No one can be a preacher or a teacher unless he / she is given the call and authority from God Himself.

Rom 10:14 How then shall they call on the One in whom they have not trusted? And how shall they trust in the One they have not heard of? And how shall they hear without someone proclaiming?

Rom 10:15 And how shall they proclaim unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who proclaim good news of good things!"

Yes, we are sent. And to the people who stop you the befitting reply is in the Bible itself; Peter and John were asked not to preach in the name of Jesus by the Pharisees and their response was-

Act 4:19 But Peter and John replied, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you decide.

Act 4:20 For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

6. Customs and Traditions

I would say Jesus always weighted human life more than the customs and the traditions. The Pharisees had problem with him because he did not follow the traditions and customs. He healed on Sabbath, his disciples did not ceremonially washed their hands and so on. **Jesus' response to them was Mar 7:7** And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

Mar 7:8 Having left behind the commandment of God, you hold on to the tradition of men."

Mar 7:9 He was also telling them, "You set aside the commands of God, in order that you may validate your own tradition.

This leaves us pondering over something deep which is revealed only by the spirit of living God who is the author of our faith. Bible is authored by Holy Spirit and revealed by Holy Spirit only.

WHOM DO YOU SEE?

We need to understand a deep spiritual truth that is disclosed in the scripture but still not comprehended by many. It is written in -

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were immersed in Messiah have clothed yourselves with Messiah.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female—for you are all one in Messiah Yeshua.

Once you are born again don't look at yourself, but look at Jesus who lives in you. It is Christ in you, the hope of glory (colossian1:27). Same thing goes when you look at other believers don't look at them but at Christ in them.

God created man and woman in His Image and Likeness, He clothed them with glory. This glory was nothing else but Christ. Christ was the likeness of God that the first man and woman were wearing. This is why the Bible says that the man and woman were naked but they were not ashamed (Gen. 2:25), when they looked at each other they did not see each other but, Christ. When they sinned the glory left them, then when they looked at each other they saw the nakedness. Now they needed the fig leaves to cover their nakedness. The fig leaves are nothing but the acts of self-righteousness. Self-righteousness is not acceptable to God because there is a difference of heaven and earth in His standards and ours. Adam and Eve made for themselves loin coverings from fig leaves (man's standard) that were not enough to cover their nakedness; so God sacrificed a lamb and made for them tunics of skin (God's standard).

In the New Testament Christ has come as our sacrifice; Hebrews 9:26 -He has been revealed once and for all at the close of the ages—to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. Therefore we are clothed with Christ. The glory that Adam and Eve lost was returned to the mankind by the sacrifice of the second Adam **“Christ Jesus”**.

So, man or woman a person who surrenders to the Lord, Christ Himself lives in him/her and **no man has the authority to limit Christ**.

So, what people say is not the standard but what God says is important, and He says in **Gal 3:29** and if you belong to Messiah, then you are Abraham's seed—heirs according to the promise.

7. Conclusion

The word of the Lord says ***do not quench the Spirit***. Many men and women have done this sin of quenching the Spirit. Do not belittle yourself nor others, the one who lives in you is the mighty omnipotent God. The only thing is that He does not impose His will on anyone. Peter and John denied to submit to the Leaders of the Jews and submitted to the will of the Holy Spirit. No one was able to stop them, no force, no fear. Until their death they kept proclaiming the gospel. No one can stop you except you yourself, realize that it is Christ who lives in you, it is Christ who works through you- it is no longer you but Christ who lives in you. Christ does not become less powerful because you are a woman. But if the world thinks you are weak the word of the Lord says – My strength is perfected in your weakness, if the world says you are a woman you do not know much, the word of the Lord says in - **1Co 1:27** "But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty."

We need to remember that it is He who has chosen us, so let us be true to our calling and surrender ourselves to the will of the Father and submit ourselves to do everything He commands us to do, to serve, to pray, to teach, to preach, to prophesy whatever it may be as per His will.