His Eyes are on the Righteous PART I (1 Peter 3:1-7)

Note: We left off in Chapter two with teachings about submission related to governing authorities and about the call to submission for servants. So, when Chapter three begins with "Wives, likewise...," the call to submission is what it is referring to. Remember, the original letter had no chapter and verse insertions.

A Word to Wives and Husbands

(Note: Essential teaching on marriage on the KEM website to watch and download notes: <u>Quintessential Marriage</u>

"Wives, likewise, **be submissive to your own husbands**, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, **when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear**. Do not let **your adornment** be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For in this manner, **in former times**, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, **being submissive to their own husbands**, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, **calling him lord**, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. Husbands, likewise, dwell with them **with understanding**, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered."I Peter 3:1-7 NKJV

I Peter 3:1-7

- "Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear." I Peter 3:1-2 NKJV
 - A wife's submission can win the unbelieving husband
 - Unbelieving Spouses: "But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise

your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. **But God has called us to peace. For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband?** Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?" I Corinthians 7:12-16 NKJV

- Submission: "submitting to one another in the fear of God. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything." Ephesians 5:21-24 NKJV
- **What others observe about you:**
- Witness: We already saw in this letter— "having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation." I Peter 2:12 NKJV
- Wisdom and Salt: "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may

know how you ought to answer each one." Colossians 4:5-6 NKJV

- **Observed Conduct vs. Words Spoken**
- Doing vs. Speaking: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer
 but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does." James 1:22-25 NKJV
- "Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God." I Peter 3:3-4 NKJV
 - Outward adornment vs. Inner Beauty
 - Whitewashed tombs: ""Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

Even so you also **outwardly appear righteous** to men, but **inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness**." Matthew 23:27-28 NKIV

Hidden person of the heart:

- The Lord looks at the heart: "But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."" I Samuel 16:7 NKJV
- Out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks:
 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks." Luke 6:45 NKJV
 (Reference: "Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23 NKJV)

<u>Incorruptible Beauty</u>

- **I** The gentle and quiet spirit:
 - A gentle answer: "A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger." Proverbs 15:1 NKJV
 - Gentleness: "Let your gentleness be known to all men.The Lord is at hand." Philippians 4:5 NKJV

- A calm spirit: "He who has knowledge spares his words, And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.
 Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace;
 When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive."
 Proverbs 17:27-28 NKJV
- *"For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror." I Peter 3:5-6 NKJV*

Sarah called Abraham lord

Sarah says "my lord": "Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" So he said, "Here, in the tent." And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.) Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"" Genesis 18:9-12 NKJV

- Daughters of Sarah: "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."
 Galatians 3:29 NKJV
 - All believers are considered children of Abraham and his union to Sarah. Abraham (with Sarah)—Isaac— Jacob (renamed Israel)—12 sons—etc.

Doing the right thing

- You have nothing to fear if you are doing the right thing:
 "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil.
 Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is
 good, and you will have praise from the same." Romans
 13:3 NKJV
- We will see this very idea elaborated in 1 Peter 3:12 in
 PART II of this teaching, as it is taken from the Proverbs:
 "The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. The face of the LORD is
 against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth." Psalms 34:15-16 NKJV
- *"Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together* of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered." I Peter 3:7 NKJV (this verse is loaded with info)

<u>Understanding what it means to dwell with you wife</u>

- Two sides of this coin: For Men—this about your mindset about your wife! Women—you should EXPECT to be treated this way by a godly husband! (Read all of Song of Solomon 1-8)
 - Dear wife, you have ravished my heart: "You have ravished my heart, My sister, my spouse; You have ravished my heart With one look of your eyes, With one link of your necklace. How fair is your love, My sister, my spouse! How much better than wine is your love, And the scent of your perfumes Than all spices!" Song of Solomon 4:9-10 NKJV
 - No bitterness: "Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them." Colossians 3:19 NKJV
 - No harmful words: "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." Ephesians 4:29 NKJV
 - Intimacy: "Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the

affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. **And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.** Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of selfcontrol." I Corinthians 7:1-5 NKJV

Honoring your wife

 How to treat a wife: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.
 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Ephesians 5:25-32 NKJV

- An excellent wife: "An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones." Proverbs 12:4 NKJV
- A virtuous wife: "Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil All the days of her life." Proverbs 31:10-12 NKJV (Read all Proverbs 31)
- ☑ <u>The "Weaker" Vessel</u> (SO IMPORTANT: The next FIVE pages are about this phrase alone!)
 - Weaker? The female (woman) has a more sensitive spirit (helper spirit) because the Holy Spirit is the female (wife) portion of the trinity (the Divine Family):
 - Weaker: [Greek: asthenés] refers to—lack of necessary resources ("insufficient")—literally, "without adequate strength". Hence, a woman is totally dependent!
 - Step back and see this with spiritual eyes. She has been fashioned with a need to depend on God alone, always. And that means she is naturally much more sensitive to the Holy Spirit, as a necessity!

- When we bring this into the natural and we insert the husband and child (the human family as a reflection of the Divine Family), we can easily recognize the wife's role in marriage is as the "spirit arm" of the family.
- What a GREAT asset for any man. As such, husbands must appreciate this as the unique and honored function of the woman/wife.
- And as opposed to how all New Testament English translations refer to the Spirit in the masculine gender, you should now remove the "He" and replace it with "She" when referencing the Holy Spirit. This would be completely consistent with the Old Testament references to the Spirit—the Hebrew "Ruach". Right from the beginning in Genesis 1:2, the first time the Scriptures refer to the Spirit, we see the gender: "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." "Ruach" (Spirit) in Hebrew is a FEMININE NOUN! This is not an accident!

- And when Adam is in need of a companion, a female companion, a wife, let's see how she is fashioned and described!
 - The Woman the Helper: "And the LORD God said, " It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." ...And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man." Genesis 2:18, 21-22 NKJV
- Now let's see how this all makes perfect sense in the New Testament!
 - The weaker vessel, the Spirit, the helper, is not on Her own and does not speak for Herself, and will not speak on Her own authority! (Again, in your mind, replace the "he" with "she".)
 - "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has

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are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you." John 16:13-15 NKJV

Now, don't the following scriptures make so much more sense? When you put them in perspective, and think of the woman as the Holy Spirit, they should now seem powerful and not offensive to women! The Holy Spirit will not speak on Her own authority and so...

 I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man... "I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve." I Timothy 2:8-13 NKJV

Can you see the physical manifestation of John
 16:13-15? "She will not speak on Her own authority,
 but whatever She hears She will speak; and She will

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tell you things to come. *She* will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."

- "Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church. Or did the word of God come originally from you? Or was it you only that it reached? If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord." I Corinthians 14:34-37 NKJV
- And if a woman will take what is Yahweh's and declare
 it, what a HELP that is to her husband! The Spirit is the
 Helper: "I will make him a helper comparable to him."
 Genesis 2:18
 - The Spirit of Truth: ""If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him;

but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." John 14:15-17 NKJV

- The Spirit the teacher: "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." John 14:26 NKJV
- The Spirit the witness: ""But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning." John 15:26-27 NKJV
- The Spirit of conviction: "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged." John 16:7-11 NKJV
- **<u>Heirs Together</u>**
 - Woman are not lesser heirs but Joint Heirs: "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you

received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, **then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,** if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together." Romans 8:15-17 NKJV

<u>M</u> Things that hinder prayers from being heard/answered

- Marriage issues as we see here! Dwell with understanding of all we see in 1 Peter 3:7 or your prayers will be hindered!
- Asking Amiss/Selfish Motives: "You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures." James 4:2-3 NKJV

Asking and not believing (doubting):

Believe and Receive: "So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever

things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." Mark 11:22-24 NKJV

- No Doubts: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." James 1:5-8 NKJV
- Unforgiveness: ""And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.
 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."" Mark 11:25-26 NKJV
- Unrepentant Hearts:
 - If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear: "Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul. I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue.
 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, Who has not

turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!" Psalms 66:16-20 NKJV

- Iniquities separate you from God: "But your iniquities
 have separated you from your God; And your sins have
 hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear."
 Isaiah 59:2 NKJV
- God does not hear sinners: "Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him." John 9:31 NKJV
- Prayers Inconsistent with the Will of God: "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." I John 5:14-15 NKJV

NEXT WEEK

His Eyes are on the Righteous PART II (1 Peter 3:8-22)