

Deepening The Walk

Faith Acts

(If you have questions, please feel free to contact Kelly Dixon by email kelly@ladiesforJesus.com)

Women many times do not act upon their faith because they struggle with inferiority. Dr. James Dobson stated it best in his book, *What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women*.

It is longing for someone to talk to, soul-to soul, but knowing there is no such person worthy of your trust. It is feeling that “They wouldn't like me if they knew the real me.” It is becoming terrified when speaking to a group of your peers, and feeling like a fool when you get home. It is wondering why other people have so much more talent and ability than you do. It is feeling incredibly ugly and sexually unattractive. It is admitting that you have become a failure as a wife and mother. It is disliking everything about yourself and wishing, constantly wishing, you could be someone else. It is feeling unloved and unlovable and lonely and sad. It is lying in bed after the family is asleep, pondering the vast emptiness inside and longing for unconditional love.

Do any or all of these hit home? These feelings of inferiority are Satan's tools in his effort of paralyzing us with fear so we are hindered in following the Lord's commands. There are many ways that Satan accomplishes this goal. It could be through reminding us of negativity during our childhood or past failures in our lives. It may be that you don't think you can do what God has called you to do because of your race, sex, etc. Regardless what Satan is reminding you of to bring feelings of inferiority, God is calling for you to overcome by drawing your strength from His power to do so.

Lets look at the consequences of inferiority and what Scripture says about them.

Inferiority Suppresses Your Potential: You may remember that one of Moses excuses to God was “God, I'm not a good speaker.” Read Acts 7:20-22 and list here what Stephen relates about Moses speaking skills.

When God calls us He equips us. Bob Russell stated in his book, *Extreme Faith*,

“God may want you to create jobs, lift spirits, educate minds, heal hurts, or save souls. But if you keep backing away from challenges because you don't believe you can do them, you don't lack confidence in yourself – you lack confidence in God.”

Reality is that Satan wants us to feel so inferior that we shrink down at the thoughts of acting upon God's commands. He wants us to live far below our potential. What does Philippians 4:13 tell us about where we get our strength?

With this in mind, should we place our confidence in God or in ourselves?_____

Inferiority Destroys Your Dreams:

According to Acts 2:14-21, what does Peter explain to the ones who were at Pentecost about dreams?

As we draw closer to God, the Holy Spirit will speak to us in many ways. One of those ways is through desires and dreams of our heart, along with visions He places in us. Read Proverbs 29:18 and write it here:

Inferiority Destroys Our Relationship with God:

When we think of ourselves as worthless, then we are placing negative opinions on the work of our Creator. Overall, this ruins our relationship with God. We have value in God's eyes and it is when we see this value that we realize how important it is that we fulfill the Creator's purpose in our lives.

According to Psalm 8:3-5, God values you through crowning you with what? _____

According to John 3:16, how much does God value you? _____

God also shows His value for you by giving you gifts to fulfill your purpose for the Kingdom. What does Romans 12:1-8 tell us about using those gifts? _____

After reading these Scriptures, how do you think it makes God feel when you don't see the value He has for you?

Inferiority Sabotages Christian Service:

When we are struggling with inferiority, we many times respond to God by saying we are not capable or there are others who are so much more capable. However, God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:26. In what state were the people when God called them? _____

God uses ordinary people to perform the extraordinary so that He gets the glory and not man. When we allow inferiority to keep us from following God, then we are taking away the opportunity for God to show His power through us.

What does Paul say in 2 Corinthians 12:9 about God's grace, our weaknesses and Christ's power? _____

Final Reflections: If we are to act on our faith, we must overcome inferior feelings. It is important to realize that just because you feel inferior doesn't mean you are defeated. It is when we allow those feelings to rule that Satan has won in hindering us from fulfilling God's purpose in our lives. Start to overcome by acknowledging that God is in charge of your life and you are not. When you trust God and acknowledge His sovereignty over you, then you will concern yourself with bringing glory to Him and not yourself. With this as a basis of your thinking, you will be willing to act upon His requests no matter the feelings you may have of inferiority or otherwise. It is then that you will forget yourself and focus on the challenges set before you by God to fulfill His purpose for your life.

- Kelly Dixon

Your Turn to Reflect: Take out a piece of paper or use your journal if you keep one. Write down the ways you have allowed inferiority to keep you from fulfilling God's purpose for your life. Take each one at a time and find the truth about them by looking up Scripture that relates to the topic. List these Scriptures beside each. After looking at the truth, take the list before the throne of God and ask Him to guide you in overcoming by showing you ways you can act on faith and trust in Him more. As God reveals Himself to you, write down the act you performed for the Lord and the date. Celebrate each accomplishment by sharing with a Christian friend. In doing so, you will encourage them in the Lord.