

# Women of the Bible

Throughout the Bible God teaches us how we should live. We are to be the woman God has called us to be, and He has given us many examples that we can learn from. In passages such as Proverbs 31:10-31 God described the kind of woman we should all strive to be. In Proverbs 31, you can see that God has called us to be diligent, hardworking, generous, kind, and speaking with wisdom. People like Esther, Hannah, and Ruth are great examples of women who followed God and did as He called them to.

Esther is a very well known story in the Bible. Queen Esther mirrors courage, humility, and modesty in her actions and interactions. Esther was set into a place of royalty. With power and beauty you can become quite arrogant, but even so, she remained humble. When times of trouble came her way, Esther sought counsel showing her eagerness to learn and cooperate. Even in a perilous situation, she put her trust in God that He would lead them out of this time. She stood up for her people and identified as one of them, having faith that God would protect her. And lastly, Esther performed a balance of respect and firmness when speaking with her husband even when she was upset.

Hannah is another spiritual woman that can be respected for her heartfelt prayers that enabled her to endure rocky paths. Her prayers served multiple purposes. Hannah did not just pray for things she requested, furthermore she prayed with a heart of gratitude. When adversity came her way she used prayer as a source of strength. Hannah prayed for her life to be changed during this time of adversity. She was patient, and God answered her prayer by transforming her

life. Hannah responded to God's faithfulness in a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

Lastly, Ruth's story is not one to be overlooked. It took a lot of faith and commitment for Ruth to leave her homeland with Naomi. Ruth remained loyal to Naomi and stayed by her side. Ruth and Naomi shared a bond representing the importance of family. Being determined to take care of her mother-in-law, Ruth worked hard to support Naomi. When trials came she soon learned to trust and obey the people who were wiser than her. Without trusting her elders, Ruth would not have accomplished the things she did and she would have ruined her reputation.

We are to learn how to follow these great examples God has set before us. The women in the Bible show us how we should live and how to follow God's perfect plan and provision. We can see how God wants us to live in Proverbs 31 just as well as we can in the stories of these young women. We should not only want to be a Proverbs 31 woman, but more so want to lead like Esther, pray like Hannah, and trust like Ruth. Esther led her people and was prepared for what God had planned, Hannah prayed faithfully through all of her trials, and Ruth trusted God and those who were wiser than her when it mattered most.

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