

# A STRING OF PEARLS

## PROVERBIAL WOMAN



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ?? Share our website with a friend:  
[www.proverbialwoman.com](http://www.proverbialwoman.com)
- ?? Tell someone that God loves them by showing them your love.
- ?? Call a friend.
- ?? Share some hot cocoa with someone who is sad.
- ?? Get a book of encouraging poems for someone who is blue.
- ?? Hug your cat, dog, friend, brother, sister, mom or dad.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>HINTS</b>	2
<b>KIDS</b>	2
<b>SOUP &amp; RECYCLE</b>	3
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	4
<b>FAITH</b>	5
<b>MATERIALISM</b>	5
<b>GOD IS MY SONG</b>	6

### WHY WINTER?

If you're anything like me you have lots of unanswered questions. If you're like most folks you're too frightened of God to ask them. Ok, so some of us are so stubborn we'd rather suffer the wrath of God than go with loads of unanswered questions in our minds. In my stubbornness I discovered that God isn't the meany I was told about. He's actually a warm, loving and kind Father with our best interests at heart. He loves it when we come to Him with questions. He isn't a bit like us in this regards. He doesn't get "bugged" by the whys and how comes we have in our hearts. He loves us, loves walking with us in the cool of the day!

I go to Him on a regular basis with loads of questions. I also mark them down in a journal (and have done so for years) so that when I get the answer I can remind myself. Today I went back into a recent journal and reread some things I'd been hearing from God and was delighted at all the answers He'd given me. Most of the answers are pretty simple if I'd just take the time to really examine my surroundings, but some are not so easily seen. Winter for instance has its purpose. No, it's not to dry out our skin, make us pale or be the season for sickness. Winter is a time for rest. Time for perennial plants to rest. It's time for the earth to take a break, after all most folks don't give the ground the prescribed Sabbath God required from the beginning. Winter is a time for things to "cool down" and it's a picture of death and eventual rebirth. There are so many people who have lost faith that God took the time to create "reminders" so we would see that He is still at work even if they have forgotten Him.

I want to thank God for winter. I am less distracted by the fun going on outside and get more work done. It's easier for me to focus on menial indoor tasks when the sunny weather outside isn't calling my name.

### MILDEW

We all dislike cleaning stubborn things like stains and nastier things like mildew. Here's a helpful hint that will make the job just a tad easier.

In a glass bowl mix Clorox II Lemon Fresh non-chlorine bleach with dish soap. You should have a consistency much like paste. Now apply this to those mildew stains around your bathtub. Allow the mixture to dry. You may want to use an old abandoned toothbrush if the mildew has claimed "squatter's" rights in the cracks and crevices. When it dried you can wipe it with a damp towel.



*What's so great about winter? Why did God create winter?*

## HINTS TO HELP AROUND THE HOUSE

### Stained Coffee Pots

Drop a denture cleaning tablet in a 10 cup coffee maker and add hot water instead of cold. Brew as usual then rinse.

### Stinky Stained Coffee Thermos?

Fill the thermos with water and add 2-4 Alka-Seltzer tablets. Allow to sit for an hour or as long as necessary. Rinse and allow to dry upside down overnight.

### Baking Soda

Baking soda is a cheap alternative for costly soft scrubbing products. You can add lemon juice and make a paste to use all over the house. Fewer chemicals to invade the sanctuary environment of your home.



Clean is good.

## ANTSY CHILDREN?

Ok, so you've run out of ideas to keep the kids busy. Here are a few ideas to add to your "bag o' tricks". If you have a computer or access to one you can surf the web and find all sorts of printable projects for the little darlings to do. Why not give them a dust rag with some spray polish on it and let them loose on the coffee table? How about having a bag of "surprise" goodies (books, card games and other quiet activities) that they can win for good behavior and contests. Now have a contest to see who can pick up the most toys and sort them into piles. Piles such as BOOKS, DOLLS and STUFFED CRITTERS, CARS and TRUCKS.... You get the idea. Winner gets to pick a prize and then has to share it with the other children.

Stop what you're doing. Think, when was the last time you sat quietly with your children and just talked? Are you in the habit of rushing here and there and never stop. After losing a son I know only too well what it is to miss something I had and took for granted. Love those babies, they're gone much too quickly.

## DO YOUR KIDS KNOW YOU LOVE THEM?

We all need to have encouragement in this life and if we don't get it as small children we won't give it as adults. Letting your children know you love them is so important. You can do this in so many ways and I can promise you it won't ruin them. When they work very hard at a task (even if they fail miserably) let them know you love them and you're thrilled by all the hard work they put into the job. Hug them no matter the outcome of a task. Half the battle of success is keeping at it when you fail.

When our children become adults, they will hear our words even when we're nowhere to be seen. When they find themselves in a really hard job and it looks like failure is all around, they will remember that the effort and the journey is as important as the achieving. As soon as one task is done there is always another that must be tackled. We play till we win.



Sing your children's praises.

## WINTER SOUPS & STEWS

In the summer we avoid soups and stews, but in the winter we crave them. A hearty soup or stew can be a complete meal if we make sure to include the basic food groups. To keep the soup from being full of fat, there are tricks to make it thick without the extra calories of creams. Use potatoes and let them cook just a little longer than normal. As they break down they thicken an otherwise clear broth based soup. How about using soy or rice milk. My favorite secret to thicker soups is to add a packet of dry gravy mix to a cup of water and then stir it into the soup. I use some of the newer flavored gravy mixes for a kick. One of our favorites is the new Cajun brown gravy. After living in the southwest for over 20 years I love the influence of Mexican flavors. I love to add hominy, a vegetable I'd never tried before moving to New Mexico.



*Soups fill you up and warm you at the same time.*

Green Chile Stew is one of our favorites. You can make lots of changes to it and come up with a really filling meal. Served with warm tortillas, corn bread or tortilla chips it's a crowd pleaser. Here is my basic recipe with a few choices you can make to make it your favorite.

Brown chicken tenders or chopped up boneless chicken breast (3 oz per person) along with a diced onion and two cloves of garlic (minced). Put into a crock pot. Add 16 oz. of tomato sauce. Add chicken broth for a richer "all day taste". Now stir in either canned or frozen hominy or potatoes. Potatoes require a little longer to cook. Make sure and dice them small if you want them to cook faster.

Stir in 8-16 oz of green chiles. I can't always find fresh green chiles to roast, skin and chop so these work in the winter. You can also find frozen green chiles in the freezer section of some grocers depending where you live. It's hard to determine the heat of fresh green chiles and you'll want to know ahead of time if you're not thrilled with spicy hot food.

You can substitute tender beef for the chicken. You can also use turkey breast if you have it. You can add cilantro as a flavor change too. I have also added oregano which is a staple in the Mexican kitchen. You can also add a can of pinto or black beans or even a can of corn to make it go even further.



*Hey mom it's snowing!*

## RECYCLE, RETHINK, AND REUSE

### Unused Luggage

Take your summer clothes and store them in those empty suitcases. In the summer you can store your winter sweaters and blankets! You can also store gifts you buy during big sales, just don't forget they are there!

### Used Gift Wrap

Do you have a shredder? In a clean trash can shred leftover wrapping paper. You can use it to fill gift bags! Or use it to paper mache a piñata for an upcoming event.

### Fabric Softener

Make a solution of five parts water to one part liquid fabric softener. Spray on your carpeting to avoid those nasty static shocks.

## WITH AGE COMES EXPERIENCE



With age comes experience. Let's tap into the wisdom of our elders.

The world shuns the elderly, they see them as expendable. Father God sees things a lot differently and the kingdom He is establishing is founded upon the wisdom of the ages. If we forsake the elderly, we lose all the experience they have gleaned from lessons learned and lessons spurned. Only a fool rushes into life without measuring and weighing what is ahead. Clearly we are surrounded by a pack of fools when it comes to the advice of the worldly. Not every elder person has great wisdom, but if you examine the lives of ignorant older people you will more than likely see that they rejected the counsel of their elders.

*1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

Peter counsels us as younger to submit ourselves to the elder. In fact we're supposed to be subject to one another. The elder have a tendency to forget they were once young. If they submit to younger men, they will retain the zeal they had as young men. If the younger submit to the elder they can miss a lot of the pitfalls that the elder men fell into. The whole process is one of checks and balances and speaks of wisdom and common sense.

I am only 47 but I've seen that "common sense" not so common. My mother used to take my brothers and sister and I to nursing homes where we would sing hymns with them. We learned early to respect our grandparents and the other elder people we would meet in life. We repeated the pattern with my daughter and she with her son.

Prov 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Prov 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

Prov 15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

Prov 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

Prov 20:5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

Prov 21:30 There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.

Prov 27:9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

I will now add one of my favorite warning scriptures. There are really two kinds of "Proverbial Women", one is the virtuous woman and one is the strange woman. Here is a huge caveat scripture.

Prov 2:16-17 To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words; Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.

The strange woman is a woman we all need to be delivered from. If we're women we want never to become one. If you're a man you don't ever want to be involved with one. The best way to stay away from the strange women is know all there is to know about the virtuous woman. That way when the "counterfeit" shows up on the scene she is like a red flag flying.

Note: Bankers never study counterfeits to recognize bogus money, they study the real thing. There's nothing like the real thing baby!



A strange woman is one who forsakes the godly guide of her youth.

## REASONS FOR YOUR FAITH FAILING

Here is a VIP list of things that can defeat or negatively affect your faith.

- ?? Fear, doubt or unbelief. God hasn't give us a spirit of fear and hates doubt and unbelief. 2 Tim 1:7, Heb. 3:12, Mark 16:14 in Matt 13:58 it actually stops the Lord from doing his work.
- ?? No corresponding action. James 2:20 and 26. If you believe you speak and act what you believe. Psalms 116:10, 2 Cor. 4:13
- ?? No love, faith is put to work by love, mercy and compassion. Gal. 5:6
- ?? No patience. The trying of our faith employs patience. We need to allow patience to have her perfecting work so we will be entire lacking nothing. James 1:3-4
- ?? Did not supply the necessary resources for our faith to be maintained and sustained. 2 Peter 1:5-8 And beside this, giving all diligence, **add to your faith** virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Don't kill your faith.

## MATERIALISM

The deeper we delve into the word of God in search for His perfect will, the more blaring anything contrary to His will becomes. God doesn't mind that we have nice things, but if the things ever become our focus we can get in deep trouble. So it goes with those described in *1 Tim 6:9* *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.* Keeping your eyes on God is the ONLY way to keep from becoming a materialist. In a search for something totally unrelated the Lord revealed something very eye opening to me. I was studying about being double-minded. In my search I ended up in Matt. 6:24 and Luke 16:13. Both speak of trying to serve two masters; one being God the other being mammon. I decided the word mammon was a bit cryptic so I dug deeper. The word mammon is Aramaic in origin. It has a very significant meaning: confidence placed in personified wealth and yields deified avarice. The picture this definition painted to me was that men put their confidence in money to the place that it is personified, and then their avarice or hunger for wealth or material goods becomes as zealous as one would be in the search for God.

God supplies the needs of His people, but He warns us all through scriptures that stuff can become a god if not kept in check. The man who turns his back to God in a search for his "living" ends up serving a taskmaster of the cruelest kind. This god never comforts his followers. Its provision is always temporary and leaves the worshipper empty, hollow and hungry for more. It never is satisfied with the servitude offered and never satisfies its followers. It gives no rest and never rests.

Wives are the backbones of their husbands. If a woman is greedy and self-serving she will adversely affect her husband. He will always be driven to look for spoil. He will work himself into an early grave to supply her hunger for stuff. Climbing the ladder of the corporate world isn't a godly motivation. Seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness is.

As the godly women we should be on the look out for lust for stuff. The marketplace screams to us to "buy, buy, buy". Much like a team of horses running out of control, so is the hunger of the god materialism. If you accidentally climb aboard this carriage you will be in big trouble. It's time for us to say "enough" to stuff. Simplify, purge excess and let's get in control of this hungry evil force.



The love of money is the root of all evil.

## Proverbial Woman

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Proverbial Woman ([www.proverbialwoman.com](http://www.proverbialwoman.com)) is a free resource for women looking for godly answers to today's problems. If we have been a blessing to you and you believe you have reaped spiritually then the word tells you that you are responsible to sow your carnal (financial) into our lives. Web hosting, internet access, computers and software as well as study, prayer and meditation time all cost someone. You wouldn't rob the grocery store if you went in to get a box of cereal. It's been said that all preachers want is your money, but I dare say that the cereal companies don't just want you to have a nutritious breakfast, they want your money. Just try walking in and smiling at the clerk as you walk out with a box of cereal without paying for it. Tell them, "I know you want me to have a nutritious breakfast". Guess where you'll end up? We say this resource is free, but it is meant to be free to those who can't yet afford to help out. Folks like those in countries where the internet is the only place to find free biblical teaching. If you own a computer, you're in the place to help us keep this going and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ (Y'shua Hamashiach) to a lost and dying world.

You can send gifts to First Light Consulting, POB 662, Gardendale, TX 79758.



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## EXODUS 15:2A

"The Lord is my strength and song, and He is become my salvation....."

For mature believers dependence upon the Lord is vital. The older I grow the more I press into trusting God for strength to do much of anything. The more I'm asked to do each day, the more I call on His Holy Spirit to be my strength. I refuse to lean to "the arm of the flesh" and self sufficiency.

We live in a day and a time where "self help" and "self-improvement" resources abound. Honestly, I have never been able to help or improve myself. I make resolutions and break them. I start them and fizzle out after a short period of time. If, however, I ask God, "What's next" I am confident I have the supply and equipment to do the prescribed task.

Today Abba Father is my strength and my song, He took on flesh and became my salvation. If you've never asked God for salvation through His son Y'shua/Jesus you too can have a different life. I won't promise it will be without trials here on earth, but the end results will be worth it all. Here is a basic prayer to God for salvation from self and sin.



*God is our strength and song.*

Dear God,

I know that my life is not what it should be. I sin and try not to and still sin. I know I need a savior and realize that there is only one way to you and that is through your Son Y'shua/Jesus. I accept that he lived a sinless life and kept all of the commandments you required of him. He gave up his life and was crucified and became the curse of sin for me. He took all my sins and took all my sickness on that cross. You then resurrected him after three days in the grave and in hell. He had suffered in body, mind and spirit for my sins, failings, sickness and poverty. I can now call on his name and be saved from the sin that I am because of my ancestor Adam. Forgive me and write my name in the Lamb's book of eternal life. I will give my whole self to You today and forever. I will do what You ask because You only ask what I can do through Your Holy Spirit. Fill me to the top with your Holy Spirit so I can have power to do all that You ask of me. I love you and freely serve you forever. I am now adopted into Your eternal kingdom and am your child today. Thank you so very much.

With all my heart, \_\_\_\_\_