



Ladies of Grace
Bible Studies for Women
The Ministry of Womanhood Series

Every woman has been born into the ministry of God. It is spelled out for her in Scripture, lived out before others in her home, church, and community, and recorded by God in the pages of eternity.

Creating A Haven Of Rest For Your Family In Your Home

Today we are going to talk about one of the most important things that a Christian wife can do for her family ~ and that is to create a haven of rest for them to come home to each day. As I taught you a few weeks ago, our homes are supposed to picture a bit of Heaven on earth, and the most appealing thing about Heaven to most people is the eternal rest that they are hoping to receive there.

Hebrews 4:9-10 tell us, *“There remaineth therefore rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.”* Once a person trusts Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior, they no longer have to worry or wonder if they are going to have a home in Heaven when they die. Jesus assured believers of this in John 14:1-3:

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Jesus makes it clear, that if we will believe in Him as our personal Savior, that He **WILL PROVIDE** a place of eternal rest for us in Heaven when we die. For many of us, that is very good news. What makes this such good news to us? Because we know that at the end of struggling with our trials, temptations, and tragedies in this life, that something better will be waiting for us on the other side!

Have you ever thought about the good things about Heaven that make it so appealing to us? I have. I have often thought of the peace and security that will be found there, and the opportunity that we will have to spend time with the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Do you know that these are the very things that our families will need if they are going to find a haven of rest in your home? And do you realize that if our homes are not filled with the characteristics of these things, that genuine rest will never be found in them? It’s true. Today I would like to help you to establish a haven of rest in your home, by showing you how you can create peace, security, and a presence of Jesus in the place that you live.





CREATING A SPIRIT OF PEACE IN OUR HOMES

Before we can create a spirit of peace in our homes, we must understand what peace truly is and how it is obtained. According to the Bible, peace is absence of chaos and the presence of righteousness, and it is obtained by keeping our minds on the Lord (Psalm 34:14; Isaiah 26:3). Webster's Dictionary defines peace like this: "a state of tranquility or quiet; freedom from civil disturbance; a state of security or order within; freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions; harmony in personal relations; a state or period of mutual concord between government." As we seek to create a home filled with peace, we must focus on minimizing the chaos, establishing a sense of 'right-ness', and building harmony in our family relationships. What are some simple ways that we can do this?

- ◆ **Through our kind words.** Home should be the place where we are able to hear good things said about ourselves. It should be the place where people are pulling for you and where you are believed in.
- ◆ **Through our diligent works.** So many of the things that we are called to do as homemakers bring peace to our homes because they bring order to our family's lives. The husband that comes home to a home cooked meal, a tidy house, and children that are playing nicely is able to enjoy true rest because of the peace that is found there (Proverbs 31:11-12).
- ◆ **Through our godly ways.** Home should be a place characterized by unconditional love (I Corinthians 13:4-7). Home is not the place where people should be on trial each day to see if they are going to be loved or not. It is also the place where people should be treated justly, forgiven quickly, and restored completely.

When a family lives in the kind of home filled with kind words, diligent works and godly ways, they are able to find rest because of the biblical peace that has been established there.

CREATING A SENSE OF SECURITY IN OUR HOMES

What is security? It is the assurance that everything is safe. The Bible would describe it as the absence of fear, and Webster's Dictionary defines it like this: "freedom from danger: safety; freedom from fear and anxiety; freedom from want or deprivation." What kinds of things make people that live in a home feel safe? Things like commitment, character, protection, routine, rules, and authority. What are some simple ways that we can create a sense of security in our homes?

- ◆ **By honoring and keeping our marriage vows.** Few things cause more unrest in a child's life than the divorce of their parents. It is devastating to them and hinders them from finding the kind of rest that they need to find in their homes.
- ◆ **Keep our word.** If our family is going gain a sense of security from us, they MUST be able to believe in the things that we say. It is so important to do what we say we will do, be what we say we are, and go where we tell others we will go.
- ◆ **By developing a good name.** Children find security in who they are related to. We must make it a priority to develop a good name by paying our bills on time, dressing appropriately, using good language, being respectful to others, getting along with others, and doing what we are supposed to be doing.
- ◆ **By standing up for what is right.** No one feels secure when innocent people get taken advantage of, or where bad things are promoted as if they were good.
- ◆ **By following a regular routine each day.** Everyone in the family gains security when they KNOW that their laundry will be done, their meals will be cooked, the house will be cleaned, their stories will be read, their homework will get done, etc..
- ◆ **By establishing rules in the home.** Rules help everyone in the home to stay within limits and this brings security to all who live there.
- ◆ **By obeying the authorities that rule over us.** Submission is so much bigger than just allowing our husbands to have their own ways. It's about establishing security in our homes by showing our kids that they don't have to feel fearful about their lives and future because someone is in charge and responsible for the things that go on.

When a family establishes security in the home, the family members can find the rest they need because they feel safe.

"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." Psalm 40:8



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ESTABLISHING THE PRESENCE OF JESUS IN OUR HOMES

The Bible consistently associates rest with Jesus. Why do you think this is? I think it is because Jesus is the embodiment of true peace and security. The Bible calls Him “The Prince of Peace” and “The Way, the Truth, and the Life”. It will only be through having His presence as an intimate part of our home life will we ever be able to **maintain** the haven of rest that we will try so diligently to create. How do we establish the presence of Jesus in our homes?

- ◆ **Have a personal relationship with Him ourselves.** We must be born-again believers to have the presence of Jesus in our lives and in our homes.
- ◆ **Have a time of daily personal fellowship with Him.** This comes through your daily time of Bible reading, scripture memorization and prayer.
- ◆ **Read Bible stories with your kids.** If your husband will hold family devotions in your home, great! But if he won't, you take time each day to read the stories of the Bible to your kids.
- ◆ **Pray before meals and before the kids go to bed.** These simple acts of faith will help your children to know that Jesus is an important part of your home.
- ◆ **Go to church regularly.** Make sure you are attending a Bible believing church where the Word of God is preached and taught. Also, make it a point to involve your family in Sunday School and church activities.
- ◆ **Play Christian music in your home.**
- ◆ **Display Scriptures and other Christian artwork in your home.**

Before I close, I would like to share with you the one thing that will hinder us from ever being able to develop a haven of rest in our homes:

A CONTENTIOUS SPIRIT. (Proverbs 19:13; 21:19; 25:24; 27:15). What are we like when we have a contentious spirit? We are women who stir up strife and contend with God! How do we do it? By being prideful. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 13:10, “*Only by pride cometh contention.*” What are the signs of pride in our lives? A controlling personality, an unthankful nature, discontentment, and an unteachable spirit.

How can we rid ourselves of this? See it as sin, confess it as sin, and then change your mind about doing it because it is sin. Then live your life with a concern for others, and a desire to bring glory and honor to God (and not to yourself).

Home is a wonderful place. It is a father's kingdom, a mother's domain, and the children's paradise. It should be a place where strife is shut out and a world of love is shut in. But it will only become that way if peace, security, and the presence of Jesus are allowed to make it that way.

HOME

An artist, wanting to paint a beautiful picture, asked a pastor, “What is the most beautiful thing in the world?” “FAITH,” answered the pastor. “You can feel it in every church, find it at every altar.”

The artist asked the young bride the same question. “LOVE,” she replied. “Love builds poverty into riches; sweetens tears; makes much of little. Without it there is no beauty.”

A weary soldier said, “PEACE is the most beautiful thing in the world and war the most ugly. Wherever you find peace, you find beauty.”

Faith, Love, Peace! How can I paint them? Thought the artist. Entering his door he saw Faith in the eyes of his children and Love in the eyes of his wife. And there in the home was the Peace that Love and Faith had built. So he painted the picture of the “Most Beautiful Thing in the World.” And when he had finished, he called it, “HOME.”

~ FIRST BAPTIST BEACON

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Home Truths

by Thomas Guthrie from *Golden Thoughts of Mother, Home & Heaven*

Home! That word touches every fiber of the soul, and strikes every chord of the human heart with its angelic fingers. Nothing but death can break its spell. What tender associations are linked with home! What pleasing images and deep emotions it awakens! It calls up the fondest memories of life and opens in our nature the purest, deepest, richest gush of consecrated thought and feeling.

To the little child, home is his world — he knows no other. The father's love, the mother's smile, the sister's embrace, the brother's welcome, throw about his home a heavenly halo and make it as attractive to him as the home of angels. Home is the spot where the child pours out all his complaint and it is the grave of all his sorrows. Childhood has its sorrows and its grievances, but home is the place where these are soothed and banished by the sweet lullaby of a fond mother's voice.

Ask the man of mature years, whose brow is furrowed by care, whose mind is engrossed in business, ask him what is home. He will tell you that it is a place of rest, a haven of content, where loved ones relieve him of the burden of every-day life, too heavy to be continuously borne, from where he is refreshed and invigorated and goes forth to do battle again.

Ask the lone wanderer as he plods his weary way, bent with the weight of years and white with the frosts of age — ask him what is home. He will tell you that it is a green spot in memory, an oasis in the desert, a center about which the fondest recollection of his grief oppressed heart clings with all the tenacity of youth's first love. It was once a glorious, a happy reality, but now it rests only as an image of the mind.

Wherever the heart wanders it carries the thought of home with it. Wherever by the rivers of Babylon

the heart feels its loss and loneliness, it hangs its harp upon the willows, and weeps. It prefers home to its chief joy. It will never forget it, for there swelled its first throb, there were developed its first affections. There a mother's eye looked into it, there a father's prayer blessed it, there the love of parents and brothers and sisters gave it precious entertainment. There bubbled up from unseen fountains life's first effervescing hopes. There life took form and consistence.

From that center went out all its young ambition. Towards that focus return its concentrating memories. There it took form and fitted itself to loving natures, and it will carry that impress wherever it may go, unless it becomes polluted by sin or makes to itself another home sanctified by a new and more precious affection.

If you wanted to gather up all tender memories, all lights and shadow of the heart, all banquetings and reunions, all filial, fraternal, paternal,

conjugal affections, and had only just four letters to spell out all height and depth, and length and breadth, and magnitude and eternity of meaning, you would write it all out with the four letters that spell HOME.

What beautiful and tender associations cluster thick around that word! Compared with it, wealth, mansion, palace, are cold, heartless terms. But home, that word quickens every pulse, warms the heart, stirs the soul to its depths, makes age feel young again, rouses apathy into energy, sustains the sailor in his midnight watch, inspires the soldier with courage on the field of battle, and imparts patient endurance to the worn-out sons of toil.



“Home is the resort of love, of joy, of peace and plenty, where, supporting and supported, polished friends and dear relations mingle into bliss.”