

The Daughters *of* PHILIP



Pastor (Mrs) Shade Olukoya

**THE
DAUGHTERS
OF PHILIP**

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I salute my wonderful wife, Pastor Shade, for her invaluable support in the ministry.

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CHAPTER ONE

BECOMING A SUCCESSFUL MOTHER BY FIRE

We serve a God who answers by fire. We are preserved by the fire of the Holy Ghost. The fire of the Lord is the secret of the fulfillment of our destinies as mothers. See what the Bible says in this passage:

1 Kings 18:24: And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

The presence of God and the release of His favour upon us are made evident by the descent of fire.

1 Chronicles 21:26: And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering.

THE TWO TRACKS

There are two tracks of life: living the ordinary life and living in the realm of fire. There are two types of mothers: those who are mothers by fire and those who are mothers in the ordinary sense of the word.

In this chapter, we shall address the type of motherhood which is characterized by the abundant presence of the Holy Ghost fire. The symbol of the Holy Ghost is fire.

The Bible says;

Matthew 3:11: I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

When we are baptized with the Spirit of God, we are actually immersed into the fire of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost fire makes us untouchable. Besides, it makes mothers to attain the realm of uncommon victory and excellence. Mothers who are spirit-filled, generally pass on fire into the lives of their children.

THE TRANSFER

The influence of a mother who possesses the fire of the Holy Ghost in a great measure has remained the greatest gift to our generation. As the devil attacks the

family and tries to obstruct the star of the children, we need mothers who are on fire to stem the evil tide. Either your children are very young or fully grown, the fire of God in you as a mother will preserve the destiny of your children. Just as demonic mothers can pass on evil spirits to their children, godly mothers who are on fire can transfer the fire of the Holy Ghost to the lives of their children.

It is crystal clear, that motherhood is not an easy task. Mothers contend, on the one hand with the challenges of the modern age and, on the other hand, with the threats emanating from the kingdom of darkness. Human intellect, industry, academic knowledge, financial capability or the privilege of sending children to the best schools can not make a mother effective in her calling and responsibilities.

THE SUCCESS FACTOR

Each mother is given the responsibility of praying until she is endowed with fire from on high. As a mother you ought to pray the type of fiery prayers, that will set your children on fire and grant them immunity.

It is saddening today, that some mothers concentrate on carnal efforts in the name of raising and training their children. The greatest success factor is the fire of the Holy Ghost. Mothers who are strangers to this fire are far from being called real mothers. Why is this so?

A mother is expected to act as a prop behind the husband. She is also expected to keep the home and provide good meals. The responsibility of caring for the children rest squarely on her shoulders. When arrows are hurled at the family from the kingdom of darkness, she is expected to parry the arrows and protect the entire family.

There is also the societal expectation. If the husband fails, she is blamed; If he succeeds, she is praised. The saying: "Behind every successful man there is a woman" reveals the fact that so much is expected from women. Tell me, can a woman fulfill all these roles without being endowed with fire? The answer is simple. Motherhood can only be taken to the highest level through the presence of the fire of the Holy Ghost.

WHO IS A MOTHER?

A mother is someone who first becomes a wife. She leaves her father and her mother and is joined to her husband through total obedience to the principles of

true Christian marriage.

Matt 19:4-6: And he answered and said unto them. Have ye not read, that he which made then at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What there fore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

A woman is a mother in the truest sense of the word when she carries out her responsibilities as outlined in the scriptures.

Prov 31:10-31: Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from a far. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

A mother faces several challenges. When she beholds her messy sink, takes a glance at a stack of dirty dishes and surveys a load of dirty diapers and clothes, she staggers at the immensity of such a great task. Kids must be bathed and put to bed at night or sent to school in the morning. Moreover, the entire home must be rid of dirt. Her spiritual duties also stare her in the face. She has to care for

her children, stand by her husband, take the burden of her family to God in prayer and play active roles in the Church of God.

THE MOTHER'S CALL

A true mother is the husband's counsellor, the children's pilot, the community's silent influence, the economic manager of the home, the excellent caterer, as well as the one who ministers encouragement to her husband at all times. Motherhood is, without doubt, one of the most challenging calling in life.

Of course, the husband is the head of the home, yet the role of the woman cannot be dismissed with a wave of the hand. While the father is the leader, the mother sets the tone. Research has proved that mothers have the greatest influence on the children. Hence the saying "the hands that rocks the cradle rules the world."

The mother has been given the responsibility of moulding the life of the children for eternity. Motherhood on the one hand is one of life's toughest responsibilities while, on the other hand, it is one of life's highest honours.

Do you know that the responsibility assigned to mothers requires as much spiritual energy, intelligence and drive as is generally required for the holding top positions in business or government? The mother studies the children, knows where they hurt, surveys their needs and works hard towards meeting them, imparts love for spirituality and fire upon the growing children. She works tirelessly right from the early hours of the day till the closing hours of the night just to ensure that the total atmosphere in the home is conducive for the total well-being of the entire family.

A true mother spans and rebukes the children whenever they go astray, comforts them when they are weather-beaten, envelops them with the fire of prayer when the enemy tries to prey upon them. When the husband comes bearing the burden of the day's challenges, the mother acts as financial advisor, kernel of wisdom, balm of Gilead, supporter, initiator, facilitator, shock absorber and every thing the husband needs to remain sane, spiritual, motivated and calm in the face of complex challenges of life.

Surely, every mother will stagger at the immensity of such a great task. At such a time, the scripture will provide a ready answer to nagging questions emanating from the challengers of motherhood.

2 Cor 2:16: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?

2 Cor 3:5: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

The truth is that, no woman is sufficient or qualified enough without God's grace. The abundant grace of God is fully demonstrated, when the woman discovers the secrets behind motherhood by fire. The fire of the Holy Ghost can only set ablaze the heart of a mother that is completely broken.

THE NEED FOR BEING BROKEN

Do you want to receive fire? You must prepare for the experience by being broken. Being broken, makes you to say no to the dictates of the flesh and reject the lure of the carnal human nature. If there is any group of human beings in whose life carnality is more pronounced, it is among the women folk. Women generally find it easy to keep malice. Women are generally heady and stubborn.

WHAT KIND OF WOMAN ARE YOU?

Are you submissive and Christlike? Are you carnal or God centered in your plans and projections? Do you give honour to whom is due? Are you a gossip or tale bearer?

Do you possess the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit? Are you a peacemaker? Do you show respect toward elders? Do you greet others with humility? Have you allowed pride to enter your heart as a result of your privileges? Are you humble in comportment and carriage? Are you a true example of Christlike humility? Are you discrete in your words or actions? Are you a true child of God?

A mother who is not broken would give birth to and raise children who are far from demonstrating the character of being broken. "Like father like son, like daughter like mother" they say. A mother who is not broken will be dominant and arrogant. This type of character will confuse the children. Research has proved that children raised by arrogant modes of behaviour. One of the hallmarks of true motherhood is submission. The Bible says

Eph 5:22-24: Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the

church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

UNHEALTHY INFLUENCE

Wives are expected to be submissive to their husbands. The above Biblical injunction has far-reaching implications. God places a high premium on submission. Wives or mothers who remain submissive to their husbands under the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ will always enjoy the favour of God. When a woman becomes arrogant, sluggish and rebellious she disregards God's word and disobeys His commands. If a woman or a mother rebels outwardly or inwardly against the authority of her husband, her children would sense it and manifest the same kind of rebellious traits. Of course, the husband may not always be more intelligent or endowed with talents than the wife but he is nevertheless the head of the home.

After your personal relationship with the Lord, your husband comes next. He is your crown of glory. Even if your husband is not what you desire him to be, don't nag him or make him feel like he is a nonentity. If you tongue-lash him or make him feel worthless you will only succeed in driving him further from you. If there are problems between you and your husband, do not envelop yourself in the cocoon of your children. Your being overly dependent on your children will give them a warped view of what true Christian marriage is all about.

CAUTION AND CARE

A mother, who abandons her husband and replaces the roles which are supposed to be played by the husband with her children will end up getting her children confused. Children are no adults. They are not competent to interfere in adult matters. No matter how good your children are, they cannot replace your husband.

Mothers should avoid loading their young children with a litany of the inadequacies of the husband. When children are made of to see the negative side of their father, the mother unconsciously loses her self-esteem. Most of the time, children accord so much respect to their mothers because she is covered by the glory of her husband. You should, therefore, watch your attitude towards your husband, as children can be very quick to react to any form of ungodly behaviour.

If a child knows that the father is the head of the home and that the mother

operates under the father's authority and that both parents are united, they will surely have more love and respect for both parents

TOTAL INFLUENCE

Little children are excellent imitators. They often mimic adult behaviour, even when the implications of such a behaviour, remain unknown to them. When a mother allows herself to become irritable, overly critical or sharp with the children, she would end up creating an unpleasant atmosphere which will be characterized by tension and discord.

Most of the time, children often copy character traits of the mother. Someone has rightly observed that, although the father is the head, the mother is the heart of the home. The emotional state and the overall character of the mother often become the pulse of the home. The mind of the children can be likened to a video cassette recorder; carefully recording every word spoken in anger, every ungodly facial expression, every lie spoken in hypocrisy, every modulation of the voice dictated by uncontrollable rage and every manifestation that is contrary to the teaching of the scripture on righteousness.

Psychologists have told us that, by the time a child is two years old a particular emotional pattern would have been set in him. A mother who is fussy will influence the children to become fearful. A mother who is disorganized and handles things with levity will raise a child who will perform poorly at school and find it difficult to get along with other children. A mother who is an expert at worrying, will breed apprehensive and disorganized children. On the other hand, a mother who often grumbles and complains will make discontentment an habitual pattern for her children.

FINAL WORD

If only mothers would take a critical look at the impact of their conduct and make necessary changes, the world will become a better place to live in. As a mother you need to immerse yourself in the blood of Jesus for cleansing and transformation. You also need to subject yourself to a thorough purging by the fire of the Holy Ghost. You must also abide in God's presence, drawing from His wisdom and strength from day to day.

Finally, you must be careful, thorough and sympathetic when you deal with children. Above all, you must do a great deal of warfare prayers. This is the essence of motherhood by fire. It takes fire and warfare prayers, to make your

destiny as a successful mother come true. We shall take a closer look at this in the next chapter.

PRAYER POINTS

1. All evil counsels, against my marital life, collapse, in Jesus' name.
2. Any association between my husband/wife and any strange man woman, be scattered now, in the name of Jesus.
3. Every demonic in-law, loose your hold upon my life in Jesus' name.
4. Spirit husbands and spirit wives, loose your hold in the name of Jesus (place your hand below your stomach)
5. Every curse, that has been issued against my marriage, be cancelled, in the name of Jesus.
6. Every demonic mark, contrary to settled homes, be wiped off with the blood of Jesus.
7. Every inherited spirit, that is not of God, go, in the name of Jesus.
8. Every curse, issued against my marriage or against my marital life, be broken, in the name of Jesus
9. Let the effect, of every ceremony done on the day of my wedding and which has been working against me, be cancelled and destroyed, in the name of Jesus
10. Every spiritual dowry, collected on my behalf, I return you to the sender, in the name of Jesus.

CHAPTER TWO

SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND MOTHERHOOD

Spiritual warfare, plays a crucial role in the area of successful motherhood. To be a mother and succeed in your God-given responsibilities, you need to ask God to teach your hands to fight and do battle. If there is any place where motherhood has faced the greatest attacks, it is in African continent.

When evil powers try to launch their attacks, their main victim is the mother. Powers of darkness believe that to paralyse the home, they must incapacitate the mother. If there is any home where the mother has been subjected to evil diversion. Such a home will not be able to fulfill its overall destiny.

If we survey the whole gamut of spiritual warfare which an average mother gets involved in, we will discover that no mother can afford to handle her roles and responsibilities with levity.

2 Cor 10: 3-5: for though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high things that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

Every mother has her own battles to fight. She also has to fight battles on behalf of her children. The battles of her husband becomes hers by extension. Most of the time, mothers grapple with a combination of battles. The battles get so complex that mothers become completely confused.

Here are the areas where spiritual warfare has taken a high toll on motherhood.

1. ANCESTRAL BONDAGE: Most mothers in African as well as those who live abroad as blacks in the Diaspora come from backgrounds of ancestral bondage. Our forefathers placed most of us under serious bondage. If you have taken the time to study the history of most communities in African and Asia, you would have discovered that it was a past that was deeply rooted in idolatry.

The bible says in this passage:

Ps 74:20: Have respect unto the covenant: for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty.

Our fathers sowed seeds of bondage which have resulted in all kinds of

problem today. The problems that are caused by ancestral bondage have posed serious problems to mothers to fight and win the battles emanating from these ancestral bondage, may take a very long time depending on the level of the bondage.

2. CURSED LINEAGE: Those who come from a lineage that is cursed, have serious battles to fight. A mother who hails from a cursed family will battle with internal personal problems. Her children will be wayward while her home will be unstable. Curses can be terrible. In African, many mothers have lived under the shadow of curses. When a curse is in place, mothers in succeeding generations will find family life and mothering. unbearable.

There are simple curses while there are malignant curses. No matter the level of curses that has been placed on your lineage, you cannot be free until such curses are removed. If you trace the history of such curses you might discover that there are certain things which your forefathers did in order to make the curses stick.

The Bible says in the book of proverbs:

Prov 26:2: As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

Don't ever takes anything for granted. Pray until God turns your curses into blessings.

Jer 13:2: So I got a girdle according to the word of the LORD, and put it on my loins

If you want to fulfill your destiny as a woman, you must pray until all curses are cancelled.

3. THE POWER OF YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE: The power of your father's house is one of the forces to contend with, if you want to experience total fulfillment in your life as a mother. A lot of women have jumped from one husband to another simply because they are being pursued by the power of their father's house. Many women have made terrible mistakes, simply because the power of their father's house has programmed them to get involved with activities that are sponsored by the spirit of error.

If you do not deal with the power of your father's house, you will continue to experience failure in your roles as a mother. If the power of your father's house

has vowed that you will not raise up children successfully, all your efforts will end up in futility. If the power of your father's house have also decided that you will not spend more than five years in your husband's house, something may mysteriously make you jump out of your matrimonial home. You must contend with these powers.

4. POWERS THAT ARE FIGHTING MOTHERS There is a department in the dark kingdom that is responsible for fighting mothers. There is also a special department that is charged with the responsibility of initiating mothers into witchcraft. Such demonic powers adopt this strategy because they know that to capture the entire family, they simply have to initiate the woman.

Spiritual warfare is the secret behind successful motherhood. The charge to every mother therefore is seen here:

1 Tim 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

As a mother who wants to succeed, you must war a good warfare. If you have not seen any reason for getting involved with aggressive warfare, then consider the life of your children.

The Bible says:

Lam 2:19: Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street.

You must get involved in spiritual warfare for the sake of your children. To be a mother and succeed in your God-given responsibilities, you must be a woman who is given to aggressive prayers and spiritual warfare. Remember, children are what we make them. When children are in their tender years, they are malleable. Children are the sum total of what we contribute to their lives. The manner with which we build and train our children will determine how prepared they are for a most useful and satisfying life in the future. Our children's spiritual lives are at stake. For example if you have not yet gone through deliverance, you are endangering the lives of your children.

PRAYER POINTS

1. The spiritual marriage of my husband/wife to his/her mother, be dissolved, in the name of Jesus.
2. Any power, which says that I will not enjoy my marital life, be roasted, in the name of Jesus.
3. I command my runaway husband/wife to come back, in the name of Jesus.
4. You spirit of marriage destruction, be bound, in the name of Jesus.
5. I command, every curse on my marriage to be converted to blessing, in the name of Jesus.
6. I command, every evil which strange friends have done against my home to be reversed, in the name of Jesus.
7. I release my partner from every demonic cage, in Jesus' name.
8. Thank God answers to your prayer.
9. Thank God for the institution of marriage.
10. Lord, forgive me for any unprofitable contribution that brings about my present marital situation

CHAPTER THREE

THE DAUGHTERS OF PHILIP

A clear, straightforward reference about the daughters of Phillip, the evangelist is found in the book of Acts 21:8-9.

Acts 21:8-9: And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Phillip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

Four daughters of a busy preacher becoming prophetesses is a great challenge to present day parents. In our world today, many parents feel that it is a great deal of problem raising their children to become what God wants them to become. Most of the parents complain and raise the question on how to raise and tend their children to love the Lord and serve Him.

RAISING GODLY SEED

Many of these parents have concluded in their minds that when it comes to training children, there is no guarantee that they will take to all the instructions given them by their parents. They believe that, no matter how parents try to raise their children they are bound to go astray. This assertion is never so. The truth is this: the task of raising godly seeds who will transform nation lie squarely on the shoulders of parents.

The government has failed. The schools have also failed to lead these children in the right direction. The schools have done more havoc than good in training children. The onus is on the parents to ensure that their wards walk according to the plans and will of God for their lives. The parents have a greater responsibility for directing and leading the children.

THE BASIC RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS

The basic responsibility of parents towards their children must be spiritual in nature. The children must be led to accept the Saviour. They need to be born again. Getting them born again early enough should be the target of every parent. Just as Eunice the mother of Timothy, and Lois the grandmother of Timothy exercised greater spiritual influence on Timothy, every hand must also be on deck to lead these children to Christ, the lover of their souls.

It is quite unfortunate, that many parents are starving spiritually. The word of God in them is not enough. They have no spiritual stamina to withstand the

spiritual weather. The cares of life and the anxiety about how to secure their future have quenched the quest for God and His word. The word of God is not actually abiding in these parents. How then will give what they do not have to their children? It is impossible. This is the major reason why godliness is fast fading away in the lives of our children.

COSTLY IGNORANCE

Most of these children are completely ignorant of the Bible culture simply because they were not introduced to them. Most of these spiritual exercise were abandoned to the children's' Sunday School Department because parents are a complete novice at the things of the spirit.

The world is moving fast. The information technology and internet awareness have ravaged our land to the detriment of spirituality. There are very few parents who understand eternal issues. If parents are so spiritually impoverished, what then do we expect of their kids? Some parents who put little efforts in spiritual things do so because of their religious obligations. It is not necessarily because they see spiritual things as necessary for their personal life.

They only try to please their conscience by the few inclinations they have towards the things of God.

There are very few people who really sit down to appreciate the importance of the word of God in building their lives and ministry.

It is true that children need nourishment to grow in every dimensions as they pass from childhood to their teen, from adolescent and then on to adulthood. But, the effects of spiritual nourishment should not be underestimated too. The perceived pollution and the fact that true spiritual nourishment is far out of the reach of most children makes them grow with little or no spiritual direction.

THE FEAR OF RAISING CHILDREN

There are several fears nursed by parents in raising children. Most of this fears stem out of the fear that parents are generally ignorant of what to do to nurture their children.

There are some occurrences that make parents to panic towards their children. Because of the quick growth of these children, the fear of early pregnancy in daughters is very paramount. The dread of the scourge of HIV is a cause for

worry in many concerned parents.

To the boys especially, the menace of cultism in schools, and peer pressure is a thing to worry about. Most of these older children in schools are seeking identity and freedom. They feel they can paddle their own canoe hence they seek to break loose from their parents' control. Most often, they become vagabonds and tend to become nuisance in the society. These tendencies including other delinquent tendencies are causes for worry by parents. One thing I know that is very clear is that, parents who serve God and train their children in the way of the Lord have no reason to fear. Though it may sometimes seem as if they are departing from the way of God's instructions, the ceaseless prayer of the parents would bring them back to the fold. They would soon remember again the God of their mothers and fathers and return to Him. Parents who are doing the right thing have no reason whatever to fear.

LESSONS FROM THE FAMILY OF PHILLIP

The Bible gives a short powerful description of the family of Phillip. Although not much was said about his wonderful family, but by extension we can learn a lot of lessons from his family.

First, it is glaring that Phillip was a busy evangelist. The Bible recorded how he was saddled with great responsibilities as one of the deacons to serve. The anointing of God singled him out and he became an international evangelist of note. The book of Acts in chapter 8 recorded his evangelistic outreach that caused the whole city of Samaria to rejoice as God backed up his ministry with signs and wonders.

There was a time as well, when he witnessed to an African-a eunuch from Ethiopia. He preached to him and he was converted. He had no time to sit down at home like pastor do. The Bible did not tell us that he was a writer who had time to sit at home.

PROSPER PERSPECTIVE

Although he was very busy, he had time for his family. He did not loose sight of his primary responsibility of leading his family to God. He was not hypocritical as many are today. He was preaching the Christ he had preached to his family members. He first evangelized to his own people. He was good at the home front as well as in the field. He was not carried away by the ministerial assignment at the expense of the family.

His family was hospitable. They entertained visitors and raised godly children.

His daughters embraced his God. They learned to follow his footsteps for he had time out of no time to teach them the way of the Lord. Two things were said of Phillip's daughters which are very challenging. First they were all prophetesses. What a testimony this is! For a person to be a true prophetess of God, she must be born again, washed in the blood of Jesus and baptized with the power of the Holy Ghost with evidence of speaking in tongues. All the daughters without exception had these experiences.

The second thing is that, they were all virgins. Is this not a challenge to pastors, evangelists and prophets of today whose children grow wayward? Most of them get pregnant at an early age in life. Most of the daughters of the present-day busy men of God are like public dogs on the streets. They commit immorality at will and are plagued with moral decadence.

THE CHALLENGE OF HOLINESS

The daughters of Phillip kept their virginity. They were kept pure till the day of their marriage. My heart burns within me as I discover that, most ladies in the Church today are no longer virgins. If you dare to ask who deflowered them, it may amaze you to know that it is the Church people; even workers and pastors in the house of God. If sanctity is far from the custodians of truth, how then do we expect morality to be embedded in the lives of their children.

This issues calls for prayers made in sincerity, or else, our children are in trouble. The lives of the daughters of Phillip were products of testimonies on the ability of God to keep one pure in this polluted world. Their lives portrayed lives of true children of God.

These daughters were brought up in Sicilia. They did not allow the environment to corrupt them because their father prayerfully nurtured them in God's way.

It is a pity, that we have so many prophetesses these days who are living in pollution. Their lives are open scandals in the society. They are prophesying about the God whom they know nothing about. The lives of the Daughters Phillip should be a challenge to these people.

A MODEL FAMILY

Another lessons we can learn from the family is that, Phillip's family was an hospitable and loving family. A proper understanding of the book of the Acts, will give you an insight into the 'fact that Phillip's family is a traffic route for many missionaries on evangelism trip.

The comportment and organization of the family is such that weary missionaries could easily see the family as the haven of the rest for them. In spite of the influx of these men of God, the daughters of Phillip still kept their virginity.

Although the Bible is silent about Mrs. Phillip. But it is definite that since there was a Mr. Phillip definitely there must be a Mrs. Phillip. "Behind every successful man there is a woman", they say. This must have been true also for evangelist Phillip. He could not have been successful without the cooperation of his wife. She was the woman behind the scene.

A GOOD EXAMPLE

Mrs. Phillip was an amiable wife who stood solidly behind her husband's ministry and her children's training she was not pompous. She was never a busy body. She minded her business and she was an excellent woman in her ministry at home to her children. She was on the same spiritual platform with their family. Her attributes are visible in the family as well as in the life of the daughters. It is believed that woman had greater influence on the children. What the daughters became could be traceable to the contributions of Mrs. Phillip. Probably she was a prophetess. The fruits of her physical and spiritual labours were seen in the lives of the family members.

If she were a prostitute, at least one of the daughters would have taken after her. One of the daughters would have copied her and become wayward. But this was not the case. This speaks good of Mrs. Phillip.

Although, she was unannounced and unnoticed, the fruits of her labour speak volume of her character. focus and attitude.

We pray again for a raising of Mr. and Mrs. Phillips in this perverse and confused generation.

There is a popular saying which individuals can reject. It is said that; "the children of the ministers of God are the worst" As for me. God forbid! My children shall be models in the society just as the daughters of Phillip were.

You can determine that your children will be the best and not the worst. The ball is in your court to play it as you like.

You can determine by the help of the Lord that your children would become prophetic arrows and not misfired arrows.

It is quite unfortunate, that great men and women of God are having serious problems with their children. Many of these great ministers whose children have become sons of Belial and daughters of Jezebel are crying and weeping secretly. The issue of their children has become a dark spot in their ministry. They are delivering others but they cannot deliver their families. What a pity! "physician heal thyself"

THE CHALLENGE OF THE HOUR

This problem is a cankerworm that is eating deep into the lives and ministries of the servants of God. These men and women of God are failures in carrying their family members along. Things have fallen apart. The centre can no longer hold.

It would be painful, for any servant of God or worker in God's house to find men and women, boys and girls he had preached to, making it to heaven, while his or her own family members are pushed outside the gates of heaven. What a sad story that would be?

Frankly speaking, the issue of child training is the responsibility of the parents. Many make mistakes by underrating children. When it comes to important Church meetings such as praying and fasting, praying for the power of Holy Ghost, spiritual gifts. etc. children are excluded with the excuse that they are still young. This ought not to be so.

Remember that satan is out to steal, kill and destroy. Families are under a serious spiritual attacks from the devil. He knows that the family is the bedrock of the Church and the society. Hence, he seeks to undermine the marriage structure by laying claims on family members so that the purpose and will of God for such members of the family will be hindered. The Christian family is standing great challenges in this end time.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Lord, forgive me if the choice of my partner has been wronged from the beginning.
2. Lord, walk back to the foundation of my marriage and carry out the necessary surgical operation.
3. I register my protest in the demonic world, for the wounds and injury inflicted to my home by the enemy, in the name of Jesus.
4. I blind, every strongman militating against my home, in Jesus" name.
5. Let every evil spiritual marriage, contacted by me or no my behalf, be dissolved, in the mighty name of Jesus.
6. Let every evil spiritual marriage with spirit husband/wife be dissolved in the name of Jesus.
7. Let every evil spiritual home, involving me be destroyed, in the name of Jesus.
8. I pursue, overtake and recover my marriage from the hands of home breakers, in the name of Jesus
9. Lord. dissolve and render to nought every evil counsel fashioned against my home.
10. I blind, every spirit of Ahab, Jezebel, strife and home wreckers; in the name of Jesus

CHAPTER FOUR

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN CHILD TRAINING

It is a known fact, that men are different from women. In God's order of marriage, he has made the man and the woman equal. But God in his sovereignty has made man superior hence the woman is to play a supportive role. The woman is not a foot mat as some tradition treat her. Rather, she is a helpmate for the man.

By nature, God has skillfully made the woman. Woman by nature are full of details, cunning, diplomatic adroit, careful and tender. It is unlike the male counterpart who is strong, agile, assuming and fast.

Because of these endowments and because of child birth a woman exercises greater influence on the children. Remember, a woman stays at home most of the time unlike the man who spends much time outside in search of daily bread. A baby stays with the mother almost 24 hours a day, taking her breast milk for the few weeks or months after birth.

These are the reasons why the role of a woman in child training can not be overemphasized. It is true that child training is the responsibility of both parents. But the duty tilts more towards the woman than the man for obvious reasons.

It is amazing that the issues of the children's hygiene, dressing, choice of food, and other related affairs most often than not, naturally belongs to the woman.

I am not trying to say that all the duties belong to the woman. Again, I am not trying to show a kind of dichotomy in the responsibilities of the man and the woman at home. Rather, I am trying to emphasize the fact that women have a greater role to play in the upbringing of their children at home. Both parties should be involved in child training but the role of the woman cannot be over-emphasised.

Woman generally focus on family affairs, whereas men focus their interest on global affairs. It is not unlikely to see men using their leisure time to read newspaper and listening to news, whereas women bury themselves in family affairs even during their leisure time.

THE ROLE OF A WOMAN

Let us learn about the role of a woman from the parable of Jesus Christ.

Matt 13:33: Another parable spake he unto them; the kingdom of heaven is like

unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meals, till the whole was leavened.

Looking at this verse contextually, Jesus was actually speaking about the issue of the kingdom of God using household items such as flour, leaven yeast as an illustration. Jesus used these items in relation to the duty of a woman for it says, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven which a woman took ..." the baking of bread is the duty of the woman. She does this to feed household.

The woman knows the amount of yeast or baking powder needed for a particular size of bread. The measure described here in the Bible is equivalent to seven and half gallons. Here, Jesus was honouring women's ministry at home. The woman recognized the usefulness of the leaven (put in modern tongue, 'yeast' or 'baking powder'). She knows the seize of the flour needed for a particular amount of the yeast. The woman here is seen as calculative, precise and careful.

THE POINT OF CONTACT

Spiritually, a woman knows that the word of God could be like baking powder which when it enters a man's life causes the desired growth. The growth experienced in the word of God yield spiritual fruits which are mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23

Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

If a woman takes the right spiritual steps, these are the fruits expected in the lives of the children.

The bread that Jesus multiplied in John 6;9 was baked by a mother.

John 6:9: There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

Jesus recognised this and blessed the cake. Bread is likened to spiritual food. Mothers are challenged to feed their children with the word of God which dis the spiritual bread. This is a crucial aspect of the role of a mother.

There was a challenge about Susanah Wesley, the mother of John Wesley. She had nineteen children and she led all of them to the Lord. She used to bake spiritual bread for each of her children. She gave them individual attention. It is

not surprising then that her children became kingdom champions for the Lord Jesus in their lifetime. Notable among them are John and Charles Wesley. How did she do it? Through the instrumentality of the word of God.

I ask you: Are you baking the bread? Jesus can bless men and woman directly but he prefers that someone should be the baker of bread. He wanted someone to be the point of contact through which the world could be touched by His ministry of love and care.

Woman, may the Lord depend on you to be an instrument in God's hand, not only in blessing your immediate family, but in blessing the world at large.

INTENSE HUNGER

A woman baked the bread mentioned in John 6:9 and passed the same to her child. It was the same bread that Jesus blessed and multiplied for the multitudes to feed on.

When the word of God is well baked by a mother the same can be passed to the children. The children in turn through the help of the Holy Spirit, will share the same bread with people.

Many children are hungry in the world today and they are looking for food to eat. As a result of this hunger, many of the children would accept anything they see as food. It is hunger for identity and hunger for love that make them succumb to peer pressure. That is why many of them take to occultism, alcoholism and crime.

Unless we provide a balanced spiritual food for them from the beginning of their lives, they would always grow wayward. Do not allow your children to be spiritual famished before you provide them with the word of God which is the incorruptible seed. Going after wrong food is following after wrong friends. Going after wrong food is following multitudes to do evil. Eating wrong food is watching bad movies, listening to wrong music and reading the wrong books. The resultant effect of spiritual food is that it yields incorruptible seeds. The children would grow in the way of the Lord when they are well nurtured.

CHILDREN EVANGELISM

Children can never be too small to be led Christ. That is why they must be preached to as early as possible. They must be shown the way of salvation early

enough. These will make them to walk in the way of the Lord without departing from it.

Let the children always see you with the Bible. Let them sense your relationship with the Lord and your devotion to the Bible. Let them see examples to follow in your life.

When you speak and mention the name of Jesus on daily basis both in your conversation and in your prayer, the child will get used to the name of Jesus. Growing up to pray and to use the name of Jesus in their prayers will see them through the vicissitudes of life.

As we order the way of our children in the way of the Lord, we too are reordering our lives because as mothers, we are still growing and learning in the process.

Mothers do themselves more good by teaching the young ones. In the attempt to teach children God's words, mothers go the extra mile in understanding the scripture and in seeking to apply it to the level of understanding of their small children.

Abandoning children to their selfish ways is a way through which parents, especially mothers, do much harm to themselves and to their children. It is my sincere prayer, that we shall not be found guilty in the name of Jesus. It is my prayer too, that the Lord will teach us to communicate His goodness to our children in the name of Jesus. May God help us to plant them in the way of the Lord so that they will not depart from it in Jesus name.

RAISING GODLY SEED

How do we train these children to serve God and to walk with the Lord just like Enoch walked with the Lord?

Let us take a cursory look at seven principles of raising godly children.

- 1. Perception:** Know each particular child. Get to know their likes and dislikes. Their personalities and temperamental analysis must be accessed carefully. Knowing a child will afford one the opportunity of assisting in the area of developmental growth. Getting to know the area of weakness and strength of each child is a valuable tool in the hand of parents. Never say that a child is a nonentity. Never say that a child is slow in learning. Get to know your child

and adapt the best way 'of assisting him or her in all spheres of his life.

- 2. Prepare Purposefully:** Before the arrival of children in the family, parents must prepare purposefully and prayerfully for the arrival of the children in the family. There are spiritual as well as physical preparation that must be taken.

The understanding of the needs of the hour helps in preparing adequately. Each child must be prepared not only in the area of the needs of the hour but also against future challenges. Hannah knew the need of the hour. She knew the interests of the Lord. That was why she planned that the child that God would give her would be handed over to the Lord. The life and ministry of Samuel actually proved that her plans paid off. Her plans to dedicate Samuel to the Lord was a blessing to her and to the people of Israel.

It was as if Hannah knew the heart of the Lord that a good judge, priest and prophet was needed for God's people. Her plan of dedicating Samuel to God was like an answer to prayer. Hannah knew the needs of the hour.

Every mother should know God's purpose for each of her children

- 3. Plant Painstakingly:** Things can only go on effectively if mothers plant in a suitable soil, nurture and water it regularly. This calls for being meticulous.
- 4. Pray Persistently:** Godly seed are not just born or made. There must be spiritual and physical investment towards raising godly seed. The input into the lives of these children will determine the expected output. Put in another word, the processing of godly seed depends largely on the input. It is what is invested in a child that will be expected to germinate and produce fruits in him. Persistent prayer unto God on behalf of the children is one of the best things mothers can put in their children.

Prayer of thanksgiving, supplication and intercession should be offered for our children.

- 5. Persevere personally:** The battles of life generally take a long time. But through personal perseverance, victory is always guaranteed. The instruction is, "Do not give up" even though you might be experiencing setbacks in some areas of child development. Persevere continually in prayer and in sowing God's word into the hearts of the children.
- 6. Purge Progressively:** Some godly seed are converted dramatically. Others

seems to respond gradually. They may be slow but they will get there. Things must be invested regularly for them to be progressively fruitful. You do not plant a seed today and expect to pluck the fruits immediately.

Continue to purge and prune the children progressively, a little at a time. And very soon, you will be through with them by the time they become torchbearers and the defenders of what they had imbibed in you.

7. Prophecy Passionately: Prophecy is the declaration of God's intention. Godly parents have tremendous authority over their children. The words they declare upon their children count. God honors the prophetic proclamations of parents on the children.

For example, when Zechariah the father of John was full of the Holy Spirit, he prophesied and the words of the prophecy became bound on the life of John the Baptist.

Zechariah prophesied about the future ministry and life the Baptist. And it was so. John was a day old when his father prophesied on him. Zechariah said, "You child shall be called the prophet of the Highest."

Your child hears whatsoever you call him or her. Whether you like it or not, your words play greater role in moulding the child both now and in the future. Zechariah proclaimed the identity of the child upon him at a time when the child barely knew anything significant. The child may not be old enough to understand and appreciate what the father proclaimed, yet this should not deter him from speaking the words of prophecy to him.

Are you expecting God to give you the miracle of the fruit of the womb? If yes, do not wait for the time the miracle comes before you start to declare God's intentions on the children that would be born. When you do all these things, you will not have any reason to fear whatsoever.

You will rejoice in time to come for the seed sowed. Seeing your children become what God would have them be is a thing of joy and happiness. Nurture your children today and you shall rejoice over them tomorrow.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Oh Lord! Let your will be done, over my family, in the name of Jesus.
2. Oh Lord! Let the blood of Jesus Christ purge the heart of my children in the name of Jesus.
3. Holy Ghost fire! Baptize me afresh in the name of Jesus.
4. Lord, let your axe of fire fall on the root of my marital problems and cut them into pieces, in the name of Jesus.
5. Let every power, militating against the divine purposes of marriage in my hope be destroyed. That is the powers militating against companionship and completeness.
6. Let every wicked device of the enemy, to defeat these purposes in our lives be frustrated. In the name of Jesus.
7. Let every gadget of marriage destruction, be frustrated in my home, in the name of Jesus.
8. Let every evil anti-marriage linkage, with our parents be dashed into pieces, in the name of Jesus.
9. Let every effect of external interferences in our marriage be completely neutralized, in the name of Jesus.
10. Every power, preventing me as a wife from accepting the headship of my husband become paralyzed, in the name of Jesus.
11. Every power, preventing me as a husband from living as a true head should become paralyzed, in the name of Jesus.
12. The Lord should forgive any sin of abortion that may lead to blood crying against our home, in the name of Jesus.
13. The Lord should help us make the proper corrections in our marriage.
14. Let imagination, thought, plan, decision, desire and expectation of divorce and separation against my home be nullified, in the name of Jesus.
15. I bind and render to nought, the power and activities of the spirits that put marriage asunder, in the name of Jesus.
16. Satan, hear the word of the Lord, you will not break my home, in the name of Jesus.
17. I paralyze, every spirit of misunderstanding between me and my wife/husband, in the name of Jesus.
18. I bind, all the powers eating away the determination of my wife/husband to stay married to me, in the name of Jesus.
19. Let the satanic birds, eating away my love from the heart of my

wife/husband vomit it, in the name of Jesus.

20. Pray in the spirit for at least 10 minutes.

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1. Daughters of Philip
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4. The Call Of God
5. When Your Destiny Is Under Attack
6. Woman of Wonder

About The Book

Books on marriage, the family and child training are rare, yet the preservation of the Christian heritage depends largely on the homes. The author has produced a classic, which will make waves in Christendom. The concern of every parent is addressed, tested and proven methods of child training are highlighted, Biblical family models are portrayed, power-packed prayer points that will preserve the destiny of every member of the family are carefully and prayerfully packaged. The end product is a book, which every Christian father, mother, youth and growing child could benefit from. Indeed, *Daughters Of Philip* is a challenge to Christians in this generation. It is God's message for this hour.

About The Author

Pastor (Mrs.) Shade Olukoya is the wife of the General Overseer of the Mountain of Fire And Miracles Ministries (MFM). Her life and that of the General Overseer are living testimonies that all power belong to God. Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries, is a ministry devoted to absolute holiness within and without, as the greatest insecticide, and a condition for heaven is taught openly. MFM is a do-it-yourself Gospel Ministry, where your hands are trained to wage war and your fingers to fight.

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