

# CHAPTER SIX WORD-FILLED WOMEN'S MINISTRY "THE ENDS OF THE EARTH" THINKING GLOBAL Keri Folmar

"The most fruitful ministries among women across the globe have three things in common: saturation in the Word of God, clarity about the gospel, and connection with the local church."

#### I. SATURATION IN THE WORD OF GOD:

"Fruitful ministry happens when women saturate themselves in the Word of God, knowing that the Bible speaks in every culture and stage of life."

## A. Bible Study

- 1. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."
- 2. Psalm 119:129,130 "Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore, my soul keeps them. The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple."
- 3. Common ground is found through studying scripture.
- 4. A focus on scripture cultivates the deepest sense of community.

# B. Discipling

- 1. Meeting one on one is vital for unity and spiritual growth.
- 2. Titus 2 mentoring program
- 3. Organic discipleship

## C. Biblical Hospitality

"Hospitality in the church brings life, love, and relationship to the members and is the perfect vehicle to sow seeds of the Word of God, both within and across the cultures of the world."

- 1. Romans 12:12,13 "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."
- 2. 1 Peter 4:8,9 "Above all keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling."
- 3. "Hospitality flowing among the whole congregation, of course, but in women's gatherings creates a unique intimacy and opportunity to share lives and eventually families that, apart from Christ, might never blend in unity."
- 4. Small gatherings that foster biblical hospitality are the backbone to any ministry. These are the moments that build relationships and spiritual growth.
- 5. Rest in Him as we show hospitality. Showing hospitality is not an evaluation of personal performance but an avenue to share and show Christ, not self.

## **D. Word-Centered Outreach**

- 1. 2 Timothy 3:15 "... the sacred writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."
- 2. 2 Timothy 4:2 "But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God."
- 3. 2 Timothy 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

**DISCUSSION**: After reading this book, how has your view changed or stayed the same in regard to the Word being the focus of EVERY area of ministry? What are some practical ways we can center Bible study, discipleship, hospitality, and outreach on the Word? What are practical ways we can focus on God's Word being the center of our own lives and minister?

#### II. CLARITY ABOUT GOD'S GLORIOUS GOSPEL:

"Women engaged in God-glorifying ministry are caught up in the gospel message, and that message motivates and informs their lives and ministry. It is the gospel that saves us and the gospel that sustains us."

## A. Sharing the Gospel

- 1 Corinthians 15:3,4 "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures..."
- 1. We intentionally share the gospel.
- 2. We don't shy away from doctrine.
- 3. We prayerfully depend on the Holy Spirit to guide our understanding of His Word.
- 4. Gospel diminution watering down the gospel in order to attract more people. This practice does not guard our "good deposit."
- 2 Timothy 1:14 "By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you."

## What the Gospel Is Not:

- 1. Our testimonies
- 2. How much we love Jesus
- 3. A means to living the good life materially

"We can use difficulty in women's lives to point them to Jesus, not as the solution to their immediate felt needs but as the satisfier of their deepest needs - reconciliation with a holy God."

4. The gospel is the message that sinners, through Jesus Christ, can be reconciled to a holy God, enabled to know him and glorify him by enjoying him forever. Romans 3:23-25

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith." Romans 3

#### **III. CONNECTION WITH THE LOCAL CHURCH:**

- 1. 1 Peter 2:9 "From all the peoples of the world, God is bringing together "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession."
- 2. 1 Corinthians 14:12 "Strive to excel in building up the church."
- 3. Ministry thrives under the authority of the local church.

- 4. Self-evaluation of our commitment to the local church
  - a. Who am I primarily committed to?
  - b. How could my resources of time and talent be more effectively used for the church?
  - c. Am I cultivating knowledge about the Bible more as an individual than in the context of ongoing relationships and worship and family?
  - d. Am I living a God-centered, church-oriented life, or do I just do Bible study on the side?

**DISCUSSION:** In what ways have you grown in your understanding of the gospel and what did the Lord use in your life to grow that understanding? How can we create more on gospel-centered women's ministry?