



**CHAPTER NINE**  
**WORD-FILLED WOMEN'S MINISTRY**  
**GOD'S GIFTS AND GIFTEDNESS, "FIND THE PLACE TO SERVE"**  
**KATHLEEN NELSON & GLORIA FURMAN**

**I. HOW IS MINISTRY AMONG WOMEN HAPPENING NOW?**

**Answer 1: Just Like It Happens Anywhere**

"Women and men are in this together, as human beings created by God and called to follow Him according to His Word."

"If Scripture gives men and women not identical but complementary roles, both in marriage and in the church, then what differences do these roles make in ministry in general?"

**Answer 2: With Distinct Teaching and Discipling Roles**

**Answer 3: In the Form of Women Helping Women**

**Answer 4: In Relation to Male Leadership**

"Complementarian women - pursuing ministry under the authoritative leadership of person of the opposite gender."

- a. **Women** - "learn quietly with all submissiveness" 1 Timothy 2:11
- b. **Elders** - learn to lead with loving, unselfish wisdom

"Pastors who believe that women are equally made in the image of God to rule creation need to make that apparent by their practices. "Kathy Keller (Redeemer Church-NYC)

"Women serve faithfully when they know that they are a valued part of the church and when their ministries are highlighted and God's work in them is celebrated. "

- c. Paul understood the value of women in ministry - Philippians 4:3 "Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life."

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**"We must call the leadership of the church or the leadership must call the church to make more and more places for women to serve, to encourage training for those places, and to support service in those places both with celebration and with finances."**

"Along the way we must serve humbly, respecting and praying for the elders of our churches and always looking for fruitful opportunities for dialogue and growth. "

**Answer 5: With Variations According to Context but With One Simple Theme**

- a. One Theme - "At the heart of these diverse glimpses of ministry is a passion for the gospel. What comes through is a desire not so much to use gifts but to see the church grow as people come to know Jesus Christ and follow his Word."
- b. IF THE GOSPEL MOTIVATION IS NOT IN OUR HEARTS, THEN SERVICE IS USELESS AND GIFTS ARE VAIN.

**II. HOW CAN THE CHURCH ENCOURAGE INCREASINGLY FRUITFUL MINISTRY AMONG WOMEN ? GLORIA FURMAN**

"Christians cannot share in the world's views of women: we must deny that women derive their importance or significance from their body parts, relationships, fertility, material status, skills, or employment. We look to God and his Word to govern us as we seek to cast vision and encourage ministry among women."

- a. Women have been strategic in the building up of the body of Christ serving as collaborators, going on cross-cultural missions.
- b. Paul sends his greetings to 28 people (1/3 women)

**1. Contextualize the Bridges for Service Opportunities**

- a. Women are coheirs of the grace of life (1Peter 3:7)  
We repudiate every demonic lie that says women are "less than."

"The bridges we need to build in our local churches will look different depending on the context, but their function will serve to build up women and equip them for fruitful service unto the Lord.

"All these bridges lead to the end of women growing together in the Word, and serving the body of Christ effectively in light of that Word."

"God's wisdom is sufficient for the bridge building that needs to take place in all of our ministry all over the world."

**2. Teach About Stewardship**

- a. Equipped with a stewardship mentality regarding our gifts (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 1:7; 12:4; 9, 28, 30-31; 1Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6) **reveals that gifts are not all about us but mark us out as recipients of "God's varied grace."**

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- b. Stewards are managers, not owners (Luke 12:42; 16:1; 3, 8; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Galatians 4:2; Titus 1:7).  
"At times we can be duped into seeking this sense of self-satisfaction rather than being faithful to God."

**3. Prioritize Theological Training**

**4. Appreciate the Varieties**

- a. Ephesians 3:17-18

**5. Teach Women Church History**

- a. Lucia, Blandina, Perpetua, Betty Stam, Betty Olsen, Ann Judson, Amy Carmichael, Lottie Moon, Sarah Edwards

**6. Leverage the "Women's Privilege"**

- a. "Ministering in communities where women are marginalized, abuse, raped, and murdered in the womb, the privilege of being woman is obvious. Christian women are gifted by the Spirit to serve these women in a way that men cannot – through their affirming presence, nonthreatening physical touch, and gentle faith with a backbone of steel. May we never inadvertently describe God's good design for His daughters as a hinderance to the fruitful ministry to which He has called us."

**7. Persistently pray for Change**

- a. "Patient in prayer approaching awkward situations with grace."
- b. "Hold fast to our commitment to Scripture as our authority, we must graciously acknowledge the ambiguity of so many situations that women find themselves in."
- c. "No service done with the strength that God supplies is less than glorious."

**"We've been given the Word of God to illumine our path and the Spirit to lead us. May the Lord be pleased as his daughters seek to serve in his name and for his glory."**

- A. Is women's ministry of any value in the church? Why or why not (Titus 2, Connect Groups, teaching children, outreach, Women's Ministry)?
- B. Why is it important for you personally to be a part of women's ministry within in the church?
- C. Do you feel women's ministry is valued at Hebron Church?
- D. Do you feel as if women want to be a part of Women's Ministry at Hebron Church? Why or why not? What hesitations do women have when it comes to being involved in ministry?
- E. How can we continue to encourage, equip, and train women for ministry within Hebron Church?