

MALE/FEMALE RECONCILIATION MANDATE

TEACHING GUIDE

The following message began unfolding as revelation to the heart of Aglow President Jane Hansen in the 1980s. The word that began to come forth at that time was an encouragement to women to be restored and to understand the significance of God's call on their lives. Since the 1980s, God has continued to expand and increase this prophetic message. This end-time message communicates God's purpose from the beginning (*Genesis 1:26-28*): to have a family, a people who would share His life, nature, spirit, vision, and purpose, and through whom He would express His life, power, and glory in the earth. It would take male and female together to fulfill His plan and purpose. The restoration of this foundational relationship is necessary before the Church can be fully restored and fulfill its destiny to express God's image and take dominion in the earth.

In an age when the enemy would employ his strategy against men and women, God's plan stands firm and immovable. Through humanistic thinking expressed daily in secular media, the enemy has attempted to de-masculinize men, taking away the strength of their manhood and the greatness of who God called them to be in their homes, their families, and in the earth.

At the same time, we have seen the rise of radical feminism that exalts women in a way that appears to be strength, but, in fact, is without power, without authority, and without anointing. The enemy has worked to pervert the maleness and femaleness that God designed from the beginning because he knows this relationship is the strength of the Church.

The awakening among women to the significance of their calling in God, and the ultimate reconciliation between men and women, is about more than personal fulfillment in the lives of men and women. It is about the reconciliation of the male and female genders so that the body of Christ, the Church, can fulfill the destiny God intended from the beginning.

This critical issue became the first of Aglow's three end-times callings in this hour.

I. INTRODUCTION

Isaiah 46:9-10, 11b

Remember the former thing of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, „My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.... Indeed I have spoken it I also will bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.’

From Genesis to Revelation, we see that God is a God of purpose. His plan and purpose were not secret, but have been publicly declared to the universe from the beginning. Our understanding of His purpose grows, however, as our intimate knowledge of Him grows.

God has an eternal purpose in human history. We tend to interpret human history since the point of the Fall. Consequently, we see God’s purpose being primarily the redemption of man. Our goal then, becomes getting people saved, healed, and restored. These are critical and are, in fact, the heart of the Gospel. However, if our perspective does not go beyond salvation and restoration of our own personal lives, we have a man-centered view of God’s purposes.

God’s purpose is much greater than redemption alone. He had a plan in mind before the foundation of earth and redemption was incorporated into that plan because of the fall of man.

He has only one plan ... there is no Plan B. His plan will be accomplished. Nothing -- not sin, not flesh, not the devil -- can hinder His plan from coming to the fullness of maturity and fruition, because what He has purposed, that He will also do!

He made known (Genesis 1:27-28) that the beginning place of His plan was man and woman. They would be the foundation of the House of the Lord– the place where He would dwell and begin to reveal Himself on earth. This is key because it is the structure God chose to reveal His image. It wasn’t man and man or woman and woman. It was man and woman. He fashioned this union to display His image, His heart, His character. They would be the image bearers on earth of Almighty God.

God is calling us to lift up our heads and grasp something bigger than ourselves. The restoration of the relationship between the man and woman is part of God’s accomplishing His purpose.

Acts 3:21

Whom heaven must receive [and retain] until the time for the complete restoration of all that God spoke by the mouth of all His holy prophets for ages past [from the most ancient time in the memory of man]. (Amplified Bible)

Many things are being restored in our day. Perhaps the most significant is the restoration of relationships in the body of Christ. God is moving by His Spirit today to reconcile races, cultures, and denominations. But the foundational relationship – that between male and female – must be restored, not only in individual couples, but in the corporate Church as well. This relationship, above all others, is the foundational place from which God will work to accomplish His ultimate intention.

God’s plan was not a secret. The enemy knew that the plan’s success depended on the unity and trust of these first two people on earth, for together they bore God’s image. It is for that reason the enemy will fight the hardest against this relationship being restored. The strength of man and woman was in their union. Without unity, without oneness, God’s plan would fail. If the enemy could disrupt that unity and

trust, bringing separation, distrust, fear, and suspicion, then he could mar and hinder what God wanted to do through the two of them. If at the end of the day this relationship is not restored then we – the body of Christ, the Church – are not restored.

The human race continues to suffer the fallout from Satan's malignant coup, but the sad truth is that the Church itself has not fully recovered from this catastrophic event.

Through the man and woman together, God is fully revealed. The restoration of that relationship will again return us to the place of abundant blessing and the purpose God revealed at the beginning of time.

II. UNPRECEDENTED MOVE AMONG WOMEN

Restoration has begun! Since the late 1960s, we have witnessed an unprecedented move of God. The end of that decade signaled a sweeping move of God's Spirit that touched both men and women, but what has taken place in the lives of women in this time has been especially unique and unusual.

God has always used women. Many times God's ongoing plan seemed to hinge on the response of a woman. As we read through Scripture, however, it appears that when God worked through women, He worked primarily through individual women – a Jochebed here, a Deborah or an Esther there. Never in all of history has there been the kind of corporate calling forth or worldwide awakening of women such as we have seen beginning in the 1960s. Aglow International and other women's ministries were birthed during this time in response to the massive heart cry of women to know more of God.

My association with Aglow since the earliest days of the ministry has given me an experiential view of what God has been doing in the hearts of women on many fronts around the world. When Aglow began in 1967 in the Seattle area, there were no grandiose thoughts of it becoming worldwide in scope, no awareness that this was, in fact, the emergence of a move of God's Spirit that would touch the women of the world in such an ongoing and purposeful way. Yet growth, extension, and expansion soon began to take place. God, it seemed, was up to something on earth that had to do specifically with women. Groups started to meet across the United States. Soon women from other nations were contacting Aglow leaders, wanting to know how to begin groups in their areas as well.

Today Aglow is ministering in more 165 of the 222 nations of the world.

There are over 4,500 groups worldwide.

Over 18,000 women around the world serve as leaders of this ministry.

A prayer network which can mobilize 1 million intercessors covers the globe.

Each year 15 million people are touched with the healing, restoring love of Christ through over 37,000 outreach activities.

All of this is accomplished on a budget which is roughly equivalent to that of a mid-large size church in the United States.

NOTE: Current statistics as well as stories of Aglow's impact can be obtained through the web site at www.aglow.org

This unprecedented move is evidence that God is about something in this season!

Ephesians 1:11 tells us,

[He] works all things according to the counsel of His will.

All things means everything. Everything God does, He does with the fulfillment of His plan in mind. Everything He does has purpose and significance.

The unprecedented move of God's Spirit in the lives of women fits into this category. It is one of the all things God is working after the counsel of His will. Why would it be so important for Him to orchestrate a global awakening among women? To what are women being awakened? I believe a final, critical restoration has begun.

III. GODS REPRESENTATIVE

Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

As God opens the door of time in Genesis, we hear Him speaking His purpose for humanity.

First, He stated that humans would be made in the image of God. According to *Strong's Concordance*, image means representative figure. Male and female together would represent something of heaven here on earth.

Second, they were to be fruitful and multiply – they were to grow and to increase. God wants His people to increase – not only physically, but also spiritually so that they may walk in the authority He intended.

Third, they were to use the authority God had given them to subdue and take dominion. God showed us what dominion was to look like: it was male and female. Just as it would take male and female to express His image, it would take male and female, together, to take dominion. Adam and Eve were commissioned to subdue and be in authority over all the earth. The enemy they were to conquer, or subdue, was God's enemy – Satan – the one who had attempted to exalt himself and be like the Most High.

Satan's Intention

Isaiah 14:13-14:

'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

God responds to Satan's five I will statements with five statements of His own (Isaiah 14:15-20):

- 1) You will be thrown into hell (v.15);
- 2) You will be gazed upon (made a spectacle of) (v.16); – Is this the man who made the earth tremble?
- 3) You will be talked about (mocked, scorned) (v.16-17);
- 4) You will be cast out of your grave like a carcass (v. 19);
- 5) You will be alone (v.20).

God had declared war on His enemy! The eyes of God's people are to be opened to who he really is. Is THIS the one everybody was afraid of? God wants us to see clearly. When we see the enemy as God sees him, we can walk with correct vision. A correct perception of the enemy removes fear and lack of peace.

Psalms 2:4 tells us that God sits in the heavens and laughs at the ones who take counsel against the Him. Because we are seated together with him in heavenly places, as it states in Ephesians 2:6, we too can laugh at the enemy, knowing that he is already defeated.

God's Provision

God begins to make known His plan to Adam in Genesis 2:15-17, before the woman is created and brought to him.

Genesis 2:15 -17

15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

The two words tend and keep are significant. Tend means to tend or tell, literally to work. Keep means to hedge about, to guard, protect, beware, be circumspect, observe, preserve, watch. Adam was to guard the garden, actually to be a watchman against any hostile intrusion. This work was far too much for a mere human being. God did not intend that Adam should do this work of guarding and protecting the garden in his own strength: He had made provision.

The provision was the Tree of Life – representative of the life of God. Adam was commanded to eat of every tree in the garden except the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. He was offered a life-union with God: fellowship, divine provision– everything that Jesus, through His death and resurrection, imparted to us in the New Testament.

If, as God intended, Adam was to rule and reign and have authority over God's enemy, Satan, he would need to partake of God's own life. He was commanded to partake (Genesis 2:16-17), because without this divine connection, he would not, in his own strength, be able to fulfill God's purpose and destiny for his life.

Adam's Response

But Adam never did partake (see Genesis 3:22). His lack of response, i.e., to partake of the Tree of Life, was a hindrance to the growing and maturing God desired for him. It left him vulnerable to the voice of the enemy, weak in resisting the desires of his own flesh, and eventually led him to overt sin and rebellion against the known will of God. Self was alive and active even before the Fall.

What is self? It can take many forms, some appearing more evil than others. Passivity toward God, a slackness or slowness in responding to Him, a lack of dependence upon Him, a desire to go our own way and handle our own lives, move in our own wisdom and strength, speak out of our own thoughts – all constitute the self life. Self, declares Watchman Nee, is God's greatest enemy. The reality is that Satan can only hook us through our self-center. Only dependence on God's life in us – partaking of His life – can protect us against self and thus shut the door to Satan as well.

Alone is not Good

This then, was Adam's position: He was commanded to eat of God's provision, but he was not doing so. Understanding this prepares us for what happens next. Following His command to Adam to partake of the Tree of Life and abstain from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, God says:

Genesis 2:18

18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Everything up to this point had been good. Now something was not good. What was not good? Adam's being alone seems to be the key thought God is expressing here. The word alone speaks of an inner aloneness.

Literally, alone means separation. The Hebrew literal translation is:
Not good is being the man to his separation.

Separation from what or whom? We saw that Adam had not yet been joined to God in His divine life, so it appears that this statement by God was not a mere observation of Adam's loneliness. Rather, his aloneness, or separation, had something to do with his relationship with God Himself. It was about his separation from God. It was a leaning toward isolation and independence.

This aloneness is expressed relationally with the woman through withdrawing and protecting the hidden man of the heart. The heart denotes the thoughts, feelings, mind, middle. It is the deepest, most inner recess of the inner being, the place where the real person dwells. It is this place in the man that he pulls back in isolation and self protection from the woman, thus hindering the intimacy God intended between the two. Man's aloneness was not good.

IV. SHE SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN

God observed Adam's need and His response was to make a help suitable for him.

Genesis 2:21-22

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

God took one of Adam's ribs to make the woman. It is interesting to note that this reference in Genesis is the only time the Hebrew word sela, is translated rib. Every other reference is translated side or side chamber. This means that when God created the woman by taking a rib, He took a portion of Adam's side.

This event was a foreshadowing of another Bride that was to come. The Church, the Bride of Christ, was taken out of the side of Jesus. When the Roman soldiers pierced the side of Jesus with a spear as He hung on the cross, blood and water poured out (see John 19:34). This signified two great benefits of which all believers partake through Christ – the blood for atonement, and the water for purification. Both flowed from our Redeemer's side as He laid down His life to purchase us as His Bride. We came out of His side, He gave us life. We are His body, an extension of His life on earth. As such, we are His own self. The apostle Paul speaks of this when he states, For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones (Eph 5:30).

In the same way, the woman was taken from the side of man. She was his own body, an extension of him self. She was, in fact, his other self. Something of Adam's self was removed from him, and returned to him in a completely different package. Adam recognized something of himself in her:

Genesis 2:23

23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

First, Adam was created: God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him. Second, the woman was differentiated out of him, male and female He created *them*. When God created Adam, he was created fully in the image of God. When the woman was taken out of him, the image of God was not added to or subtracted from. It was divided. Man was no longer in his original form. Now the image of God was male and female. Yet they were one. Because sin had not yet made it conclusive entrance, there was no fear or hesitation within them. They were open, naked, and transparent before one another. They knew they were made for each other and that there was interdependency between two. Their destiny would be fulfilled together.

V. LEAVE AND CLEAVE

Now that the woman was taken out of the man, God further instructs him:

Genesis 2:24

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Four times this directive from God is recorded in Scripture (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5, Mark 10:7, Ephesians 5:31.). Woman was not told to *leave and cleave*. Man was told four times to *leave and cleave* to the woman. If God said it four times, it is important!

Cleave speaks of commitment: faithfulness, steadfastness, reliability, accountability. In other words, the woman is to become the priority relationship in her husband's life because of the significance and purpose of this union. He is to cleave to her, not only for her sake, but for his sake as well. In his cleaving, he receives back to himself that which was taken out.

This is the inaugural union. This is the foundation of the House of the Lord. And this is what would ultimately become the Church, and it is male and female.

This union can and should also be taken beyond the context of marriage. Man, as a gender, needs to cleave to woman as a gender. The woman brings something to the man that is absolutely necessary for man to fulfill his purpose.

God is looking for fathers in the body of Christ, not just pastors, evangelists, teachers, prophets, and apostles. However, a man cannot be a father without a woman being present. This is an important concept to grasp. Consider Abraham and Sarah or Zechariah and Elizabeth. In both cases, the man remained barren as long as the woman was barren. Until God deals with the barrenness of the women, the men cannot be fruitful!

Abraham is the Father of nations, the Father of the Jewish people, the Father of the Church. On what did his fruitfulness hinge? It hinged on Sarah becoming fruitful. When Sarah was barren, she tried to

cure her bareness in a way that was not God's way. The result was Hagar and Ishmael— the child of the flesh instead of the child of promise.

Since its inception in 1967, the ministry of Aglow has been about dealing with the barrenness in women. Aglow restores women by helping to heal the brokenness and resulting barrenness in women by showing them they have value and purpose in God. They have a place in His plan. They have an identity in Christ.

When we say the restoration of the woman is ultimately to see the Church fulfill her destiny through the reconciliation of man and woman— it is a very simple statement and also an eternal truth. Abraham and Sarah, Zechariah and Elizabeth, Jesus, the Bridegroom, and His Bride, attest to its truth.

The Father purposed that the Son would have a Bride. We are the Bride of Christ. Through the union of Bride and Bridegroom, multiplication and fruitfulness will be evidenced throughout the earth. The woman cannot do it apart from her bridegroom. The man cannot do it apart from his bride. God has chosen NOT to do it outside of us – the man and the woman together!

In the restoration of women and the reconciliation of male and female, eternity past is being fulfilled in eternity present so that eternity future fully contains all God desires!

VI. THE HELP GOD SENT

Some have assumed that the woman was merely brought forth to enable procreation, thereby resolving Adam's solitary condition. Nothing, however, in the Hebrew definition of the word for help would remotely refer to the act of reproduction.

In Genesis 2:18, the word help, or ezer, in Hebrew, is a very strong word, used 21 times in Scripture. It means to surround, to protect, to aid, succor. Webster's definition of succor is help, to run under, to give aid or assistance in time of distress. In the Bible, this word refers to divine help (16 times) and human help (5 times). It is always used in the context of help in a time of trouble or help from one's enemies. Eve was both human help and divine, because she came from the hand of God. The help God was bringing the man was to protect him from his aloneness.

The word translated helpmeet or helpmate in Genesis 2:18, is a Hebrew word derived from neged and means to the front, to the face, or actually, face to face. The help God sent is in the form of a face to face relationship between the man and the woman.

In its causative form (nagad), the word helpmeet means to make clear or evident, reveal or expose. It is translated declare 63 times, and tell 222 times, obviously denoting verbal communication. When God created Eve, he made her verbal! Even her name denotes verbal communication.

Women are verbal because God created us that way. Science has proven that the brain of a man and a woman function differently making it easier for women to talk about their feelings, perceptions. Ultrasound tests during pregnancy have shown that girl babies' mouths move in the uterus more than boy babies' mouths.

The woman was uniquely and specifically designed to stand before the man in an intimate, face-to-face relationship. She was not created to be over him. Nor was she created to be under him or dominated by him. She would be his wife – someone who would be like him, yet different. Someone on an equal par with him. She would be his other self taken from his side. She would stand boldly out opposite him.

and call him forth in a way no one else could. She would be someone with whom he could bond more deeply than with any other person.

Women need to be governed by the Holy Spirit if their words are to be the intended help God purposed. She was designed to talk to him: to comfort, encourage, confront, and challenge him in love, using life-giving words. God intended her to surround and protect something of His creation that was very precious in His sight: the heart of man – his thoughts, his feelings, his inner self. It is the part the man keeps hidden in his aloneness.

If the marriage, and ultimately the Church, is to be strengthened, the man and woman must be restored so that this relationship can function in the way God intended.

As we look at the relationship between male and female down through the centuries, we have to ask: What went wrong? What happened to God's plan?

VII. THE STRIKE

Enter Satan. The one who had led a rebellion in heaven now continues it on earth, taking the form of a serpent. He approaches Eve.

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

It was not happenstance that the serpent approached the woman first in the Garden. He had been present when God spoke His words of intent for the man and woman. He knew she had been called to be a help for the man. Satan's goal has always been to exalt himself above God, and if possible, to disrupt the plan of God. By approaching the woman first, his intent was to attack the very help God had sent. Thereby, the enemy hoped to undermine or weaken the whole of God's plan by silencing the woman and rendering her useless and powerless in the man's life.

By asking, Has God indeed said? Satan implied that she didn't really have all she needed, that she was somehow lacking. He implied God was withholding something from her and therefore, He wasn't trustworthy.

Her response:

Genesis 3:2-3

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

Satan continues:

Genesis 3:4-5

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Eve begins to reconsider his suggestion: *Perhaps God is withholding something; perhaps He really isn't trustworthy. Perhaps there is a better way, a quicker way, something more that I need to help me fulfill my purpose.*

Moving in her own wisdom, outside the expressed word and will of God, she acts.

Genesis 3:6

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Eve, aware that she was to help Adam, was deceived by the lie of the serpent and ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. She then gave to her husband to eat. Adam partook, knowing God had commanded him not to eat of that tree. This is the reason sin is accounted to him: in Adam, all sinned (Rom 5:12).

It was a coup, a masterstroke! Satan had conclusively separated them from the one source of life that was stronger than he. He turned them from God to their own wisdom, their own way, the way of the flesh. God intended for Adam and Eve to choose His Spirit (Tree of Life) as their source of life and wisdom, rather than their own experience of good and evil. As a result, fear, separation, mistrust, blame, and myriad other emotions and attitudes were now a part of Adam and Eve's world. The immediate result of their action was broken relationship – with God and with each other. Satan had struck at the core, the very heart of the plan of God.

VIII. THE ENMITY OF THE WOMAN

Genesis 3:13

13 And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Eve was the first on earth to be ensnared by Satan's cunning deceitfulness. She was also the first to expose him for what he was – a deceiver.

Turning to the serpent, God spoke:

Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

The perfect fulfillment of this scripture came with the birth of Jesus. But there is an ongoing fulfillment that continues to take place. From Eve onward, women have been used to expose the enemy. Speaking specifically to the woman and not of humanity as a whole, God said there would be hostility, animosity between Satan and the woman. It was a declaration that, forever and ever, she would be used again and again to expose him for what he truly is – the deceiver!

We often refer to Satan as our enemy, but in reality, the exact opposite is true. We are *his* enemy. He has known this truth since the Garden. That is why, for centuries, we have seen so much hatred, anger, and violence against women. Current statistics of abuse against women around the world are staggering and sobering. Women in India are being burned to death in bride burnings because of inadequate dowries. In other countries, young girls are being sold as chattel to wealthy men, only to be discarded as mere refuse when their husbands tire of them. In the United States, it is easy to forget that up until 1920,

women were not considered intelligent enough to vote. Genesis 3:15 explains this hatred against women and Satan's ongoing purpose to destroy her influence.

This is why Aglow is about restoring women: healing the brokenness in their lives so they can know their value and identity in God. When restored, women are free to fulfill the destiny God has for them, and ultimately for the man and woman together in the Church.

IX. THE DESIRE OF THE WOMAN

Immediately following her choice to live by her own knowledge of good and evil, we see the effect of the Fall on the woman.

Genesis 3:16

... Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

This is a key verse for all women. God is revealing the root of dysfunctional behavior in women toward men, and where her heart is the most vulnerable to deception. It is the place that needs healing and restoration so she can be the help God designed. It is an issue of the heart.

The word desire, in Hebrew teshuqah, means desire, stretching out after, a longing. It also means turning away. In essence, God was saying to Eve, The desire of your heart is turning away from Me to your husband and he will rule over you. God was telling Eve that man would rule her in a way He never intended, as a consequence of her turning away from God as her source. It was her choice.

Whatever we set our desire on will rule over us, whether it is riches, power, reputation, or the approval of others. In other words, her identity, sense of value, acceptance, her life and sense of well-being, would now be tied to the man. It is interesting to note that women often put in their biographies, wife, mother, grandmother, even though this information has nothing to do with their identity in God. Men do not define themselves in their biographical sketches as husband, father, and grandfather. The desire of the woman is a heart-held belief. It is the belief that her husband can be her source of life, that he can meet her need for unfailing love, worth, security, and purpose. She is hindered from functioning as the help God sent because she is ruled emotionally by her need, and will not risk speaking those things necessary to draw the man out of his aloneness. She cannot stand in a face-to-face relationship with the man if she is not free of him ruling over her.

It needs to be noted that Genesis 3:16 is an observation on God's part. It is not a part of the curse! Women have a choice in the desire of their hearts. They can choose to turn to God as the source of their life, value, identity, and purpose instead of the man. Once a woman's heart is turned back to God to meet her needs, she is then free to be the help God intended her to be: to draw the man out of his aloneness by relating on a level that moves past the surface and touches the deep places of the heart. She is able to relate to him based on wholeness rather than inappropriate neediness, hurt, and woundedness, knowing that God is the supplier of her every need. She is able to speak into her husband's life with more effectiveness because her worth and identity no longer depend on his response.

X. THE WARRIOR WOMAN

In **Genesis 3:15**, God made an observation about the enmity between the seed of the woman and Satan, and He also declared Satan's defeat... through the very one he had beguiled. Satan is a defeated foe, and God is raising up a Church, a Bride meet (suitable) for, and corresponding to her Bridegroom. This

raising up entails learning to war, entering in to battle to possess the kingdom we have already been given, growing to maturity as we walk in His authority.

Although both men and women are critically important to God's plan to exercise His will on earth, He has uniquely designed women to engage in this battle.

Proverbs 31:10-12

Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. 11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain. 12 She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.

The language describing the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31 paints a picture of a warrior woman. When we think of the virtuous woman, we often think of piety and moral purity. Although these qualities would certainly be included in such a woman, the Hebrew meaning of this word goes far beyond the description of character traits.

Chayil is the Hebrew word for virtuous. It means force, strength, able, might, power and is used to describe the strength of an army. It also shares a root with a word that means to twist or whirl, writhe in pain as in childbirth, bear or bring forth. This is an interesting combination of words to describe a woman God calls virtuous! She is a warrior. She is a birther. She is Satan's enemy in this spiritual war!

There are two words in Proverbs 31 that describe this woman's hands. One is kaph hands which pictures stretched-out hands, beseeching God for His grace and mercy upon families. The other word is yad hands which means open or closed in a grasp or fist and indicates power, means, and direction. The woman uses both kinds of hands to build her house (Proverbs 14:1).

Psalms 144:1 says, **[He] trains my hands [yad] for war, and my fingers for battle.** The virtuous woman has developed warring hands with which she wars or battles in the spirit – not only for her own household, but for God's purpose and plan in the earth. As a woman whose heart is turned to God, she has begun to see things from His perspective, from His eternal outlook. She becomes a worker together with God for fulfilling His purpose and plan on earth.

Then there is the very nature of a woman that contains an innate desire and ability to bring forth life. She understands the process of giving birth and the difficulty and pain involved, yet is willing to give herself to it in order to bring forth life. What is true in the natural is also true in the spirit. She has the capacity to lay hold of the purposes of God and travail to bring them forth.

All biblical truth runs in a circular fashion. It begins in heaven with the will, the heart, and the purpose of God. He then looks for someone on earth who has ears to hear and eyes to see by the Spirit what He is saying and wanting to do. As the person begins to sense what is on God's heart in a given situation, whether it be in a family, a city, or a nation, it becomes implanted in the womb of their spirit where it continues to grow through the watering of the Word and confirmation of the Spirit. When the fullness of time has come – when God is ready to fulfill that word – a deep inner knowing takes place. Labor, or travail, occurs within the person's spirit that ultimately causes the will of God to break forth in the earth. It then flows back to heaven, fulfilled as God purposed.

Often in history, when the nation of Israel was in trouble, God called for the women. When death was creeping into the cities and nations, into the streets and homes, He called for the women who knew how to pray: women who knew how to make a difference in the situation. Such is the case in Jeremiah 9. This portion of scripture could be accurately applied to the conditions in our day:

Jeremiah 9:17-21

Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider and call for the mourning women that they may come; and send for skillful wailing women, that they may come. 18 Let them make haste and take up a wailing for us, that our eyes may run with tears, and our eyelids gush with water. 19 For a voice of wailing is heard from Zion: 'How we are plundered! We are greatly ashamed, because we have forsaken the land, because we have been cast out of our dwellings.'" 20 Yet hear the word of the LORD, O women, and let your ear receive the word of His mouth; teach your daughters wailing, and everyone her neighbor a lamentation. 21 For death has come through our windows, has entered our palaces, to kill off the children – no longer to be outside! And the young men – no longer on the streets!

God is again calling for the mourning, praying women. This unprecedented move of God since 1967 has raised up a mighty army of interceding, warring, travailing, virtuous women... women who have had their hearts turned away from themselves and toward God, to see things from His perspective. He has called forth women whose hearts have been healed and who have experienced a restoration in their personal lives and who have been awakened to the high calling of God on their lives.

XI. THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH

Without the relational connection of woman to man and man to woman, the Church, instead of being an organism, will be merely an organization which functions through government and rules rather than transparent relationship. Only heartbroken transparency can result in the blessing and activity of God. The restoration of women, and the subsequent reconciliation of men and women, is not about positions on church boards, or whether women can be pastors or leaders and still be doctrinally correct. Today there are women serving as pastors, deacons, apostles, and leaders, but there is still uncertainty, because the issue goes deeper than that.

The issue is the image of God, the likeness and glory of God being manifested in the Church, male and female. It is about coming together as He designed it from the beginning. It is about respect that comes from a heart revelation of the vital contribution of both male and female, and the devastation that results when either is missing or not functioning.

God is coming to release us in a greater way to all that He purposed for us as women, and for men as well, in this final hour. No longer can we allow the enemy to continue his plan to strike at the core of our maleness and femaleness. No longer can we allow the enemy and the world to define who we are as women and men. No longer can we allow ourselves to be fashioned by the world. We will allow God to bring us back to His original design: male and female together expressing His image in the earth. This is God's purpose for the Church, His plan from the beginning; it is the foundational structure God chose for His Church. Because of that, the enemy will fight hardest against reconciliation between the genders.

The Church is beginning to walk in this kind of reconciliation, but we are not yet to the place He is leading us. We will see a merging of anointings between men and women that will lead us into our destiny together. This unprecedented move of God among women, and in the last number of years, among men through Promise Keepers, is not about creating a separate men's organization, or a separate women's organization, it is about bringing us into wholeness and health so that we can begin to move into the fullness of what God planned from the beginning.

We have yet to see the Church display the strength, anointing, and authority that God intended. However, a shift has occurred. We are in a different season, nationally, politically, and spiritually. The pace is accelerating and I believe that God is uniting us in a way that scares the enemy to death. We are casting off intimidation and fear. All the things that have kept us apart are being healed and restored so that we will be one, even as Jesus prayed, male and female, Jew and Gentile. God's glory will be seen in His people such as we have not yet known.

After God spoke His plan into being in the first three chapters of Genesis, He sat down and rested. He rested because He knew He had set in place His perfect plan. Nothing could abort, hinder, or stop that plan from coming to fruition – not sin, not time, not flesh, not the devil. He is inviting us to that same posture of rest. To know and trust that what He has set in place, He *will* accomplish!

XII. A CALL TO WOMEN

Aglow's calling is still the restoration of women, but it is time to understand that calling in the context of the bigger picture of God's purposes in this season.

Women restored will help bring restoration to the foundation of the House of the Lord (the Church) – male/female reconciliation – not only in our personal lives, but corporately. Only then can God's purpose to express His image in the earth and take dominion over His enemy take place – male and female together. Remember, He showed us in the Garden what dominion would look like: male and female together!

This is part of the end-time calling and mandate on this ministry, as is Islam and Israel. All three point to the culmination of the age and the return of the King and the fulfillment of His purposes.

This truth (male/female reconciliation) builds a foundation for the *one new man* truth regarding Jews and Gentiles. These 3 mandates – male/female reconciliation, Islam, Israel – are critical, end-time, prophetic and apostolic mandates given by God to Aglow. We are in the season of grace for the impartation of these mandates!

In this critical hour, the Lord is calling women to come before the King, just as Esther did, willing to be used for such a time as this. When the king extended his scepter to her, as she stepped forward to touch it, she stepped into a new anointing and a new authority. I believe God is calling us, His women, to step into the fullness of our destiny with a new anointing and a new authority. Will you respond to the King?