

The Pillar of Truth

Personal Gleaning

But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

1st Timothy 3 verse 15 KJV

1. The Pillar

A pillar is a column supporting the weight of a building. The Vine's complete expository dictionary of old and new testament words says further that the term pillar is used metaphorically of those who bear responsibility in the church. These church pillars maintain the doctrines of the faith by teaching and practice.

Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary says Pillar is a supporter; that which sustains or upholds, that on which some superstructures rests. It means foundation, something raised to commemorate any person or a remarkable transaction. Galatians 2:9 says Peter, John and James were esteemed as pillars, that is supports, sustainers, and upholders in the first-century church.

1 Timothy 3 verse 15 addressed the church as the pillar and the foundation of the truth. So for the Truth to thrive amongst God's people and in our world, there needs to be pillars and foundations of the same; and they should be found in the church. These are those who form the base, the start and those who continually support the truth.

For believers to know how to behave, conduct and carry themselves in the church, there ought to be lives that are pillars, who are examples of the Truth.

Looking at pillars in architecture

I found out that a pillar is any isolated, vertical structure used in architecture or construction to serve an aesthetic or structural purpose in a building. They are often referred to as a pier, column, or post and can be built from a wide array of materials, including wood, stone, or bricks. In architecture, it is frequently used for aesthetic purposes but always has a stabilizing or structural purpose in load-bearing and weight distribution. Pillars can stand alone or be grouped.

Most people are familiar with what a pillar looks like. In modern society, pillars are one of the most commonly used structures in architecture, construction, and infrastructure. Pillars are used in famous buildings such as the White House in Washington, DC; they are used in common structures such as bridges and highways; they are used in construction to temporarily uphold roofs and other heavy materials while a structure is being built. Despite how common pillars are, they have a unique history in ancient human architecture. Their wide range of uses and practicality make them one of the most well-known forms of architecture today.

In architecture, pillars have a wide variety of uses. As a large solid structure, pillars provide firm support for another larger structure. Pillars distribute the weight from a roof or ceiling and

support heavy loads. In construction, they often serve to make buildings more attractive and are used to exhibit freestanding monuments.

Pillars have been commonly used for thousands of years, with records of pillars used in ancient Egypt as early as 2700 BCE. Pillars are considered one of the earliest forms of human construction and have been identified by archaeologists as one of the oldest cross-cultural ways that humans across the globe developed reliable structures and shelter. All significant Iron Age civilizations used pillars in some capacity. In ancient history, pillars were usually made of stone or other rock materials.

Pillars are commonly employed in modern architecture and construction and can be used internally or externally. Pillars are often outdoors and can bridge the outside to the inside of the building by supporting an open-air roof on a patio or providing support for coverage in an outdoor venue. Information from <https://study.com>

Looking at the information from study.com, I see that pillars are for weight bearing; they carry the load of a building; they are capable as an individual or as a group. This also applies to a ministry wife, she is to carry the load of Truth, and she is an embodiment of truth. When people want to see Truth, which is, Christ in display in human form, they see such in her.

I now see that as a wife in ministry, my life is meant to be a large solid structure, that provides firm support for another larger structure which in this case is the body of Christ, the which I belong to. This could be my local church as a pastor's wife, my local church and women's fellowship as a leader of the women's ministry, or the Christian organisation that I represent or lead women under.

Also, as a ministry wife, I am learning that I am a pillar that ought to distribute the weight from a roof or ceiling and support heavy loads. This means distributing the weight of truth to my husband who is so to say the roof over me. My understanding of the Truth must be seen in my relationship with him, bearing and supporting him in life and in ministry. I ought to be an example of truth to the many lives that are in our custody both at home and in the church.

A woman is a burden bearer, and through this study, I am seeing that I am not a mistake or a misfit in life. I must understand my purpose in the work of God, not neglecting the ceiling or the roof which is my husband. All my contributions to the work of ministry must be to support my husband. And in doing so I become directly or indirectly an example of truth to the women I lead.

And just as in construction pillars often serve to make buildings more attractive and are used to exhibit freestanding monuments. So also am I called to make the Gospel of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ attractive to others. Through my life, people must know that godliness is attainable. My day-to-day living becomes an avenue to exhibit godliness and truth in a world of lies and deception.

Each step that I take must be leaving or forming a monument of truth in the hearts of those who engage or those that encounter me. Such is the beautiful place God has brought me to as a wife in ministry.

How I wish I knew this earlier on in marriage, how I wish I knew this before marrying my husband, maybe I may have better served him and serve God and His people aright.

Nevertheless, I see the Lord saying the days of ignorant are over, now that I am knowing, I can still live out this truth as a wife in ministry.

Prerequisite to becoming a pillar of truth

Revelation 3:12 tells of whoever becomes victorious is made a pillar in the temple of God.

Therefore, in becoming a pillar in God's temple which is the body of Christ of today, I ought to be victorious. I must be victorious over lies; my own life must not be built on lies. My life must be the epitome of victory over the lies of the devil. This is what Christ gave Himself for in dying on the Cross. He manifested so that He can destroy the works of the devil.

True victory comes from the Cross, and it's only a ministry wife that has experienced this victory of the Cross that God would make a pillar of the same Word of Victory, which is the Truth in His church and for His church. Lord, make me victorious on a daily basis. Amen.

2. Who is Truth?

The Vine's complete expository dictionary of old and new testament words defines Truth as unconcealed, real and genuine. And Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary defines Truth as exact accordance with that which is, or has been or shall be. It is purity from falsehood, correct opinion, fidelity, honesty etc.

Jesus in His earthly life and ministry used the word truly, truly in many of His sayings. Sometimes, some translations used the word verily, verily. I am told that the word Truth is mentioned 228 times in the NIV, 224 times in the KJV, and 269 times in the NLT.

Truth for me as a wife in ministry is not first speaking that which is genuine or real, but Truth is a Person that must dwell in me and live His life in me. I cannot say the truth, teach the truth or live out the truth if the truth is not in my DNA. Therefore, who then is this Truth?

I am the Truth

Jesus in John 14:6 says He is the Truth. He wasn't saying He is a truth, but 'the Truth'. In Him is the embodiment of Truth. There is no way I can ever manifest Truth, uphold the Truth or be a pillar of Truth if I do not have Jesus the Truth in me. To be a pillar of this truth, I must be rooted in Christ the Truth and He must be rooted within me also.

This Christ Himself is the Truth and the Pillar of Truth. Every truth on earth; the truth on gender, the truth on marriage and family life, the truth on finance etc comes from He who is the Truth and the Pillar of Truth.

In John 15: 1 He says I am the true Vine. Again, He used the word 'the' and not 'a'. That means there are many other Vines, but Christ Jesus remains the only true Vine.

And in that same John 15, now verse 4, He says "Abide in me and I in you." Christ the Truth invites me to dwell in Him, and I should also give Him space to dwell in me. It is only when He takes residence in me, and I take my bearing in Him will I be able to be a pillar of truth as a wife in ministry.

People may call me an author, their discipler, their mother, wife, righteous sister, godly woman, minister etc, all these will be futile and mere words and human praise and I won't be able to be a pillar, a support of truth to these people that God has surrounded me with because I refused to dwell in the Truth and the Truth to dwell in me.

The analogy of a pregnant woman comes readily to mind. A pregnant woman carries another life within her for nine months. She is pregnant with life. So also am I to be a woman pregnant with Christ, so that in my role and office as a wife in ministry what I will be birthing will be Christ the Truth. It is His Person first in me that birth the actions of truth like being sincere, upholding the word of God with gravity and many other ways.

There are many women in ministry, eloquent speakers with great oration, but within them Christ the Truth is missing. Conferences are called regularly, and meetings are called regularly for women, but Christ the Truth is regularly absent in women's lives. This is a plague God wants to cure in His body and particularly amongst women, and He is saying if He will pass through me to reveal the Truth to women in His church, I must be carrying Jesus within me, and He must be carrying me within Himself also.

Jesus says I am the Truth. The Truth is a Person, and not a meeting, Conference, Bible study, hymns, songs and the many Christian activities. No matter how much of activities I do or I'm involved in, if my goal is not to progressively have within me Christ the Truth, and to also allow Him to dwell in me permanently, I will find myself busy but guilty. Teaching women but lacking Truth within myself.

The invitation this morning is Come ye apart, come to me the Truth, for I am the Truth. Having a devotional life is good, and having my quiet time is good, but are these grounding me in Him? Is He increasing in me? Is Christ the Truth growing and expanding in me?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, if I have everything and lack You the Truth, it is but vanity. I want You in me, growing and expanding Your territory first within me.

Help me to also settle into You the Truth, growing and expanding my life within the circumference of Your Person. Amen.

God's Word is the Truth

Again I am looking at Who is the Truth or what is the Truth. As I saw yesterday that Truth is first a Person, and this Person is the Lord Jesus Himself. He personally declared in John 14:6 that He is the Truth.

Today I see Him who is the Truth wanting to reveal more of Himself to me. So, He is saying the Truth is the Word.

I must note that here also the Word is first a person, and this Person is the Lord Jesus. John 1:1 I am told that in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

So, this Word who is the Truth is God Himself. He has existed before the beginning, all the truth I ought to know and that I need to live out is in Him, and these truths existed in Him before the world began. And it pleases Him to now make Himself available to me in written form.

My generation is so loaded with so many sources of information, but for me this morning, the Lord Jesus is saying He the Truth is the Word of God. And that He has made Himself more accessible to me in written form, which is called the Bible. And that the truth I ever need in life, and the truth I need to live out in life is all made available in Him through the Word of God, which is the Bible.

John 17:17b says Thy Word is Truth. Truth is personified in Christ and made known in the Word. Thy Word is Truth. No wonder the Word of God can change and transform people's lives. This is because we are dealing with a Person, and this Person, called the Word, existed before any other thing or person came to be.

Psalms 119:160a in KJV says that Thy Word is true from the beginning. That means He is the source of Truth; He knows truth from time past and now and forever more. There are no other sure means of getting the Truth rather than the Source that had existed from the beginning, this Truth is older than any invention.

As a ministry wife, it is so easy to seek connections and network with people, it is so easy to investigate and bend towards new means of doing ministry, or new means of growing myself, but again, I see God say this morning that the Truth is the Word of God, and He has existed right from the beginning. The best of human inventions only came after the Word, which is the Truth. Actually, many inventions and principles men are bringing out are sometimes stolen from the Word of God and then twisted and adapted cunningly to meet the desire of humans.

As for me, the Lord says if you are going to do ministry in my pattern, then the only source or the only manual of operation is the Truth, and this Truth is the Word of God.

Prayer

Lord, You have made me know this morning that the Truth is the Word of God and that You have been, right from the beginning. Please help me never to see Your Word as old fashion, nor

outdated. Help me never to be deceived as many are deceived today that they need the word plus something else. But I have come to see that the Word is enough for this has been right from the beginning, the Word is the oldest of all sources of information. The Word of God is true, valid and never expires. Keep me in Your Word. Amen

3. Deceived by lies

The Vine's complete expository dictionary of old and new testament words defines deceit as, cheat, beguile and false impression. It is apaté which is a Greek word, and it is the personification of deceit. Vine's dictionary says deceit is void of anything profitable.

The Deceiver

There can be no deceit without the deceiver, just as Christ is the Pillar and foundation of Truth, so also deceit has a founder. He is called Satan or the devil.

John 8: 44 says the devil was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own because he is a liar and the father of lies.

Therefore, for a ministry wife to be deceived by lies, she must have given space to the father of deceit in her mind which then flows to every aspect of her life. The devil goes about seeking someone to devour with his lies.

As a ministry wife, I must be very careful of my association and of the things I quickly get involved in, I must investigate all things to make sure it is not a camouflage of the father of lies, the devil.

How does the deceiver deceive?

i. By planting deceit in one's mind

The devil is an impostor; he imposes his lies on the mind of anyone that gives him access, it doesn't matter if that person is a ministry wife, the moment she let down her guard and gives audience to Satan the father of lies, she will become deceived and led astray from the plan and the purpose of God, and thereby deprived the privilege to be a pillar of Truth.

This is one reason why Proverbs 4:23 asked me to guide my heart with all diligence. I must secure my heart in the Truth and give no room for the deceiver to access my thought.

I must make Philippians 4:8 my watchword which says *"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."* I should give my heart to thinking on things that are noble, just, pure, lovely of good report.

As a wife in ministry, I must not make my heart a litter to the deceiver, he has no truth in him. Many wives in ministry have been deceived into many lies, their marriages are going down the drain, and the deceiver creeps into their thoughts and plant an evil seed in their thoughts which germinated and now causing havoc in their marital relationship.

This same deceiver has lured some wives in ministry into the bosom of strange men, they met some of these men online, and today they are filing for divorce in order to marry this newfound man. The deceiver is at work even in the lives of many wives in ministry.

Sometimes, he makes the husband of wives in ministry look like devils and there are times when what their husband is doing is indeed concerning, but how wonderful it will be if such a woman detects the deceit of the devil and act appropriately.

The deceiver has managed to bring his deceit into the congregation and the homes of God's ministers. He has managed to separate husbands and wives, he has so much planted deceit in many hearts that couples wake up on Sunday morning to go to a different church to worship and most times throw the children into confusion. Therefore, I must be on the lookout and give no room for the deceiver.

If the deceiver manages to access the thought life of a wife in ministry, then he takes an upper hand over her life and every other aspect of her life is captured. This is the key area I must guide against. I must be careful of what I read and what I watch. It is not all Christian books that are suitable for me, not all Christian gatherings are suitable for me, and not all ministry wives are suitable to be my close friend. To ensnare a woman, the enemy uses deceit as bait to lure and lead her away, I must therefore be very careful.

ii. By Miracles and wonders

Revelation 13:13-15 talks of the beast that did miracles and captured many through that. The seeking for miracles, signs and wonders is usually a bait the enemy uses to lure women away from the Truth, and this includes wives in ministry.

Some seek a word in season, a prophetic word, a divine touch and most times what they get is not checked if they're in line with the Word of God. Therefore, they become prey. I must be careful to know Christ the Truth intimately, and not make prophecies, miracles, signs and wonders my goal. All these will follow me if I seek Him who is the Truth.

iii. By Philosophy

Colossians 2:8 in KJV says *"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."*

The world I'm living in presently is a world that is full of philosophers. Some of these philosophers have crept into the church which is meant to be the pillar of truth. And their philosophies could be seen in their interpretation of wealth, beauty, gender and many other issues.

Philosophy is defined as a theory or attitude that acts as a guiding principle for behaviour. A ministry wife can't live her life based on theories that are being promoted here and there. The world's definition ought not to be the guiding principle of a child of God.

Therefore, as good as philosophy may be, it must be subjected to the scrutiny of the Truth which is the Word of God.

What is my philosophy about success? How do I define a successful marriage, how do I define a successful family life? How do I define a godly child or godly parenting? How do I define church or ministry growth? Are they according to Biblical principles or the philosophy of this world? What my definitions are on the above questions will determine what or who I go to for resources.

iv. By Exhortation

1 Thessalonians 2:3 says *"For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile"*

Women have been led astray through someone's exhortation. There are many deceitful exhortations out there. With the advancement of technology comes deceit. Many messages are available via the internet, and if a wife in ministry is not careful, she may find some exhortations that are not ethical or biblical, this is where she must be discerning.

Who do I listen to? Whose teachings do I follow? Whose book do I read? Am I diligent to compare what I hear with the Bible? Do I take time to immerse myself in the Word of God which is the Truth? Or am I content and satisfied to listen to gurus in the church?

It is not wrong to listen to the exhortations of preachers, but all exhortations must be scrutinised as I also act as the Berean Christian who went back and search the scriptures. If I am content with the quick fix of my time; satisfied with podcasts, books, and blogs without the desire to dig deep into the word of God by myself and for myself, then I may become a victim of the deceiver.

He himself knows the word, and he uses it to trick many away from the Truth. Did the devil not quote Bible verses to the Lord Jesus in the wilderness in Matthew 4? Any Word of God quoted to contradict the Person of Christ must be checked. This is why I cannot afford to do just topical studies; I must familiarise myself with the total counsel of God's Word. I must diligently journey through the Bible, by memorising, reading and studying it. I can't just settle with devotionals because they are quick fixes, nor settle in a part of the Bible because they're my favourites, rather I must carefully get familiar with the entire Bible from the old testament to the new testament.

I cannot allow myself to be led astray because a preacher's exhortation used the Bible out of its context and formed a doctrine from it. I must also be a student of the Word of God.

The world is constantly changing because the deceiver is at the root of world affairs. As someone living in this generation, I must know that the deceiver is indeed doing underground work that eventually comes to the surface all over the world.

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 2 John1:7

What deceit does

When deceit gets its way into the heart of a person, be it that of a wife in ministry, deceit begins its works. Deception comes for a purpose. No deceit is promoted without intention. And when a ministry wife is deceived, the effect or the intention of that deception begins to run its course in her life.

Deceit leads astray

Many wives in ministry have been led astray by winds of doctrines. They are unstable in their walk with God. They are quick to join the new movement and quick to allow anyone to contribute to their ministry.

1 Timothy 4:1 says *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*

We are living in the last days and deception is indeed on the rise. The church of God is not left out of this deception. The deceiver has managed to creep into the household of faith deceiving many, and this includes wives in ministry, some of them have become deceivers themselves as well as the deceived.

Some ministry wives became victims of the many controversies in our days because they allow themselves to be led astray; they have departed from the faith; they have left Christ the Truth and are now swept away with lies. Sometimes what is portrayed before them comes like a truth, but when you test all spirits you realise it only looks like truth but it is not.

Every doctrine must be checked out to know if they are doctrines that point to Christ the Truth or doctrines that seduce and lead astray. What is taught today on how women can keep their marriages, and handle conflict in their homes needs to be checked if they are in line with sound doctrine that leads to truth. If not it will lead a whole family and congregation astray.

There is a devil, he is the deceiver and his intention is to lead astray, he comes to steal, kill and destroy. I must be fully aware of him, and keep my life within the Truth which is Christ.

The deceiver's core instrument – lies

The Vine's complete expository dictionary of old and new testament words defines lie as falsehood. While Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary defines a lie as a falsehood uttered for the purpose of deception, it is an intentional violation of truth.

This is what the deceiver, the devil uses to capture and captivate the people of God. Since his intention is to reed us of the Truth, he comes subtly with lies. Lie is the devil's greatest weapon for deception. He schemes lies in dreams, words, actions and various means. Our world is full of the devil's lies, and unfortunately, his lies' imprint is in many of our local congregations and Christian fellowships.

The devil has disrupted marital relationships through lies. He has separated friends through lies, he has caused enmity between mother and child through lies. He has destroyed a whole women's ministry through lies. And do I need to write of the many lives of women that the devil has destroyed by planting or introducing lies to them or introducing them to lies?

Some women though in their present, are living with the effect of lies from the past. Some are still dwelling, and living life based on lies that they were told in childhood. Some women and even wives in ministry are tied down today because of lies spoken to them by their husbands or children or sometimes their parents or fellow ministry friends. And such lies hinder them to embrace the truth.

There are stories of wives that are battling depression, anxiety and a host of other things as a result of lies planted deep in their thoughts which translated into their daily living.

The devil has used the instrument of lying over and over again to keep women in captivity, hence one of the reasons why Jesus says in John 8:32 that you will know the truth and the truth shall set you free is to deliver us from the deceiver. Lies keep in bondage, while truth sets free from bondage.

How the deceiver uses lies

i. He fills the heart with it

In Acts 5:3 Peter asked Ananias why has Satan filled his heart to lie to the Holy Ghost and to keep back part of the price of the land. That is one way the devil uses lies. He fills and pollutes a heart with various lies, and sometimes, it could be one lie but repeated in various forms and fashions. He brings it in words, songs, literature and dreams just to capture and captivate a heart into bondage.

For me, this is why negative dreams should be handled by the true Word of God. There's no need to dwell on negative lies, rather, I am to lay hold on the truth of God's Word and say 'Satan the Lord rebuke you.'

Some ministry wives have scattered and shattered their ministries as a result of dreams. Family relationships have been shattered as a result of dreams. Dreams are not the ultimate, every dream should be examined through the lens of God's Word, and dreams that contradict should be subject to the Word and prayer.

I am also seeing that an empty heart will be a good dwelling place for lies. You can't fill what is already full, to fill such you have to empty what is already inside. Therefore, as a ministry wife, I cannot overlook the need to fill my heart with God's Word. This is why I can't discard my daily

study of God's Word, my post-prayer listening to proverbs, my daytime listening to psalms, my bedtime reading through the Bible and many other opportunities to take in the Word. Garbage in garbage out they say. If I am not filling my heart with the Word the devil will fill it with his lies, and then I will be in for trouble just as when he succeeded in sowing lies into Ananias and Saphira's minds, they were in for trouble, and unfortunately, theirs was trouble into eternity.

When does the deceiver plant lies?

i. When going through dark times

One of the key times the enemy plants lies is when going through dark times, it was while men slept that the enemy came to sow thorns. Matthew 13:25

A ministry wife going through difficulty with any of her children must take heed at such times, as the enemy will want to use that occasion to sow the seed of lies, and before you know it she begins to see the worst concerning her child, she may even begin to compare her child with the children of other ministry wives or church members. This is very dangerous, as this will cause such a wife not to see the child in the light of God's Word and what God can do in and through her to help her child.

This same strategy is used by the deceiver in the marriages of wives in ministry. Misconduct of a husband may become an avenue for the devil to strike and shatter the marriage. There have been cases of infidelity in the marriage of ministers, sometimes, husbands get into affairs outside their marital relationships and sometimes this results in having a child or children outside wedlock. Without a doubt, such an experience is devastating to the woman, but that is the time that the woman needs to take heed so that the enemy that usually lies in wait will not come in to kill what is left.

What are the means that the deceiver uses to plant lies?

i. Exhortation

Just like I saw when studying how the deceiver deceives, I learnt that he uses exhortation to lure women away. Sometimes women are asked to bring in their credit cards or borrow to sow into a ministry or the life of a minister. Many of these are lies. One thing that I have resolved in my relationship with women is that I must be careful how I collect money from women, this is because they are under authority, and sometimes women give against their husbands' agreement, and then their giving becomes a bone of contention in their marriage. I must be careful regarding finance.

This same way of using exhortation is still one of the methods engaged by the deceiver in using his implement of lies. He plants lies into exhortations, lies are promoted here and there by the many motivational speakers. Ministry wives are told to love themselves quoting that Jesus says to love your neighbour as yourself, meanwhile one of the conditions for following Jesus is the need to hate yourself, that is hate anything that promotes you, Christ must be magnified, and you are to look unto the things of others rather than praise yourself.

These many exhortations have promoted various unbiblical ways to love themselves, and sometimes these teachings cause a kind of rancour and bitterness in the hearts of women against another person, and this could even be their own husbands or children. Such exhortations use fables and endless genealogies and philosophies to back up their points. Not all exhortations are suitable for a ministry wife that wants to be a pillar of truth in this generation. I must take heed to what I hear and how I hear.

Romans 1:25 KJV says *Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

This verse shows the effect of a woman who gives in to exhortations that are full of lies. The one exhorting changes the truth of God into a lie and the hearer becomes a worshipper of the creature than the creator. Some women will rather listen to preachers than read the Word, they value above the Word of God what their hero of faith says, even when this contradicts the Bible.

Amos 2:4 made me know that lies will cause people to err. So the result of a heart filled with lies is error. And I have seen errors even from people who are so to say upholding the truth, I must be very careful, and never think that I am beyond correction or that all that I say is final.

There are situations where husbands are complaining about the conduct of their wives and men and women of God have told their wives they are doing well, and have occupied them with endless activities, care must be taken that what women are asked to do is not causing a divide between them and their husbands, the Word of God must not be blasphemed.

The end result of lie

Lies come with an intention. John 10:10a says The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. When the deceiver comes with lies, he has an end in mind, which is to steal, kill and destroy. He kills, destroys and steals relationships. Think of how many congregations have been scattered again and again. People are leaving the local church again and again, relationships with the Lord and with each other are not being built in many of our fellowships, and the enemy has stolen our relationships as a result of lies. We are unable to build up each other because a lie is in our midst.

Women are capable of building up each other through their life experiences and abilities, they come together to use how the Lord has helped them in marriage and in parenting to help each other. The mistake of a fellow sister is taken as each other's mistakes and therefore solution is sought together and thereby the kingdom of God prospers in our midst.

But unfortunately, the enemy has sown lies amongst the women in the church, we are full of activities yet scattered, we are unable to do life together, and we are comfortable hiding our shame and secrets from each other. A struggle shared with a sister becomes what is used as a weapon to pull her down, how can we become pillars of truth?

The Lord must help me to see my sister's struggles as mine, and not to use her struggles as a weapon to downgrade her in my heart or speak evil of her to others.

Local churches have had to shut down because the enemy sows lies in their midst and before you know it people are leaving to the point that the congregation is empty. Why the division in the church? Why do people say God asked them to leave a ministry, and at the same time they take people from the previous ministry to form their own ministries and then cause a great divide in fellowships and between brethren? This is still because the enemy is at work, he has succeeded in planting lies amongst the people of God.

I have read the pastoral epistles again and again. The epistles of Paul to Timothy and Titus speak a lot about the truth as the antidote to lies. The enemy who was going about in the first-century church in Crete and Ephesus is still the one going about today planting lies in the hearts of God's people. These epistles are written for my example and edification. I need to keep reading and studying these pastoral epistles again and again if I am going to stop the enemy in his intention of stealing, killing and destroying by lies.

Eve, a woman deceived

Deception is all over; it's on our media, billboards, magazines, newspapers and many other places. Unfortunately, women are the ones that are easily led astray by deceit. We seemed to be the target of deceit. Salespeople get women more quickly than men. We easily open the door of our homes and our hearts for deceivers to creep in.

This has been from time immemorial. Paul in his second epistle to Timothy chapter 2, verses six and seven spoke of those that creep into houses, these are deceivers, they creep into people's houses and will lead captive silly women that are laden with sins and are led away with divers lusts. These women are characterised as ever-learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. This is why I must not just be learning; has my learning led me to the knowledge of the truth? Am I growing in the truth? All a Christian woman learns must lead to the truth. And particularly for me as a wife in ministry who has the lives of people that I am leading, what I learn and how it's transforming me matters. All I learn should lead to the Truth, which is Christ.

Today, I am looking at a woman like me, she was the first woman, and was privileged to talk with God face to face. She was told the Truth, but unfortunately, she was deceived. Eve was a woman of unusual privilege. No woman before her and after had seen God physically here on earth, but she had that supreme privilege, yet, the deceiver still led Eve away.

The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names defined her name, Eve as life: life-giving, with the root word as to live; to prosper; to keep alive; to give life). The mother of all who has life. I can see that Eve was indeed brought in to be a pillar of truth. Though this name was given to her by her husband after the fall, yet, I see that this name is still pointing back to what God desire; which is the life of God in all who live on earth.

Eve was given the privilege to be a pillar of truth as a wife to Adam, she was to reproduce truth since the Person of Truth was deposited into her. In Genesis 1:26-27 God said He wants to make humans in His image and likeness, and the image and likeness of God is the embodiment of Truth, for in Him there are no lies at all. She was meant to be the pillar of truth about womanhood, the pillar of truth for wives, and the pillar of truth for mothers.

The Herbert Lockyer All Women of The Bible says Eve's name describes her function and destiny in the spiritual history of which she was the beginning.

So, Eve and her husband were privileged to have within them the very image and likeness of God. She was to be a pillar of truth alongside her husband while they govern and rule the earth for God.

In Genesis 2:18, I noted that she was brought in as a helper to her husband. She was to help, that is, she was to be that column, that pillar that supports the roof or ceiling as architecture puts it. A pillar helps a building to stand, and that was why she was brought in, to help in seeing that her husband and the purpose of God in her husband's hands stand.

The Herbert Lockyer All Women of the Bible says further that Eve being the first woman had no inherited sin, she came from the hand of God, she had an advantage no woman has ever had, she was pure and holy, with the divine image unimpaired. She was created sinless, she yet became the world's first sinner, and introduced sin to her offspring and thus all since were born in sin and shapen in iniquity.

Genesis 3: 1-6 introduced Eve to me in a wrong company. Verse 1 of that Genesis 3 introduced to me the serpent, which is the old dragon, the devil. He was described as crafty, subtle or cunning in a few translations. Looking at the definition of crafty in Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary, it tells me that to be crafty is taking advantage of someone's ignorance, it is skilful in devising and pursuing a scheme by deceiving others. The same dictionary defines cunning as being deceitful, trickish, or employing stratagems for a bad purpose. Such are the descriptions of this deceiver that has come to make friend with Eve who was brought in to be a pillar of truth.

Looking at the story of Eve, I see the need for me to take heed lest I fall, I must learn and allow my learning to be my living, accumulating knowledge is useless if it is not put to use.

Eve knew God, she had the knowledge of the purpose of God for her husband, and for her life, she knew what God said, yet, here she is in a wrong affiliation with a stranger, this stranger came to her in the outlook that she can relate with since she and her husband had rule over all creatures God created, her husband named all the animals which would have included the serpent. They may have both cared for the serpent, so the cunning one came to her in the cloak of a serpent, that which she can identify with.

And this is the same way the deceiver still works; he comes in forms that I can identify with. Christian women can identify with exhortations, teachings, preaching, sermons and songs. Often, these are the things the deceiver has weaved himself into to deceive women and even wives in ministry.

Sometimes he comes through fellow friends in ministry, through books and many other forms. I must be careful as to who or what I associate myself with. The deceiver is crafty, he is cunning and sly; he is a deceiver!

In that same Genesis 3 verse 1, the deceiver cunningly gets through to the woman by seeking common ground, he asked her did God said she shall not eat of every tree in the garden. I am not sure what led to this discussion. Could it be that Eve was by the trees, pruning and tending some of the fruitful trees when the enemy came to her to use that opportunity to engage her? Sometimes, the enemy comes in to use the season of life a woman is in to trap her. Women have been sold lies in the seasons of early marriage, early life in ministry, parenting little children, parenting young adult children, menopause seasons, during their menstrual circle and many other seasons. He comes to seek a common ground to sow tares, to bring in lies, I must be careful.

Unfortunately for Eve, she engaged the serpent and told him what she was told, which was not even properly quoted, she added that God said they must not touch it, and looking at God's instruction in Genesis 2:16-17, there was nothing as don't touch it. This again takes me to the fact that I cannot afford to grow myself just on what people told me of the Lord, I must receive directly from His mouth. While I am grateful for my husband's spirituality, I must still seek my personal growth in Christ. While I am grateful for men and women whose ministry has blessed and grown me, I must seek my personal knowledge of God by eating directly from His Word. He daily prepares a table to feed me directly by Himself, I can't take this privilege for granted. It is easy to read books that people have already written and watch or listen to messages that others have already prepared, but I must learn to fish for myself too, for in that I will be receiving from the Source of all too. If I can be well established in receiving directly from God, I will also be able to help other women grow in receiving from the Lord.

A word of caution; I must be careful not to base my Christian life on what others know about God. If I read books more than the Bible, or listen to messages more than I do with my personal time with the Bible, I need to trust God to let these many other Johns decrease so that Christ can increase in feeding me directly.

Also, this is what I must help women to discover if I am going to be a pillar of truth, I must help women to grow in their pursuit of God, reading books and coming to me for Bible study must not be their main source of knowing God, teaching women must lead them to a deeper search of God. I must not engage women all year long, I must allow them room to go and practice what I have taught them and see where help is further needed.

So, Eve quoted God wrongly to the serpent, and there the deceiver had a gap to come in to sow lies into the heart of Eve. The first lie ever came about in Genesis 3. In verse four, he lied to Eve that she shall not surely die, indirectly portraying God to Eve as a liar. This is how the deceiver works; he tries to tarnish the image of God by telling lies about God. Oftentimes, women say God is not good because of their circumstances, but life circumstances are actually meant to help women discover the goodness of God.

The deceiver who is wearing the cloak of the serpent has now brought in lies to plant in the thought of Eve. He told her she shall not surely die when God said that the day you eat of it, you shall surely die. It is disheartening to hear the stories of many women, and that of wives in ministry who have listened to lies of the devil about themselves, their weight and their husbands. Some have embraced wrong ways of doing ministry, and they have eaten from the devil's idea, and of course the day they tasted that offer of disobedience, infidelity in their marriage and love of money, they surely died. They are alive but dead to holiness and righteous living.

Between that Genesis 3 verses one and six, the deceiver prevailed in leading Eve astray, the privilege to be a sustainer of truth was stripped off her by the devil, and she herself became deceived. Verses five and six of Genesis 3 show me the things introduced to her by the deceiver was that in eating of the fruit, her eyes shall be opened, and she shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. This is taking the truth of God's Word and twisting it to Eve. She was already made in God's image; she was the embodiment of God on earth. What opening of eyes would Eve need that God hasn't endowed her with?

And by the time she will perceive the fruit, the lies of the deceiver were already working in her as she saw the fruit as good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make her wise. And the moment she fell for the subtle persuasion of the deceiver, she threw away the truth and embraced lies as she took of the fruit and ate of it, and gave also unto her husband.

When the deceiver captures a woman, she becomes a pillar of lies, lies spread through her to all that is linked to her, just as lies passed through Eve unto her husband. 1 Timothy 2:14 confirmed this further that the woman was the one deceived.

In the light of how Eve was deceived, Ephesians 4:14 is now saying to me that I should henceforth not be as children that are tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

Many wives in ministry are children. It takes childishness to revere the teachings of others above the Word of God. It takes childishness to give time to reading books about God, listening to messages about God and joining meetings about God, but not seeking privately to know God in the way He has made Himself known in His Word. My attitude to my alone time with God

needs to be checked. What I spend time with needs to be checked, alas that it be found that all my life I have been spending time with the deceiver.

Thomas Nelson Women of the Bible says that the serpent deceived Eve by leading her to question God's Word. It also went on to say that the effect of the breakdown of Eve's relationship with God was that when the serpent came on the scene and spoke to Eve, he planted a seed of doubt in her heart.

This is why I am not quick to join groups, attend meetings and try the new Christian ministries or listen to a preacher. I must test all spirit by the Word.

Ephesians 5: 6 says *let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*

Eve was deceived with vain words, words that are not rooted in the Word of God, words that blaspheme the Person of God, and thereby the wrath of God came upon her as the remaining verses of that Genesis three spelt out her punishment and that of her husband and the serpent.

Giving in to the deceiver comes with a great cost. Many have deviated from the faith because they gave in to the deceiver. These are people 2 Corinthians 11:13 calls false apostles, deceitful workers, who transform themselves into the apostles of Christ. Not all that glitter is gold.

4. Transformed by the Truth

The Vine's complete expository dictionary of old and new testament words defines transform as the same as transfigure which is metamorphoó in Greek, and it means to change into another form. I am seeing that though a woman be captured by lies of the deceiver, and her heart is in bondage, she needs transformation, and this transformation happens in her heart first, for that is where the deceiver won the battle over her.

James 1:26 *If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.* The part that stood out for me from this James 1:26 is the fact that deception happens in the heart, hence the reason why the transformation of a life deceived by the deceiver can only begin from the heart. Transformation by the truth and in truth begins from the heart and not first the external transformation, if this transformation does not begin in the heart, the external transformation will last only for a moment. The axe needs to be laid to the root of the matter, which is the heart.

How can a deceived heart be transformed?

A look at 2 Corinthians 3:14-18

Verse 14: *But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

These verses describe so well the heart deceived; it is a heart blinded, it's a mind veiled by deceit. Some women can't see any future ahead of them. Some have believed what their parents told them from childhood. Some wives are unable to perform well in their marriage because of something their husband said or do, and thereby tied down by lies.

Yet, I also see that there is hope for this deceived mind. In Christ, this mind that is veiled with all manner of deceit is taken away from the deceiver and his deceptions. The transformation of a deceived heart is possible through Christ Jesus. A deceived heart can actually become a pillar as such a heart is helped by Christ. It doesn't matter how long a heart has been exposed to the deceiver and his deceit, such a woman only needs to be sincerely turned to the Lord Jesus, for He is Lord over the deceiver, the deceived and the deceit itself.

This is where as a ministry wife, I must be rooted in the truth so that I can become a pillar of Truth that turns other women to the Lord Jesus who is the Truth.

Verse 18 explains further how a deceived heart is helped. It is in beholding the glory of the Lord. Many deceived women usually behold the deceit or lies told them. They store it in their thoughts and ponder on it again and again, as a result, they are unable to behold the truth. But for such a woman to be released, she needs another woman who has also encountered the truth and now carries about Christ the Truth and can minister Christ the Truth to the deceived woman.

Beholding Christ on the Cross

Beholding Christ will come to the woman as she is shown what Christ did on her behalf at the Cross, and help her to look at that sacrifice, the love, and the effect of that death of Christ on the Cross. As she is helped to know that her sinful nature was crucified with Christ, that will begin her liberation from lies. All women in our churches and Christian fellowships need to behold Christ on Calvary's tree just as He was set forth for the Galatian church.

Beholding Christ in the Word

As the deceived woman is shown the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross, she also needs to be encouraged to bring out all the lies that are being told her, and she needs to be shown what the Word of God says concerning those areas of her life. The lies she believes must be replaced with the truth of the Word of God.

How can women claim to have encountered the finished work of the Cross and are still living in lies? Women need to be followed up and disciplined in all areas of their lives for total and complete wholeness. They ought to be taught how the atoning work of Christ covers every aspect of their lives. In doing this she will be equipped to be able to withstand the schemes of the devil. She will begin to learn to replace lies with the Truth.

Women are faced with different life issues including mental difficulties, and sometimes it seems therapy is not working. I am seeing CBT in light of the scriptures. Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is a talking therapy; this therapy is usually engaged to help people with depression, anxiety, and mental and physical health problems to manage their problems by changing their thoughts and behaviour. Is the Word of God not capable to do this?

How come many of our women are struggling and even wives in ministry and yet they are unable to be helped? Is it because the Word of God is not enough? No, the Word of God is enough, it is because there is a lack of women who are the pillars and foundations of Truth to other women.

Women need ministry wives that can hold them accountable, helping them see how to search the Word to replace the lies the enemy has sown in their hearts. Sometimes, this might be a long haul, but it is a sacrifice worth giving. Lord, make me a pillar of truth.

Transformation is possible as a deceived heart is turned to the Lord to behold Christ in the Word. This transformation may come for the deceived woman gradually, but it must be measurable; it goes from one degree of glory to another. Therefore, the beholding of the Lord Jesus in His Word can't be over-emphasised.

How can a once deceived woman continually maintain a transformed heart?

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The presentation of her body

This means she needs to submit her life to the scrutiny of the Holy Spirit. Her thought must be laid bare before the Lord and before whoever is helping her. This is a reasonable thing for her to do since she has received mercy from the Lord. The Lord is not here to judge her but rather, He was there to help her overcome every lie the enemy has sold to her. Keeping records of her thought pattern might be helpful in this regard.

Not conforming to this world

This world has its mould for women and various issues women go through in life. But a woman that has seen Jesus Christ on the Cross can be helped not to conform to this world. That means her idea of marriage, success must not be like the world. Though she is single at early forty, she must not see herself as miserable and unfortunate, rather she should see it through the eyes of 1 Corinthians 7 that is it a gift, if she sees singleness as a gift from God, then she will be able to thrive in that singleness.

The problem is that we have wives in ministry who are meant to be pillars of truth, but they are not, so they make life seasons look like a curse or unfairness from God. Sometimes they pressurise a single to marry, as though marriage is the ultimate in life.

For me to help other women, my personal view of life and my circumstances must be viewed through the lens of God's Word, and not the world's definition. It is as I conform to the Word of God, would I be able to help other women not to conform to this world.

The renewing of the mind

It seems to me that the mind is renewable, it can be taught to think right. A heart captured under the bondage of lies can be helped to renew her mindset. Again, this comes through the Word of God. The Word of God in hymns, psalms, poetry, and drama will all play a great deal in the renewing of her mind.

Mary Magdalene

The Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names says the name Magdalene means inhabitant of Magdala, tower and fortress. Mary Magdalene's name seemed to be attached to the place where she dwelt. I am not sure why, but I am trusting God to reveal some bits and pieces to me about this woman who was once under the deceptive influence of the deceiver.

The place where she lived was mentioned in Matthew 15:39. This was after Jesus fed four thousand with seven loaves and a few fish. This last verse of the chapter says Jesus got into the boat and went to the vicinity of Magadan, which is Magdala. Magdala is a coast city and situated on the Western shore of the sea of Galilee, and three miles north of Tiberias. Historians believe Magdala was a fishing village.

The Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names also says the name Mary means bitterness, rebellious, obstinate, sorrow, disobedience, and that is the Greek form of Miriam which means their rebellion. So if one looks at the meaning of the name of Mary Magdalene, I will say it is bitterness, sorrow, disobedience of Tower or fortress. This meaning of mine may not make sense. But I see that each time I say, Mary Magdalene, I am saying bitterness or sorrow or disobedience of the place Magdala, or bitterness, sorrow or disobedience of fortress or tower.

In Matthew 27:56, this Mary was mentioned alongside other women that were at the crucifixion of Jesus, and in verse 61 it was said that she and the other Mary were sitting opposite the tomb of Jesus while Jesus' body was laid to rest. Mark 15 also recorded that Mary Magdalene was one of the women watching at the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus, and verse 47 says they saw where Jesus was laid to rest.

John 19:5 confirmed again that Mary was with the three other Marys at the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus. And in Matthew 28:1, I saw that at the end of the sabbath, at early dawn Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see Jesus' sepulchre. Mark 16:1 also confirms this.

Mary was a woman devoted to Christ the Truth who delivered her from the hands of the deceiver and his lies. Luke 8:2 mentioned Mary Magdalene as one of the women that followed Jesus after they had been healed. It was specifically said that she was healed of seven demons. I can't imagine what it means for a woman to have seven demons living in her. She must have lived a tormented life, a life bombarded by lies, anxieties, depression, panic attacks and many other issues.

Mary Magdalene must have lived an unfulfilled life before encountering Jesus the Truth. She must have been unable to be the woman God created her to be as she was under the influence of seven demons. She wouldn't have been able to marry nor have a child, and if she managed to get married and have children, she wouldn't have been able to joyfully carry out her roles and responsibilities in the home. Some days she may have to be in bed as she suffers a bout of depression. Perhaps some days she may just sit and use food as comfort for her life miseries.

The heart of Mary Magdalene must have been veiled and darkened by these seven demons.

Could it be that she even self-harmed, had attempted suicide? Only heaven can fully describe the life of this woman called Mary Magdalene. But I am grateful for what the Word of God has made available for me to know about the life of this woman.

Mary Magdalene's story paints for me the stories of the many women I have encountered within and outside the church. Sometimes, I have to cry my eyes out for the misery of my sisters. But as I reflect on the life of Mary Magdalene, I see hope for these many women, the many teenage girls and young girls that have been invaded by the deceiver. Some are dealing with gender dysphoria, some can't even understand or know their identity, some are living in misery as a result of sexual abuse done to them, some have replaced joy with alcohol, and some replaced hope with work just to bridge the gap in their lives and to manage the effect of the lies the enemy has sown into their hearts. But as I read and study the life of Mary Magdalene this morning, I see the Lord saying there is hope for a tree that is cut... Job14:7

Mary Magdalene – Transformed by the Truth

In Luke 8 between verses one and three, I met this same Mary who was once under the tyranny of seven demons. At this time, she has been transformed by the Lord Jesus Himself. She was at this junction in her life a follower of the Lord, she was in the company of other women who were once under the influence of the deceiver the devil, and now following Jesus serving Him with their substance, and I believe some of these substances will be their personal testimony of how Jesus transformed them, and delivered them from the wicked hands of the deceiver and freed them of all the deceits or lies sown in their hearts.

Mary Magdalene – a pillar of Truth

Mark 16:9 *Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.*

Luke 24:10 *It was Mary Magdalene and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.*

After the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, Mary Magdalene was at the tomb of Jesus, seeking and searching for Her Lord and Master. I love how John twenty painted Mary Magdalene; it is such a good read to fully understand what Christ did in her life and the effect of the same. Mary Magdalene was shown as resilient for the Lord, she won't give up while others have given up, and she pursued until she received from the Lord what her heart was seeking, which was the Lord Jesus.

Mary Magdalene became a pillar of truth as she received of the Lord the resurrection message. According to John's Gospel, she was the first to see the Lord, and she was the first human being the Lord spoke to post-resurrection, and she was the woman who received the good news of the Lord's resurrection and His ascension to the Father to show Himself. Christ commissioned her to go to the other disciples taking with her the good news of Christ's resurrection. At a time when the disciples thought the women were telling fables, Mary collected reality and took the same to the leaders of the church at her time.

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went to the

disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:17-18

Onesimus

The Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names says the name Onesimus means profitable. Onesimus was once a brother under the deceiver as he lived a life of deceit. He was a slave of Philemon. Onesimus probably robbed his master, Philemon, and then fled to Rome. But as the Lord would have it, Onesimus encountered Paul in Rome and he became a believer and was greatly helped by Paul to grow in the faith.

Stealing for me is a form of bondage the devil put people in as a result of covetousness and lack of contentment. The devil is the mastermind of stealing from another. Onesimus was under the grip of the devil and lived a deceptive life as a slave to his master, Philemon. He may have been stealing from him again and again until this final incident that caused him to run away to Rome. I must never see stealing from another person as a light thing, it is rather a matter of severity.

The story of Onesimus makes me think of women both old and young that steals, some of them just have to steal, not because they're in need, and some women have been doing this from childhood and into their later years.

I recall a scene I saw in a shop a couple of years ago of an elderly woman who came into a shop and stole all sorts of things not knowing that a CCTV was watching her, as she was about to go out of the shop, a staff in the shop approached her asking her what did she have in her bag, and eventually, the bag was searched, and lo and behold, it was full of stolen stuff from this shop. I felt ashamed and sad for that woman. Could it be she has been doing this since childhood?

Medically, it is called Kleptomania. Kleptomania is the inability to resist the urge to steal items, usually for reasons other than personal use or financial gain. Kleptomania is classified in psychiatry as an impulse control disorder. Some of the main characteristics of the disorder suggest that kleptomania could be an obsessive-compulsive spectrum disorder, but also share similarities with addictive and mood disorder (Source of information: Wikipedia).

And many women have been enslaved by the devil in this way. The enemy has sown lies in their thoughts, and some seemed to say to themselves I can't stop doing this as it is already part of me from childhood, but I know that whomever God sets free is free indeed.

Onesimus – a transformed brother

Onesimus was once a thief, but when he encountered Christ the Truth, through Paul who was a pillar of truth in his days, Onesimus was set free by the power of the Gospel.

Philemon 1:10-13

I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds: Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me: Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is,

mine own bowels: Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel.

Here in Philemon, Paul was recommending Onesimus to Philemon as a brother transformed and worthy of acceptance as a beloved brother.

Onesimus was no longer that thief that was under the deceit of the deceiver, this deceiver influences his thought and motivates him to steal what belongs to others. But as he encountered Christ the Truth, his story changed. He was totally transformed.

Onesimus – a pillar of truth

Talking again about Onesimus to the church in Colosse, Paul wrote in Colossians 4:9 NIV and say *“He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.”*

Onesimus, who was once useless became a profitable brother to Paul and the church in Colosse. Paul calls him a faithful and dear brother. Paul could trust him to be sent alongside Tychicus to the brethren in Colosse. There was no fear of what if Onesimus steals from the brethren. Christ who sets free has set him free. Onesimus has encountered the truth that sets free, and he became set free as he knew the truth. He could be sent alongside Tychicus to carry the epistle to the Colossian church. He was an accomplice of the Good news and no longer identified with thieves. He who was once a thief became a pillar of truth. This is the transforming work of Christ.

5. The inner workings of the Truth

Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary defines inner as interior; farther inward than something else. It is also defined as internal; not outward.

Therefore, the inner workings of the truth is the interior; that is, the inside workings of the truth. Jesus said in Matthew 23:26 NIV that *Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.*

The priority Jesus places on the inside life of a Christian cannot be overlooked. He is saying when the inside is clean, it will affect the outside. So also, for the Truth to have a great effect upon my life or the life of anyone I want to give it to, it must begin its work from the inside. It's so easy for us to wash our outside while the inside is dirty and unpresentable.

A truth that hasn't affected the inside is a truth that will soon be outlived or put aside, this is because it is only there as a decoration and not as something that is first internalised and then flows out to the outer life.

Deep teachings vaporised in people's lives when the truth hasn't yet dwelt in the heart of people. Therefore, truth must be allowed to do its inner workings in each life before it can translate to life principles.

John the beloved was an apostle of truth. In his single epistle to the elect lady, he mentioned the word truth five times between verses one and four.

In verse 1, John wrote that he loved the elect lady and her children in the truth and that it wasn't only he who expressed that kind of love, but also those that have known the truth.

In verse two, he told her that for the sake of truth that dwells in them and shall be with them forever. So, truth is meant to dwell in us, it is in first dwelling in us that it can be with us forever.

The disciples of old were able to live in truth and be truthful to each other because the Truth, which is the Person of Christ dwelt in them, and also the Word of God which is the Truth dwells in them. Therefore, they were able to live in truth.

There's hope in the Truth, and there're riches in the truth. Truth is part of what the people of God ought to inherit when they become born again, for the Person we receive is the Truth, and He became ours at salvation.

There is an exceeding greatness in the truth that many saints of God have not discovered because truth has not yet dwelt fully in our hearts. No wonder Jesus said that when you know the truth, the truth shall set you free. John 8:32. This knowing is not just the head knowledge, but it is an intimate knowledge of the truth that resides in my heart and begins to form principles, and lifestyle for me.

Ephesians 3:16-19 portrays to me some attributes of truth which is first the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word to me. These are what truth will do when it is embedded on the inside.

What are they?

- Truth has riches in glory.
- Truth strengthens the inner man.
- Truth causes me to be rooted and grounded in love.
- Truth gives me the privilege to comprehend with all saints.
- Truth has breadth, length, depth and height.
- Truth reveals the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge.
- Truth fills me with the fullness of God.

My prayer is Lord, dwell fully in me, Thou art truth.

Truth Sanctifies

When the truth indwells me, it does an internal work that radiates on the outside. And one of those works is sanctification.

Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary defines Sanctify as holy, to separate, set apart, to purify, to prepare for divine service and to secure from violation. I love the last definition. Given what I have been looking at on the pillar of truth, I want to stick to the last definition, which is to secure from violation.

Lies violates, it violates the heart, emotion, will etc. Therefore, when the Truth has come to dwell in a heart, the Truth secures such a heart from violations. The deceiver who is also the devil has violated many women, many pulpits are violated, the truth is being mixed with errors here and there, and those who are ignorant are being violated.

No woman can of herself secure herself from lies. Women are naturally prone to lies. We have lies all around us, and the many churches of God in our times are not safe places that can secure women's lives from lies. But as God seeks ministry wives who themselves have become the embodiment of the truth, this indwelling truth in them sanctifies them. It does the work of keeping them secure from violation. They will be sensitive to sin and its attributes.

1 Corinthians 1: 30 says that Jesus Christ was made Sanctification unto me. That is why when He dwells in me, He will do a work of sanctifying me inside and out. I am also seeing from 2 Thessalonians 2:13 that God chose me from the beginning into salvation, and my belief in the Truth will do the work of sanctification in me. Therefore, everyone who genuinely believes in the atoning work of Christ is brought into the sanctifying work of Christ.

Romans 6:22 shows what the end result of sanctification is, and it is that I will bear fruit of holiness. This is an attribute of a ministry wife that is a pillar of truth. From 1 Peter 1:2, I see that sanctification happens in the spirit. When my spirit man is sanctified, it controls every other aspect of my person. The name of God is to be called with holy reverence.

The instrument for my sanctification

1. The body of Christ, the death of Christ

Hebrews 10:10 *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*
Colossians 1:22 *In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight.*

Christ's offering of His body happened one moment; it is a once for all sacrifice. The putting to death of Christ's body on Calvary's tree ended my Adamic life, and as such a sanctification effect happened for me. No more must I look at Christ's death just as dying to forgive me, more so, in His death began my sanctification.

Before His death humanity was doomed and condemned, having no grace to display the attribute of God. The best of men and women in ministry who tried prior to Christ's death failed in one way or another. But as Christ laid His life down on Calvary's tree, He upgraded me to the sanctifying standard of accessing God through faith. The veil of unholiness that demarcated

between me and God was torn down, and as Christ entered into the presence of God He carried me there showing that His death on Calvary paid for my sanctification.

2. The Spirit of God

1 Corinthians 6:11 says further that my sanctification comes by God's Spirit. His Spirit was involved in my salvation, and in my becoming like Jesus; reflecting truth comes from the Spirit of God. It is the Spirit of God that explains the Word of God to me, and it is that same Spirit that works in me both to will and to do the Word that was made known to me. He reveals Christ the Truth to me. There are all kinds of spirits out there, but the Spirit of God glorifies Christ as He points me to Christ, hence the reason why the Holy Spirit's involvement in the sanctifying work of the Truth is indispensable.

Sanctification can't take place without the Spirit of God's involvement. I am learning that the Trinity are together in my sanctification.

3. The name of the Lord Jesus

1 Corinthians 6:11 *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

The above scriptures is showing me that one instrument God uses to sanctify His people is His name. One of His names is Holy, and therefore, what He does is holy, and for me to be a pillar in Him, I must be holy.

Any wife in ministry that will thrive both now and always must learn the attributes of God revealed in His name, and she must not only learn this, but she must also live to honour His name. Philippians 2:10 mentions that at the name of Jesus every knee bows. Such is the potency and authority the name of Jesus carries.

My life as a wife in ministry must be brought under the full meaning of the Lord's name and asked myself if this is what my life reflects. Considering the name of God brings me a huge sense of responsibility to me. For example, knowing God as Jehovah Sabaoth keeps me calm in every battle. Knowing Him as Emmanuel puts a quiet assurance that God Himself is with me, and that informs how I live. And this understanding works for my continuous sanctification. Though I have considered the names of God in time past, perhaps I need to revisit it again.

4. The Word of God

John 17:17 Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth.

I have learnt in the course of this study that Truth is the Word of God. There is no way truth will work and dwell in me if I ignore the Word of God.

Many are women who have been truly shown the finished work of the Cross but deprived the privilege to grow in the Word for their lives. Such women are involved in so many things but lack the daily intake of God's Word. Their lips may say things that are pertaining to the atoning work of Christ. They may develop cliches, but their conduct or manner of life is still such that follow lies. Such finds refreshment in worldly songs and music. They may destress or calm themselves with worldly programs and unknowingly become slaves to these things.

If I will be a pillar of truth, and raise women that will be pillars of truth, the instrument of the Word of God must be employed. One of the struggles of women is spending time with the Word. They may read books, watch movies and join activities about God, but they are unable to spend personal time with the Word of God. Meanwhile, the sanctifying work of God comes as

we sit at His feet personally; spending personal time on the Word of God actually accelerates the effect of what godly preachers who are pushing the truth are contributing to my life.

My life as a ministry wife must be evaluated by the Word of God. Do I value time in His Word above all else? How committed am I to the Word of God? Do I find it easy to watch a two hours movie, and struggle to spend half an hour in the Word of God? It is the Word of God that God uses to sanctify every life that will walk with Him. Like Living Seed media will say, "*God's Word is His comprehensive equipment for changing lives.*"

Do I love His law, commandment, statute, ordinance and precept which are all the various expressions of the Word of God as used in Psalm 119?

Truth Leads

The Vine's complete expository dictionary of old and new testament words defines lead as to bear and bring. And Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary defines lead as to guide or conduct by showing the way, to direct, to show the method of attaining, to draw, to entice, to exercise dominion, to allure, to influence, to introduce by going first.

I love all these definitions, and I am loving the truth again. Truth leads me, Truth guides me, Truth influences me, draws me, entices me, truth goes first and asks me to follow as He shows me the way. Truth helps me to exercise dominion over lies and the originator of lies which is the devil. Truth in me does a continuous work of directing my path and granting me dominion over the devil and his deceits.

This is what women need, as many of us have been led by the deceiver himself into lies just as he did to Eve, and led her out of the bliss God put her in. As I daily yield myself to Truth, He will go ahead and take me alongside.

Psalm 25:5 Lead me in Thy truth, and teach me: for Thou art the God of my salvation; on Thee do I wait all the day.

Christ the Truth in me wants to lead me in His Truth, and this truth is found in His Word. The lives of many ministry wives would have been such a pleasant one if only we allow Christ the Truth to lead us into all truths by His Word. Our relationships will be helped, our health will be helped as we yield the leadership of our lives unto Him.

One of the ways we often err as women is with our words, and I see that if only I allow Christ the Truth to direct my thought, my words will be words of truth that brings healing and grace to those who hears me. Marital struggles would have been handled if only Christ the Truth indwells wives in ministry, and then submit fully to His leadership.

Having Christ indwelling me gives me the special privilege of being led in every area of my life. And doing ministry through me will be a flow of His leadership into the lives of others.

Thinking of the many aspects of life that women need leading on, we seldom turn to google, friends, social media etc to find out what to do. Meanwhile, the spirit of truth indwells me and wants to lead me, and for this leading to take place, I need to listen to His direction, just as Matthew 7:23-26 says everyone that hears Jesus' sayings and does them is wise, and the one that hears and do not do is likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand. And a life built upon sand will soon be washed away by heavy rain. Hence the reason why women cannot stand in times of trouble. The lives of women are not built on Christ, and for those who claim they are, they are not living or being taught to live their lives based on the Word of God. Many do not know how to build their homes, their personal lives and ministry on the principle of God's Word.

May the Lord make me a ministry wife who is allowing the truth to daily indwells her.

Truth Sets Free

The Vine's complete expository dictionary of old and new testament words defines set as to present, to put, to place. It then defines free as going wherever you want. Are there not many women who are tied down by sin and various life actions? Some are in challenging situations quite all right, but the enemy has used their life situations as a trap to keep them in perpetual deception. Many such women are not free to go wherever they would like to go in the Lord. They may even be busy in church but restrained by lies. The majority of women are living a life that is below God's standard for them.

Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary defines set as to be put in its proper or natural posture. And it defines free as being at liberty, not being under necessity restraint physical or moral. It means not imprisoned, confined or under arrest. It also means unconstrained, not under compulsion or control, not obstructed, clear of crime, release from obligation or duty etc. The definitions go on and on.

And looking at these definitions shows what the lives of some ministry wives are, not to talk of that of women in general both in the church and outside the church.

Women are under arrest physically, emotionally and spiritually. Therapies and medications seem not to be helping many. Many are women within the church that can't think straight, their perception of themselves and God is disruptive and marred. And I am seeing that when Truth comes into such a life, Truth sets free; such a woman is released from the prison of sin and habits. Sometimes, her present situation may not change, but her mindset and attitude are changed and then her situation begins to reflect the inner workings of the Truth.

There is a great need to introduce women to Christ the Truth, allow them to lay hold on Him in His Word, and allow this Word of God to permeate every nook and cranny of a woman's life. It is rather unfortunate that as wives in ministry, we have engaged various means to help our women. And these means may work temporarily, and as time goes on, they go back to their previous state as a dog does. How can we have the cure and be unable to offer it to women? We seemed to be busy with activities here and there, and the devil the deceiver seems to be harvesting and polluting the hearts of women in the church. I see the need to help women to be grounded and rooted in the Word, for that is God's chosen instrument for dealing with lies.

How the Truth sets free Through the Son

John 8:36 *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

Freedom can't be found outside Christ Jesus, it is in Him, He who finds the Son finds life. It is Him that sets free, and His kind of freedom is freedom indeed, and not freedom for now or for a season.

Women need to be connected to the Son, the Lord Jesus. There is the initial stage of committing their heart to the Lord Jesus and then helping them to know this Son whom they believed. I remember a couple of years ago after travelling severally for training and was shown afresh the death of my old life and the New Man who has come to live in me. I took extra time to consider that New Man, Jesus Christ who has come to dwell in me as I searched Him from Genesis to Revelation. I recently went through the notes of those years, and I found again that Christ in the book of Philemon is the reconciler just as Paul reconciled Onesimus to Philemon. And what a foreshadowing that is of what Christ wants to do in the lives of women as they yield their lives to Him. He wants to reconcile them to freedom that is found in the truth. Therefore, women, both wives in ministry, and women in general, particularly those in the church must know the Son that sets free.

Verse 33 of that John 8 says *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* The Truth, who is the Son sets free as we get to know Him. Have I fully known Him? Have I put Him aside and now trying to know many other things? So much is being introduced today to women and particularly to ministry wives, and unfortunately, these new inventions have taken wives in ministry from the Old path that leads to Truth.

Women need to know the truth, this surpasses listening to preachers or reading books, or merely going to church, while these are good practices, women must be taught how to get profit from the Word of God. They need to know how to be free and live in perpetual freedom through the Word of God. If my ministry to women is not grounding them in the Word, then I must consider afresh what I am doing with them.

Through the Spirit

Romans 8:2 *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.* The Holy Spirit is the spirit of life. Christ spoke in John 14 that He will send us the Comforter. The Holy Spirit is sent from God, and He comes into a believer's life to set free from all that leads to death which lie is chief in; for lies leads to death, be it the death of relationships, the death of personal prayer life, the death of personal time in the Word etc.

Freedom cannot be attained without the Trinity working together in my life or in the lives of the women that God brings my way.

From Romans 8: 2, I see that there is a law, and this law is the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, no wonder Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit comes, He will take of Him and reveal to Him. It is the Holy Spirit showing me Christ that brings freedom, for the Holy Spirit is the herald of Truth, and when He comes into a life, He pushes nothing else except the Truth, and when such truth has full access in life, it sets free.

Women's lives are under several laws, several rules and regulations. Laws of how much exercise they must do, laws of calorie intake, and these laws may not necessarily be bad, I'm mindful of making sure I am active and not inactive, so I deliberately walk, and I eat responsibly. But there is another extreme of undereating or overeating that has kept the lives of many women bound, and some are unable to set themselves free from Bulimia or Anorexia.

There's also the law of what to wear and how to wear it, so many women are trapped pursuing fashion and beauty. These are still the workings of the deceiver in the lives of women. Yet, I see the need to introduce women to the law of the Spirit, for it is not enough to daily read the Bible, but the Bible must be read through the eyes of the Spirit, until then, a woman will only read the Bible as a law, rules and regulations, but when it is the Holy Spirit unveiling the scriptures to her, the scriptures become to her the law of Spirit and life. And she will find

liberation from habits and addictions of life. Jesus said the Word that He speaks are spirit and they are life. This is why the Holy Spirit is needed in the transforming work of setting women free from bondages. 2 Corinthians 3:17 from KJV says “*Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*”

There is a liberty God has in store for His children, but as long as they are in bondage, they are unable to access this liberty. Romans 8: 21 says “*Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*”

The kind of liberty that God has in store for His children is glorious liberty. And this is what ministry wives must be led into so that they also can be pillars of truth that lead other women into that inheritance of glorious liberty.

Women must not just be subjected to activities upon activities, but there must be a deliberate walking with them into God’s glorious liberty for their lives.

And not only must I walk women into this liberty, but women must be helped to stand well in this freedom, and make sure they do not fall back into the hands of the deceiver and become entangled with the yoke of bondage.

Galatians 5:1 KJV says *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

6. Constructing pillars of Truth

27th December 2022

3 Bishops Court

09:49am

Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary defines construct as to lay, set in order, to build, to form, to devise, or compose. All these definitions stood out to me. The church has been quite busy for decades now, and we seemed not to be building or composing people who can be the pillars of truth.

The building of lives will demand time and concentration. Having constant activities and programs doesn't equate to building pillars.

Just as I have seen the damage the deceiver has done, and the distance he has gone in the church, particularly in the lives of women, I am seeing that my involvement in the work of God must not be another wife in ministry, rather, it must be a focused ministry wife who joins her hands with the Lord in the shaping, moulding and constructing women both those in ministry and others who will be God's pillars of Truth.

What I don't have I cannot give. If my own life is a life messed up with lies, how do I engage in the construction of the lives of women who can become pillars of Truth? The construction of the Pillars of Truth begins with me. It is out of the fullness of what God has done in me that will overflow into the construction of other women who become pillars.

Homes are suffering, churches are struggling, societies are declining and our generation is wasting away because there are little or no pillars of truth among the female folks.

In Proverbs 14:1, it was the woman that the Bible says builds. We are to build our daughters in our homes to be God's graceful pillars that are carved and polished after the similitude of the palace. Mothers-in-law are to help build up their daughters-in-law to become pillars in their son's life.

Our failure as women and particularly as wives in ministry has created gaps in many marriages. We are giving daughters in marriage, but they are not equipped to be pillars in their homes. The Lord must help me to do ministry with focus. I must know why I am married to a pastor and why God has given me the ministry of ministering His Word, particularly to women.

The Constructor

a. God

The chief constructor is God, but He appoints me to be His manager here on earth in the constructing work of pillars of truth.

Hebrews 3: 4 says *For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.*

No pillar of truth can be constructed without God. I am remembering Psalm 127 which says except the Lord builds they that labour labours in vain. I can't build up other women to be pillars of truth if God is not in the picture. He is the architect and has the architectural design of what His women who would be pillars of truth should look like.

He designed the whole world and all that is in it. He is the One sustaining the world, and He only knows the pattern of women He wants in His church.

b. The ministry wife

Now that I have known that God is the Master builder or the chief Constructor of women whose lives will be His pillars of Truth, God dwells in heaven and appoints humans to oversee His project for Him here on earth. This is where I come in as a wife in ministry. I am His staff, His ambassador here on earth, I am to busy myself with the work of the kingdom. God desires that my involvement with the lives of women must be to make them the pillars of truth. Women whose homes, children, church and place of work reflect the truth. Women that people will know that if they are seeking the truth regarding any matter, they can approach them. These are women who will be building and raising godly homes for the Lord. This is why ministry for me must be with focus.

I have seen God do this again and again in the lives of women in the past and even now. I think of the late Mrs Kumuyi as a wife in ministry; she helped build women, and they in turn built their homes by building the lives of their husbands and children. She concentrated her effort on programs and opportunities to invest in the lives of women.

What of Sade Akanni whom God has also used in diverse measures to raise women who are pillars of truth? And so is Nancy Demoss Wolgemouth whose life and ministry is to see women become fruitful for the Lord as they encounter the truth.

From the past till the present, God has been doing this job of building pillars amongst women, and He still wants to work through me too.

The 1 Corinthians 3:9-15 down below is worth meditating on as a woman who wants to be a pillar of truth.

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

My life as a ministry wife who is a pillar of truth must not first be the teaching of people but first the doing of what I intend to teach people. Luke wrote concerning Jesus in Acts 1:1 that Jesus began both to do and teach. Teaching does not precede doing. Particularly in these days when nearly everyone has a platform of ministry, no one wants to be in obscurity doing what they intend to go and teach later. This is why we have so much confusion in the body of Christ. As for me, to build pillars of truth, I must first begin to do, so that I am not just a teacher of what I don't practice.

No wonder when I hear the stories of some of the women I mentioned earlier, they spent most of their time hidden, not first on the platform, and it was after they have been made in secret that God gave them the platform of constructing lives that are pillars of truth. This is because there's ongoing work that God embarks upon on those He brings into His Construction work.

For me too to build, there ought to be some dealings of God upon my life while in the hidden, and some are:

Renounce hidden things of dishonesty

When the deceiver comes to a life to hold her captive, he prefers she keeps her dealings secret to herself, he prefers that her struggles and sins should be kept with her because sin thrives the more in the secret.

I cannot contribute pillars of truth to the kingdom if I still have hidden sins that I am dealing with and am not willing to bring them to the limelight. My secret life must be in proportion to my public life. I can't be keeping malice with my husband and expect to raise women who will keep a harmonious home; like they say begat like. I can't be a troublesome wife to my husband, not submissive and expect myself to raise women who will be submissive to their husbands.

I must not walk in craftiness

2 Corinthians 4:2 clearly stated that I must not only renounce the hidden works of dishonesty but also, I must not walk in craftiness. As a wife in ministry, how I walk matters. To be craft is to be deceitful. If my life has been helped in the hidden, it will definitely not be crafty. Sincerity will be one of my attributes.

I must not handle God's word deceitfully

My generation is a generation of ministry wives that has turned the work of God into secular business. Sometimes scriptures are twisted to collect money from women. This kind of lifestyle must not be found in me if I am going to be His pillar of truth to other women. Women have been exploited by wives in ministry, and, sadly, such exploitation is done in the name of the Lord.

As for me, I must not walk in craftiness. Rather I should manifest the truth commending myself to every man's conscience. Paul in his writing to the Thessalonians wrote in 2 Thessalonians 2:2-4 and he says "*For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness.*"

The Gospel in my hands is a trust; I am to use it to build other women to become pillars of truth, and not to use it to exploit other women who were made in the image of God. I must not preach the Word because of the money I will gain or because of the fame or name I will make, I must preach the Gospel because of lives that need to be matured to the image of Christ.

I must manifest the truth

Finally, to build pillars of truth, I as a wife in ministry must manifest truth, that is, the truth must be seen, and it must be evident in me, in conduct and life. I must be found with the truth always. The words of my mouth must be a manifestation of the truth. There should be no white or black lies in my lips, my yes must be yes, and my no must be no. If I schedule an appointment and am unable to make it, I must let the person know. I must not tell women that I am praying for them or I will be praying for them when I am not. I must not pretend to be who I am not; I must manifest the truth. This is what will help other women. Women are seeking real women, women who are not one thing at home and another thing outside.

But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 2 Corinthians 4: 2 KJV

I must be a woman of humility

Apart from the above characteristics that God is expecting me to cultivate, I must also be a woman of humility, not thinking highly of myself, but rather, esteeming others above myself. When I think of myself to be something, and I am nothing, then I am deceiving myself. That means I am a victim of what I want women to be free from, and darkness cannot set darkness free. Pride comes before a fall; therefore, I must never be proud of achievements, position, wealth, connections or knowledge. A proud woman cannot help another woman even if she is a ministry wife. Has there not been cases where women in local churches seek help outside the pastor's wife because she is too proud and unapproachable? A high-minded woman cannot please God, for God resist the proud, and if God resists me, I cannot help other lives, no one wants to be the friend of a proud person. And as a result, many women that my life ought to have helped will seek help elsewhere and sometimes to their detriment.

I must be a different breed of ministry wife, carrying a heart of humility where people can easily approach me to share with me regardless of their status in life and or ministry.

For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. Galatians 6:3

I must be a woman with bridle tongue

Another key issue to take seriously for me is the matter James 1:26 raised, which says *"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."*

If I claim to be religious, born again, new creation and yet have an uncontrollable mouth, that my words pierced like a sword, then I am deceiving myself and my Christianity is in vain. I see that one of the characteristics of women that have been helped by God is the ability to bridle their tongue. Have my words not damaged my children, husband, siblings and in-laws? If it has, I must put my finger over my mouth.

One area of consecration women struggles with is their mouth, and God will not lower His standard for me, He expects my mouth to be tamed, and to speak wholesome words.

Can all the above and even more than the above be my testimony? Can I trust God to work these graces into me? If yes, then God is ready to make me His pillar of truth that He can involve in the building of other women pillars of truth.

My contribution to constructing pillars of truth

I remember what Martha Peace said in her book 'Becoming a Titus 2 Woman', that ministry is first my doctrine which affects my character, and then it forms a ministry to others. My doctrine must be affecting my behaviour, if there's no transformation in my words and the way I do life, then I need to check myself again.

God must have contributed to my life, and as I mature in character, He then begins to place other women on my path.

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2

As I grow in Christ, the above scriptures begin to shape my idea of ministry. That means I will begin to deliberately invest truth in the heart of women. Committing to a one-to-one session with women will not be a big deal for me as that will be an opportunity to commit the truth into their hearts.

See how the enemy is destroying young marriages today, he goes about sowing lies into marriages, and before you know it these young homes are packing up, they are radically ending in divorce. Could this be because I am failing in making room for young wives to commit the truth of godly marriage into their hearts?

The truth that I've heard must be committed to faithful women, who will in turn pass it on to another woman, and another woman, and we form a chain of pillars of truth.

I am seeing that the construction of women who will be pillars of truth is a way of passing on the baton of truth to other women and the female gender at large. What a noble course. I pray the Lord finds me faithful in this area, as this will liberate many women.

How to build**Buy the Truth**

Proverbs 23:23 says *Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.*

I must invest in the Truth, which means I must be a woman of depth, a woman at the Lord's feet where Truth is purchased freely. Though it is free it will cost me my time, there will be activities that I may not be able to participate in because I am purchasing the truth. There is a time to buy the truth first for my life, the truth that is not mine will be difficult to pass on to another.

I must invest in resources that will ground me in the truth. I can't be a shallow woman and expect myself to be a pillar of truth. Investing in different kinds of Bibles to help me understand Christ the Truth more is worthy.

What I invest my time and resources in must be things that help me to buy the Truth.

Sell not the truth

I must not only buy the truth, I in turn must not sell it. This may mean don't study the Word to go and preach, rather study the Word, and spend time in prayer because you want to possess God.

It may also mean that the truth that I have known must not be given to women by asking them to pay in return. This is why all our groups are free, our meetings are free, our podcasts are free, and our books and publications are cheap and often sent out freely, these aren't done with financial profit in mind, they are avenues to bring women into the truth without charging. Taking women to hotels or expensive places that I cannot fund, or that the women find difficult to afford maybe for a retreat, seminar or conference should not be done by me. No one should be hindered from accessing the truth through me because they are financially handicapped or because of their status. Freely I have been given, freely I must give, God is the Supplier, and He is ever faithful.

Laying foundation

According to 1 Corinthians 3 from verse 9 that I read earlier on, I see that I must lay the foundation and then build and that God gives the grace to build. I must be a tactful ministry wife, so, as the Lord directs women on my path, I must lay the right foundations.

Many women have no understanding of the basics of the Christian faith, the matter of creation, fall and redemption is a foundation not well laid in women in the church, and if this foundation is omitted, whatever I try to build will soon collapse.

Therefore, I must put things in place to introduce women to the foundation of the Christian faith. A basic Bible study on the creation, fall and redemption are sufficient for women to have this foundation. And in doing this, what I seek is not head knowledge or a developing of cliches, rather I must seek a deep-rooted work in the women's heart, and only God can do this.

Handling this basic of our faith involves finally showing women that not only were their sins forgiven but Christ took upon Himself the nature of sin and took it to the Cross, and that in return He gave Himself to dwell in their hearts according to Colossians 1:27.

I won't be able to get pillars amongst women if Christ is omitted as the main foundation and bedrock of women's lives. Sometimes we invest in practical sessions on cooking, cleaning, care of the body, healthy living etc with women, and indeed we need to teach women these things; it is part of discipleship, but this must not be above the need to allow Jesus into their lives. Christ has been forsaken in many women's fellowships today. We may take them to posh hotels and do attractive seminars inviting beauticians, finance gurus to come in, or deliverance ministers, but again, these never resolve the trouble of women.

Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Christ ought to be the Chief Cornerstones of what I am building in women. He must not be set aside and then engaged in many other things. Maybe this is why we keep having many women's fellowships, and women's meetings and yet, women are not transformed. Could Christ the Chief Corner Stone be abandoned?

Building

Having laid the foundation, I must then move on to the building. Sometimes, we waste time on foundations, and while the foundation is important, we must not spend the whole of our lifetime building foundations. The moment the foundation is laid, I must introduce women to the building blocks, and these building blocks are important.

I must build women up in their personal devotional life, this is key. My ministry must not be a keep-coming ministry. It must not be that I make myself the one that produces classes, podcasts, and books for women to keep engaging in, while I am not helping them to grasp the concept of

a personal relationship with God. Our redemption brought us back into the relationship we lost with God in Adam. And my classes, podcasts, books etc will be useful if women are taught how to know God for themselves and seek Him. I have found out that it lessens my job. As women that are helped to build up their personal relationship with God tend to have the ability to spot the deceiver and outwit him. They may go through difficult seasons, but they are helped as they engage God in a personal relationship.

How do I practically build women?

Help them to understand how to pray and how to study the Word. Help them to know the Person of the Holy Spirit and the need to have another older woman journeying the faith journey with them. This older woman must not be domineering, but gently showing them what they may not yet know and forming for them a kind of accountability. This is what we called discipleship.

Also, I ought to teach them about their seasons of life; maybe they are wives, mothers, singles, career women etc. I must teach a married woman the Biblical principles of marriage, and also on Biblical responsibility of child upbringing. When women are taught the matter of creation, fall and redemption and not shown how their redemption plays out as wives, mothers, and career women, I have found out that such women tend to fail. They may have words, but their homes may be unstable. Meanwhile, all that pertains to life and godliness are already made available for them as they know God. And that is my job, which is to point them to these things.

Building pillars of truth amongst women means teaching and showing them how to raise their children, manage their homes, how to dress modestly, how to manage their time and so many other aspects of life.

Building the lives of women is a rewarding job, and I see it from the eyes of motherhood. I have come to know that discipleship is mothering, no wonder Susan Hunt calls her book 'Spiritual Mothering'. That is what is lacking among women in the church. Spiritual mothering is lacking, and that is the only way we can build women who will be pillars of truth.

As a mother, I know my commitment to my daughters and my goals and aspiration for them. I inconvenienced myself to make sure they are ok. Their spiritual life is of utmost importance to me, and I am willing to invest time, energy and money in helping them to grow spiritually. And if I am going to raise women who will be pillars of truth, I cannot do less.

What must I build?

Proverbs 24:3-4 *Through wisdom is a house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.*

Proverbs 23:23 says *Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.*

With the above scriptures in mind, it is clear that building or constructing pillars of truth has to be deliberate. As the Lord bring women my way, I must be deliberate and focused, knowing that God intends these women to be His pillars of Truth.

I must therefore be cognisant of what to build in these women who will become pillars of truth. The above scriptures point out to me what to build and how to build the same.

I must build wisdom by Wisdom

Oftentimes, women act foolishly in many aspects of life. According to Proverbs 14, it is the woman that builds, but unfortunately, many women are not building they are destroying, and those that think they are building lack full understanding of how to build. Therefore, many are building their lives, homes, children, career with worldly wisdom, and not the wisdom that comes from above which is first pure and peaceable.

A house is built by wisdom. To walk with women and cause them to become pillars of truth will involve, Christ the Wisdom of God. As I have learnt already that Christ is the foundation that needs to be built in all the women that comes my way. For it is Christ in them that forms the basis of the building. He gives them the wisdom needed for each season and each circumstance that comes their way.

Unfortunately, this world has offered women its wisdom, and this includes women in the church. As wives in ministry, we have put away the Word of God and have engaged in pampering nights to suit the lustful desire of women. We have gathered women and brought in beauticians to teach women the best foundation and the best make-up to apply to keep wooing their husbands. And we have also come to know that all these gimmicks do not win the heart of a husband, for except God builds, the labourer labours in vain.

Therefore, in any involvement with women, be it a girl child, a single woman, or a married woman, even if it is one person, I must seek to introduce her to Christ the Wisdom of God and then how this Christ the Wisdom of God has His wisdom for His women, and where to discover that wisdom.

That means I will be available to point women to part of the Bible on marriage, child upbringing, personal development, healthy living, depression, mental health etc. The Bible has answers to all of life's questions only if we are willing to search.

Women who will be pillars of truth in this day of deep deception must be women who are introduced to Christ, the Wisdom of God, and then shown the book of wisdom, which is the

Bible, and then teach them how to get the best out of the Word of God, because it is the best book ever. It has never lost its authenticity, neither has it failed, and it will never fail. Every other thing we as wives in ministry points women to will fade away.

A wise woman builds her house

In linking women up with Christ the Truth, and the Wisdom of God, I must specifically help married women to translate this Wisdom of God into their homes in the way they build. Women in my hands must be women that are building their homes. Many women in the church don't know how to build their husband and their children, and this is part of what the ministry of a wife in ministry should cover.

I thank God for the Bible studies rendered by Peace house and revive our hearts for Women which did not only show women Christ the Wisdom of God but also help women how to now build their homes with Wisdom. Therefore, in my building of women, my aim is not first what they will do for the Lord, but how the work of Christ can be evident in their homes, and God is faithful in doing that.

I must build understanding

If Wisdom has been built in the women God brings my way, I now need to help these women to gain understanding. Women must not be behind because they are believers. Christ is the source of all wisdom that profits the kingdom of God.

I must help women understand their womanhood and the role it plays in the purpose of God here on earth. I must help them know their gender is not a disadvantage but rather an instrument that can bring profits to the Lord and enhance their lives here on earth.

I must help women know how to understand the Word of God, and how to source edifying resources that will build them up more in the faith and their role and responsibilities at home and in society.

For those who are singles, I must help them understand singleness and how to make the most of that season of life. Singles tend to lack direction, waste resources, often be in debt, and lack time management. I have that responsibility to help a single woman in my hand to grow wholesomely so that she can be a pillar of truth to those that come her way, and to her future husband and children.

And for the married, I must help them know what is God's expectation for marriage, and their marriage. I must help them discover the beauty of being a wife that radiates the glory of God. I must also help them understand how to raise their children for the Lord. This is an area where the enemy has plagued us in the church. We have children that are brought to church, dedicated in the church but not interested in the Lord. The Bible asked us to train up a child in the way he should go. So, as a wife in ministry, I have that mandate to fulfil to my children, and then help other wives to fulfil the same in the raising of their children.

Understanding is to comprehend, to be informed and to be skilful. So, the women that come into my hands must be equipped for life and godliness.

I must build knowledge

As I involve in constructing pillars of truth, one key area is the need to allow them to acquire knowledge, the knowledge of the holy, and then the knowledge of their making as females, and the knowledge of their position here on earth.

It seems women tend to scoff at knowledge, though we may engage in knowing other things that may profit us for the moment, but not necessarily interested in learning what may benefit us for life.

For me to impart knowledge, I must be knowledgeable as well, hence the reason why I will be ever learning, first for myself, and out of all I have learnt, that I have put to use, I can then impart other women so that together we can become pillars of truth in this our dark age where lies are prevailing and spreading rapidly.

I must build by instruction

This means deliberately giving general instructions which may be in a form of a Conference, Seminar, Bible study etc. And I must also give specific instructions that are kind of tailor-made to the specific woman's unique situation. This means giving one-to-one attention to any woman that is willing to take up that privilege. It also means helping women to learn how to seek instruction for themselves. Taking deliberate time to retreat and seek God's face in His Word over a particular matter just as I have done in understanding the matter of the pillar of truth.

This might also mean the need to concentrate on a particular sermon, a particular book that gives further instruction on the issue or the matter on their mind, or the issue facing them. In doing this, I will raise women who will learn to seek the truth and apply the truth to their lives and will be able to offer this truth to others.

If for example, I have a pregnant woman, I have the duty to offer her instructions on pregnancy, both spiritually and medically. Pointing her to resources like pregnant women of the Bible, daily devotionals for pregnant women, and podcasts on pregnancy will be useful. These are resources that I received as instructions from the Lord, and in turn, I should give these instructions to others, and this also applies to other instructions that have benefitted me as a wife, mother, ministry wife etc.

The world never withholds lies, they spread it rapidly, so I can't withhold instructions that I have been given that upheld truth, I must make them available to those who will also benefit from them.

The purpose of pillars of truth; to adorn with truth

I was going through my quiet time notes for this year 2022 in review of the year, and yesterday night I was in Acts 8 where I saw the people of Samaria where Philip took the Gospel to. I saw the deceived and the deceiver, both the deceived and the deceiver were deceived by the father of lies himself, the devil. Simon the sorcerer kept people bound for years until the glorious Gospel light shone on them.

And as these people were delivered, I guess Simon's hope of bewitching these people ended, and he also gave his life, and the people he once bewitched received the Holy Spirit. Why did I refer to this in my meditation today? It is to see that as long as no one is upholding the truth, people will remain in bondage. This is why we need pillars of truth who will adorn the Gospel as they live out the truth, and help others to discover the truth.

There have been stories of women who were abused and molested, some by their own fathers, and they lived in the bondage of that wrong done against them, but when they encountered the truth of the Word of God, they were liberated, and they went on to liberate their abusers. In so doing, they adorned the Gospel and the lives of others with the Gospel of Truth that sets free.

Some women have become deceived because they are seeking the favour of men and not first the favour of God. Some wives in ministry become deceivers after they themselves have been deceived as they seek relevance in ministry. Favour is deceptive. When women are seeking job opportunities, seeking admissions to higher institutions, seeking visas to a country, they hope to be favoured, but in seeking favour, many have become deceptive with the kind of documents they provide, or the kind of information they provide.

As a ministry wife, what favour am I seeking? Whose favour am I seeking? Am I seeking a large gathering, a large congregation and success in ministry? I must be careful that the deceiver does not use that as an opportunity to deceive me. And when I become deceived, I won't be able to take the truth to others. Meanwhile, pillars of truth are needed in all aspects of life.

2 Timothy 3:6-7 says *For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Women that are easily deceived and led astray cannot be pillars of truth. So, the deceiver has crept into houses, and his chief targets are women. He is successfully leading women astray, keeping them bound in sin, restricting them from attaining the knowledge of the truth that sets them free. This is why we need role models; godly women who will adorn the truth of the Gospel in their daily living, and in so doing, they could become God's ambassador in helping other women and young girls to access the truth that sets free.

Women are spending fortunes on beauty products, jewellery and clothes, and find it difficult to invest in their spiritual growth. If such women need to be helped in our churches and

fellowships, I must step up to be a pillar of truth. It is not enough to be a pastor's wife, a ministry leader, a women's ministry coordinator or leader of a girl's group, I must be adorning lives with the Truth that sets free.

As I finish this personal gleanings today, I see God saying that as I become a pillar of truth, and then engage in raising others who will be pillars of truth amongst all female age groups, I must never forget the purpose of pillars of truth. Which are to receive the baton of truth, and to pass on the baton of truth.

To deal with these two reasons the scriptures in Titus 2:3-5 KJV came readily to mind, and it says *"The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."*

1. To receive the baton of truth

For me to adorn with truth, I must receive the truth. This has been a recurring matter throughout this my gleanings on this matter. I must be growing more and more in the image of He whom I received, who Himself is the Pillar of Truth and Truth Himself. My personal time in His presence is priority. And whoever I listen to, or whichever book I will lay my hands on to read must be from men and women who are pursuing Christ the Truth. My time alone with God, my listening to sermons and my reading books must all be means for me to continually receive the baton of truth. And before I will run with this baton, I must make sure I have it steady in my hands, and that my feet are well grounded in the same to a degree, as it is not enough to run the relay, but I must run with my baton.

Verse two of Titus two shows that if I have indeed received this baton of truth, it affects my behaviour, for I will become a woman whose behaviour reflects holiness. It goes on to say, I will not be a false accuser, I won't say what I am not sure of, I won't be a witness to lie. I will not falsify documents or give false information for whatever reason.

Also, I will not be given to wine, not only alcohol, but all that intoxicate, anything that takes dominion over me, or whatever takes much of me than God, and this could be food consumption, social media, time with Television and even ministry itself. The baton of truth received is to transform my life, growing and maturing me daily into the image of Christ. The baton is not for decoration, but first for transforming me inside out.

2. To pass on the baton

Titus 2, from the latter part of verse two onward tells me what I ought to do having received the baton and having been transformed by the same. I will teach good things. It is not enough to teach, but what am I teaching, are they good things? This generation is filled with many teachers that are teaching our young women.

Sometimes, you hear other young wives talking about how they travel here and there to take the Gospel to people and their husbands take charge of the home, and they spend the majority of their time in prayer and studying, meanwhile, their wifely role is ignored. This is where older women, ministry wives who are pillars of truth need to step up. We are losing marriages today because young wives with young husbands and children are not being disciplined. They have zeal, but not knowing how to channel their zeal aright, and before you know it, the man is into adultery. While I am not excusing the husband, but where is the wife? This is where stepping up

as a pillar of truth comes in to gently point the younger generation to a godly way of living and looking after their matrimonies.

Also, in teaching good things, I must be deliberate, I must know the people group to focus on as a pillar of truth. I am to teach the younger women; that is, the teenagers, the preteens, the singles, the newly wedded, the new mums, the new believer, and those still finding their bearing in the faith.

Again, Titus 2 goes on to say what I must teach; I am to teach these women to be sober; which means not intoxicated, but calm. Some of our young women are not calm in their marriages, I know that I wasn't calm as a young wife, and as I am being helped now, I must help the younger generations of wives to be calm.

Other young women are intoxicated with social media, they are ever posting one thing or another on social media, and the time they spend on media is more than the time they spend with their families and with God. They need to be shown how to handle media as godly young women. Who is going to teach this? It is me that have received the baton of truth. For the married amongst these young women, I am to teach them to love their husbands. There may be many reasons for them not to love their husbands, but this is where I step up again showing them through my marriage to my husband how to love their husbands.

I am also to help the young mothers to love their children, while I may think that women naturally love their children, but the attitude we often show as loving our children may not be love. Some women invest their time in working saying they want to give their children a good financial start and thereby miss the most important time of their children's childhood; this is not love. There are various shades of love that needs to be taught to a young mother.

Young women are to be taught to be discreet, which means to be wise; to be wise in where they go, how they spend their money, whom they choose as friends and many other areas of life. The Bible is a practical book, I am to help young Christian women to discover the wisdom of God in the Bible for their lives.

I am to teach these women who will become pillars of truth the need to be chaste, which means to be pure, and this applies to both married and unmarried women. There's impurity in the way women dress nowadays. If you look at the outlook of those leading worship in our churches, does it portray that of truth? Have men not approached me as the wife of the pastor begging me to please talk to women about their manner of dressing? Many men have been helped to climb up the ladder of adultery by the immodest dressing of women in the church. As a ministry wife, I have that responsibility to lovingly teach and help both old and young women to discover how to dress to adorn the Gospel and to help our fellow brothers in the church.

I am also to teach these potential pillars of truth to be keepers at home. Many home fronts are not well kept. Some homes of Christian wives are physically dirty, some don't know how to look after their home environment and at the same time manage their careers. This is where I need to step up again to help these women manage their homes and career.

Apart from the cleanliness of the home, some homes lack the woman in the home for almost many days a week, some women find it difficult to manage their time and resources, again this is where stepping up as a ministry wife who is a pillar of truth, going forth to help these women in these areas of weaknesses. The woman is to be the keeper at home as she keeps her eyes on the spirituality of those in her home, the lifestyle and engagement of those in her home, the challenges and the difficulties she can observe in those in her home, and then keep the home on

her knees over the issues she may discover. All these may not happen arbitrarily for most women, they need to be taught. The home needs to be made a priority, for charity they say, begins at home.

I am to teach women to be good, and not bad in all manner of life. And then, teach them to be obedient to their own husbands. It is possible for women to be obedient to their leaders in the church, and at work, but not to their husbands. Particularly if they are more financially stable than their husbands, or academically advanced than their husbands. This is where I come in to teach Biblical submission as a wife.

Also, I cannot wait for women to be married before teaching them these concepts, I need to start with them early before getting into marriage, that means as a mother, I must be modelling and teaching these to my daughters, and to other young girls and women that come way before marriage.

The last phrase in verse five of Titus two sums up the reason to construct pillars, and this is so that the Word of God be not blasphemed. Other translations say that so that the Word of God is not maligned, slandered, bring to shame, discredited, dishonoured, insulted, spoken against, spoken evil of etc. And I know that the Word of God has been blasphemed here and there through the lives of women. Some ministry wives have brought shame to the Word of God. We have sent some women back into the den of the devil through our way of living. And this is what God wants to stop, He desires His Word to be honoured, for He Himself honours His Word above His name.

And As I am given the privilege of handling this Word of God, which is a trust, I must make sure it is not blasphemed through my life as I continually remain a pillar of truth, and continually engage in the raising of pillars of truth as I labour amongst women. Together we will be constructing and erecting pillars in our primary schools, secondary schools, universities, places of work, churches, societies and our generation at large.

The passing of the Truth is a relay that we must keep handling down to the next generation. I finish with what one of my sisters in ministry said as she prayed in one of the banquets this year, that we are saying yes Lord.

Indeed, Lord, I am saying Yes Lord to becoming a pillar of truth, I am saying yes Lord, to raising and constructing pillars of Truth. Not by my power nor by my strength, but by Your Spirit. Please help me, equip me, encourage me to remain Your pillar of Truth, and let all my efforts bring forth pillars of truth for Your glory. Amen.