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TONY EVANS
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KINGDOM
WOMAN
DEVOTIONAL



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Kingdom Woman Devotional
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KINGDOM WOMEN LISTEN TO GOD

*Listening to God's voice is the secret
of the assurance that He will listen to mine.*

—Andrew Murray

Do you feel as if a kingdom woman was *someone else*? Have you *wanted* to be her but felt you weren't faithful enough or determined enough? Take heart: That voice in your head whispering, "You're not enough . . ." is *not* God's voice! Rather, your heavenly Father encourages, "You can do this." He confirms, "You're not alone." And He offers, "Let's do it together." Like the father who smiles on his daughter, who prepares her to be all that she's been made to be, God is encouraging and equipping you to thrive. As you begin this series of devotions, listen for that voice.

Listening to God's voice mutes the lies that disparage the value of kingdom women. Listening to God rejects a culture that says "Women are weak and powerless." It contradicts the thought "Women are second class." It refutes the misconception "Women must be subservient to men."

The kingdom woman recognizes the devil's lies and deactivates them with the truth of God's Word.

APPLICATION

1. What specific ways has the enemy tried to convince you that you're "not enough"? In contrast, what does the voice of God say about your value and your mission?
2. Today, what is the Scripture you will hold in your heart to prepare you to face the challenges of this day?

PRAYER

God, today I disagree with the enemy's lie that I am inferior, that I am not enough. I stand on the truth that You have equipped me with everything I need to be a kingdom woman. Amen.

KINGDOM WOMEN ARE CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE

*No one can make you feel
inferior without your consent.*

—Eleanor Roosevelt

A kingdom woman is created in the very image of God (Genesis 1:27). You were tenderly fashioned by God and are entirely worthy. Though the enemy will tell you that you are *not enough*, in Him, you *are already enough*. As you grow to become the kingdom woman God made you to be, the most important accessory in your spiritual purse is the truth of what God says about who you are. This truth is the deepest reality about who you are and dispels the enemy's lies.

This isn't to say that the kingdom woman is perfect. She doesn't live a life free of cares and concerns. She still faces the same challenges and temptations as other women. But she still puts on her cute red stilettos one at a time! By agreeing with God's vision of her, she lives into the reality of who God has made her to be. Each morning

she chooses to fulfill her role as a woman of purpose. Satan has no power over a woman who disagrees with his schemes. He cannot make her feel inferior. In fact today, kingdom woman, he'd better watch his back.

APPLICATION

1. In what ways have you felt you don't measure up as a kingdom woman?
2. How does God see you and every kingdom woman? How are you made in His image?

PRAYER

God, this day I will see myself as You see me—a kingdom woman formed in Your image. Help me to understand fully what that means and empower me to fulfill Your purpose. Amen.

THE STORY THAT IS TRUE

Every man's life is a fairy tale

written by God's fingers.

—Hans Christian Andersen

Some of the earliest stories our parents read to us, as children, were fairy tales. Whether the nineteenth-century Grimm brothers versions or the twenty-first-century Disney versions, stories of noble princes and princesses who battle evil captured our hearts and minds and imaginations. They touched something inside of us that longed for *our* lives to make a difference, to matter.

In the kingdom Jesus ushered in, we have become players in the story that continues to unfold. We are not laboring mice who stitch a dress for the princess. No, in the kingdom of God, we are the *actors*. The movers. We are the ones who exercise authority in the name of the King.

When we pursue justice, on behalf of the poor and marginalized, we exercise dominion. We do it when we welcome a stranger or befriend

a sinner. We do it when we teach others what God is like.

Allow your life to be written by the fingers of God, confident that you've been created and called to rule with Him. There is one *Lord God, Yahweh*, Master and Ruler. As you position yourself under His authority, you are equipped to live out your unique purpose as a kingdom woman.

APPLICATION

1. When you were a girl, or now as a woman, what was your favorite fairy tale? In it do you hear echoes of God's story?
2. How will you, as a kingdom woman, exercise dominion this week by serving as an agent of God's rule?

PRAYER

God, You are the one true Ruler of all. Help me hear Your voice that calls me to partner with You and give me courage to respond faithfully.

SHE IS NOT SOMEBODY ELSE

After all, where is this woman—who is this woman—who regularly and consistently positions herself under and operates according to God’s complete rule over her life? Oh, I know, she must be my neighbor.

—Chrystal Evans

When you think about living as a mighty kingdom woman, do you share Chrystal’s suspicion that “she” is someone else? If you do, you might also assume that she’s the woman who sits next to you at church. She’s the church mother who’s been widowed forty-two years and whose faith in God’s provision has not waivered. She’s the woman who stitches her children’s fine clothes. She’s the one who does not struggle with temptations to drink or overeat. Whoever she is, she’s *someone else*.

Satan is clever at dragging us off course, isn’t he?

We get in a bind both when we fall for the temptation to think *more* of ourselves than we should and also when we think *less* of ourselves than we should! When we do, we agree with the

enemy's deception. Chrystal confirms, "I'm so glad I don't have to aspire to be anyone else other than that woman God wants me to be."

Beloved kingdom woman, you are God's workmanship. You are not meant to serve like the woman who sits beside you in church or like the one who sings solos in the choir or like the pastor's wife from another church in town. You are meant to rule according to the unique gifts and strengths and calling which God has given to *you*.

APPLICATION

1. Are you ever tempted to believe that the kingdom woman is someone *other* than you? Who are some of these women in your life?
2. God has entrusted you with particular gifts to build His kingdom. What are they? How can you use them in your life today?

PRAYER

Father God, I confess that, too often, I don't look upon other women rightly and I don't see myself as You see me. Give me Your vision to live as a kingdom woman.

A FUNNY LITTLE WORD

God calls the first woman ezer—a name that is used most frequently in the Old Testament for God himself.

—Carolyn Custis James, *Half the Church*

If there is one word that could describe the focal point of a kingdom woman's life, it would be *Christlike*. A second word that identifies the ministry of a kingdom woman is the Hebrew word *ezer*. The funny-sounding little word used in Genesis to identify the first woman, traditionally translated into English as “a suitable helper,” has guided many a kingdom woman's and ministry in the church.

As English speakers, we think we know what a “helper” is. A helper is the child who delivers a note from his teacher to the principal's office. A helper is the preadolescent who prepares dinner before her parents return home from work. A helper is the maid or gardener hired to do the dirty work no one in the household wants to do or has time to do.

In Hebrew, however, *ezer* means something categorically different. It challenges our ideas

about a woman being a weak helper because it means *strong* helper. By naming the woman as an *ezer* helper, God identified her with His own nature! God's *ezer* character is as the one that faithfully defends the weak (Psalm 33:20). God as *ezer* rescues the poor and needy (Psalm 70:5). God's people placed their confidence in the certainty that their help, their *ezer*, was in the name of the Lord (Psalm 124:8). The *ezer* is not a weak helper at all. Rather, the woman who identifies herself as *ezer* is one who is mighty in power!

APPLICATION

1. In your own family, were women viewed as weak individuals or strong ones?
2. Does the biblical description of woman, identifying her—identifying you!—with God's mighty power, change the way you understand yourself today?

PRAYER

Yahweh, You are a mighty Helper to those in need. You are the ultimate Ezer who rescues and redeems. Make me more like You.

TURNING THE WORLD RIGHT-SIDE UP

*[Where] did your Christ come from? From God
and a woman! Man had not'ing to do with Him.*

—Isabella Baumfree

Isabella Baumfree may just be the most powerful kingdom woman you've never heard of. Born into slavery in New York, "Belle" escaped to freedom with her infant daughter in 1826. Together they found shelter with the Van Wagener family, who paid off Belle's owner, securing her safety. Belle came to know the Lord and became a devout Christian with an itinerant speaking and preaching ministry. In 1851 she addressed the Ohio Women's Rights Convention where she delivered her now-famous speech, "Ain't I a Woman?" *Now* you know who the kingdom woman is! She is the famous preacher, teacher, evangelist and abolitionist Sojourner Truth, who said, "If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again!"

Against all odds, Sojourner Truth did not accept her culture's definition of "woman." Rather, she was instructed and informed by the Word of God. In the face of innumerable hardships, she allowed herself to be transformed by God's purposes for her life.

Do you believe that God has called and equipped you to move in power like He did Sojourner Truth? While He will not call you in exactly the same way, He does call you to exercise the unique gifts which you have been given within your sphere of influence. Through Christ in you, God is turning this world right-side up again.

APPLICATION

1. What types of messages do you imagine Isabella Baumfree heard in the early 1800s about what it was to be a woman?
2. What is the obstacle in your own life that God is inviting you not only to overcome but to empower others to overcome as well?

PRAYER

God, thank You for the witness of Sojourner Truth, as well as the mighty army of kingdom women who have marched to the beat of Your drum. Give me courage to follow!

UNLIKELY HEROES

*Kingdom women throughout the Bible
saved lives and nations.*

—Tony Evans

Shayne Moore, living in the suburbs of Chicago, was the average American “soccer mom.” (In other parts of the country, this would be a “hockey mom” or “basketball mom”!) She baked cupcakes, drove a minivan, and washed uniforms. In the midst of her normal life, however, Shayne’s eyes were opened to a world in need. And Shayne’s eyes *stayed* open. While her kids were at school—and when they were underfoot!—she began advocating for those trapped in the web of poverty, HIV-AIDS, and human trafficking. With her laptop and cell phone, she responded to God’s call by making a few of her own and writing books (*Global Soccer Mom* and *Refuse to Do Nothing*), on behalf of the ones God loves.

Too often we shortchange God and ourselves by assuming God will choose to work only through the powerful people in this world. We reason, “Deborah was a judge. Esther was a

queen. Mary was divinely hand-picked by God!” The truth is, though, that God uses women like Shayne, ones who fold laundry and punch timecards and serve at church, to save lives and save nations. God uses women, mothers, wives and single women—young and old—to rescue a world in need.

APPLICATION

1. Who are some of the more well-known and noteworthy modern women to whom you can point and affirm, “God uses *that* woman”?
2. Now, who are the ones less heralded, whom God has called to use their particular gifting to build the kingdom? Are you one?

PRAYER

God, I believe that I am among the kingdom women whom You have chosen to bless this world You love. Use me to show Your saving grace, today.