



TAKE OFF THE MASK

If we ever needed the Lord before, we sure do need Him now. If there were ever troubled times, we are living in them now. If we ever had to pray, we need to pray now. You have to have “true vision” and a “made up mind” to walk this path of holiness today ... you have to be determined to serve Him all of the days of your life.

How often do we quote and hear the scripture, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28) We may go through what we least expect. We may have to cry and rejoice at the same time. We will be tested and because the devil yet desires to steal our joy. BUT we cannot stop praising the Lord in these troubled times. We cannot lose our vision. We cannot let anything stop our dream. We have to see the light in the midst of the darkness. Holiness is still and will always be RIGHT! As we use to say back in the day, “we must stay on the battlefield.”

We cannot think of ourselves as less than who we are and what we are. We are God's children and He has the whole wide world in His hands. We must keep the vision before us. Without a vision the people perish. (Proverbs 29:18). But those that abide in God and keep His commandments can rejoice and be happy in the God of our salvation. Therefore, in these troubled times we cannot forget where our resources come from.

Galatians 6:9 encourages and instructs us not to be weary in well doing ... for “in due season we shall reap if we faint not” If we become weary while working for the Master, we may jeopardize or delay the “due season” in our life. So often, how we wait determines how long we wait. And, trouble does come while we are waiting.

As women of God, please be reassured that He will be with us when the sea is stormy, through the night when the days are dark and lonely, and when the sadness has us broken hearted. He'll be with us in the sunset and in the dawn. Through the smiles, the tears and fears. The days, the months, the years ... He is our “present” help in the time of trouble and always! He must have our undivided attention. We cannot run from him. There are no mountains high enough or places hidden enough that He cannot get through. He is THE ONE that can keep us standing when we just feel like falling down.

There is no magic wand that we can wave and our troubles will dissolve. We cannot click our heels three times and make a wish in the land of OZ. But we can have a consistent prayer life, a determined spirit and a life that speaks volumes of our faithfulness to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We can remain steadfast and unmovable in spite of these troubled times. God's grace is with us and it is sufficient for us. (II Corinthians 12:9) Whether dealing with temptation, a difficult marriage, problems with your children, issues at work, personal challenges, or any other difficult situation ... God promises that His GRACE ... will be our HELP!

Hollywood stars wear masks every day. Soap opera stars, it has been said, enjoy the roles they play on television more than they enjoy their own lives. They wear masks of deceit, lies, envy, hate, fornication, adultery, but that's television. Stars can play heroes or villains. They can perfect the role of a beauty queen or a rock star. They can be young one day, old the next day, and die in the same week. They are actors and actresses. They get paid to wear mask(s) whether they are focused or not.

We, Women of God, however ... can rid ourselves from the facades and be in tune with ourselves because we love ourselves. If you don't love yourself, if you are ashamed, embarrassed or angry with yourself ... others will sooner or later know it. Love shines and causes you to love others. We don't have to wear masks. God already knows who we are. We cannot fool God. He knows everything and is involved in everything. (Isaiah 40:12-31) His will is best for us. He loves us like a father. (Galatians 4:6-7) He loves us like a friend. (Proverbs 18:24) He loves us like a shepherd. (Psalm 23:1) He loves us like a provider. (St. Matthew 6:33)

Why wear a mask when God loves us just as we are? He knows our pain. He feels it too. He sees the

scars and He hears the cries. When we continue to wear our masks we prevent true hope to enter our lives. We cannot hide behind the mask of fear, jealousy, envy, gossip, and the list goes on. The mask is only a cover that will block your destiny and yourself. Masks are worn by women every day who don't know how to unmask because of the fear of being recognized, talked about, and ridiculed for who you really are. Therefore, you never become who you want to be.

It's so easy to hide yourself from what is hurting you the most. You can dress it up. Over dress it. Cover it up. Disregard it. Lie about it. Talk about it until it makes no sense. Pray about it. Fast about it. Cry about it. And, even consider shutting completely down. You can wake up with a mask. Shower with it. Get dressed with it. Purchase a car. Live in a fine home. Obtain the highest degree in the educational field and be the CEO of your own company BUT until you come face to face with your past hurts ... you cannot move to your future hopes. You have to conquer the misery so you can move on to your miracles. There has to be a release from the stumbling so you can stand stable. You must be sure that you have overcome the tragedy in order to reach the treasures that God has laid up for you. Rejection becomes acceptance with God and your setbacks will take you to your setups when you unmask and allow the Lord to work it out!

I admonish you to unmask and be free. God will take care of the rest. He specializes in the rest. "And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you if you heed the voice of the Lord your God." (Deuteronomy 28:2) It's time for you to take your beautiful self away from those doubting Thomas's and Thomasinas and realize that God loves YOU just as you are. He forgives. He forgets. And YOU fit in. No matter how many Carol's are at the Women's Fellowship. No matter how many Brenda's are walking with God. No matter how many Sheila's and Victoria's share in your retreat ... you are BLESSED and you can take off the mask because God abides and His hands are upon you. You can accomplish all things through Him. He loves YOU!