

Arise Sister Ministry



WOMEN  
OF  
INFLUENCE

BIBLICAL WOMEN WHO CHANGED THE  
WORLD

Arise . Shine. Influence

## **WOMEN OF INFLUENCE**

*“Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”*

**Isaiah 60:1**

Arise Sister Ministry

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## **Dedication**

*To every woman who has ever stood at the edge of her own potential and whispered: Am I enough?*

**You are not only enough. You were made for glory.**

This book is dedicated to the women who pray in secret and trust God for the harvest. To the mothers who pour faith into children who may not yet understand it. To the daughters who are still becoming. To the sisters who carry others when their own arms are weary.

It is dedicated to every woman who longs to walk fully in the purpose God breathed into her at creation, not a smaller version of herself, but the radiant, God-shaped, world-changing woman she was always meant to be.

*“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.”*

### **Proverbs 31:25**

May this book be a light on your path. May it remind you that your influence is sacred, your story is not finished, and the God who called you by name is still calling.

**Arise, Sister. The glory of God is waiting to shine through you.**

*Arise Sister Team*

## Foreword

There is a moment, perhaps you have lived it when a woman suddenly understands that her life is not an accident. That the laughter she has brought into a room, the tear she has wiped from a child's cheek, the prayer she whispered at midnight when no one was listening, all of it was part of something far greater than herself.

That is the moment this book was written for.

Women of Influence is not a book about power in the way the world defines it. It is not a manual for climbing ladders or building platforms. It is something far more subversive and far more beautiful: it is an invitation to understand that the most transformative force in any generation has always been a woman fully surrendered to God.

Scripture is not silent on this. From the garden of Eden to the empty tomb, women stand at the turning points of God's story. Eve at the beginning of humanity. Miriam at the shores of a divided sea. Deborah beneath a palm tree dispensing justice to a nation. Ruth walking faithfully across a foreign field. Mary at the foot of a cross when others had fled. And Mary Magdalene, the first voice to carry the greatest news in history.

None of these women were perfect. None of them held formal titles or commanded great armies. What they carried was something else entirely: a willingness to say yes to God in the precise moment He asked them to.

That is influence. Real, eternal, heaven-endorsed influence.

The Arise Sister ministry was born from one conviction: that God is calling women in every season, every sphere, every nation to arise and step fully into the light of His glory. Not to imitate men. Not to shrink from their callings. Not to be defined by what culture says they should or should not be. But to know themselves as God knows them: chosen, capable, commissioned.

This book is one expression of that conviction. In these pages you will meet women from Scripture whose lives speak across centuries. You will be challenged, encouraged, and

perhaps unsettled in the best possible way. You will be asked to look honestly at how you are using the influence God has entrusted to you, and to offer it back to Him for His purposes.

The world does not need more noise. It needs more women who have been in the presence of God and cannot stay quiet about what they have seen.

Read this slowly. Pray through it. Write in the margins. Share it with a sister who needs it.

And when you are done, Arise!

## Preface

### *A Word from the Author*

Most of us women do not always know the influence we have.

For a long time, influence felt like something that belonged to a category of women. Women with microphones, platforms, titles, and thousands of followers. Women who seemed to have it all together. Women whose voices filled rooms and whose names were remembered.

Many of us think we are not one of these women.

But God, in His patient and persistent way, shows us something different. He showed us Hannah, pouring out her heart in silent prayer in the house of God, shaping the future of a nation through her womb and her worship. He showed us Ruth, a foreign widow with nothing but loyalty and love, walking into a story that would eventually lead to the Saviour of the world. He showed us Lydia, sitting by a river on a Sabbath morning, whose open heart became the foundation for an entire church.

None of them were famous when they started. All of them changed the world.

This book began as a study by our team, a desire to understand what the Bible actually says about women and their influence. It grew into something we could not keep to ourselves. The more we studied these women, the more convinced we became that God has never stopped using women to shape history, birth revivals, protect families, establish justice, and carry His glory into the world.

The question was never whether women have influence. The question is always: what are we doing with it?

We have written this book for the woman who feels ordinary. For the woman who is not sure her contribution counts. For the woman who has been told by culture, by circumstance, or by her own inner voice that she is too much or not enough. We have written it for the woman who is on fire for God and wants to steward that fire well. And we have written it for the woman who has drifted, and who senses that God is calling her back.

Each chapter examines a different dimension of a woman's influence: through surrender and devotion, through virtuous character, through the family, through prayer and intercession, through the public and corporate sphere, and through the sobering warning of influence misused. At the end of the book, a seven-day devotional invites you to move from reading into reflection and response.

Our prayer is simple: that every woman who reads these pages would see herself more clearly in the light of God's Word, and that she would arise not in her own strength, but in His.

**The vision of Arise Sister is to bring all women to the light of the glory of God. That is what this book is for.**

*"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

**Ephesians 2:10**

*Arise Sister, 2026*

## Introduction

From the beginning of creation to the unfolding of God's purposes today, influence stands out as a sacred grace entrusted uniquely and powerfully to mankind. This God-given capacity is not merely a social trait or a natural disposition; it is a spiritual endowment designed to shape destinies, cultivate life, and advance heaven's purposes across generations. Influence has generally been defined as the ability to shape, or guide the thoughts, decisions, behaviors, or outcomes in the lives of others. It is rarely loud and never forceful but it is subtle, relational, and rooted in trust and example. Influence can be expressed through words, actions, attitudes, character, or even presence.

In today's culture, influence is mainly understood in terms of structural power. It is largely perceived through the lens of visibility, power, personal achievement and is thus often tied to how many people listen, follow, or admire an individual (social media followers, public image, fame, and reach). It is characterized by an individual's ability to persuade or sway opinions often for personal success, accumulation of accolades and wealth. Scripture however, presents influence very differently. The sacred texts reveal influence as an internal, God-given, and often quiet force that advances His purposes rather than human ambition. It emphasizes the pillars of servanthood, humility, character, God's purposes over personal agenda and transformational impact.

Society has long held mixed and often contradictory views about women and their influence. These perspectives have shifted over time, shaped by changing cultures, rising traditions, media, and evolving social norms. Historically, women's influence was only valid within certain roles such as mother, wife, caregiver, or helper. While these roles are valuable, they limit women's influence to private or domestic spheres rather than giving a more global view of how their influence extends beyond these to other spheres such as public or leadership spaces. Women's natural strengths; empathy, intuition, cooperation, emotional intelligence was undervalued because more visible, authoritative traits such as control, decision-making, or public leadership were celebrated.

Social norms frequently tell women what they should be: nurturing, but not too assertive, confident, but not too ambitious, influential, but not in ways that threaten existing structures. This often forces women to balance societal expectations with their own unique gifts and calling and overlooks the deep, lasting influence women have through relationships, mentorship, faith formation, and community building areas that are less visible but often more transformative. Even as society increasingly acknowledges women's leadership and influence in business, education, ministry, and public life, many still face stereotypes, bias, and resistance. This tension reflects an ongoing societal struggle to fully value women's voices.

In Scripture women are continually shown to carry a unique, God-given capacity to shape lives, environments, and generations. Their influence is often distinct from positional authority; it flows instead from relationship, intuition, wisdom, and the ability to nurture life physically, emotionally, and spiritually. God designed women with the ability to cultivate life not only in childbirth but in shaping character, faith, and identity in others. This nurturing influence appears in mothers like Hannah, Lois, and Eunice, whose faith was passed down through generations. Women in Scripture also guided kings, communities, and families through discernment and wise counsel. Examples being Abigail, whose wisdom prevented bloodshed, Deborah, who led Israel with prophetic insight, Esther who risked her life to save her people, Mary who said yes to God and brought Christ into the world. Their influence flowed from courage rooted in faith, not self-promotion. Biblical influence is therefore more about who you are than what you have. Understanding a woman's influence is of great importance because her influence never ends with her but in a very natural way flows into children, disciples, communities, and spiritual legacies. In Scripture, the faith of one woman often becomes the foundation for the faith of those after her.

To live purposefully, it is essential for women to understand who they are, the potential they possess, and the role they play in today's world. A woman who knows her identity and calling is better equipped to live intentionally and impact her environment in alignment with God's will. In *The Power and Purpose of a Woman*, Dr. Myles Munroe highlights one of

the most profound truths about womanhood: the God-given ability of women to lead through influence. A woman's intelligence and wisdom are powerful tools that, when rightly used, can shape the course of events and contribute to the birthing and establishment of God's purposes on earth. However, the woman whose influence advances God's Kingdom is one who fears God and is endowed with divine wisdom through the Holy Spirit.

Scripture clearly affirms that women have always possessed this God-given capacity to influence outcomes. Throughout biblical narratives, we see women shaping families, nations, and spiritual movements, either for the fulfillment of God's purposes or for destruction. Every ability God gives to a person is intended to serve His divine purposes. When purpose is not understood, misuse becomes inevitable. The ability to influence, when submitted to God and governed by His principles, leads to the advancement of His Kingdom. Conversely, when this influence is not inspired by the Spirit of God, it becomes vulnerable to manipulation by the enemy and can result in harm and destruction. Sadly, many women, knowingly or unknowingly have used their influence in ways that do not align with God's plans because they were not fully yielded to Him.

This short book explores the lives of several women in the Bible, examining how their influence operated in different spheres of life. Through their stories, we will see a clear contrast between women who surrendered their influence to God and became participants in His divine agenda, and those who, by resisting God's will, became instruments in the hands of the enemy. The chapters that follow will guide us through these biblical examples, offering timeless lessons on the power of influence, the danger of misused potential, and the beauty of a life fully yielded to God's purpose.

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## Chapter 1

### *Influence Through Surrender, Transformation and Devotion to God*

#### ***Focus: Mary Magdalene***

Women from the very beginning were created with purpose. In Genesis 1, God formed humanity in His image "male and female" and entrusted them with stewardship over creation. Woman is not an afterthought but a deliberate expression of God's design: a life-giver, nurturer, partner, and bearer of divine intention. Her influence was woven into creation itself.

Yet Genesis 3 reveals the first great struggle of influence which is the tension between self-will and surrender. When humanity chose independence from God's instruction, harmony was broken. The story of the Fall is not merely about disobedience; it is about the human desire to take control rather than to trust. From that moment onward, restoration would require a return to surrender, a yielding back to God's will.

Throughout Scripture, God repeatedly chooses women who understand one sacred principle; that true influence is born not from striving for power, but from yielding to purpose. Their lives show that when a woman surrenders to God, she becomes a vessel through which divine plans unfold.

It is with this foundation that we turn to Mary Magdalene, a woman whose story embodies transformation through surrender, devotion, and unwavering love. From brokenness to bold witness, her life reveals how God reshapes surrendered hearts into instruments of lasting influence. As we explore her journey, this chapter invites each of us to examine our own lives, to reflect on where God is calling us to surrender, to trust His transforming work, and to embrace the quiet but powerful influence He desires to release through us.

The story of Mary Magdalene opens in Luke 8:1-3 where she is mentioned as one of the women from whom Jesus casted out demons and had become his follower.

"After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means."

The first thing to note here is that Jesus had driven out 7 demons from Mary Magdalene before she became a follower. From being demon possessed to her conviction about Jesus, we see her in every key area of Jesus' life especially when others deserted him at the crucifixion. After the crucifixion, she was the first-person Jesus appeared to and entrusted the message of the resurrection to her to pass on to the rest of the world.

### **Lessons from the Life of Mary Magdalene**

Mary Magdalene was probably not as educated, spiritually mature, or as learned as many believers are today. She may not have understood the depth of Jesus' mission in the way the disciples who sat under His teachings did. Her questions at the tomb reveal her limited understanding of the resurrection. Yet, it was precisely her child-like faith, surrendered heart, and unwavering devotion that qualified her to be the first person to encounter the risen Christ.

Mary's story unfolds in a clear spiritual journey:

- Luke 8 -- Her transformation
- John 19 -- Her loyalty at the cross
- Mark 15 -- Her faithfulness at the tomb
- John 20 -- Her devotion and commissioning as a messenger
- Mark 16 -- Her honored role as first witness of the resurrection

Through this journey, we see how a surrendered woman becomes a vessel of divine influence. From Mary's life, we draw lessons that speak directly to our own walk with God.

## **1. Encounter Fuels Enduring Faith**

Mary's faith was born out of an encounter. She followed Jesus because He had transformed her life. Many people abandon faith when challenges arise because their belief is rooted only in knowledge about God rather than personal experience with Him.

We must desire genuine encounters with God, so our testimony flows from what we have seen, heard, and experienced, not merely what we have been told. When faith is encounter-based, it endures storms.

## **2. God Entrusts His Message to the Willing, Not the Perfect**

God is not searching for the most righteous, educated, or spiritually accomplished people. He is looking for obedient and willing hearts. Mary may not have understood everything about Jesus, but she followed Him wholeheartedly.

The only thing she knew was her testimony and that was enough for God to entrust her with the greatest message in history, the message of the resurrected Christ. Those who obey grow in understanding.

## **3. Women as Watchmen and Witnesses**

Women played vital roles at critical moments in Jesus' ministry. Mary watched at the cross when many had fled. She watched at the tomb when hope seemed lost. She persevered when understanding was absent and God entrusted her with revelation. She became a watchman and a witness.

Today, God still entrusts His Word to women. The question is: HOW DO WE RESPOND? Do we remain silent in private faith, or do we step forward in obedience and trust to carry His message?

## **4. Heart Posture Determines Spiritual Vision**

At first, Mary could not recognize Jesus at the tomb because her heart was filled with grief. It was only when Jesus called her name that her eyes were opened.

A heart clouded by sorrow, bitterness, or fear struggles to hear God clearly. Joy is a spiritual lens that sharpens our vision. Jesus still calls us by name today. The question is: Will we recognize His voice as Mary did?

## **5. Following Jesus Is an Act of Worship**

Mary followed Jesus everywhere. She supported His ministry with her time, presence, and resources. This was her offering of gratitude, her act of worship. Worship is not only a song; it is a lifestyle poured out in devotion.

## **6. Women's Influence in Advancing God's Purposes**

Though there were twelve male disciples, many women were also disciples in action and devotion. They supported Jesus' ministry financially, stood by Him in His darkest hour, and carried the resurrection message to the world.

God still calls women today to influence His kingdom through prayer, intercession, obedience, service, and generosity. Women like Ruth, Abigail, Esther, and the Proverbs 31 woman remind us that divine influence has always flowed through surrendered feminine hearts.

Mary Magdalene's life teaches us that influence is not born from status, knowledge, or perfection but from surrender, devotion, and obedience. When a woman yields her heart to God, He entrusts her with purpose that echoes across generations.

I do not know what your personal testimony of the Lord is, but if you are willing to take up this journey as a woman of influence, I invite you to pause and pray over your own life. Mary's story is not only history, it is an invitation. The same God who called her by name is calling you today.

## **Questions to Ponder**

1. What is your take on building Influence through surrender to God?
2. When you reflect on your life, what are those areas that are not yet surrendered to God?

3. What is one thing you are going to implement daily to build influence through devotion to God?

**Take a moment to pray:**

*Prayer Points*

- Lord, give me a heart that obeys You, that I may grow in understanding.
- Give me joy in my heart, that I may see You clearly and hear Your voice.
- Lord, help me to minister to You through my time and resources, offering myself as a living sacrifice in appreciation for all You have done for me.
- Use me and entrust me with Your Word, that I may speak for You.

As you pray these words, remember, surrender yields influence but character sustains it. If surrender is the beginning of influence, what then anchors it for a lifetime? In the next chapter, we discover that lasting influence is rooted in virtuous character as we look at the lives of women like Ruth, Abigail, Esther, and the Proverbs 31 woman.

## Chapter 2

### *Influence Rooted in Virtuous Character*

Virtuous influence begins in the heart therefore influence flows from the heart. A heart rooted in Christ produces influence that builds, strengthens, and brings life. The virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 is first described not by what she does, but by who she is, a woman who fears the Lord. The fear of the Lord, respect, reverence, and submission to God, is the foundation of every virtue. Without it, influence becomes manipulative or self-centered. With it, influence becomes holy and transformative.

A woman who fears God influences in ways that:

- Reflect His wisdom
- Protect relationships
- Build peace
- Express love
- Inspire righteousness

God does not call women to be perfect, but He calls them to live in such a way that their lives point others to Him.

#### **1. Ruth: Influence Through Loyalty and Steadfast Love**

Ruth's story is one of the most beautiful demonstrations of influence born out of loyalty, love, and quiet faithfulness. When Naomi urged Ruth to return to her people, Ruth's response showed the strength of her character. This was not simply a decision; it was an act of influence rooted in devotion. Ruth chose commitment over convenience, sacrifice over comfort, and faith in God over an uncertain future.

#### **How Ruth Demonstrates Virtuous Influence**

- Consistency in character: Ruth remained loyal even when it cost her security. Her consistent faithfulness influenced Naomi's heart and restored her hope.

- Humility and diligence: She worked in the fields humbly and diligently. Her attitude drew the attention and respect of Boaz.
- Trust in God's guidance: She followed Naomi's counsel and trusted God's plan. Her obedience opened the door for God to bless her with purpose, provision, and a lineage.

### **Lessons for Today's Christian Woman**

- Influence is not loud; it is lived.
- Loyalty and faithfulness soften hearts and strengthen relationships.
- Consistent godly character speaks louder than words.
- Humility is a powerful form of influence.

Ruth shows us that one woman's quiet virtue can shift a family's story and become part of God's eternal plan; she became the ancestor of David and ultimately Jesus Christ.

## **2. Esther: Influence Through Courage and Positioning**

Esther's influence was not based on status alone, even though she was a queen. Her real influence came from courage and spiritual discernment. When her people faced destruction, Esther had to choose between comfort and her calling. Mordecai reminded her: "Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14). Esther's courage did not come from confidence in herself, but confidence in God.

### **How Esther Demonstrates Virtuous Influence**

- Courage rooted in faith: She risked her life by going before the king uninvited. This is the language of sacrificial influence, placing others before oneself.
- Wisdom and strategy: Esther didn't act hastily. She fasted, prayed, and sought God's guidance before approaching the king.
- Humility despite position: She used her royal influence not for personal gain, but for the salvation of her people.

## **Lessons for Today's Christian Woman**

- Influence requires courage, especially when standing for righteousness.
- God places women in strategic positions: homes, workplaces, communities "for such a time as this."
- Spiritual preparation (prayer, fasting, discernment) multiplies influence.
- Position without godly character leads nowhere, but character with God's timing changes nations.

Esther reminds us that influence is most powerful when guided by courage, wisdom, and obedience to God.

### **3. Abigail: Influence Through Wisdom and Peacemaking**

Abigail's story demonstrates the power of wisdom and tactful communication. Her husband, Nabal, acted foolishly and risked bringing destruction upon their household. When David came in anger, ready to take revenge, Abigail intervened with grace and humility.

Abigail acted quickly but she did not act recklessly; she acted with discernment.

### **How Abigail Demonstrates Virtuous Influence**

- a. Wisdom in crisis: She recognized the gravity of the situation and responded with clarity and purpose.
- b. Humility and respect in her approach: She bowed before David and spoke with honor and understanding, diffusing his anger.
- c. Peacemaking influence: Abigail reminded David of God's promises and redirected him away from bloodshed.

Her influence preserved David's integrity and protected her household.

## **Lessons for Today's Christian Woman**

- Wise influence prevents destruction.

- Gentle words carry great power.
- God uses women as peacemakers in tense or chaotic environments.
- A woman full of godly wisdom can turn hearts from anger to righteousness.

Abigail shows that true influence is not controlling others, but guiding them toward godly decisions.

#### **4. The Proverbs 31 Woman: Influence Through Godly Excellence**

The Proverbs 31 woman embodies virtuous influence in multiple dimensions, family, community, and personal spiritual life. Her influence flows from inner strength, godly wisdom, and noble character not from appearances or social status.

##### **Characteristics of Her Virtuous Influence**

- Faithfulness in family: Her character creates stability and trust.
- Diligence in work: She is industrious, resourceful, and disciplined.
- Compassion for others
- Wisdom in speech
- Fear of the Lord: Her spiritual life is the foundation of everything she does.

##### **Lessons for Today's Christian Woman**

- Influence is strengthened by consistency.
- Kindness and wisdom build credibility.
- Godly character at home reflects Christ to the world.
- The fear of the Lord is the core of a woman's influence.

The Proverbs 31 woman teaches us that influence is a lifestyle of excellence empowered by the Holy Spirit.

#### **5. The Virtues That Produce Godly Influence**

From these biblical examples, several key virtues emerge that every Christian woman can cultivate:

- Faithfulness
- Courage
- Wisdom
- Fear of the Lord
- Humility

All four women walked in humility, placing God's will above their personal desires. Their actions were motivated by genuine care for others.

These virtues are not outdated; they are timeless. They are the pillars of influence that every Christian woman can embody today in her home, ministry, career, marriage, or community. Every woman has influence-whether she recognizes it or not. The question is: What kind of influence are we cultivating?

*How to walk in a virtuous influence like the women of Scripture*

1. Stay connected to God through prayer and the Word "*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*" Psalm 119:105
2. Allow the Holy Spirit to shape your character. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness..." Galatians 5:22--23
3. Lead with love in every relationship "*Do everything in love.*" 1 Corinthians 16:14
4. Be intentional about your example. Others are watching your integrity, decisions, and responses.
5. Use your gifts and position to serve others. Influence grows when we use our abilities for God's glory.
6. Choose courage when faced with difficulty. Often, influence requires stepping out in faith.

### **A. Call to Rise as Women of Virtuous Influence**

The world needs women of influence, women who lead with grace, stand with courage, build with wisdom, and walk in the fear of the Lord. Like Ruth, Esther, Abigail, and the

Proverbs 31-woman, Christian women today are called to shape their homes, workplaces, communities, and nations.

Virtuous influence is not about being perfect; it is about being surrendered. It is not about outward appearance, but inward strength. It is not about command, but about character.

May every woman reading this book rise to be a vessel of God's influence, transforming the world around you through the power of a virtuous life. And may your influence bring glory to God and blessing to generations after you.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

### **Questions to Ponder**

1. Which woman in the Bible strikes you the most as having a virtuous Character (your take)
2. Are there any traits you share with this woman? List them and think on them.
3. What other character traits/virtues are you aiming at working on to become that woman who draws other women to God by her character? Why do you want to work on these traits?

### **Short Prayer**

*Heavenly father, put in me a new heart and by the power of your holy spirit teach me to build faithfulness, discipline, honesty, kindness, courage and above all love. Mold within me a new character oh God, one that is deeply rooted in you. Amen*

## Chapter 3

### *The Power of a Woman's Influence in the Family*

#### **Influence Begins at Home**

If you pause for a moment and think about the families you know (yours inclusive), you'll quickly realize something powerful: women shape the emotional, spiritual, and relational climate of families every single day. Sometimes this influence is loud and visible. Other times, it is quiet, almost unnoticed, yet deeply formative. Scripture affirms this truth plainly: "The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down" (Proverbs 14:1).

#### **Influence Through Submission: Strength That Shapes Atmospheres**

When we hear the word submission, many of us tense up. But biblically, submission is not silence or erasure, it is strength anchored in trust. It begins with yielding to God, not to fear or control.

Think about Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was young, unmarried, and facing social disgrace. When the angel spoke, she didn't have all the answers. Still, she said, "I am the Lord's servant... May your word to me be fulfilled" (Luke 1:38). That single act of surrender changed history.

I think of a single woman, let's call her Ada, living with her parents, siblings and some extended family who constantly questioned her faith choices. Every dinner table conversation felt like a test. She was called all sorts of names including "holy Maria, holier than though, virgin Mary". Instead of arguing, or fighting back, Ada chose consistency locked in prayer, kindness, and firm boundaries. Months later, one relative quietly asked her, "How do you stay so calm?" and she smiled. Her submission to God had softened hearts she never argued with, it opened to her a wide door for more influence.

You see, submission influences families by modeling humility, patience, and trust in God's authority.

I will like you to always tell yourself, I submit first to God, and my obedience releases peace.

### **Influence Through Birthing: More Than Biology**

Birthing is not limited to the delivery room. Women birth ideas, prayers, callings, courage, and futures.

Hannah understood this deeply. Year after year, she carried silent grief. Instead of growing bitter, she decided one day to pour her pain out before God in prayer. Scripture tells us that she prayed on her knees at the temple until her lips moved without sound. What she birthed in prayer became Samuel, a prophet who shaped a nation.

Now let us imagine a woman who is unmarried and without children. She is diligent in her calling as a Sunday school teacher at her local church. She mentors teenagers every Sunday, listens when no one else does, and prays faithfully. Years later, those same teens remember her voice when they face hard choices. This lady didn't give birth physically, but she birthed faith and confidence in others.

On the other hand, every woman carries life and influence in her womb. The moment a woman conceives, her journey of influencing a soul begins, not at birth, not at first words spoken aloud, but in the quiet, unseen space of the womb. Scripture reminds us that life in the womb is fully known and deeply valued by God.

This sacred season places a woman at a powerful crossroads. Through her words, thoughts, prayers, and emotional posture, she begins to participate in shaping the inner world of the child she carries. The Bible teaches that words are not neutral; they carry creative or destructive power. When a woman speaks peace, hope, and blessing over her unborn child, she is sowing life. When fear, rejection, bitterness, or despair dominate her words and inner dialogue, those seeds can also leave an imprint.

We see a beautiful biblical picture of womb influence in the story of Mary and Elizabeth. When Mary greeted Elizabeth, the unborn John the Baptist leapt in Elizabeth's womb, responding to the presence and faith-filled words surrounding him. This moment reveals

that unborn children are spiritually perceptive and responsive to their environment. What a woman carries in her spirit often echoes in the life she carries in her body.

A woman of influence, therefore, chooses intentional partnership with God during pregnancy. Like Hannah, who dedicated her child to the Lord even before his birth. She understood that nurturing a soul begins with prayer, surrender, and spoken blessing. She spoke identity, purpose, and destiny over her womb, trusting God to weave those words into the child's future.

### **Influence Through Friendship: The Ministry of Presence**

Women often influence through connection, through listening, showing up, and speaking wisely at the right time. Proverbs 31:26 says, "She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue."

Sarah's story reminds us that influence doesn't require perfection. She laughed in doubt, feared, and faltered, yet her submission, together with Abraham shaped generations. God worked through her humanity.

Picture a married woman, who notices a new neighbor struggling with parenting. She doesn't preach with words, rather, she invites her over for tea, listens, offers childcare once a week, and prays quietly. Over time, that friendship becomes a lifeline. That is influence!

Single women also influence powerfully often in quiet, underestimated ways. Through daily interactions with siblings, nieces, nephews, coworkers, and friends, they model what respect, emotional health, boundaries, and faith look like in real life. By choosing integrity, kindness, and wisdom in relationships, they shape how others understand love, conflict, and responsibility. Even without a spouse or children of their own, their lives preach a living message that healthy relationships are possible and worth pursuing.

### **Influence Through Nurturing: Leadership Through Care**

Nurturing is often undervalued in a world that celebrates visibility, authority, and speed, yet it remains one of the strongest and most enduring forms of leadership and influence.

Proverbs urges children not to forsake a mother's teaching, placing her instruction alongside a father's guidance as essential for life. This reminds us that nurturing is not passive, it is intentional leadership that shapes values, identity, and direction.

Timothy's faith did not appear overnight. It was nurtured patiently and consistently by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. Through ordinary days, shared prayers, conversations about God, lived example, and gentle correction, they cultivated a sincere faith that later supported Timothy's public leadership in the early church. Their influence shows that nurturing often works quietly, long before its fruit becomes visible.

I think of a tired working mother who prays with her children every night, even when dinner is late and her energy is low. She may feel she is offering very little, yet years later those children remember her prayers more clearly than her lectures. What felt small in the moment became a spiritual anchor over time. Nurturing plants seeds that often bloom in later seasons.

Nurturing also extends beyond biological motherhood. Women nurture through teaching, mentoring, caregiving, hospitality, and presence. A woman who listens without judgment, opens her home, encourages a struggling soul, or patiently guides another through growth is exercising spiritual influence through care. Like Dorcas, whose acts of kindness and service clothed both bodies and hearts, nurturing women leave lasting imprints on lives they may never fully realize this side of eternity.

I pray that God will help all women nurture with wisdom and patience, wherever they find themselves.

## **How Influence Flows in Everyday Life**

Influence is rarely dramatic. More often, it is formed quietly, in conversations, choices, reactions, and rhythms of daily life. Scripture shows us that women influence families not only through what they do, but through who they consistently are.

## **Words and Communication**

Words carry creative or destructive power. Proverbs remind us, "The tongue has the power of life and death" (Proverbs 18:21). A woman's words shape identity, atmosphere, and direction within a family.

Think of how a mother's encouragement can anchor a child's confidence, or how a sister's constant criticism can slowly erode trust. Abigail, the wife of Nabal, used wise and timely words to prevent bloodshed and protect her household. Her speech brought peace where anger was rising.

Influence happens when women choose words that build rather than wound, speaking truth with grace, correcting with love, and knowing when silence is wisdom.

## **Attitudes and Emotional Responses**

A woman's emotional posture often sets the emotional climate of a home. Scripture says, "A gentle answer turns away wrath" (Proverbs 15:1). How a woman responds to stress, disappointment, or conflict teaches others how to respond as well.

Consider Sarah, who experienced fear and impatience, yet ultimately learned to trust God's promises. Her journey reminds us that growth in emotional maturity influences not just ourselves, but everyone watching. When women choose patience over panic and faith over fear, they model emotional resilience for their families.

Being a woman of influence, always choose calm trust over reactive fear.

### **1. Prayer and Spiritual Discipline**

Prayer is one of the most powerful and often unseen pathways of influence. Hannah changed her family's future not through confrontation, but through prayer. Her prayers shaped the destiny of her son before he ever spoke a word.

Women influence families when they pray consistently, study Scripture practically and cultivate spiritual habits. Lois and Eunice passed sincere faith to Timothy through daily spiritual modeling. Even when words fall short, prayer continues to work.

## **2. Decision-Making and Boundaries**

Every boundary a woman sets, or fails to set, teaches others what is acceptable. Wisdom in decision-making protects families from unnecessary harm. Proverbs 4:23 urges, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

Ruth's decision to remain loyal to Naomi changed her future and positioned her within God's redemptive story. Her boundaries around loyalty, integrity, and obedience opened generational blessing. Women influence families by modeling healthy limits, discernment, and obedience, even when it is costly.

## **3. Hospitality and Service**

Hospitality is a quiet yet powerful expression of influence. Opening one's home, or heart, creates spaces where healing and belonging occur. The Shunammite woman recognized God's presence and made room for the prophet Elisha, and her generosity was later rewarded.

Through acts of service such as meals shared, needs noticed, burdens lifted, women influence families beyond their own, extending care into the wider community.

## **4. Modeling Faith and Character**

Perhaps the most enduring influence is what is modeled daily. Children and others learn faith not only by what is taught, but by what is lived. Proverbs 31:30 declares, "A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."

Mary modeled surrender, obedience, and trust as she raised Jesus. Her quiet faith shaped the Savior's early years. Modeling faith through consistency, repentance, humility, and hope leaves an imprint long after words are forgotten.

## **When Influence Turns Harmful: A Gentle Warning**

Scripture is honest and unflinching when it shows us that influence can either build or destroy. "The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears

hers down" (Proverbs 14:1). Words, attitudes, and repeated behaviors shape the emotional and spiritual climate of a home long before anyone notices the damage.

The Bible gives a sobering picture of negative influence in the life of Jezebel. As queen, she used manipulation, intimidation, and control to steer her husband Ahab away from righteousness. Rather than using her position to nurture truth and justice, she fostered fear, silenced accountability, and promoted idolatry. We see echoes of this today in subtler forms. Consider a woman who repeatedly speaks bitterly about marriage to younger relatives. What begins as "honest venting" slowly replaces hope with fear and suspicion. Or another who gossips freely, unaware that she is training others to distrust, divide, and guard their hearts rather than build healthy connections. Negative influence can also flow through manipulation, chronic unforgiveness, poor boundaries, control, or unchecked anger whether a woman is single or married.

### **Questions to Ponder**

1. Reflect on your posture during prayer. Are your prayers filled with demands for yourself? Do you intercede for others (not just family) when you pray? Do you let your entire being worship when you pray? Write as much as you can.
2. Prayer is not for God, it is for us. What is your understanding of this statement? Share your thoughts here and with a mentor friend
3. Building influence as a woman of prayer is no easy task yet we are all called to this. What little changes can you make in your life to set you the path to becoming a woman of influence through prayer?

### **Short Prayer**

*Heavenly Father, I thank You for the influence You have placed within me; teach me to submit first to You and to walk in wisdom, humility, and grace. Guide my words so they bring life, shape my heart to respond with patience and faith, and help me nurture with love in every space You have called me to. Strengthen me to set healthy boundaries, remain faithful in prayer, and model godly character daily. Where I have fallen*

*short, restore me and lead me back to Your truth. Let my life build and not tear down, and may my influence draw others closer to You, in Jesus' name, Amen.*

## Chapter 4

### *Influence Through Prayer and Intercession*

As mentioned in previous chapters, influence is generally regarded by the world as visibility, wealth, authority, or power. Yet throughout Scripture and history, some of the most decisive shifts in families, nations, and generations have come not through public platforms, but through hidden places of prayer. Women, specifically, have exercised extraordinary influence through prayer and intercession often unseen, frequently uncelebrated, yet eternally impactful. For the woman of God, influence is not measured by who she knows on earth, but by her access to the Throne of Grace.

Biblically, prayer is fundamentally a form of communication and communion with God. It involves speaking to Him, listening to Him, and relating to Him as a personal Father and Mentor. It can be described as a partnership with God for the execution of God's purposes for your life and for the life of others. Key aspects of prayer include addressing God as Father, often in the name of Jesus Christ (the Mediator), and relying on the Holy Spirit's help. Intercession (or intercessory prayer) is a specific type of prayer: it is praying on behalf of others. It means standing in the gap, pleading, or mediating before God for someone else's needs, sins, protection, healing, salvation, or situation. Intercession can be described as participation in God's redemptive purposes; it is the "invisible lever" that moves the hand of God to change the course of history.

When women pray, they are not merely reacting to circumstances; they are shaping spiritual realities that later manifest in the physical world. This chapter explores how women exercise power and influence through prayer and intercession, drawing from Scripture and modern-day examples of women whose prayer lives changed the course of history.

### **Understanding Influence Through Prayer and Intercession**

A key point to note about prayer and intercession is that it is deeply rooted in love. Intercession is particularly potent because it entails a heart of love to forget about oneself and pray for others. To influence through prayer is to stand in the gap to be the bridge

between a desperate situation and a divine solution. It is a quiet power that yields public results.

### 1) Prayer as Authority, Not Escape

In the Bible, prayer is consistently presented as a means of exercising spiritual authority rather than retreating from responsibility. God invites human participation in His purposes through prayer. To stand in the gap is to intervene, to influence outcomes. Intercession is the act of representing others before God, appealing for mercy, justice, direction, or deliverance. Many women in Scripture exercised profound influence not by holding formal leadership roles, but by standing in this gap.

### 2) Intercession as Spiritual Warfare and Governance

Scripture shows that prayer can restrain judgment and release mercy. Abraham interceded for Sodom, Moses interceded for Israel, and Deborah combined leadership with prophetic authority. Women who intercede participate in spiritual governance. Intercession affects legislation, leadership, family systems, and spiritual climates even when outcomes are not immediately visible.

## **Why Women Excel at Intercession**

Women are uniquely positioned for intercessory influence because of their God-given capacity for nurture, discernment, endurance, and spiritual sensitivity. Scripture affirms that both men and women receive the Spirit equally. Intercession is not tied to gender, but history shows that women have often stewarded this calling with exceptional faithfulness praying for children, communities, leaders, and nations over long periods of time.

## **Biblical Portraits of Women Who Influenced Through Prayer**

The Bible provides a rich tapestry of women whose primary tool of influence was their prayer life. Their stories prove that a woman on her knees can shift the destiny of a nation.

### **Esther: Strategic Intercession That Saved a Nation**

Before confronting political power, Esther confronted spiritual realities. Her intercession dismantled a genocidal decree and preserved the Jewish people. Esther engaged the strategy of fasting and prayers to influence the turnaround of a destructive verdict against an entire ethnic group. Prior to stepping into the king's court, she entered the King of Kings' presence. Her influence over King Ahasuerus was birthed in three days of corporate intercession. She understood that spiritual favor must precede physical protocol.

### **Anna the Prophetess: Sustained Intercession and Spiritual Discernment**

In Luke 2:36-38, we meet Anna, an epitome of lifelong intercession, a prophetess who "never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying." Her influence was not found in a title, but in her spiritual sensitivity. Because of her consistent prayer life, Anna recognized the Messiah when He was presented as a baby, something many religious leaders missed. Anna's story demonstrates that sustained prayer sharpens spiritual perception and positions women to recognize God's movements.

### **Hannah: Intercession That Births Destiny**

Hannah's story (1 Samuel 1&2) demonstrates how private prayer can alter national history. Barren, mocked, and deeply distressed, Hannah poured out her soul before God (1 Samuel 1:10). Her prayer was not only for personal relief but resulted in the birth of Samuel, a prophet who would anoint kings and usher Israel into a new era. Hannah's influence extended far beyond her womb, her intercession shaped Israel's spiritual leadership. Her story is a testament that a woman's prayer life can release destinies that affect generations.

### **The Widow's Persistence**

Jesus used a woman to teach the highest principle of prayer in Luke 18:1-8. The persistent widow didn't have legal standing or wealth, but she had resilient persistence. Her refusal to stop asking eventually moved even an unjust judge. From her story we learn that prayer produces influence that turns negative verdicts.

### **Modern-Day Examples: Women Whose Prayers Changed Nations**

When we look at modern "Generals" of the faith, we often admire the miracles, but we forget the hours of intercession that paid for them.

### **1. Kathryn Kuhlman: Power Rooted in Prayer**

Kathryn Kuhlman, one of the most influential healing evangelists of the 20th century, attributed her public ministry entirely to her private life of prayer and surrender to the Holy Spirit. Though her services were marked by visible miracles, she emphasized intimacy with God over gifting. Her public ministry was a mere overflow of her private surrender. Kuhlman's influence didn't come from her eloquence, but from her ability to create an atmosphere filled with the presence of God: that atmosphere was cultivated in the secret place. She proved that when a woman loses her own will in prayer, God gives her His authority on earth. Her influence spanned continents, and many leaders (including Benny Hinn) trace their spiritual formation to her ministry. Kuhlman demonstrated that prayer cultivates spiritual authority that cannot be matched.

### **2. Susanna Wesley: Intercession That Shaped Revival**

Susanna Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley, raised 19 children in difficult circumstances. She is often called "the mother of Methodism." Her disciplined prayer life, often praying with her apron over her head to signal sacred time produced sons who ignited a revival that transformed England. Her story shows that mothers and caregivers wield immense influence through consistent intercession in ordinary settings.

### **3. Leymah Gbowee: Political and Social Shift through Prayer**

In 2003, Liberia was being torn apart by a brutal civil war. Leymah Gbowee, a social worker, believed that only a spiritual intervention could stop the bloodshed. She organized the Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace. Through this movement, she called for women to pray and fast for an end to the war, the safety of their children, and the removal of the dictator Charles Taylor. Thousands of women clothed in white to symbolize peace held daily prayer vigils at the fish market in Monrovia for months. Their spiritual persistence eventually forced the warring factions to the negotiating table. Gbowee's influence through

intercessory action led to the exile of the dictator and the election of Africa's first female president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. She was later awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

#### **4. Dr. Cho's "Prayer Mountain" Intercessors (South Korea)**

While Dr. David Yonggi Cho is the public face of the Yoido Full Gospel Church, the engine of the ministry's influence was the thousands of women who occupied "Prayer Mountain." After the Korean War, South Korea was one of the poorest nations on earth. These women prayed specifically for a spiritual awakening, the breaking of poverty, and the rebuilding of their nation. This movement of deep, groaning intercession (known as Tongsung Kido) is credited with the rapid growth of Christianity in Korea. Economically, South Korea experienced "The Miracle on the Han River," transforming from a war-torn nation to a global economic powerhouse. Many theologians link this national shift directly to the relentless intercession of the "Korean Prayer Mothers."

#### **5. Corrie ten Boom's Post-War Intercession: Reconciliation and Healing**

While famous for the Hiding Place, Corrie's greatest influence through intercession happened after the war. She became a "General" of forgiveness in a broken Europe. She interceded for the healing of Germany and the Netherlands, specifically asking God to give her the capacity to love her former enemies including the Nazi guards from Ravensbrück. Her influence broke the spirit of bitterness that hung over post-war Europe. By standing as an intercessor for "The Unforgivable," she paved the way for the healing of nations. Thousands of former Nazis and victims found Christ through her ministry, creating a spiritual bridge across the scars of the Holocaust.

#### **6. Mother Clara Hale: Social and Economic Shift through Prayer**

In the 1980s, New York City was devastated by the crack epidemic. Clara Hale ("Mother Hale") was a woman who turned her home into a "house of prayer" and healing. She prayed over "crack babies" (infants born addicted to drugs) when doctors said there was no hope. She sat in her rocking chair, holding babies, and interceding for the "breaking of the generational curse of addiction." Her home, Hale House, became a national model for social

reform. She was honored by President Ronald Reagan as a "national hero." Her influence proved that the "atmosphere of intercession" could physically heal infants and change the social trajectory of inner-city America.

### **Practical Expressions of Influence Through Intercession Today**

Influence through prayer and intercession and prayer is not reserved only for those with microphones or religious titles. Prayer is the heritage of every child of God or believer of Jesus Christ, the prayer made by the believer in faith is potent.

Women often serve as spiritual gatekeepers in families. Job's example of interceding for his children (Job 1:5) is mirrored today by mothers and grandmothers who pray against generational patterns and for godly legacies. I know of a woman who diligently interceded for her unsaved son, she stayed persistent in prayers, and her son became a man of God: from an unbeliever to a believer and lover of God, a faithful man after God's heart. A similar story is that of Monica the mother of St. Augustine's mother, who wept and prayed for decades for the salvation of her son who eventually converted and had a massive impact on Christian theology.

Paul urges believers to pray for leaders. Women who intercede for governments, academia, healthcare systems, and global institutions influence outcomes beyond their immediate reach. Today, we see "Prayer Strategy" groups within businesses and governments. Women are gathering in boardrooms not just to discuss performance indicators, but to intercede for the ethics and soul of their industries. This is Marketplace Intercession, where the power of the Spirit is used to navigate complex economic shifts.

### **Cultivating a Life of Influential Intercession**

Women become influential through prayers and intercession by developing intimacy with God (Psalm 25:14), which is birth from a place of deep love for Him. You cannot intercede for what you do not perceive. Influence begins by hearing what is in God's heart. A commitment to consistency and not convenience in God's presence, sharpens our discernment, authority and influence. Intercession often requires "staying with it" when

others leave. It is the labor of spiritual birthing. Praying scriptures also renders our prayers effective and puts God at a position to act because He honors His word more than His name. When prayer is combined with obedience and action, there is no limit to the influence that comes from it.

When women pray, destinies shift, systems are put under pressure, and revival is birth. Influence through prayer may not always attract applause, but it leaves eternal footprints. From Hannah to Esther, from Anna to modern examples of faith, women have shaped the world on their knees. A woman's greatest influence is not found in the words she speaks to men, but in the words that she speaks to God on behalf of men. When the history books of heaven are opened, the most influential women will not necessarily be the ones with the most social media followers, but the ones who moved the heart of God. In a generation hungry for visible power, women are reminded that ultimate power and influence is found in the quiet, enduring place of prayer and intercession. Their prayers are not without impact, they are instruments in the hands of a sovereign God, shaping families, nations, and history itself.

### **Questions to Ponder**

1. What are your thoughts on our role as women to influence the public and corporate space?
2. Where has God positioned me today in my profession, community, or family and how can I intentionally steward that platform to advance His purposes?
  - List the roles and spaces God has entrusted to you.
  - How can each one become a platform for reflecting Christ and advancing God's agenda?
3. What practical steps can I take to bring about transformation around me?
  - What is God prompting you to do next?
  - Note one act of obedience or faith you will commit to this week.

## Short Prayer

*Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift and privilege of prayer and intercession. Thank You for inviting me into partnership with You, to stand in the gap and participate in Your divine purposes on the earth. Lord, awaken in me a deep love for others and a burden that drives me consistently into the place of prayer and intercession. Teach me to seek You not out of routine, but from a place of intimacy and surrender. Strengthen me to remain consistent in the secret place, even when no one sees, and to trust that my prayers are powerful and effective. Fill me with the Holy Spirit, that I may discern Your heart and pray according to Your will. Father, make me a vessel of influence through prayer. Use my life to bring healing, deliverance, restoration, and transformation to families, communities, and nations. Let my prayers shift destinies, break strongholds, and release Your mercy and justice on the earth. Help me to walk in obedience as I pray, aligning my life with Your Word. May my intercession leave eternal footprints and bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## Chapter 5

### *Positioned for Influence: Women Transforming Society Through Public and Corporate Sphere*

In recent decades, there has been a notable shift in societal attitudes toward women in public and corporate spaces. From the late twentieth century to the present, women have increasingly assumed roles as political leaders, executives, entrepreneurs, presidents, ministers, CEOs, and board members. The question today is no longer whether women can work or lead in public and corporate spheres, but how they do it, what values they embody, what unique contributions they bring, and how their work transforms nations and communities.

Although more women are stepping into public and corporate positions, understanding how they navigate these spaces remains vital. In some cases, women who rise to public and corporate positions have been seen to lose touch with biblical womanhood, striving to compete with or dominate men rather than collaborating with them. God's design is not rivalry but partnership, men and women working together to bring forth His purposes on the earth. At the same time, persistent stereotypes and cultural barriers continue to discourage some women from entering public and corporate arenas. In some societies, women are still viewed negatively when they pursue these roles, while in others, cultural norms explicitly restrict their participation in such spaces. These tensions create confusion and imbalance that can only be resolved by returning to God, the Creator, and studying His Word to understand His original intent and how women can navigate these spaces.

### **The Power of influence**

Influence, when understood and exercised rightly, becomes a powerful tool for transformation. On the other hand, if this influence is misused, it will only lead to destruction as Dr. Myles Munroe aptly states, "Where purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable." In the same way, when women are unaware of the influence they possess or fail to steward it according to God's design, that influence can be misused or distorted. A lack

of understanding can open the door for influence to be exercised in ways that do not align with God's intentions.

From the biblical perspective, women's influence in public and corporate spheres emerges through virtuous character, sharpened skills, and a deep alignment with God's will. When exercised alongside men in their own role, this influence becomes a powerful means for societal transformation and the establishment of God's agenda. With this understanding, we now turn to draw inspiration from the lives of some biblical women whose influence through public and corporate spheres impacted communities and nations, offering timeless lessons on influence, purpose, and God-centered impact.

## **1. DEBORAH**

Sphere of Influence: Judicial and Military Leadership

A woman in public service who served as a judge and, alongside Barak, led the military, resulting in the liberation of the Israelites from King Jabin's army. Biblical Reference: Judges 4 and 5.

Deborah was a woman in public service who served as a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, and a judge in Israel. As a prophetess, she had a close relationship with God, she was a worshipper who heard, obeyed, and acted on God's instructions. Being identified as the wife of Lapidoth reflects her noble character and faithfulness in marriage, aligning with the description of a virtuous woman in Proverbs 31:10--31. As a judge, Deborah demonstrated exceptional wisdom, talent, and leadership, using her skills to serve her community. As a woman deeply connected to God, she heard and obeyed His instructions and led the nation during a time of oppression under King Jabin of Canaan. When the Israelites cried out for deliverance, Deborah responded to God's call and encouraged Barak, the commander of Israel's army, to confront Sisera according to God's command. Although Barak requested Deborah's presence in battle, her leadership was marked by humility, collaboration, and dependence on God rather than personal ambition. Through her prophetic encouragement and influence Israel gained victory, and Deborah gave all glory to

God. She described herself as a "mother in Israel," reflecting her nurturing leadership, noble character, and commitment to serving the nation.

Her life emphasizes the importance of developing one's talents, growing professionally, and engaging in the public sphere, while also upholding virtuous character and honoring God-given roles. Deborah respected the roles of men and women alike, working alongside others without undermining their responsibilities. Deborah worked in the battlefield, yet the final defeat of Sisera came through Jael, a housewife and tent maker. This demonstrates that the fulfillment of God's purposes in a society or nation requires humility and collaboration with all people, including those working behind the scenes. Her story demonstrates that successfully navigating public, corporate, or any sphere in alignment with God's will and bringing about societal and national transformation requires not only faith and obedience but virtuous character, and cooperation. It also shows that God's purposes are accomplished through both visible leaders and those serving faithfully behind the scenes.

## **2. QUEEN ESTHER**

Sphere of Influence: National law and government policy

The king's wife who occupied a position of public influence, which she courageously used to persuade the king and prevent a law that would have destroyed the Jewish people. Her bold intervention resulted in a new royal decree that saved the Jews.

Queen Esther was a young and beautiful woman who became the wife of a king and rose to a position of influence within national governance. As a woman exposed to public policy through marriage, she used her royal position to intervene at a critical moment in history. When she became aware of a plot and a royal decree that threatened the destruction of the Jewish people, Esther responded with courage, humility, and discernment. She prayed and fasted, waited for the right timing, and approached the king with wisdom and noble character. Through her strategic and faithful intervention, she influenced the king to reverse the destructive decree and enact new laws that protected and delivered the Jewish people.

Esther's courageous influence on governance and policy fronts led to the preservation of an entire clan.

### **3. LYDIA**

Sphere of Influence: Business

A successful business woman in the city of Philippi. She used her financial resources support the apostles, her home and networks provided a base for ministry and her leadership and hospitality helped establish the church in Philippi.

Lydia was a successful business woman in the city of Philippi, originally from Thyatira. She was a dealer in purple cloth, a luxury product commonly purchased by royalty and the wealthy, indicating her influence, financial success, and strong business networks. Lydia was also a worshipper of God. When the apostle Paul visited Philippi, the Lord opened Lydia's heart to receive his message. She responded in faith, and both she and her household were baptized. Lydia then extended hospitality to Paul and his companions, opening her home to them and using her resources to support the work of the Gospel. Through her generosity and leadership, Lydia's home became a meeting place for believers and played a foundational role in establishing the church in Philippi. Her life demonstrates that business or any other corporate venture can be a powerful platform for advancing the Gospel, serving God's purposes in society and championing societal transformation.

The stories of Deborah, Esther, and Lydia reveal essential qualities that enabled godly women to maximize their influence in public, corporate, and societal spheres while advancing God's agenda in their generations. Their lives demonstrate some key qualities (faith, courage, humility, discernment, virtuous character, collaboration, and obedience to God) that enabled them to influence and impact generations and fulfill God's agenda. These qualities can apply across every sphere of influence, including family, ministry, business, and public leadership etc. Through the lives of the aforementioned biblical women, we see how women can contribute meaningfully to societal transformation through the public and corporate spheres while remaining aligned with God's purposes.

Let us now examine the key traits these women embodied and draw inspiration from their examples, learning how to effectively navigate public and corporate spheres to bring about generational transformation while advancing God's purposes.

## **Lessons from Biblical Women of Influence**

### **Intimacy with God**

Deborah's role as a prophetess highlights the depth of her relationship with God. Just as in human relationships we only share our deepest secrets with those we trust intimately, Deborah's ability to convey God's plans for the nation indicates an extraordinary intimacy with Him. Similarly, Esther sought God through fasting and prayer before approaching the king to advocate for laws that would save the Jewish people, demonstrating her reliance on divine guidance. Lydia, a devoted worshipper, understood after her conversion that her wealth and influence were meant to serve God's eternal purposes and advance His kingdom agenda.

The encouraging truth is that God calls all of us into an intimate relationship with Him through Jesus Christ, so that He can reveal His plans and purposes to us. Through this relationship, we can participate in the manifestation of His will on earth.

As Scripture promises: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke". (Acts 2:17-19)

We too can grow in intimacy with God through consistently meditating on God's word, obeying the word, fellowshiping with other brethren, prayers and other Christian spiritual activities. God prepares us in the secret place of worship and reveals himself to us through His word which grows our faith and confidence in God. Prayer is the way we communicate with God- talking to Him and listening to God talk to us. Our intentional connection to God and offering ourselves as a living sacrifice in obedience to Him is our true worship

which ignites in us the confidence to go out into the world in the right time and season and fulfill our God-given assignment. Women who are going to be influencers in this world are those who love God deeply. God is their main focus. These women will be in the world but not influenced by the world because they know who they are in Christ and strive daily to live to please God.

## **Purpose Over Reason**

When we understand that our careers in public and corporate spheres are more than just a means to earn a living or advance professionally but are platforms for God's greater purpose of bearing Christ's image, serving His kingdom agenda, and influencing society, we unlock the power to transform communities, shape nations, and worship God through our everyday work.

"I was searching for a job at major international organizations and succeeded in all the tests, reaching the final stages of interviews, but I never received an offer. Feeling discouraged, I decided to volunteer at a smaller institution through a connection in my network. As I cried out to God, I sensed Him saying He was using this opportunity to grow me in humility and character. After a month of volunteering, I was surprised to receive a salary. Soon after, three colleagues left, and I was promoted to senior positions, working closely with project teams and supervising interns. One intern I mentored struggled with family issues and initially dismissed my faith, but through prayers, guidance, and Bible study, he received a breakthrough, came to know Christ and later felt called to full-time ministry. I realized that while my reason for volunteering was career growth, God's purpose was much greater: the institution became a platform to develop my character and also a place where I could influence His servant (my colleague) to know God, get a revelation about his specific purpose and pursue it. Who knows, through this one colleague's manifestation of purpose, nations will be aligned back to God and societies positively transformed. Note that while the reason was good, the purpose is always greater and ultimate -- the establishment of his kingdom on earth".

## Character

We are living in unprecedented times that call for people of integrity, right motives, and a genuine pursuit of God. Society needs individuals who are diligent, hardworking, and committed to godly values. Women who embody these qualities often excel in their workplaces, not merely because of skill, but because they carry the grace of God. At the heart of godly character is humility: a willingness to submit to God's will without self-exaltation. Virtuous women stand firm through humility, forgiveness, love, and the ability to set healthy boundaries without offense.

A defining trait of the women God used powerfully in Scripture is virtuous character expressed through humility, kindness, love, self-control, perseverance, sacrifice etc. To influence society as God intends, we have to live in alignment with His ways. It is such trustworthy character, coupled with skills and God's grace that makes us people of generational impact across public, corporate and other spheres in society.

*"I have a close friend who worked in a top public institution. She started at a very low level and was often treated unfairly. Despite working diligently, she was frequently not paid, yet she remained faithful, hardworking, and obedient through the hardship. Less than two years later, a senior director position became vacant. Although many expected a more experienced candidate to be appointed, the General Manager surprised everyone by calling her and saying, "I have watched you, and you have a very good character." She was appointed to the role despite having fewer years of experience. Later on, as a director, she refused to participate in corrupt practices that diverted project funds. Her integrity helped curb corruption, earned her greater trust from leadership, and allowed her to influence decisions that improved staff welfare and project implementation for the benefit of the wider community."*

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## Utilize skills, gifts and talents for service

Deborah was highly gifted and served as a great judge; however, she did not override or despise the roles of men. Instead, she influenced them and worked collaboratively for the liberation of Israel. She understood that her role in the judiciary was a God-given platform

through which she could exercise her talents and maximize her influence in service of God's agenda. Likewise, women who desire to influence God's purposes must discern their skills and intentionally use them to serve His will. They must also recognize the everyday platforms God has placed before them, whether in their professions, communities, or homes and steward these spaces faithfully. While there are many platforms for influence, the family remains the foundational one.

As we diligently apply our skills in every area of life, we must remember that the ultimate purpose is the extension of God's kingdom. For example, we live in a generation marked by moral decline, yet some are called into the fashion industry. While the enemy seeks to promote immorality through indecent dressing, those aligned with God's purpose can influence society by creating beautiful yet modest clothing. In doing so, they actively contribute to preserving values and rescuing a generation from the destructive consequences of immorality.

## **Diligence**

Deborah's identity as a prophetess, a wife, and a judge reflects her diligence in every area of life. While the desire to influence and impact public, corporate spheres and nations is noble, we must remember that lasting influence begins with faithfulness in the small and familiar spaces, especially within our families. Diligence and consistency in handling what may seem little prepares us for greater responsibility and establishes us as trustworthy stewards whom God can confidently entrust with more.

## **Understanding Times and Seasons**

Deborah possessed a discerning spirit that enabled her to recognize the times and seasons. As a judge, there were seasons when she presided over individual matters, and other seasons when she discerned that it was time to rise for battle and lead Israel toward liberation. God works through appointed times and seasons, and discerning them means understanding what He desires to be done in each moment. Such discernment comes only through the Spirit of God and is cultivated through an intimate relationship with Him.

Scripture encourages women to nurture a quiet spirit. This does not imply total silence, but rather a posture of attentiveness to God that enables clarity in hearing His voice. Like Deborah, a woman with a quiet spirit speaks with wisdom and purpose, enforcing God's will on the earth. When she speaks, wisdom flows, and her words are marked by kindness.

Recognizing seasons is essential to fulfilling God's purpose. For instance, in one season, a woman may be called to learn and develop skills as a student; in another, to apply those skills professionally to advance God's agenda; and in yet another, to mentor others to do the same

### **Women of Great Faith Who Embrace God's Call**

Faith in God is the foundation for fulfilling His plans. It was faith that enabled Deborah, though a prophetess, wife, and judge, to rise in a time of national crisis and lead Israel toward liberation. Her focus was not on the strength of King Jabin's army, which had oppressed Israel for twenty years, but on the word God had spoken. She consistently encouraged Barak with God's promises, fixing her gaze on God rather than on fear.

Likewise, Esther was confronted with a national policy that would have led to the destruction of her people. Though she initially felt incapable, she sought wise counsel, committed herself to prayer and fasting, and chose obedience over fear. Her declaration "If I perish, I perish", reveals a faith that was willing to act despite the risk. True faith requires believing God, obeying His instructions, and taking intentional steps in response to His leading.

God calls each person to serve Him in unique ways, and the key is yielding to His direction while depending on His strength. Deborah served in the judiciary, Esther in governance, Lydia in business, and Jael from her home as a vocational worker. Each woman fulfilled a specific assignment that contributed to the unfolding of God's purposes. Even Jael's domestic tent making and hospitality abilities became tools God used to defeat Sisera, the commander of a powerful army. Though God may not reveal the entire plan at once, daily surrender allows Him to order our steps toward His greater redemptive purpose.

Godly women of influence do not act independently but are led by the Holy Spirit. Becoming a vessel through whom God manifests His purposes begins with being a child of God through repentance, belief in Jesus Christ, and a life yielded to the Holy Spirit.

So, Arise, sister. Influence is a divine endowment entrusted to us so we may participate in the establishment of God's plans on earth. Whether in banking, business, medicine, policy, the military, the judiciary, or any other field, the place where God has positioned you is a platform to shine the light of Christ, fully dependent on His power and guidance.

### **Questions to Ponder**

1. Reflect on your interactions with your own family. Would you say you have positive influence within the family dynamic as discussed in chapter 5?
2. What inner wounds or questions are you struggling with that may be hampering your efforts at building influence in the family as a wife, sister, daughter etc? Write them down.
3. What is one thing you would like to start doing today to help you be a better influence in your family dynamic.

### **Short Prayer**

*Lord, thank you for the grace to influence and transform society through the public and corporate space. I surrender my all to you, including the profession you have given me as a platform for influence. Father, give me wisdom and nurture in me the right character to utilize this position I have to serve in total humility. Give the insight on how to utilize the professional position you have given me to extend your kingdom on earth and may all the glory be ascribed to You. Amen*

## Chapter 6

### *The Misuse of Influence*

#### **Ungodly Influence: When Influence Turns into Manipulation**

So far, it has been established that women possess both an innate ability and divine grace to influence others, whether influencing a single individual, as Eve did, or influencing larger communities. This God-given capacity should never be underestimated. Like any other gift, influence can be used for good or for evil. As you will discover in the pages ahead, the gift of influence can be thwarted by the devil and used to negatively affect the lives of others.

#### **What is Manipulation?**

Growing up, we have all experienced manipulation in some form, either as know-it-all children who thought we could trick our parents, or as the ones being tricked by parents into doing something. We all probably have stories we could share about things we were told as children that were completely untrue, yet we believed them without question. For example, I was told as a child that if I swallowed orange seeds, a tree would grow on my head. In retrospect, it makes me laugh out loud. I always made sure never to swallow an orange seed.

Simply put, manipulation is seeking to control another person's thoughts, beliefs, or actions by preying on their vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities could be desire, fear, ambition, loneliness, among others.

Manipulation does not respect agency and free will. It coerces, whether subtly or overtly and it usually has negative consequences for one or more parties. Someone who manipulates, studies their victims so well that they understand their patterns, likes, dislikes, desires, ambitions, weaknesses and strengths. They then use this knowledge to get their victim to act as they wish. As human beings we all have the natural ability to study these persons within our circle or the people we have taken an interest in. It is part of our survival instinct. However what separates this from manipulation is intent, process and result.

## **What is Ungodly Influence?**

This is anything that will cause or encourage someone to act in a way that is contrary to the ways of God. If a person's actions, words, or way of life causes another person to sin or disobey God, then that is ungodly influence. An example of a woman in the Bible who demonstrated this is Delilah. By her words and actions, she influenced Samson into disobeying God and going against His instructions.

In a day and age where the word "influencer" has become a profession, it is easy for anyone to be influenced to do anything. In a nutshell, we could say manipulation and ungodly influence are terms that define how one person's actions can cause another to exhibit wrong or ungodly behavior.

Now that we have defined what manipulation and ungodly influence are, let's use the above-mentioned Bible characters to explore these terms further.

## **Character Study 1: JEZEBEL**

### **What Weakness Did She Identify?**

Jezebel was the wife of a king of Israel called Ahab. The Bible tells the story of a man called Naboth who owned a vineyard that Ahab desired to be his. Ahab asked Naboth to sell this vineyard to him but Naboth declined this request. This made the king sad. Here's where Jezebel comes in. She uses her influence to get this man Naboth killed, then hands over the vineyard to her husband the king.

Jezebel identified her husband's weakness which was his desire to have more wealth and she used that to her advantage. She knew he wasn't going to object to her evil plans because his desire to own the vineyard was greater. So, he simply looked the other way.

### **How Did She Exercise Control?**

She took over Ahab's duties. She wrote the letter about Naboth's execution to be sent out by herself but used the king's seal on it which showed his approval of whatever was written in the letter. When a person tries to take over your duties or do the things that you

should normally do in your stead, there could be a hidden agenda there. Jezebel exercised control over her husband by doing the things that he ought to have been doing. When you are no longer in control of your actions but are being controlled by another's thoughts and will, then that's manipulation.

### **Why Did She Succeed in Having Her Way?**

As mentioned above, because she had succeeded in understanding what her husband's weaknesses were, it was easy for her to have her way by using those against him. She succeeded in manipulating him and others because she had acquired so much power and influence. The Bible talks about her having hundreds of prophets of Baal dining at her table. It also talks about her killing the prophets of God. This shows the amount of influence and control she had over her husband. It's almost like she was the one running the kingdom and not him. She basically took over his responsibilities.

### **Character Study 2: DELILAH**

#### **What Weaknesses did she identify?**

Delilah's story cannot be told without mentioning Samson. We know about her because of her involvement or relationship with Samson. In this story Delilah was the manipulator and Samson her prey. There are two evident weaknesses that Samson had that permitted Delilah to be able to manipulate him. One was his pride and the other his lusts for women.

God had blessed Samson with so much strength and he was favored and set apart by God from birth. I believe this became his weakness at some point. He believed he could do as he pleased because of the strength he had. Judges 14 tells the story of how he went out and killed thirty men, took their robes and paid his debt. He did as he pleased because he knew he had the strength to. He almost felt invincible, untouchable. That's why when the philistines came upon him to capture him after Delilah had cut his hair, he said to himself; "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him." (Judges 16:20). His pride had taken control of him so

much that he didn't even recognize when God had left him.

The second weakness Samson had was his love for women. Judges 14 speaks of how he saw a woman and desired to marry her. When his parents tried to counsel him otherwise, he didn't listen. His desire for her overpowered reason and sound advice.

This was what Delilah was able to use to manipulate him. Once before he had fallen for the deceitfulness of a woman he loved. He had shared with her a secret he should not have. With Delilah he made the same mistake.

"Now she had wept on him the seven days while their feast lasted. And it happened on the seventh day that he told her, because she pressed him so much. Then she explained the riddle to the sons of her people." Judges 14:17 .

Samson's weaknesses gave room for him to be manipulated. Delilah on the other hand used her influence over him to manipulate and deceive him.

### **How Did She Exercise Control?**

Delilah was able to achieve control by persistence. She pestered Samson until he caved and let her take control. She also took advantage of his weakness and lulled him to sleep. Then cut his hair. It's incredible how much influence this woman had over this powerful strong man! It's a testament of what a woman can achieve by sheer will and determination.

### **Why Did She Succeed in Having Her Way?**

Delilah succeeded in manipulating Samson because she knew his weak spot and hit on it hard enough until he gave in. She never gave up until she got what she wanted. Also, Samson was not discerning enough nor did he pay attention to God's voice. If he did, he would have learned from the first time a woman deceived him and got a secret out of him. Delilah repeated the same pattern and he was not wise enough to not tell his secret. God

gave him enough opportunities to notice what she was up to but he did not pay attention. So, Delilah succeeded in leading him to his destruction.

Now, based on the two case studies above, let's outline some lessons we can learn from them, how to stay alert, avoid being manipulated, and recognize when we ourselves may be acting manipulatively. At times, we may be the Delilah or the Jezebel in the story, determined to have our way no matter the cost. The following are lessons drawn from these stories and ways we can apply them to our own lives.

### **1. Acknowledge your weaknesses and intentionally work on them**

As we saw above, these two women were only able to have their way because they preyed on the weaknesses of their victims. What weaknesses do you have? We are admonished as Christians to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. That means you should be alert and intentional about overcoming your weaknesses and being all that God would have you be. When you acknowledge your weakness, it will be easier to work on it and avoid anyone taking advantage of it to bring you harm. Seek help if you have to, get an accountability partner, be proactive and you will learn to manage and control your weaknesses instead of them controlling you.

On the other hand, do you take advantage of weaknesses you notice in people to have your way? If you do, that is manipulative behavior and you must repent from it. There was a time when 'Only Fans' accounts were the prevailing thing. This is a typical example of preying on others weaknesses for personal gain. Another example that has become a norm in many societies is preying on the weaknesses of some men to get material possessions from them. Sometimes these men are married with families. If you notice a weakness in another, it's not Christ-like behavior to prey on it.

### **2. Learn how God communicates with you**

God always communicates with his children. He will warn, instruct, direct, guide and encourage you. You have to grow in your relationship with God to understand when and how he speaks to you. If Samson had paid attention to all the warning signs God was giving

him, he would not have been deceived. He ignored them all. The Bible talks about being alert and on your guard because the enemy is always around ready to pounce on you. This is how you have to live every day. Alert and on guard. Always looking to God for direction and guidance.

Have you had those moments when you are about to go somewhere but you get a prompting not to? Or moments when you are about to say something but had a 'strong feeling' not to. Intuition, instinct, strong feeling, these are all words we use sometimes to describe the Holy Spirit communicating with us. When you start paying attention to him and obeying, his voice will become louder and easier to recognize. This takes time and must be intentional.

### **3. Pray for and actively seek discernment.**

Discernment is a gift of the Holy Spirit which any believer who desires and asks God for it could be blessed with it. It's important also to be intentional and observant about what goes on around you. This can help you have more discernment. Ask questions, be vigilant, pause and think, observe behaviors. If Ahab had been more vigilant, he would have asked how Naboth suddenly died just when he told his wife about the vineyard. Samson would have avoided his demise if he had been more discerning and noticed what Delilah was up to. A discerning spirit will save you a lot of trouble. Pray for God to bless you with one. That way you avoid getting manipulated and also being manipulative.

### **4. Be humble and grateful**

We must realize that we are stewards of whatever gifts we have. God blessed us with them to be used for his glory. We must never get to a point where we take pride in and boast about our gifting. This can easily lead to a downfall as it did with Samson. He had become prideful and forgot about who his source of strength was. He thought he could do as he pleased. Unfortunately, it did not end well for him. It led to him being deceived and manipulated. Whatever your gifts are, never take them for granted. Be a good steward and use them to bring glory to God. The Bible says God resists the proud. It's a terrible thing for God to resist you.

As we have seen above, women have abilities that are unique to them. We have the gift to influence others. If you are a woman reading this, I like you from henceforth to always be aware about this incredible power you carry. The ability to carry influence that can transform lives and achieve the unthinkable. It is our responsibility to use these gifts not for evil purposes as in the case of Delilah and Jezebel, but to use them to influence positive and godly behavior in others.

As we conclude this chapter, I like you to pause here and take a moment to evaluate your relationships, consider your actions, words, behaviors. Is there any possibility that you are being manipulated by someone to go contrary to the will of God for your life? Is there a possibility that you are being manipulative to get your way at the expense of someone else? Ask God to help you overcome it. Henceforth, use your influence to inspire others to walk in the paths of righteousness and godliness.

### **Questions to Ponder**

1. In my relationships, am I exercising influence in a way that leads others toward God or doing what is pleasing to God and beneficial to them, or am I knowingly or unknowingly manipulating others only to get my way?
  - Reflect honestly on the relationships in your life. Are there any where you have taken advantage of someone's weakness or vulnerability for your own gain?
  - How can you repent where needed and begin using your God-given influence to uplift and encourage others instead?
2. What personal weaknesses can I identify, and how can I intentionally work with God to ensure they do not become entry points for manipulation or ungodly influence in my life?
  - Identify the vulnerabilities in your life, whether they are pride, desire, loneliness, fear, or something else.
  - What practical steps can you take, such as accountability, prayer, or counsel, to strengthen these areas so that they are not exploited by others?

3. How well do I know the voice of God, and what does it look like when He warns or redirects me in my daily life?
- Think of a time when you felt a prompting or strong feeling before making a decision. What was that experience like, and what was the outcome?
  - What intentional steps can you take to grow closer to God so that His voice becomes clearer and easier to recognize in your life?

### **Short Prayer**

*Dear Lord thank you for empowering me with the ability to have influence on earth. Help me Lord to live my life intentionally knowing that my actions, words and deeds have an effect on people watching me. If in anyway I'm influencing others to walk out of your will, I repent today. Search me o Lord and if there be any evil in me cleanse me and make me whole. May my life be a beacon of light to many. Like a candle lit, I light up the room. I influence godliness out of people and not evil. I am the light of the world and from today onwards I operate as such.*

## **Conclusion**

### **Choosing to be a Life-Giving Influence**

Every woman carries influence. Mary chose surrender, Hannah chose prayer, Sarah chose faith, Lois and Eunice chose nurture. None were perfect, but all were willing.

You and I stand at the same crossroads daily. We can build or tear down. Heal or harm. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can choose wisely.

Influence flows through ordinary moments, during disagreements, disappointments, celebrations, and routines. Each day offers opportunities to shape hearts, strengthen families, and reflect God's character.

# Notes

## *My Influence*

This could be in how our interactions shape the way others feel, think, or grow, the way a person's integrity, kindness, or consistency inspires or challenges others or even in our ability to direct or encourage people toward a certain vision, decision, or direction and why not the inner strength or grace that shifts atmospheres and helps others see truth or hope.

Jesus taught that true greatness comes through serving others (Mark 10:43--45). Influence begins with humility, not self-promotion.

Integrity, faith, wisdom, and obedience influence more powerfully than position. Think of Ruth, Esther, Deborah, Mary, Lois and Eunice, women whose character shaped nations and generations.

Biblical influence aligns with God's will. It is stewardship, not self-exaltation.

Many biblical influencers had no spotlight, title, or public stage. Their influence came through faithfulness in everyday life yet God used it to shape history.

### **Action**

1. Summarizing from the reflections of the previous chapters, list areas in your life where you are currently exercising positive influence.
2. List areas in your life where in you need to build positive influence
3. In a nutshell, understanding our roles as women and the influence that comes with these roles starts with studying the word of God. Do you currently have a bible study plan or partner? What are your thoughts on this?

## **Cross References**

### **Chapter 1**

1. Isaiah 12:3
2. Isaiah 30:29–30
3. Romans 12:1–2

- *Further study*

4. John 19:25
5. Mark 15:46–47
6. John 20:1–2
7. John 20:11–18
8. Mark 16:9

### **Chapter 2**

1. 1 Proverbs 4:23
2. 2 Proverbs 31:30
3. 3 Ruth 1:16
4. Ruth 1:16
5. Esther 4:16
6. 1 Samuel 25:18
7. 1 Samuel 25:28
8. Proverbs 31:25
9. Proverbs 31:26

- *Further Study*

Esther 2:15–17, 4:14–16, 5:1–3, 7:3–6.

Ruth 1:16–17, 2:11–12, 3:10–11, 4:13–17.

1 Samuel 25:3, 25:18–31, 25:32–33, 25:39–42.

Proverbs 31:10–31

### **Chapter 3**

1. 1 Samuel 1:1

2. Jeremiah 1:5

3. Proverbs 18:21

4. Luke 1:41–44

5. 1 Samuel 1:10–11, 27–28

6. Proverbs 18:21

7. 7 Proverbs 1:8

8. 2 Timothy 1:5

9. Acts 9:36

10. 1 Samuel 25

11. Genesis 18

12. Hebrews 11:11

13. 1 Samuel 1

14. 2 Timothy 1:5

15. 2 Kings 4:8–17

16. Luke 2:19

17. 1 Kings 16:31–33; 21:7–15

## **Chapter 4**

1. Romans 8:26
2. Ezekiel 22:30
3. Genesis 18
4. Exodus 32:11–14
5. Judges 4–5
6. James 5:16
7. Joel 2:28
8. Acts 2:17
9. Esther 4:16
10. James 5:16
11. 1 Timothy 2:1–2
12. Isaiah 50:4
13. Luke 18:1
14. Galatians 4:19
15. Isaiah 55:11

## **Chapter 5**

- 1 Acts 16:14-15
- 2 Acts 16:40
- 3 7-traits-all-godly-women-of-influence-have by King Jesus Global Ministries
- 4 1 Peter 3:4

5 Proverbs 31:26

6 Esther 4:15–16

7 Judges 4:17–24

## **Chapter 6**

1. 1Kings 21

2. 1Kings 18:19

3. 1Kings 18:13

4. Judges 16

5. Judges 13:24-24

6. Judges 16:16

7. Philippians 2:12

8. 1Peter 5:8

9. James 4:6

# WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

Throughout scripture, God has worked through women who dared to surrender, serve and shine.

From Mary Magdalene's radical devotion to Deborah's fearless leadership, from Ruth's quiet faithfulness to Esther's world-changing courage, the women of the bible were not bystanders. They were agents of divine influence.

This book invites you to rediscover their stories, reclaim your God-given influence and arise into the fulness of who you were created to be.



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