



# Women Of The Word

## Welcome

Are you ever tired? I know that's a silly question. In our busy, modern culture—as working women, as wives, as moms—in all our roles, we are exhausted. But I'm going to posit that it is more than that.

Do you worry? Do you try to control everything? Are you convinced that if you aren't the one to do something, it won't be done right???

Sister, you are requiring things of yourself that God doesn't require of you. Instead of being a "Martha", I suggest you spend some time sitting as Jesus's feet as a "Mary". Confused? Check out Luke 10:38-42 and be blessed.

In His love,  
Melanie Woltje,  
Women's Ministry Team Leader

## Mission Statement

FBC Women's Ministry exists to empower our ladies to use their God-given gifts in accordance with God's will.

## *April Guest Article - Brooke Black*

I must admit, I sort of flippantly agreed to write the article for this month's newsletter, and upon really getting down to the wire, I felt increasingly unworthy.

So, after writing and deleting and rewriting and deleting some more, I threw away everything that I had put together, and I asked my husband to pray with me that the Lord would give me wisdom on what I should write. He replied, why don't you write about your spiritual journey and a couple things the Lord has been working on in your life. It got me to thinking about our journey through life, or our race, as the author of Hebrews put it.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

Getting rid of sin, running with endurance, and looking to Jesus are certainly areas that the Lord has been refining me, so while I still feel unworthy, hopefully there may be something encouraging for you in here as well. I ended up with more than enough material, so this will be a two part article, concluding next month!

Getting rid of sin.

For me, a sin that seems to cling closely is complacency, and it is one that I have been muddling to untangle from. Complacency is defined as self-satisfaction, or lacking awareness of your own deficiencies. Wow! I have too often been complacent in my relationship with the Lord, in my marriage, and with parenting, and have suffered many a heartache because of my own failings.

Just comparing to the world or those around me, I would think, "I'm doing more than most," or maybe it's just exhaustion and I think I am giving it all I have.

*(continued)*

However, am I completely pouring myself out, as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to the Lord?

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:1-2 ESV Paul gave everything he had physically, mentally and spiritually to sharing the gospel and raising up disciples.

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:6-7 ESV

He wasn't complacent in his own faith, in his ministry or to those he was discipling, and neither should we be. Even as Paul was writing in prison and his death was imminent, he was still sharing words of wisdom. I need to do the same with those that I am called to disciple, for me in this stage of life, that is primarily my children, no matter how overwhelmed, exhausted, or busy I may be.

"You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:7-9 ESV

Two Christian parents halfway trying to do what's right will naturally produce well-behaved God honoring children...wrong! Growing in the Lord and making disciples, takes first a desire to learn and grow, intentionality in talking about the Lord daily, time reading the Word and in prayer, and surrounding yourself with things and those that are true, honorable and just.

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Philippians 4:8 ESV

May we always be striving to grow in our relationship with the Lord and be ready to share Christ with those around us, whether that is in our homes, our jobs, or community.

To be continued in May!



## Bible Studies

Sundays @ 5:00 pm - Church - Old Testament Expedition Study - This study is open to men and women to discuss our Old Testament Reading Plan.

Wednesdays @ 9:30 am - Joan Little's Home (26675 P Rd) - Topic Varies

Amen: From Eden to Eternity - Mondays @ 6:30 pm



## Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 6 - Ladies Lunch @ FBC 10am - Noon

*Lena Hamilton, Missionary, will be sharing her experience serving the Chinese in Alaska and China*

Thursday, May 25 - GNO @ Trail's @ 6:15

Monday, June 3 - Summer Bible Study Begins  
Saturday, June 29 - Summer Event

Thursday, August 1 - GNO @ Trail's @ 6:15

Monday, September 9 - Fall Bible Study Begins  
Saturday, September 28 - Fall Cookout

Tuesday, October 22 - GNO @ Trail's @ 6:15

Saturday, November 2 - Teaching Event  
Saturday, November 16 - OCC Shoebox Packing Party

The 2nd Tuesday of each month we meet @ Jhett's @ 11:30.

\*\*\*These dates are subject to change.\*\*\*

## FBC Women's Ministry Team

Team Leader: Melanie Woltje

Brooke Black, Donna Jewell, Erin Lassey, Caitlin Murrow, Vanessa Wisdom

Contact Us: [womensministry@fbcholton.com](mailto:womensministry@fbcholton.com)

# Spiritual Disciplines: Reading and Studying God's Word



The Bible is no ordinary book. It was written over a span of 1,500 years by more than forty authors on three different continents in a variety of literary styles. Yet, it tells one cohesive story of God redeeming His people.

Believers can truly know that the Bible is inspired by God because it is self-authenticating. When we read and study His Word, we experience this truth.

It is absolutely necessary for every believer to read and study God's Word. Matthew 4:4 tells us, "Man must not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Feasting on the Word is a spiritual discipline that is vital to the overall health of the believer because the Bible is sustenance to the soul. We need every word.

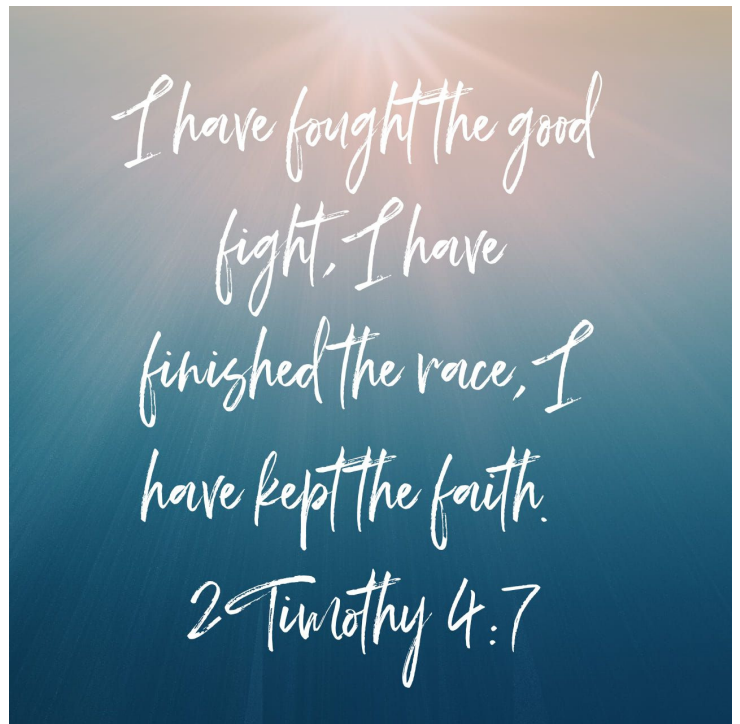
Yet, it requires hard work for anyone to ready and study God's Word. It requires reordering priorities in order to have the time and space to consume His living words. We must commit to engaging our minds and hearts. Discipline is required to act on the longing we feel for God.

We need to read the whole Bible. This allows us to grasp the breadth of Scripture. Keeping the wider context in mind is helpful when diving into smaller portions and specific passages. A helpful principle for interpreting Scripture is to allow Scripture to interpret Scripture. This means that one passage will help you understand another. There is perfect harmony throughout the Bible. Having familiarity with the whole Bible safeguards us from misinterpretation. This is why it is beneficial to have a systematic plan to read the entirety of the Bible.

Studying Scripture is a separate discipline that involves digging into the Bible for depth. God's Word is a treasure trove of life-giving truths. It would take more than a lifetime to explore its depths. Bible study means slowing down to understand the history and culture of the passage. Consulting commentaries and researching original language can be helpful. This can be done in group settings and individually.

According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, all of Scripture is necessary for us to be equipped for every good work that God has prepared for us. God calls each of us to know Him, enjoy Him, and put His glory on display. Such a command requires the transformation of our minds and hearts by the power of His Word and His Spirit in us.

(Growing in Grace: Knowing and Loving God Through Spiritual Disciplines)



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