

# WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – **Discovering God's Will for Your Life.**

Session Five – April 8, 2014

## **Silence the Fools**

“For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.” 1 Peter 2:15

Clearing the cobwebs: Are you a people watcher? What kinds of things have you seen people do when they thought no one was looking?

When it comes to compliments, sometimes you have to know the complimenter in order to understand the compliment. The gushing saleswoman, who drops the word *fabulous* into her sentences with alarming frequency should be pretty much ignored when she says that you look fabulous in the dress you're trying on. On the other hand, a reserved person's "it's okay" can speak volumes. Remember the farmer in *Babe*? At the end of the movie, when the little pig had won a great sheep-herding event, the laconic Farmer Hoggit turns to the pig and simply says, "That'll do, Pig." My own father's favorite complimentary phrase is "Ya done good."

Good seems like such a bland word, really. The compliment with "good" in it seems lackluster when held up to ones containing "marvelous," "wonderful," and "splendid." Good seems to rank somewhere between "nice" and "okay." But the Bible is rather clear that "good" is a very special word. In fact, there is only One who is good (Matt. 19:17), and the rest of us don't make the grade.

1. God is the only one who *is* good, but we can do good. Give some examples of good things?

2. Why are we able to do good things? **Matthew 12:35** gives us a clue.

3. The choice between doing good and doing evil may seem like a no-brainer. Even non-Christians like to think of themselves as “basically good people.” Look at **Matthew 5:44-48** and **Luke 6:33**. How are our choices made difficult?

*Patsy Clairmont “Being touched by God’s extravagant grace ignites something within us that causes people to notice. It’s an interior glow that is like an exterior light in that it casts its influence in spite of the degree of darkness in which it finds itself—not only in spite of the darkness but also because of it. In the darkness the light becomes more attractive, more influential, more valuable, and more obvious.”*

Respond to Patsy’s comment? What do you think she means by an interior glow that is like an exterior light in that it casts its influence in spite of the degree of darkness in which it finds itself.?

4. Sometimes it is easier to choose the right things when there is some incentive involved. Is there a reward for doing good? It is worth the effort to choose the good. Look at **Matthew 25: 21**.

5. Peter says that it is God's will for us to do good. Why?

6. Daniel was a man of integrity. No one could bring an accusation against him, so they had to make one up! Proverbs 29:10 says that "the bloodthirsty hate the blameless." Most folks resent the woman who seems to have it all together. She *must* be too good to be true. What does **1 Peter 2:20** say about maintaining our integrity in the face of scrutiny?

Thelma Wells *"No amount of work will enable you to inherit eternal life. But works count for something. Ain't that good news! James 1:12 says "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him." I'm excited just thinking about that pageant of crowns I can qualify for if I work the works of Him who sent me."*

It always amazes me what people will do in a moving vehicle. Though they're surrounded by windows on all sides, somehow folks don't realize that everybody can see them. I've seen men shaving, women putting on mascara, diaper changes in progress. Kisses are exchanged, curlers are removed, noses are picked, heated arguments are underway—all in plain view. Though this can be an endless source of amusement for people watchers, it serves as a reminder to us all. Our lives are lived right out in the open, and people notice how we behave ourselves. Let's pray that even those who we won't ever meet will be touched by the kindnesses we show one another. After all, they will know we are Christians by our love. (John 13:35)

7. No matter where we may be, somebody might just be watching us! This need not alarm us. In fact, Jesus depended upon that fact! What does He command in **Matthew 5:16**?

8. Peter gives women a fine model for living in **1 Peter 3: 1-6**. We are called “daughters of Sarah” when we do good. What kind of things does Peter encourage Christian women to emulate? (We may find an interesting discussion on this one)

*Patsy Clairmont: “The people around you are taking notes on your life. I know you think that they may not be noticing, but they jotted down exactly how you reacted when you had to stand in the long line, when you had to drive in the heavy traffic, when you had to deal with the difficult person, when the elevator didn’t arrive in time, They’ve been taking notes on you. And they’ll make reference back to them.*

Trinket to treasure: The trinket is a reminder of the lesson that we share together. It will serve to remind you of the things you have learned.

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, tomorrow and in the coming days, help us to consider ourselves more carefully. We want our walk to match our talk. Help us to live in a way that would silence our accusers? Help us to live blamelessly. More than ever before, help us to have a great compassion for our husbands, our relatives, our children, our friends, our neighbors, and strangers we pass on the road. Let us see them in your eyes. But more importantly, let them see us living in the light of your presence so that they too will long for God.