

## **A WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE** **A Devotional by Sharon Hugel**

Reference: Becoming a Woman of Excellence by Cynthia Heald

### **I. Opening Prayer by Amy Carmichael**

We as committed Christian women, break with all worldly customs, to live utterly separate from the spirit of the world, so that we shall not say, "What is the harm of this and that?" but simply have lost all relish for what is not of the Father; to live as those who truly lay all on the altar: time, strength, possessions, literally everything we are and have; to live not nominally but truly, in unity. This will cost us something. Are we ready for what it will cost?

### **II. Pressing on for the Goal**

1. The Olympic Athletes vs. The Christian Women of Excellence vs. The Non-Believer Women of Excellence
  - a. Description of virtues of athletes: graceful, physical perfection, commitment, disciplined, perseverant, overcome major handicaps and injuries, faithful to the main goal, enormous expectations, concentrate intensely, extremely competitive, many different games to enter and compete to show off their gifts and talents to win the gold medals
  - b. Non-believer women of excellence: her characteristics overflow into the lives of the Christian woman
    - i. Secular women without Christ are apparent because of no glory or honor given to God for their successes, gives credit to her own mind, body and flesh. Have high goals and interests, with selfishness evident. Access to money and power, used for her purposes, independent yet seeks approval of others, wants to be popular, lives out of fear, desires and busyness of life. Vain, conceited and likes to be stylish and well dressed. Assertive, aggressive, confrontational, looks out for no. 1. A high achiever, but with no spiritual purposes for her life.

### **III. Christian Women of Excellence**

"Press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"  
– Philipians 3:13-14

1. This woman of excellence knows that God formed her image in His likeness and wove her together in the depths of the earth.

"Your eyes saw my unformed body" - Psalm 139:15

"...that she is a child of God and that she walks with the fear of the LORD."  
– Proverbs 1:7

2. She is spiritually connected to the concepts of JESUS CHRIST, in His word, The Bible. She has received JESUS as her personal savior as she has laid down her burdens at the foot of the cross and trusted Jesus to carry them for her as He lives in her and through her.
3. There are many ways to lead people to Jesus and the Christian woman of excellence has many gifts to do it.
  - a. The fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal.5:22) are evidenced in her close connection with Jesus.
4. The woman of excellence puts great importance on being obedient to the word in love and forgiveness, sensitive to others' pain, holy and pure, the temple of the holy spirit (1Cor 3:16-17). She is humble and reads her Bible regularly.
5. She is modest, not ashamed of the gospel, proclaims God's excellence. She has a servant's heart, discrete, slow to anger, wise, guards her heart (Proverbs 4:23), believes and defends the sanctity of life, she is not PERFECT, but has the Holy Spirit as a guide to redirect her life when she falls.