

Educating, encouraging and equipping women to pray, listen, learn, grow and give

“Pursuing God’s call to live a transparent life can sound quite scary. We never know how people are going to respond to the real us. What if reality disappoints? Yet, God loves us too much to allow our charade to continue.”

Gary Thomas, *Authentic Faith*

When I went to Seminary, I had some incredible professors. The classes, of course, made a tremendous impact on my life as I was pursuing a life of ministry to women globally. One professor who continues to stand out in my life is an author named Gary Thomas. His writing on authentic faith really changed my life in understanding what it means to live a life surrendered fully to believing all that God’s Word says about me.

I have found that many times in Christian ministry we feel the need to put on a mask and try to live a life that is perfect and always spiritual. Some days are more filled with hiding my bad old ways from others than with focusing on the beautiful new things God is cultivating in me. It can feel like we are playing a game and hoping that no one finds out who we really are.

I remember my first few months attending church as a Christian. I was an adult with a successful business, but I hardly knew anything about the Bible or what it meant to live a life surrendered to Jesus. My life was out of control and filled with many things I was not supposed to be “doing” as a Christian. Yet I guess because I ran a business, the women’s ministry director thought I would be a good fit to co-lead a women’s Bible-study group. I prayed every week that no one in the group would ask me a question. I felt so pressured to pretend that I lived a clean and godly life that it was paralyzing every time I joined the group.

I eventually dropped out of the group and told the women’s ministry director that I was not ready or prepared to be a leader in the Bible-study groups. For years I didn’t want to participate in similar groups because I was so embarrassed about failing in that first one. It is quite a miracle that God has given me the honor and privilege to lead a global women’s ministry today. I truly know it is his grace and mercy.

What about you? How are you living out your authentic faith in front of others? Are there things you hope no one ever finds out about you? Who are the people in your life with whom you can fully be yourself?

God sees you and me and knows the places where we are not living authentically. You can be yourself with God. If you are in a church or a workplace where you can’t be yourself, ask God to reveal what the next steps are for you to live authentically for him there. It may require a change or an adjustment in the way you reveal yourself to others.

Today, open your heart and ask God to reveal the places in your life that are not authentic. Ask God to put people in your life to whom you can go and confess who you really are. It also may require asking them for forgiveness for not always having been your true self in the relationships. No matter what type of relationships they are – marriage, friends, co-workers, employer-employee – it will be life-changing for you as well as the others to reveal who you really are. Then you can live your life walking freely with the Lord and growing faithfully in him and alongside the others.

Dr. Peggy Banks

Global Director, TWR Women of Hope

August 2022 Prayers for East Africa

1. Lord, break the chains of unbelief holding back the Japanese people. May the church there preach the gospel boldly, and may the Spirit move in people's hearts for revival and salvation. (Isa. 55:6-7)
2. We join in prayer, God, asking you to provide an FM station in every district of Nepal to broadcast Women of Hope programs. (Phil. 4:9)
3. Lord, you call us as your daughters to worship and serve you. Raise up godly Filipino women to minister in your name. (Ps. 100:2)
4. Heavenly Father, we pray that you will send your chosen women to lead the TWR Women of Hope ministry for Mongolia, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. (Jer. 6:8)
5. Holy God, work in and through each of the TWR Women of Hope India scriptwriters, presenters and contributors. Use their gifts and talents to lead women to Jesus. (1 Pet. 4:10)
6. Lord, protect Cambodian youth from those who would use them to sell drugs. May these students understand that drugs will destroy their minds and futures; help them to choose to focus on their education instead. (2 Thess. 3:3)
7. There has been an increase of physical, mental and sexual violence toward women in Indonesia during the COVID-19 pandemic. Father, enable these women to find salvation, healing and hope in you. (2 Cor. 9:8)
8. We praise you, God, for the Women of Hope program in Mandarin going out over shortwave and on digital radio. May many Chinese people listen to these programs and place their faith and hope in Jesus. (1 Cor. 15:3)
9. Lord, protect and bring healing to the 1 in 3 Vietnamese women who have experienced physical, mental or sexual violence at the hands of their husbands. (Ps. 107:19-21)
10. Lord, we pray that you would give strength and determination to women in Singapore as they struggle to handle both their work and family responsibilities. (Ps. 28:7)
11. Father, break the stronghold of alcoholism in Mongolia. May these addicts be set free and find employment so they can work and support their families. (Ps. 107:14)
12. Father, please protect Japanese children from fear and isolation during the COVID pandemic. Please keep them from illness and provide people to share the gospel with them. (Ps. 91:6)
13. God, as TWR Women of Hope Nepal provides literacy training, may the participants learn to read the Bible, write and provide their signatures for bank accounts. (Rom. 3:12)
14. Father, you are our healer! Heal the heart wounds of Filipino women who have experienced violence. May they be valued, respected and restored within their communities. (Ps. 51:17)
15. Lord, we pray for the 25,000 women who have defected to the South from North Korea. May both the government welfare policies and believers serve these women well. (Ps. 146:9)
16. Father, transform the lives of women as they view the Women of Hope programs on TV in the Oriya, Gujarati and Tamil languages beginning in April 2022. (2 Cor. 3:18)
17. God, please grow the TWR Women of Hope ministry in Cambodia. May many women come to know and follow you through these programs and ministry. (Ps. 25:5)
18. Indonesian women live in poverty, they lack funds for proper health care. Many face serious health problems like cervical and breast cancer. Lord, bring provision and healing to these who suffer. (Jer. 17:14)
19. Father, we pray that with the ending of the one-child policy in China, abortions and infanticide targeting girls would cease. (Ps. 139:13-16)
20. Many poor Vietnamese children drop out of school to provide income for their families. May these children instead be supported and receive a good education. (Ps. 107:9)
21. Heavenly Father, we pray that Japanese women who are pregnant or raising children would receive the support they need from their families and the government but also hear and accept the gospel. (Ps. 71:6)
22. Many Mongolian women leave their homes in search of jobs in the cities. Lord, provide good employment for these women and protect them from harm by their employer. (Ps. 23)
23. God, give peace, strength and provision to women in Nepal who follow Jesus. Some are persecuted or kicked out of their homes by unbelieving husbands. (1 Pet. 3:14)
24. Lord, sustain and comfort Filipino single mothers who work hard to provide for their children's needs. Give them wisdom to discipline and guide their children. (Isa. 41:10)
25. God, we pray that you will comfort families that have been separated from each other when Korea was divided. Please provide ways for them to be reunited, whether in person or through letters. (2 Cor. 13:11)
26. Lord, give women in India the desire to have a powerful prayer life. Thank you that so many participated in the TWR Women of Hope prayer network during the pandemic. (Eph. 6:18)
27. Father, grow the faith of Cambodian women as they learn to embrace your love and depend on you. (Heb. 11:6)
28. God, raise up funds within Indonesia so that the ministry's follow-up team can build close relationships with listeners and help them grow in faith and knowledge of you. (2 Thess. 1:3)
29. Lord, we pray for your deep healing and restoration of the countless women and girls being trafficked in China. Raise up righteous leaders to end this evil. (Jer. 30:17)
30. God, strengthen the poor Vietnamese mothers of young children as they do chores, caregiving and cooking while needing to work outside the home to sustain their families. (Isa. 40:31)
31. May the single mothers in Mongolia look to you for their strength and wisdom, Father. Encourage them to lay down their burdens and find their hope in you. (Ps. 55:22) wisdom, and may they desire to do what is right and just in your eyes. (James 1:5)