



*Women  
Leading  
Women*

# Women in Ministry

by Rosemary Sluder

## Joel 2:28, 29

**I will pour out my Spirit** on all people. Your sons and **daughters** will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and **women**, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

Today, we are living in those days. God is still the same yesterday and today and forever. He still wants to pour out His Spirit on everyone. But the women, as quoted in the book of Joel, are very sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and are ready to be used.

Godly women, young and old, have been touching the world in various and creative ways for hundreds of years. There is a need to create an environment for women to mentor other women—a place where women can learn, practice biblical love, and experience Christ in a very real way. In 1 Corinthians 7:14, we see how the **woman** can impact her children and her husband, to better serve God.

In our modern society many female ministers are bi-vocational and juggle a ministry career and at the same time run or manage a secular enterprise, as only a woman was created by God to accomplish.

Pastors, and leaders, observe the women in your church and consider what you see. You will notice women from all different social and family situations, backgrounds, and stages of life. But each of them shares a common need: that is to personally know and be known by the Master.

## Our Fivefold Purpose

1. **Reaching women** through the transforming power and love of Jesus Christ.
2. **Discipling women** to follow Christ's example and live overcoming lives.
3. **Building wholeness and balance**, both spiritually and mentally, through consistent prayer and study of God's Word.
4. **Providing an atmosphere** for women to develop their gifts, abilities, and lasting relationships.
5. **Training women** to find their places of ministry and effectively touch their world for Christ.

I believe every woman has the **greatest ministry** right in **her own home**. Mom, God has placed you in your home with the most important people, your family. The scripture in **Mark 8:34-38** (paraphrasing) What shall it profit a woman, **if she gains the whole world, and loses her own children?** *This makes me understand*

*that we need to invest time and resources into our children and when they reach that age of making their own decisions, they will make Bible inspired choices.* But until then, the woman has the greatest ministry right in her own home. Train up a child in the way he should go: **and when he is old, he will not depart from it.**

**Proverbs 22:6**

**(What a Great Promise)**

If it were not for my Christian parents, I would not have been prepared to give direction to the women of our district in the way which God has permitted me to do. My parents from the time I was born, until the moment I left home, instilled in me a love for God, taught me Godly values, morals, to trust in God, and most of all to fear God (to honor Him) and follow in His footsteps.

My husband and I, have two daughters. We also, tried to instill in them those same values and a love for God. Both of our girls are now in full time ministry along with their spouses. Now we look back with great satisfaction recognizing the spiritual contribution we made in their lives as they were growing up. We also, have six grandchildren, most of whom are serving the Lord as their Savior.

As women in ministry, we have an obligation to also support the ministry of our husbands. As a leader and Pastor's wife, I can affect his ministry either by building him up or tear him down. We all have a great responsibility, even though we are not the Senior Pastor, but God created us to be his help mate.

There are many things that a woman can do, that her husband cannot do. We are our husband's encourager, helper, his caregiver, giving him compliments, etc.

The pulpit part of the ministry, or the supporting role as part of the Ministry which I have been privileged to do, work hand in hand to complement each other's ministry. For example, my husband who preaches and teaches five to six times every week, must depend on my knowledge to navigate the computer and the smart phone, and make copies of all his documents in a timely manner.

Many times, women will need to be visited or some urgent advice, but because of the situation it is more prudent, that I meet the need of this woman.

My husband and I have been in ministry together from the day we got married almost 48 years ago. We started a Spanish Extension in his home church of Mesa, Arizona, where my husband attended since he was 11 years of age. At the time we did not know, but we were church planters.

Missionaries John and Betty Swank asked my husband and I, if we would be willing to work in Durango, Durango, Mexico, with Teen Challenge. God opened the door and we left for Mexico to live for a whole year not knowing the challenges we would encounter. We were able to minister to 16 young men, that had been living on the streets of Mexico City. Teen challenge in Mexico City would minister on the streets and if a young man showed interest in changing

his life, they would send him us where my husband worked with them day and night for one year. I became like a mother to them, cooking all their meals during that year. Best of all, all 16 gave their hearts to the Lord, and we saw with our own eyes the total transformation that God was able to do in each of their lives.

From Mexico the Lord took us to Tyler, Texas, where He opened a door for us to work at Primera Asamblea de Dios church, for 13 years. As my husband assisted the Pastor, I worked as church secretary, in the children's department with over 100 children, and as Coordinator of the Missionette Department.

The Lord then told my husband it was time to make a change and the Lord brought us to Delta, Colorado in 1992, as Pastors of El Buen Pastor, where we are still serving. I recognize that every place God has taken us has been a school, preparing us for the next spiritual adventure which lay ahead of us.

Today, I see how God's hand has been upon my life as a woman and a leader. As a twelve-year-old girl, I can still remember, as if it were yesterday, my Pastor and church leaders asking me to teach a children's Sunday School class. I was only a young child, yet someone saw the potential in my life regardless of my age and gender. From that day forward my passion has been to teach. I understand it's not me, but God in me who gives me the ability. From the first day I started teaching until today, more than 50 years have passed. Why, because someone saw the potential in my life. As a woman in ministry, I love to focus on the younger girls and adolescents. I also am trying to discover willing hearts that I can empower to go forward, just like others discovered the willingness in my own heart.

More than 35 years ago, when we lived in Texas, I always attended the women's district events. I remember distinctly sitting in a women's conference and looking at the leaders on the platform, I would watch them as they ministered under the anointing and how God would use them. As I was sitting in a certain service, in my heart I said, "Lord, how I would like to be one of those leaders." Not knowing that many years later in the Central District, I would have the privilege to serve as the district women's director. God moves in mysterious ways. I worked for the school district in Delta for thirteen years and I remember distinctly the Holy Spirit speaking to my heart to leave my job. Why? I did not understand. I spoke with my husband and his advice was to obey God. A couple of weeks later sister Irene Rodriguez, then the WM Director called me, she wanted to congratulate me on my new job. I explained to her, no sister I just quit my job. She explained no, you are now my secretary. She hadn't even consulted with me, but at that moment I knew God already knew the plan he had for me. Had I kept working my secular job, it would have been very difficult for me to fulfill my duty as WM secretary. I am not recommending women to leave their jobs, but in my situation, it was within God's plans. I had the privilege of working with sister Irene for nine years, then felt it was time to step down and just help my husband with the church. A year later, I remember it was a Saturday morning, my husband and I, were at home and the telephone rang, my husband answered the phone, it was brother Dennis Rivera our then Superintendent. He said, brother, I want to speak to both you, and your wife. And that day he

asked me to be the WM Director for the Central District which I was for 9 years. After 35 years God was fulfilling my heart's desire. I don't claim to have been the best leader, but my goal was to let God lead and guide me. As we serve, the Holy Spirit does the moving in the hearts of the people. It's important to keep in mind that there are certain ministries that only women can do. It's always necessary to Trust God. I remember when I felt of God to leave my job, our income was cut in half. But let me tell you that not a day has gone by, since I left my job that God has not provided. In fact, in two different occasions my husband and I, were going through a difficult financial situation and at the right time, God used two different women, to meet our financial needs. The Glory belongs to God. He promises us that He shall supply all our needs. Example, **Deborah** in **Judges 4:9** said, "Certainly, I will go with you," said Deborah. "But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a **woman**."

I feel that one of my strengths, as Women's Director, was delegating responsibilities to **women of all ages** who could serve alongside me. Women's Ministry is not just about the leader, but about all of us working together. Each fulfilling the role that she does best, reaching out to all women. God can use other women in areas which I cannot reach.

My advice to the younger women is, if God is dealing with your heart, do not hold back. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, of course, in God's timing and it is wise to communicate with your Pastor as to how God is leading you. Just as **Ephesians 4:11-16**, says, And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Today more than ever, we need the women in our churches (young and old) to be encouraged to share the hope of the gospel with their families and their communities in a more profound way. The world is trying to rob our children's souls, entering our schools, teaching our children ungodly morals. Leadership is an incredible responsibility at home and at church, and with God's help and blessing, it is truly a rewarding call. Just as in the book of Timothy, we see a grandmother, a mother, and a child, all ages working together for the Lord. "Women fight for your children."

Ladies take the opportunity to fulfill your vision, stay motivated daily in the right direction, and have a vision to see beyond the setbacks and disappointments which you will undoubtedly face in life. We need to catch a vision for our relationships with friends, spouses, children, and co-workers.

As I read through the Bible, I see how God used many women. Not only that, but scripture tells us of many of them who followed Jesus during His ministry, along with His disciples. We need to recognize that God can use the women of your church who may have great potential.

It may seem scary and even difficult but let us not build walls that could hold women at a distance from doing the work of God. In fact, there are many areas a woman can minister that is not inside of the church. She may volunteer at the hospital, with the elderly at their homes, grocery shopping for those that cannot leave the home or even help take care of a mother's children, when the mom is sick. When the need arises, it may be necessary to allow the single mom minister, to bring her small children with her to do the work of the Lord. These are places, where we can reach out to people that may never step into a church building. Be creative, God will open doors when you least expect it, where you can make a big difference in someone's life.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, and with the gift of discernment may you, as Pastor, be encouraged to share the work of the ministry with the women of your church in a more purposeful way. Female leadership has many incredible virtues, and with God's help it will be of great value to your church.

Women in ministry can help other women have a consistent relationship with Jesus Christ, being rooted in the Word of God. Women teaching women to follow Jesus happens best in a community atmosphere. Pastors, trust the women in your church to be effective collaborators in ministry. Keep the door open. Afford opportunities. We can only imagine which way God will lead these beautiful helpmates in ministry.

**Resources:**

<https://women.ag.org>

**Books:**

**Bible**

**Ministry to Women** - by Kerry Clarensau

**A Woman's Unlimited Potential** - by Arlene Allen, Peggy Musgrove, Lori O'Dea  
& Candy Tolbert