

*Counseling in Weakness:
How God Uses Ordinary Women to Help Other Women*
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I. Introduction

II. God's Calling

- A. Live to serve the Lord and others. Luke 9:23-24
- B. Titus 2:3-5
- C. Spiritual mothering Prov. 1:8, 6:20 31:26 I Tim. 5:9-10
- D. You are more accessible than a counselor in an office. Esther 4:14
- E. Galatians 6:1-3
- F. Colossians 3:16
- G. Proverbs 31:26
- H. Matthew 18:15
- I. It is preferable to have women counseling women.

III. The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives

- A. John 20:19-23 I Peter 1:3
- B. Our calling Mark 12:31 Prov. 3:27-28
- C. The Great Commission Matt. 28:19-20
- D. Clay pots Is. 64:8 I Cor. 4:7
- E. Grant me a willing spirit. Psalms 51:12b

IV. Biblical Examples of Fearful People Being Used by God

- A. Sarah -- I Peter 3:4-5, 6b
- B. Moses -- Genesis 3:1-14
- C. Isaiah -- Isaiah 6:1-8
- D. Peter -- Matthew 14:22-33
- E. Timothy -- II Tim. 1:6-8

V. Antidotes for the Fear of Counseling

- A. "I don't know what to say" Hebrews 3:13
 - 1. Know the Bible Prov. 2:1-6, 9-11 Prov. 3:5-6
 - 2. Let Scripture do the work II Tim. 3:16-17 I Pet. 2:2 Psalm 19:7-9
 - 3. Rely on the Lord Eph. 6:19 John 15:5
- B. "But I have my own problems!" John 15:2

VI. Personal Benefits of Counseling

- A. Spiritually Psalm 51:12a
 - 1. Learn the Scripture
 - 2. Study in depth
- B. Character development
 - 1. We need to "practice what we preach" I Tim. 4:16 Hebrews 6:12
 - 2. Learn patience II Tim. 2:24
 - 3. Character is a requirement in Titus 2:3.
 - a. Reverent
 - b. Not a malicious gossip or slanderer Eph. 4:29 Eph 4:25 Phil. 4:8
Prov. 10:19
 - c. Not enslaved to much wine Rom. 6:16-18 I Cor. 6:12 I Cor. 10:31
 - 4. Seek to serve despite wanting everyone to like you. Galatians 6:1-2,
Matt. 5:23-24
- C. Read the Bible through counseling eyes.

VII. Suggestions

- A. Don't take responsibility for counselees.
 - 1. They are God's. Phil. 1:6
 - 2. You can't save them.

- B. Don't be afraid to fail. Ezek. 2:6-7, 3:11, 3:16-21 Phil. 4:13

- C. Avoid burnout. II Thess. 3:13 Phil 2:12-13 Heb. 4:12

- D. Don't be a busy-body. I Tim. 5:13 II Tim. 3:6-7

- E. Rely on others for advice.

- F. Be flexible.

VIII. Remember the Goal

- A. Point women to Christ.

- B. Warn Gen. 4:6-7 Matt. 19:16-22 I Thess. 5:14

IX. Conclusion I Thess. 2:7-8 Gal 5:13 Hebrews 6:10 I John 4:4 I John 5:4 I Peter 4:10-11