

The Mark of a Wise Woman

So much information. . . so little wisdom. Isn't that an accurate description of the world we live in today? We're bombarded with information and complex choices at every turn. In the midst of this sea of knowledge, we need a navigation system to help us make our way through to the safety of dry land. We need wisdom.

By dictionary definition, "wise" means "having experience, knowledge, and good judgment." But the Bible takes it a step further. It speaks of two kinds of wisdom: worldly wisdom and God's wisdom.

A biblically wise woman is one who relies on the wisdom of God, not the wisdom of the world. So how do we know the wisdom of God? 1 Corinthians 1:24b gives us the answer as it describes Jesus as ". . . **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**"

As Dr. Russell Moore says, "Wisdom is a *Who*."

As we get to know Jesus better, He lives out His wisdom through us. Out of the overflow of that connection with Christ, a wise woman gets to work--- building up the people and things around her. Proverbs 14:1 says this about a wise woman: "**A wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish tears hers down.**" The size and shape of our spheres of influence--- our "houses"--- may vary, but we have a choice as to what we use our hands to do with them: build or tear down.

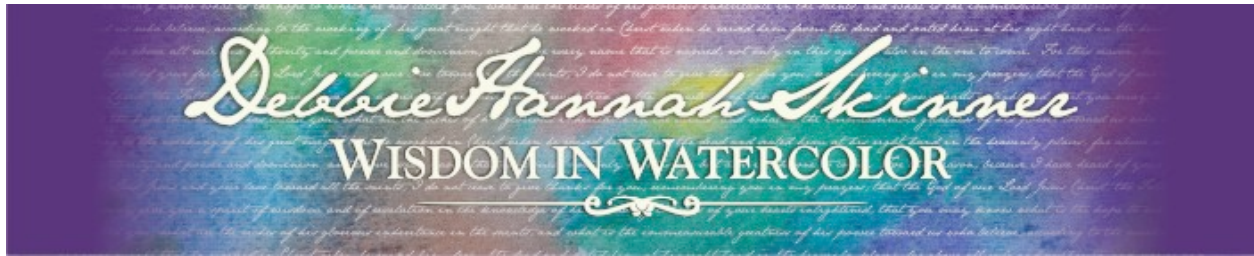
If you want to be a biblically wise woman who builds up the people and things around you, there's a foundational quality that will move you in that direction. I've seen this characteristic repeated in the lives of the biblically wise women I've been blessed to know over the years. Here's their secret: they are worshippers of the Lord.



A Wise Woman is a WORSHIPPER

According to Easton's Bible Dictionary, biblical *worship* means "homage rendered to God which it is sinful (idolatry) to render to any created being." The object of a biblically wise woman's worship is Almighty God--- God the Father, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

The way a biblically wise woman worships Him is found in the meaning of the Hebrew word for *worship*. It means 'to bow down, prostrate oneself,' a posture indicating



reverence and homage given to a lord, whether human or divine. The concept of worship is expressed by the term 'serve.' (Harper's Bible Dictionary).

So how do we do this today? Are we to spend our days on the floor, prostrate, bowing down to the Lord? What about the laundry that needs to be washed, the tasks at our work to be completed, dinner to be cooked and our families in need of love and attention? That makes spending the day face down on the floor sounds pretty preposterous!

Fortunately, **it's not simply a posture of the body but an attitude of the heart that counts when it comes to being a woman of worship.** A heart bowed before Him is what counts.

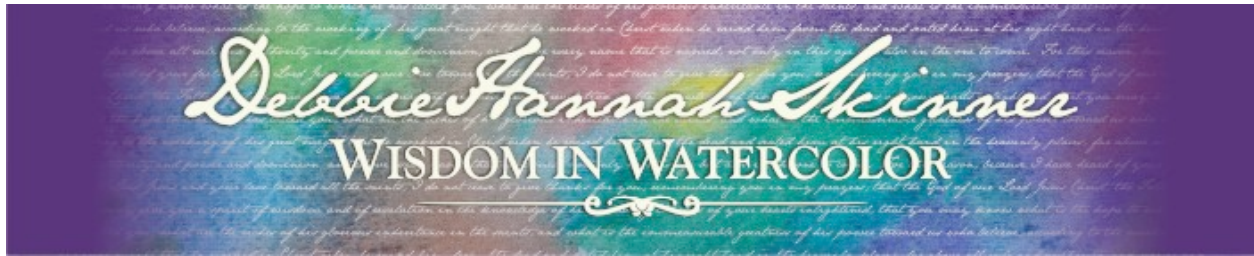


The Bowed Heart : Thinking and Thanking

Thinking of the Lord and thanking Him throughout the day is a great way to keep your heart bowed before Him. Here's an exercise that may help you keep your heart bowed before Him today. I call it "Thinking and Thanking Through My To Do's" and it goes like this. . .

List the things you have scheduled to do today. Then, beside each item, list things you can praise Him for as you do this task. I've done one for you:

My To Do	His Praise (<i>Lord, thank You for. . .</i>)
fold clothes	giving me a family to care for
“	the money to buy clothes
“	your provision for me shown in this pile of laundry
“	a child healthy enough to outgrow these jeans

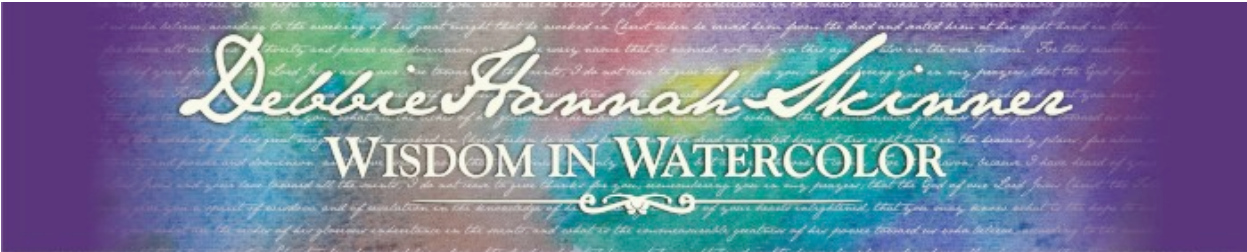


My To Do	His Praise (<i>Lord, thank You for. . .</i>)
“	the way Jesus removed the stain of sin from my life
“	clothing me with Christ's character qualities as I study Scripture

Praising through the "to do's" of the day is a great way to focus your attention on the Lord and worship Him as your work. It also dispels the dark cloud of grumbling and complaining. Praise and thanksgiving from a grateful heart directed toward the Lord can take place anywhere--- in the kitchen, behind the wheel of your car, or at your desk at work. It's just a matter of being on the lookout for things to praise Him for as you go along your way.

Keeping your mind thinking about and thanking Him throughout your day keeps your heart bowed before Him in worship. That's the first step along the path of bearing the mark of a biblically wise woman. . . becoming a worshipper.

P.S. On the next page there's a blank copy of the "Thinking and Thanking Through My To Do's" form you can use!



Thinking and Thanking Through My To Do's

*“A wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands
the foolish tears hers down.” Proverbs 14:1*

Build your house by bowing your heart before the Lord throughout your day. . .

My To Do	His Praise (<i>Lord, thank You for. . .</i>)