

Week Twenty-two Summary...

As we wind up our study of Biblical womanhood, it's appropriate that we acknowledge that the job of applying the principles we learned this year and the challenges we will face in the process tend to change somewhat over time. The principles are unchanging, but as we mature we find new opportunities to live out the principles. At each stage of life, we ask new questions, face new internal struggles, and have new goals. (The following is a brief outline, for more details listen to the lecture online.)

Five Major Phases of a Woman's Life:

- A Woman of Dreams
 - O Question: What do I hope my life will be like?
 - Struggle: Hope v. Fear
 - Goal: Build a life-vision based on Biblical perspective and wise counsel
- A Woman of Reality
 - Question: What happened and what am I going to do about it?
 - Struggle: Reality v. Fantasy
 - Goal: Gain a clearer perspective on our life purpose, our relationships, and ourselves—and live accordingly
- A Woman of Strength
 - o Question: Can I embrace real life or will I run from it?
 - Struggle: Engage v. Retreat (or Resentment)
 - Goal: Strongly embrace life, eagerly pursuing Biblical purposes and priorities
- A Woman of Wisdom
 - O Question: What am I going to do with the rest of my life?
 - o Struggle: Opportunity v. Disconnection
 - Goal: Purposely invest the wisdom gained from life experience and walking with God in the lives of younger women and the next generation
 - This phase should be the peak of our effectiveness!
- A Woman of Legacy
 - Question: Will I finish well, leaving a legacy of faithfulness?
 - Struggle: Service v. Selfishness
 - Goal: Finish our lives with excellence, modeling Godly character and leaving a legacy of committed followers of Christ

At every phase of life, we have the opportunity, again, to choose whether to follow God and move forward in Biblical womanhood or to let the past define us. For some, the past means mistakes and regrets, for others the past was good and we want to rest on those laurels. But the past does not dictate the future. It does not have to hold us back and we can't merely coast to the finish line on its momentum. Whatever phase of life you find yourself, *ADVANCE*. Become more and more the woman God designed you to be!

