



# *Eve's Daughter*

Women The World Over

# Who Is Eve's Daughter?

She is all of us; daughters, mothers, grandmothers the world over. Eve's very name meant 'Mother of all who have life.' Therefore, every woman today can be Eve's Daughter.

## How did God regard woman?

Keep in mind Eve was the last living thing called into existence. Unlike Adam who was made from the dust of the earth, Eve was made of flesh and bone by the very hand of God. We are told she was to be Adam's partner to complete him, and in God's final act of creation – Eve – his creation was complete. Eve was God's final gift to the world and that gift passed on to us in the form of the gift of co-creation of life.

After thousands of years of masculine dominance, it's time for the restoration of the feminine/masculine balance as was the plan for Adam and Eve from the time of creation. Both masculine and feminine need the energy of the other in order for the fullness of God's creation to come into existence. Each of us, man and woman, has a part to play in this restoration.

As we learned from the six extraordinary women we have studied, God shows up in unexpected places, to move in unexpected ways, through those who were open to their destiny. We can expect him to do the same through us.

As one person put it, we are not accidents going somewhere waiting for life to happen, we are blessings going somewhere with intent, making things happen!

Indigenous cultures the world over recognize the value of their women; it is time we in the modern, developed world do the same. We would do well to understand this Cheyenne proverb: *"A nation is not conquered until the hearts of its women are on the ground. Then it is done, no matter how brave its warriors or how strong their weapons."*

We are a part of the bigger plan and we each have a destiny to fulfill if this plan is to come to fruition. Our planet is on the brink of ecological destruction; countries are on the brink of war; and men, women, and children worldwide are starving and ravaged by war.

Eve's Daughters, each of us, have the ability to make a difference, to restore balance. Not by force or politics, but by being who we are and by how we choose to live our lives. The world today needs women of all ages, of all races, and all religions to unite in service.

Physician Rachel Naomi Remen, a midlife woman who is medical director of the Commonwealth Cancer Help Program in Bolinas, California, and author of *Kitchen Table Wisdom*, writes about the difference between service as a form of connection with life, and service that is a veiled form of judgment; a statement that someone is broken and needs fixing.

"In fixing there is an inequality of expertise that can easily become a moral distance. We cannot serve at a distance. We can only serve that to which we are profoundly connected; that which we are willing to touch. This is Mother Teresa's basic message. We serve life not because it is broken but because it is holy."

The opportunities to serve are all around us constantly. We can serve every day by the hundreds of small choices we make, by finding a higher ground when dealing with conflict, to care a little more, to give a little more, and to do what we do best, talking with and relating to other women. Every interaction is an opportunity to serve, to share love and goodwill. Sharing love and goodwill is not a one-way street, what we give away comes back to us.

In terms of health, the gift of giving results in a stronger immune system, fewer illnesses, and a longer life. As a health strategy alone, service to others makes sense. Every act of kindness and compassion towards others is multiplied when they, in turn, pass it on. One by one, the world becomes a better place. Service is indeed the gift that keeps on giving.

The Women of the Bible are the perfect companions to give encouragement, inspiration, and hope on our journey of service. They have led the way, now we must follow. The self-esteem generated by service to other keeps hopelessness from taking root. From a spiritual perspective, service is a good working definition of spirituality in action.

***Without others, we wouldn't have the opportunity to become better human beings.***

## *Study Guide*

As Eve's Daughters (and Sons) we need to ask ourselves, "How are we exemplifying the teachings we have learned during the study of Women of the Bible?". Here are some important questions to consider.

### **1. What if you worked at being a better friend?**

- Over time we know any friendship can suffer from differences of opinion, hurt feelings, and neglect. Think what you can do to improve your friendships. Strive to repair friendships as soon as possible while there is still the love for each other. Many friendships grow stronger from shared adversity and pain. Choose to focus on the love, not the hurt.

### **2. What if you truly learned to forgive?**

- Lack of forgiveness creates a dark place within the heart that prevents you from experiencing the perfect state of happiness that is your birthright.
- To be unforgiving is like taking poison and expecting the other person to die. "*Be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.*" (Ephesians 4: 32).

### **3. What if you actively strive to love others as you love yourself?**

- When you truly love another as yourself, you will actively seek what is best for them.
- How you see and treat others has a lot to say about your state of integrity. We see this demonstrated often in the workplace. Do you love your employer as yourself or is it okay to "borrow" a few things from work that no one will miss?

### **4. What if you did your very best to live at peace with everyone?**

- Imagine a day without second-guessing someone's actions. No back-stabbing gossip, no shifting blame to someone else, and especially letting go of the need to be a "pot-stirrer" when you know of ongoing conflicts involving someone you are talking to.
- When upset, do not throw the first stone. You have no way of knowing what lies in another's heart. Attacking another puts them in a defensive, and thus adversarial, position in which peace is not an option.

## 5. **What if you learned to recognize the power in the words you speak to create good or evil?**

- You create evil when you lash out in anger. Let a little time pass so you can cool down before you speak to someone who has angered you. You create evil when you talk about someone behind their back. Sending negative thoughts to someone is the same as talking about them. You create evil when you use passive-aggressive tactics like sarcasm, inappropriate teasing, and jokes at someone's expense as a way to verbally attack them.
- You create good, when you apologize and ask for forgiveness when needed. You create good when you offer heartfelt compliments and sincere best wishes to friends, family, acquaintances, and strangers alike. You create even more good for yourself when you sincerely, with the highest and best intention, wish good for your enemies.
- Keep in mind, one way or another, your words will impact others for better or worse, your choice. By putting a bit into the mouth of a horse, we can turn the horse in different directions. It takes a strong wind to move a large sailing boat, but the captain uses a small rudder to make it go in any direction.

Our tongues are small too, and yet they brag about big things. It takes only a spark to start a forest fire! The tongue is like a spark. It is an evil power that dirties the rest of the body and sets a person's entire life on fire with flames that come from hell itself. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and sea creatures can be tamed and have been tamed. But our tongues get out of control. They are restless and evil, and always spreading poison.

***My dear friends, with our tongues we speak both praise and curses. We praise the Lord and Father, and we curse people who were created to be like God, and this isn't right.***

(James 3:3-10)

## 6. **What if you learned to let go of the need to judge others?**

- *Whenever you feel the need to judge someone or point out their flaws, you need to remember to first look at your own flaws and weaknesses. You need to keep in mind that judgment is not your job, and God doesn't need your help in this matter. Don't condemn others, and God won't condemn you. God will be as hard on you as you are on others! He will treat you exactly as you treat them. You can see the speck in your friend's eye, but you don't notice the log in your own eye. How can you say, "My friend, let me take the speck out of your eye." When you don't see the log in your own eye?*

***You're nothing but show-offs! First, take the log out of your own eye; then you can see how to take the speck out of your friend's eye.*** (Matthew 7:1-5)

## 7. **What if... (choose your own principle from the stories of the Women of The Bible)?**

- *We invite you to join the Women Of The Bible in meditation, in prayer, and in action, to be part of the change.*