

Virtuous Daughters



35 Day Challenge

Copyright © 2011

Samantha LaGoy

All rights reserved.

I hereby grant you permission to copy this book in its entirety and to distribute it free of charge to anyone, provided that it cannot be bought or sold, and it cannot be modified.

This book is dedicated to all the girls in the world whose one desire is to become a pleasing daughter to not only their earthly father, but also their Heavenly Father.

Table of Contents

Note to Reader	1
Introduction	3
Part One	7
Challenge 1	9
Shining For Him	9
Challenge 2	11
What Sin Is	11
Challenge 3	13
Staying Under Authority	13
Challenge 4	15
The American Lie	15
Challenge 5	17
Our Fathers	17
Challenge 6	19
Our Mothers	19
Challenge 7	21
Our Siblings	21
Challenge 8	23
Giving Thanks	23
Challenge 9	27
Personal Devotions	27
Challenge 10	29
Ideas for Meaningful Devotions	29
Part Two	31
Challenge 11	33
What is Love?	33
Challenge 12	35

Enduring and Suffering Long.....	35
Challenge 13.....	37
Kindness	37
Challenge 14.....	41
Envy.....	41
Challenge 15.....	45
Pride	45
Challenge 16.....	47
More of You	47
Challenge 17.....	49
Unseemly	49
Challenge 18.....	51
Selfless.....	51
Challenge 19.....	53
Not easily provoked	53
Challenge 20.....	55
Thinketh no evil.....	55
Challenge 21.....	57
Rejoicing not in sin	57
Challenge 22.....	59
Rejoicing.....	59
Challenge 23.....	61
Beareth all things	61
Challenge 24.....	63
Believeth all things.....	63
Challenge 25.....	65
Hope.....	65
Challenge 26.....	67
Enduring.....	67

Part Three	69
Challenge 27	71
Teaching or Learning?	71
Challenge 28	75
The Holy Spirit and Submitting	75
Challenge 29	81
Learning from others	81
Challenge 30	85
The work of the Holy Spirit	85
Challenge 31	89
Guidelines for conversations	89
Challenge 32	93
Teaching others	93
Challenge 33	95
Writing for our fathers/husbands	95
Challenge 34	97
Do we have what it will take? Part 1	97
Challenge 35	101
Do we have what it will take? Part 2	101

Note to Reader

Dear Readers,

This Challenge was first done on the Virtuous Daughters e-mail list and then was eventually posted on the www.virtuousdaughters.com website, as a challenge. After all the feedback that I received from it, as well as requests for it, I decided to compile it into an e-book type format, so that it would be easier to use, as well as making it so that others could download the entire thing all at once.

The *Virtuous Daughters 35 Day Challenge* book is designed to be used as a daily challenge to challenge young ladies in how they as daughters of their earthly parents, as well as their heavenly Father, are supposed to conduct themselves. It is not only a character study and challenge, but it will also answer some everyday questions that you may have on being a godly daughter in general.

Please feel free to use it to your heart's content and to make as many copies as needed. You also have permission to pass this book around to others, free of charge. Under *no* circumstance are any of the contents of this book to be bought, sold or altered. If passing this book around, I ask that you would please keep it in its entirety.

You will also notice that all names of God have been changed to their original (Hebrew) names. For this reason you will notice that "the Lord" is changed to "Yahweh", "Jesus" to "Yahshua", and "Christ" (an un-translated Greek word) to the "Anointed" (translated into English). Other than those changes, all scripture references are in the King James Version.

Above all else, I pray that this book will challenge each and every one of you into a deeper relationship with not only your earthly parents, but also your heavenly Father.

Samantha LaGoy

Introduction

The *Virtuous Daughters 35 Day Challenge* all started when I felt Yahweh leading me to do an email challenge for some of my Virtuous Daughters readers for a month, which soon turned into 35 days, thus the title.

I had realized that, as daughters of not only our earthly fathers, but daughters of our heavenly Father, we often face challenging times in our lives and it all came down to us making the right decisions. The questions that came to my mind were, “Will we stand strong and make the right decisions, even when things get hard, as we know they will?”, “Will we even know what it will take to become the godly daughters, that Yahweh designed us to become?” and “Will we all have the strength to stand up for God, or will we fall prey to the world and thus Satan?”

As I pondered these questions in my own heart, and as I looked around at all those who were struggling around me, I began to feel Yahweh leading me to do a challenge to help other girls know the answers to these questions. I wanted to help equip them for what laid ahead and to strengthen them in their relationships with not only their parents, but especially with their heavenly Father. Yahweh has taught me as an earthly daughter that my relationships here on earth with my parents, namely my father, mirrored that of my relationship with Him and thus taught me how important each decision I made, truly was. In order for me to be a wonderful daughter to my heavenly Father, I needed to first learn how to how to be a wonderful daughter to my earthly father/parents, first.

This was how these challenges came about. It all stemmed from what Yahweh had and has been teaching me. It was lessons I learned from life experiences...some good and some not so good. I wanted to be able to equip daughters with how to choose the right decisions, as there have been times in my life, that I didn't always choose the right ones. I wanted them to be able to learn from my mistakes, as well as learn right along side of me.

As I looked back on my own life, I could see where so many times I was faced with some very hard decisions. They all seemed to come down to a simple question. “Should I walk the razor blade narrow path for my Beloved Saviour, or walk down that broad way, having the world cheer me on?” Who did I want on my side and, most of all, who was the most important person to please...Yahshua or Satan?

Dear Sisters, Satan is working double time. I too must constantly fight for my Saviour and fight to live a God-centered life...a set apart life for Him, because that is what He has asked of me, in return of laying down His very life for me in the most brutal way possible. Yahshua gave

His very life for us, so that we might know what it is like to live with His Father...our Heavenly Father...and know what it is like to have eternal life with Him, as our Groom.

I want to challenge us all to live for Him in the best humanly way possible. For how could we ever repay Yahshua for what He has done and continues to do for us? Is not loving Him back the least we can do in return for what He has done for us?

“But how *can* we love Him back, after everything He has done for us?” you might ask? Well, let’s see how he tells us we can love Him in return...”If ye love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15 and “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:” 1 John 5:2-3

Precious Sisters, it is that simple. Yahweh tells us that if we truly love Him, we will obey His Word and keep everything that He has commanded us to keep. He also tells us that the only way to show our love to and for Him and for us to truly know Him in a personal way, is by our total obedience in keeping His commandments and word. You might say that this is the “outward” sign that we can know that we truly know and love God. “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.” 1 John 2:3

Here is what He also tells us, “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.” John 15:10 and, “...whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.” 1 John 2:5

Isn’t that so wonderful? Isn’t it so beautiful? We can know that we love Him, simply by our loving obedience to Him. THIS is how we show God that we truly love Him. But my precious sisters, this is where the challenge comes in. Total obedience is quite challenging and quite hard at times. The world tells us that we don’t have to totally obey Yahweh and His word, yet God tells us that we don’t even know Him, if we don’t! He calls us a liar if we say that we love Him and obey Him not! (1 John 2:4) This is serious!

This is why I think it is so important to do these challenges and be challenged in His word, as I know after living in this sinful world for a whole of 27 years, it can be very challenging to live our lives sold out to God. One of the things I have found myself doing a lot lately is looking at myself in a “mirror” so-to-speak to see if I pass the test of what God has called me to be and do, and this is what I want to encourage you all to do, too. Let’s let God’s word pour over our hearts and souls, and challenge us to live a more perfect life for Him. Let’s let Satan stand back and be in complete awe at the lives we live, and let’s be a shining light and a testimony to the world and show them who our God is and what He has done in our lives! Let’s take a firm stand for righteousness, shall we?

In the coming pages we will look at scripture and see what God wants us to do and then I want us to really think about and pray about it and see if we are living our lives according to how He has asked us to live them.

I am also going to put forth a challenge for how we can live out each challenge in our very lives on a daily basis. May Yahweh get all the glory and honor!

Part One

Challenge 1

Shining For Him

I would like to start today's challenge off by reading Proverbs 4:18,

"But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble."

Have you ever thought about this verse and what it meant? As I pondered it, it was just so amazing! I know I had never really pondered it much, yet Yahweh showed me just how important this verse really was! Let's dig deeper and see what it is saying.

"But the path of the just is as the shining light, **that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.**"

Sisters, that's us this verse is talking about!!! Do we shine for God more and more each day? Are we truly a "shining" (bright) light for His Kingdom? In order to be a shining (bright) light, we must be completely different from the world. For how could we be a light to those around us, if we are just like them?

The world often tells us that we must "fit it". Yet, what does God call us to be? Does He not want us to be a peculiar people unto Himself? Read 1 Peter 2:9 it says, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, **a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

Sisters, do you know what *peculiar* means? Peculiar means that we will be different (set apart) from those around us. Are we? Are we that bright, shining light, or has our light become dull with time?

My challenge to you today is, Look within your own life and see if you are meeting up to this verse or not. Are you, my sisters, a peculiar person, set apart and different from those around you in the world? What makes you set apart? What makes you different? And what areas do you find yourself wanting to "fit in" with those in and of the world? What areas are you struggling with in your own lives? How can you change to fit into how God wants you to be?

Common areas that I have found that we can see in an everyday situation are things like:

- Music - is your music that of God, or that of the world?
- Dress - are you dressed in a set apart manner, or are you trying to dress as much alike those around you, as you can? Can people tell that you are Yahshua's, just by the clothes that you wear?
- Attitudes - what is your attitudes like?
- Appearance - How do you act and carry ourselves?

- Words – What is your language like? Is it pleasing to Yahweh, or displeasing?

These are some questions that I want you to ponder today and pray about. Search your heart and see if you are lining up with how Yahshua would want you to be in each of the above areas. Watch yourself today and see what areas you could use help in or what areas need to be totally changed in your life.

Challenge 2

What Sin Is

I spoke a little bit about being bright shining lights for Yahweh's Kingdom in the last challenge. I would like to now talk about some reasons as to why we may not be able to shine for Him.

What are some of the reasons for us not being able to shine, like we know He wants us to? Sometimes the reason we can't become those shining lights, is because we have sin in our lives. Sin will keep us from becoming the Virtuous Daughters (in other words, the shining lights that He has called us to be) and the shining lights that we long to become. Sin will bind you in ways you never thought possible and prevent these things from happening.

Recently we watched a video about a missionary who refused to give Yahweh his Pineapple field. He held on to it, getting angry when others would steal from it. Yahweh showed him that the reason this was happening, was because he had sin in his life. My question to you is, what is Yahweh not allowing to happen in your own life, because of the sin that is binding you?

Here are some interesting references of sin that I read in a devotional book one time that really had me thinking and so I wanted to pass them along to you, so that you too, could be thinking about them. Here they are:

1. Sin is lawless, a transgression from any of God's standards
2. It is failing to trust in and do what God's word says
3. Sin is wanting to do things our own way, rather than God's way
4. It is presuming God will help us, even when we are neglecting His truth
5. Sin is thinking we can get by without God's help

Are we in transgression of God's standards? Are we failing to trust God and what His word truly says? Do we want to do things our own way, rather than God's way? Are we thinking that God will bless us, even when we are in disobedience to His commands? Do we think that we can get by without God's help?

These are some serious thoughts that I want you all to ponder. I will try to get into each one a little bit deeper as we go on with these challenges, but I want you to ponder these questions in your own heart and answer them to yourself. Which areas do you need to work on? Which areas is Satan trying to bind you up in and get you to sin?

Challenge 3

Staying Under Authority

The last challenge I had you ponder the below points and to pray and seek Yahweh's will concerning your own life and the areas that these sins are trying to gain roots in your life. Let's quickly read through them again to refresh our memory of them.

1. Sin is lawless, a transgression from any of God's standards
2. It is failing to trust in and do what God's word says
3. Sin is wanting to do things our own way, rather than God's way
4. It is presuming God will help us, even when we are neglecting His truth
5. Sin is thinking we can get by without God's help

In this challenge, I would like to ponder the first one and bring it a little closer to home. "Sin is lawless, a transgression from *any* of God's standards". You see, precious ones, sin is going against ANY of God's standards, not just the "big ones" like murder and stealing. It isn't just one in particular, but all of them. Each and every time we deviate from God's standards, we sin. This is why I believe it is so important to constantly go back and review what God's standards for a Christian daughter really are, because how can we know if we are sinning and correct our paths, if we don't know what God's standards really are? We simply cannot.

One of the things I would like to look at in this challenge is an issue that I think is foundational in a daughter's life. If we go astray in this one, it will lead us down a path of destruction. And just like it is a foundational truth in our walk with God, it is also a foundational truth in our lives as daughters and later on, a foundational truth in our marriage. And this foundational truth is "Staying under our own authority figures and obeying the voice of them".

I want you to think about something for a minute. If you do not obey the voice of your fathers and stay underneath the authority that God has placed over you, how do you then expect to be able to obey God? The two go hand in hand. Our earthly relationships are a picture of our heavenly relationship. If you are off on one, you will be off on the other. It is just that simple. This is why God has blessed us with fathers. They are our training ground. They teach us how to obey God, how to be submissive to God, and how to love and honor God.

I would like to compare some scripture verses with you about what God says concerning us in our relationships with our fathers and what God says concerning our relationship with Him, as our Heavenly Father. I want you to read through these and see just how similar each relationship really is to the other.

Ephesians 6:1, 3 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

Jeremiah 7:23, “But this thing commanded I them, saying, **Obey my voice, and I will be your God**, and ye shall be my people: and **walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.**”

Do you see the similarity? Here God tells children to obey their parents that it may go well with them, and then we see God telling His own children to do the very same thing with Him, so that once again, it may go well with us.

Colossians 3:20, “Children, obey your parents **in all things**: for this is well pleasing unto Yahweh.”

Deuteronomy 5:29, “O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and **keep all my commandments always**, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!”

Here we see God telling us children to keep all our fathers commandments, and once again, we see God tell us that we are to keep all His commandments, as well. Yahweh never tells us to do something to our earthly fathers, that He doesn't expect us to do for Him. By us learning to obey our earthly parents, we are learning to obey Him.

Hebrews 13:17, “**Obey them that have the rule over you**, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

Here we see that obeying those that have the rule over us (i.e. our own fathers), and us submitting to them, is the very same thing, once again that God calls for us as believers to do to Him. He calls us to obey Him and to also submit to Him.

Girls, do you see what I am trying to show you? There is NO difference! As much as the world tries to make us believe this lie, there is really no difference in how we treat our earthly fathers and how we are supposed to treat God – it is one and the same thing.

The question we need to ask ourselves is; Is how I am living my life and treating my father, the way that I want to treat my God?

Girls remember, our earthly relationships, mirror that of our heavenly relationship. If our earthly relationship is not what it should be with our fathers, we are only kidding ourselves in believing that our heavenly relationship with our God (and Father), is fine. You cannot have one in disarray and the other doing just fine. It doesn't work that way.

So now I ask you, how is your relationship with your father? Are you living your life according to how your Heavenly Father requires you to live? Are you following GOD'S standards in this area of your life, or are you following the world's standards?

Challenge 4

The American Lie

In the last challenge, I talked a little bit on how God wants us to stay underneath our authority, even as adults and in this challenge, I would like to talk a little bit more about the lie that is going around America today, as girls, before we can really dig deep within these challenges, we must have the foundational blocks in order within our lives or everything will just crumble beneath us. This is why this topic is SO crucial in our lives.

Right now, in America, we girls are being told that once we hit a certain age and are single, we are no longer underneath our fathers authority, and we can do what we please (this by the way, was started by the feminist movement, which was started by a man, and he stated that IF he could get girls out from underneath their fathers and husbands authority, he would have destroyed America from the inside, out – which was his goal).

However, this is a lie and nowhere in scripture do we see that a girl is EVER out from underneath their fathers or husbands authority. Nowhere have I read or found this to be true, but instead, I find just the opposite. Read what Yahshua had to say on this very subject...what the chain of authority is. 1 Corinthians 11:3 says, “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is the Anointed; and **the head of the woman is the man**; and the head of the Anointed is God.”

Girls, here God is giving us a clear line for authority and He tells us who is over whom. Nowhere do I see that a girl, regardless of her age, is subject to something differently regarding her authority. And this is good! Girls, we NEED these men to guide, shelter and protect us from harm! This is a blessing! It is not that we are any less of a woman because we must follow a man’s guidance. Yahweh put them over us because He knew that we would need them, that we are more easily deceived than the men are (1 Timothy 2:14, “And Adam was not deceived, **but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.**”). So you see it is for our own benefit and blessing to stay underneath our men.

This brings me to our challenge for today:

Find one area in which you have gone out from under your father’s authority and are doing something you know to be contrary to his will concerning your life, and yield that area to God. Give it to Him. Then go to your father and ask his forgiveness and then purpose within your

heart to change. Girls, changing takes place one building block at a time. I don't want you to get discouraged and give up. Just pray and ask Yahweh what area you need to yield to Him in and change in and then do it. And remember, as a pastor once said recently, "Surrendering our rights is a daily thing, not something we do just once and it is over with. We must put these things on the alter every single day." Girls, I can say that this is so true! Even in my own life I find myself being human. I surrender something one day, then find that I took it right back the next. This is why surrendering something to God, is a daily ritual.

May Yahweh show us all which areas in our lives we need to alter and change in and may He give us all the daily strength we need to not just surrender them, but keep them on His alter.

Challenge 5

Our Fathers

I pray this finds you being much challenged, as I have certainly been through this. Yahweh is good and it is so good to be challenged every now and again, right? ☺ So, shall we begin with today's challenge?

Today I would like to speak about how important it is to please that authority figure in our lives, whether we're married or single.

One way Yahweh tells us how we can show Him that we love Him, is by doing that which we know would please Him. This is called the action of our love...we do something that he will be pleased with, to show Him just how much we love Him.

Colossians 1:10, "**That ye might walk worthy of Yahweh unto all pleasing**, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;"

1 Thessalonians 2:4, "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not **as pleasing** men, but **God**, which trieth our hearts."

1 John 3:22, "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, **and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.**"

The same thing applies to our earthly fathers. When we want to show them that we love them, we will try to do things that will bring them pleasure.

This brings me to our challenge for today:

Write out a list of 5-10 different things that you know would bring pleasure to of your father. Once you write out a list of different things you know would bless your father, choose one or two from the list and do them for him today and show him just how much you love and admire him.

Here is what I chose to do for mine; I know that my father prefers my hair down and even though I knew I had a full day of cleaning and running errands so was tempted to pull it back and braid it (just to keep it out of my way), but I decided to keep my hair loose and down (pulling back just my bangs), as this is the way my father likes it best.

The other thing I knew would bring pleasure to my father was to thoroughly clean his office, pulling things off the shelves and dusting each and every item, and allowing him to work in a

clean environment (we have a ton of dust, so it is so hard to get to everything in his office regularly, so it only gets a deep cleaning once in awhile – he works here at home). As much as I was tired last night, I knew I couldn't just do the normal amount of dusting this time. Things were being covered in a layer of dust (as some of the things are hardly ever used and just sit there) and I knew as much as my father never complains about it, it would certainly bless him to take a little bit more time to do a thorough cleaning of it, for him.

So these are a couple of the things that I decided to do for my father to bring him pleasure. What are some of the things you can decide to do for your father, which would bring him great pleasure?

Challenge 6

Our Mothers

So, are you ready to dig into this challenge? ☺

I've been dealing with our relationship with Yahweh, staying underneath our authority, and our relationship with our fathers. Now I would like to deal a little bit with our mothers and our relationship to them. We can obviously see that we are to obey and honor our fathers, as they are the authority over us right now (as singles), but what about our mothers? Where do they come in? How are we supposed to treat them? Any idea what the Bible says about that, Girls? Well, let's go see, shall we?

Exodus 20:12, "**Honour** thy father and **thy mother**: that thy days may be long upon the land which Yahweh thy God giveth thee."

Deuteronomy 5:16, "**Honour** thy father and **thy mother**, as Yahweh thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which Yahweh thy God giveth thee."

Here we see that we aren't just to honour our fathers, but we are to honour our mothers, as well.

Exodus 21:17, "And he that curseth (or despise, according to the Strong's concordance #7043) his father, **or his mother**, shall surely be put to death."

Here we see once again that what Yahweh says for us to do concern not only our fathers, but our mothers as well. But, let's go on and see what else it says about our mothers.

Deuteronomy 21:18, "If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, **which will not obey** the voice of his father, or **the voice of his mother**..."

Uh oh! Girls here we see that if we do not obey our fathers and our mothers, then we are called a rebellious daughter! This is serious and we see that it doesn't just apply to our fathers, but to our dear mothers as well. But, you think it isn't so bad to be a rebellious daughter, but my dear girls, do you realize what rebelliousness is considered as bad as? I want you to read this verse:

1 Samuel 15:23, "**For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft**, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of Yahweh, he hath also rejected thee from being king."

Yahweh tells us that rebelliousness is as the sin of witchcraft! So yes, you may not “practice” witchcraft, as we know that is of the devil, but girls, really, how can we point our finger and say “how dare you! That is serving Satan and is sin!” when we go and rebel and think nothing of it? Yahweh says we have equally sinned in His eyes. Not obeying Mom (or Dad) is just as sinful as if we had offered up something to Satan! This is how serious it is in God’s eyes if we don’t obey their every word! And, Yahweh says that when we rebel (go against our parent’s wishes), then we have also rejected His word.

Do you see how serious this sin really is? It isn’t about our rights verses their rights. It is about downright, sinning against Yahweh and our parents. It’s about our rebelling against not only our dear parents, but about us rebelling against Yahweh Himself!

So you see the rules that apply to dad, also apply to mom. How we treat dad is how we are supposed to treat mom. They are acting as a single unit now (Gen 2:21). We must treat our dear precious mothers with great honor and respect! We must obey her every word, dear girls. Just as you learned to love, honor and please your father in the last challenge, you need to learn to love, honor and please your mother, too!

This brings me to our challenge for today:

Write out a list of 5-10 different things that you know would bring pleasure to of your mother (and yes, you can sit your moms down and ask them if you can’t think of anything). Once you write out a list of different things you know would bless her, then I want each of you to choose 2 things from that list to do today to show your mom how much you really do love and appreciate her.

Let’s bless our parents, Girls and let’s show the world just how much we appreciate all that they have done for us!

Challenge 7

Our Siblings

I pray this week of challenges has been a blessing to each of you and has found you very challenged in the Messiah!

Since this week was the foundational week, talking about staying underneath our authority and honoring and loving our parents, I would like to end it with our relationships with our siblings, before we go onto Godly character traits.

You see, girls, sometimes we can get along with our parents, but not get along with our siblings at all. And yet, to live a life like the Messiah's life, we must be able to get along with and love everyone.

John 13:34 says, "A new commandment I give unto you, **That ye love one another**; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

John 13:35 says, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, **if ye have love one to another.**"

And John 15:17 says, "These things I command you, **that ye love one another.**"

Yet, some may just say "Well, I will love them, but I will not get along with them." I want you to read and ponder this next verse: John 15:12 says, "This is my commandment, **That ye love one another, as I have loved you.**"

Girls, how has Yahshua loved us? Has He said "Well, I will love you when you are kind to me and love me back?" or does He love us regardless as to whether or not we love Him back or what we might think, act or do? Girls, Yahshua has loved us, regardless as to who we may be. We have all sinned against Him, yet this hasn't altered His love for us...and neither should it alter our love for our family. Love is not circumstantial; it is a choice that we make.

You will find that your family is not perfect, no family ever is, including our siblings. But you know what? Neither are you! And as we saw before, love is a voluntary choice that we make. Love doesn't always come naturally, but regardless as to how unnatural it may be, we still must decide within our hearts that we will love (and respect!) each other regardless of how we may feel. And you know what girls? If you truly go out of your way to love unconditionally, your attitude about the other person will also change.

This brings me to our challenge for today:

I want you to think about each of your siblings. Which one(s) are you having trouble getting along with? Then I want you to think about how you could voluntarily choose to love them today.

Remember: Love is an action. I want you to go out of your way to do something special for that sibling(s), to show them that you love them. Think about it. What could you do for them that would show them your love for them?

Remember: Don't do something for them, just to get something back! This is not true love. You choose to love them regardless if they ever love you back. You are just doing it to show them of your love for them (and demonstrate Yahweh's love to them), not to get them to do something in return.

Challenge 8

Giving Thanks

Today I would like to challenge you about giving thanks to Yahweh for what He has done in your life. There is a saying “When we forget what Yahweh has done in the past, we lose hope for what He can do in the future”. So often in a believer’s life we often forget what Yahweh has done in our past. When it happens, we usually thank Him, but then it is like we often forget...and then we start to worry about what He can possibly do in our future. And sometimes He does things in our lives that we don’t even thank Him for! Girls, it is SO important to thank Yahweh for what He has done! He *deserves* our praise, Girls!

Let’s read a few verses together on praising and thanking Yahweh and what He tells us in His word to do. 1 Chronicles 16:8 says, “**Give thanks unto Yahweh**, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.”

1 Chronicles 16:34, “**O give thanks unto Yahweh; for he is good**; for his mercy endureth for ever.”

We see these verses that we are to thank Him, for He is good.

Psalms 30:4, “Sing unto Yahweh, O ye saints of his, and **give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.**”

And again in... Psalms 97:12, “**Rejoice in Yahweh**, ye righteous; and **give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.**”

Read these verses again. Are we just to thank Him *when* He does something? No! We must also thank Him at *remembering* what He has done in our lives! Girls, our thanksgiving should be continual, not just in that one instance. It should be continually in our hearts and on our lips! What about having to thank Yahweh, even when things aren’t going as we would have liked them to go? Let’s see. Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:18, “In **every thing give thanks**: for this is the will of God in the anointed Yahshua concerning you.”

Alright Girls, this last verse is when it gets difficult. Here we see that we are to give thanks, *REGARDLESS* as to whether we think it was good or bad. Girls, this means that even in situations that aren’t the best, we can and *need* to find ways of thanking and praising Yahweh.

There have been times in my own life, when, at the time, I did not see any good in that situation. How *could* I possibly find a way of turning that situation into something to thank and praise Yahweh for?! What could I possibly thank Yahweh for regarding that time in my life?

There are times when I have gone through some very painful experiences. Take losing my own precious little sister and a dear little four year old friend. How could I thank and praise Yahweh for a time like that? Then there were times when I would go through some very trying times. Again, how could I thank Yahweh for those times? Yes, some of them were certainly caused because of my own sin, yet, even in those times of struggling, how could I later turn it into thanksgiving to Yahweh?

You know what I found out? I found out that Yahweh allows us to go through each and every situation, and if we allow Him to, He will use it for His glory! There are ALWAYS things that we can thank Yahweh for, regardless as to the situations and trials we face in life. Take losing my little sister for an example. I could later turn around and thank Yahweh for taking her, as I was able to see His grace in taking her life. She is now completely whole and sitting at His feet! Did that take away the pain of having to go through such a trial? No. But, it did change it from possibly becoming a bitter time in my life, to one of realizing that Yahweh knows what is best and that even when I go through painful experiences, He will always be with me and do what is best. I can thank Him, even if I don't understand the reasoning of why He chose to do a certain thing.

Another example would be losing my little friend, Sarah. What could I possibly find to thank Him for in taking a 4 year old that I loved with all my heart? That was one of the most painful experiences I have ever gone through in my life! Yet, I could still find something to thank Him for. She was no longer struggling and in pain and she was completely healed of her cancer! Another blessing that came out of this is I had become even closer to this family. Yahweh has also allowed me to go through that for a reason. I can see that now. I can now help others go through their own struggle and battle with cancer and I now have a whole lot more understand and compassion for those struggling with that disease, than I ever had before that trial!

With other trials in my life, although I couldn't see the good in them at the time, I can now look back and thank and praise Yahweh from the depth of my heart, for bringing me through it, and for not giving me what I had asked, because girls, HE KNOWS WHAT IS BEST! We don't, even though we often think we do!

What about situations that we are having trouble pin pointing something that we can be thankful for? What do we do then? For these situations, something that has worked for me is that I would simply just thank Him for it, because I knew as much as I didn't understand and see the whole picture, He did.

And this brings me to our challenge today:

This is what I want you to do; I want you to find something every morning and evening, to thank Yahweh for. Even if you can just say, "Yahweh, I thank you for "_", even though I don't

understand why You allowed it to happen. But because I know that You alone know what is best for me and what I must go through to be purified in You, and I want to thank You for allowing this to happen." That would be fine. Yahweh understands and He cares.

But you know what girls? We *have* to learn to give thanks to Yahweh for EVERYTHING, because this is His will for our lives! (1 Thessalonians 5:18) This is not an option, it is a command! It is something we as believers, MUST DO! So go spend some time thinking about how to praise and thank Yahweh for something you are struggling with right now. See what good you can think of that has happened as a result of that trial in your life.

Challenge 9

Personal Devotions

This morning Yahweh laid it on my heart to talk about our personal devotions. If we are going to live devoted lives for Him, we must also be devoted to doing our devotions each and every morning. This is how we learn more about Yahweh and how He wants us to live our lives. I want you all to think about something for a minute. How long do you think you could last, if you never ate any food? How many days would it take until you became weak as water? I dare say, not very many. I have personally known people, who have fasted for a couple of days, and by the time they broke their fast, they were extremely weak. Yahweh made it so that our bodies **MUST** be continually fed. And you know what? He made it so that **WE** had to feed ourselves, not someone else. It is up to **US** to see that we feed our bodies properly; we are not to leave this up to someone else.

Yet, how many of us seem to think that we can simply let our spiritual selves starve to death and never feed them? How many of us only pick up our bibles when going to church or when our family calls us for family devotions? When do **WE** make it a point to get in and feed ourselves on and with the Word of Yahweh? Do **WE** feed our spiritual lives or do we think we can just get by with a meal once in awhile? Are we becoming weak as water, spiritually, because we have neglected getting in and feed on His word daily?

Matthew 4:4, "But he answered and said...**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**"

Girls, we cannot live on bread alone...if we are to live full and righteous lives, we *must* eat that spiritual food...and we can get that by feeding on the word of God.

This brings me to our challenge today:

I would like for you, dear girls, to make it a point to spend time in Yahweh's word, daily. Put some time aside and just spend it in His word. Our daily devotions and spending time with Yahweh is a vital part of our walks with Him, not to mention our relationship with Him. If this is neglected, our spiritual lives will crumble, like any other relationship. Think about it. If a husband and wife simply never spoke together, never spent any time together, how long do you think it would take before their marriage would fall apart? The same holds true in our spiritual lives, with the Messiah. Girls, He **IS** our groom, our husband! We **MUST** put time aside

each and every day for Him. Go before Him and find out what His love letter (the Bible) says to you. Read His letter to you and see what it says, and don't rely on others to feed you, spiritually. Go to Yahweh and let Him feed you with His word.

Challenge 10

Ideas for Meaningful Devotions

I spoke about how important it was for us as Godly Daughters, to have daily devotions in our last challenge. I recently went through a Bible study that gave some wonderful ideas as to how we could make our devotions more meaningful. I thought I would copy those ideas down for you, as I thought they might be of an encouragement to you, as you know what? It IS important! I cannot stress how important it is for us to mediate on His word day and night! We need this “food” in order to live a thriving life for Him. Let’s make the best of the time that we have to spend with Him, shall we?

This was taken from the Bible Study “Looking at myself, before loving someone else”:

“Wisdom is not learned in a day. It is not something we get simply by reading a book or working through a lesson. The Bible says “The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10) Wisdom comes from God. To be wise, we need steady, lifelong exposure to God. This is the primary purpose of setting aside devotional time each day.

Many people struggle with having a meaningful devotional time. Following are some pointers:

- 1) *Keep your commitment to God up-to-date.* God wants your devotion more than He wants your “devotions”. Settle it in your heart and mind that you will follow God no matter what happens, no matter how you feel, no matter where or how long you live.
- 2) *Set a regular time for your devotions.* Establishing a regular time is a healthy discipline. Obviously, it can become a meaningless ritual, but on the other hand, without setting a time, it easily gets crowded out with other things.
- 3) *Be systematic in your devotional time.* Set goals, do study projects, etc. Following are examples: (a) Read a chapter from the Book of Proverbs each day for a month. (b) Read through the Bible in one year. (c) Study a particular book of the Bible. (d) Memorize a portion of Scripture. (e) Do a study of a subject relevant to something you are facing personally, such as pride and humility, submitting to authority, moral purity, or a right way of viewing yourself. (f) Do a character study of someone in the Bible whose life you want to learn from – read the pertinent Scriptures, label significant sections of the person’s life, note turning points, list strengths and weaknesses, study his or her contributions to God’s Kingdom, and then make a list of lessons you can learn. Having goals for your devotional time gives a sense of purpose and helps maintain interest.
- 4) *Vary your activities.* As the above suggestions imply, there are many ways to expose one’s heart to God and His Word. In addition to the above suggestions, you might

supplement your Bible reading at times with hymn studies or reading devotional books or Christian biographies.

- 5) *Write down something from your reading.* This can vary depending on what kind of project you are doing. If you are reading in a history section of the Bible, for example, you can use the “Who? What? When? Where? How?” questions to keep track of what you read. Or you can look for one or all of the following: a command to obey, a promise to encourage, an example to follow, a question to ponder, and an application to your life. Writing things down not only helps keep you mentally alert; it also helps you remember what you have studied.”

I pray that this gives you some things to ponder as you work on having a meaningful devotional time with your Saviour. I know keeping a notebook with me as I am reading through the Bible, has really helped me. It gives me a place that I can write down the things that come to my mind. As I see different scripture verses that stick out at me, I can write them down right away, and also why they stuck out to me. Sometimes something triggers my memory about a prayer need that I need to be praying about, so I stop and write those down as well. Other times I will come across scripture verses that I can pray, either for myself, my future husband or another person. And at other times, I will simply read something that I do not understand or something that brings about questions on something that I once believed. I can also write these down, so that I can later remember them and go look into them, after I am done.

So you see, having a spiritual notebook can be VERY helpful! You can also write down meaningful things that you read in a devotional book or something, too, as well as prayers that you may have at that time. Personally, I like to get a smaller size notebook that will fit in my Biblecase, as this way no matter where I go, I always have it with me, along with a couple of pens. 😊

Another thing that I have recently started was, to go through scripture with a specific purpose. For this study I bought myself a wide margin bible, as well as some high quality, very fine tipped (005) markers in 8 different colors. I am going through scripture studying anything and everything that has to do with family dynamics. So basically, anything that has to do with relationships, both heavenly and earthly. I made up my own color code to make it easier to see at a glance who was talking and what they were doing or saying. On the side margins I write about it, simplifying it, but then I will also write what I have learned from it or how I could apply it to my own life. This is why I call it “reading the bible with purpose”. 😊 Because this is such a full study of the entire bible, I will only use this bible for this specific purpose.

So this is another idea that you could try doing...and it could be on any subject, too, not just family dynamics. 😊

Remember: Yahweh is more concerned about your devotion to Him, than your “devotions”.

Part Two

Challenge 11

What is Love?

In the past 11 days we have talked about quite a lot. I have gone over some different topics like shining for Yahweh, what sin is, our relationship with God and our family, our devotions and more, and now I would now like to move on to some character studies, namely the character trait of love. Most character traits stem back to this one trait called love.

Have you ever thought about what love is? How do we love each other? Yahshua commands us in John 13:34 to love one another. Let's read what He says,

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

So, I ask you again, how do you love? What is love? Have you ever thought about it before? I think the best example of love is found in 1 Corinthians chapter 13. Let's read what it says love is...shall we?

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 says, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity (love), I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity (love), I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity (love), it profiteth me nothing. Charity (love) suffereth long, and is kind; charity (love) envieth not; charity (love) vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity (love) never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity (love), these three; but the greatest of these is charity (love)."

Wow! What a list! We see that in order to love someone, we have to have the following traits:

1. We must suffer long
2. We must be kind to each other
3. We must not be envious (want something that isn't rightfully ours)
4. We won't boast ("Look at what I did! I'm better than you!" type of attitude)
5. We will be humble and not prideful (we will think of others as being better than ourselves)
6. We will behave in a manner that is Christ-like in behavior (this goes for the way we dress, girls. If we truly love those around us, we would also dress in a fashion that will show that we love them and not in a fashion that will make others around us fall – but this also means in every other behavior, as well)
7. We won't be selfish (once again, we will think about others first and not have a "me first" type of attitude)
8. We won't be easily given to anger...we will have a controlled spirit (How many of us lose our tempers? If you truly love that other person as you should, you would have a controlled spirit and not let your anger get the best of you)
9. We won't think evil of others (we will think good things of others, not bad)
10. We won't rejoice when another sins (We should be sorry when our brothers and sisters sin, not be happy that they did)
11. We will rejoice in the truth (that means that we will also speak the truth and not tell lies)
12. We will bear all things
13. We will believe in others
14. We will endure all things
15. We will know that true love never fails

Love, although it is a small word, is actually quite a big trait!

This brings me to today's challenge:

I would like each of you to grab an older dictionary, preferably the 1828 dictionary and look up each of these words in 1 Corinthians 13. Read through each of those definitions and see just which ones you may need help in and may need to change in. I think you will very surprised at the definitions that you will find in there! ☺

Challenge 12

Enduring and Suffering Long

I pray this challenge finds you doing very well and ever growing in your walk and relationship with your Saviour.

During the last challenge, I challenged you to look up the definitions of what love is, using the words in 1 Corinthians chapter 13. Now I would like to look them up together and discuss each one with you. I know just last month when I was going through a Bible study and they had me look these very same words up it really helped me to be able to look at it from a little deeper perspective and help me to realize just where I had been falling short in these areas. I would also like to challenge you to do this in other Bible studies such as Proverbs 31, Titus 2 etc. It really does add a depth to your studying that is just so amazing!

But, before I go on much farther, I wanted to also share with you all a verse that I read this morning (or verses) that I thought also applied to our study on love. We had read the 1 Corinthian 13 passage on love, but as we were reading our family devotions this morning, we came across this section in Galatians 5 that I found very similar to that list in 1 Corinthians, so I wanted to quickly share that with you as well. And since it is very similar, we will also be looking up these definitions as well.

Galatians 5:22-23 says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

So, shall we begin? Are you ready? I know I am! 😊

First, let's go back and read the first verse dealing with love and the words that it described love as. 1 Corinthians 13:4 says, "Charity (love) **suffereth long**, and is kind; charity (love) envieth not; charity (love) vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,"

Okay, so here we see the words "suffereth long", "kind", "envy", "vaunteth", and "puffed up". In order to know how not to envy, we must first know what envy is, and so we must also learn what the word "vaunteth" and "puffed up" mean, so that we know how to apply these things to our life. Yes, we are to do the opposite as these, but in order to know how to do that, we must take these words back to their root definitions, which is what I am about to do with you. 😊

Let's start with the word "Suffereth long" and see how we can apply this trait to our lives. In the Strong's Concordance we read that this means:

- 1) to be of a long spirit, not to lose heart

- 2) to persevere patiently and bravely in enduring misfortunes and troubles
- 3) to be patient in bearing the offenses and injuries of others
- 4) to be mild and slow in avenging
- 5) to be longsuffering, slow to anger, slow to punish

I think this kind of goes with how the Webster's 1828 Dictionary puts it. They put it as; To endure; to support, to sustain; not to sink under.

Basically what this "suffering long" means is to not give up, to patiently endure whatever comes our way. Not to lose heart, but to instead trust Yahweh through the good times and the hard times. To be patient and slow to anger; which means that we will be able to take a lot of something before we break under the pressure. We won't be quick to lose our tempers. We won't be impatient with something or somebody. We won't want to "get even" with someone who has wronged us. Basically girls, we will be able to endure to the end, holding ourselves in check. We won't sink when the pressure builds, but we will be strong enough, through Yahshua, to endure it.

Reading this was a great encouragement and challenge to me this morning. So often I have felt so weak, yet we know that 2 Corinthians 12:10 says, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for the Anointed's sake: **for when I am weak, then am I strong.**" Isn't this so beautiful, girls? When we are weak, we are then made strong through Yahshua. With Yahshua's help and grace we can "suffer long". We know that Yahshua won't give us more than we can bare, but, that through Him, we can bare all that He sends our way because He promises to "never leave us nor forsake us" (Hebrews 13:5). Yes, we sometimes feel impatient and feel like we just can't do it anymore, yet girls, we know that through Him, we must suffer long, and when we do, we are not only showing Yahweh our love, but, we are also showing all those around us that we love them because we are willing to suffer long for them.

That brings us to today's challenge:

I would like you to remember to "suffer long" as you go about your day today. Don't get impatient. Don't lose your tempers and get short with those around you. Endure patiently. And know that when you are growing weary, to lean on your Saviour! He is there. We can gain strength through Him when we are weak. He is there for us and He will help us through each and every trial in our lives, if we only go to Him and lean on Him. Love those around you and be enduring and suffering long for their sakes. They will be blessed by this action of love on your part.

Challenge 13

Kindness

I pray this challenge finds you doing wonderfully and growing daily with your Saviour! I know I have certainly been challenged lately in my own personal walk. It is amazing how Yahweh can continue to show you things that you need to work on. My walk with Him has definitely been a whole learning experience, atleast for me, but, I wouldn't trade a day that I have had walking with Him!

So...are you ready to dig a little bit deeper this morning and find out what some of these words mean and how we can apply them to our everyday lives? I know I sure am! I've been looking forward to reading more since yesterday morning! I've really enjoyed looking up these verses and words and just learning how I can apply them to my own life, even more so than I had previously thought possible. I guess it helps when you realize what these words really mean! 😊

Okay, we left off with 1 Corinthians 13:4 and the word kind. Let's read the verse again, to refresh our memory on what it said.

1 Corinthians 13:4 says, "Charity suffereth long, and **is kind**; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,"

So, do any of you really know what it means to be kind? Let's look it up and see, shall we?

It comes from the Strong's number 5541

And it means; to be kind 1; 1

- 1) to show one's self mild, to be kind, use kindness

Here is what the Webster's 1828 Dictionary says it means;

- 1) Disposed to do good to others, and to make them happy by granting their requests, supplying their wants and assisting them in distress; having tenderness or goodness of nature; benevolent; benignant.
- 2) Proceeding from tenderness or goodness of heart; benevolent; as a kind act; a kind return of favors.

Now we must look up some of these larger words and see what they mean, since I for one didn't know what "benevolent" meant before I looked it up! 😊

Benevolent means;

- 1) Having a disposition to do good; possessing love to mankind, and a desire to promote their prosperity and happiness; kind.

And Benignant means;

- 1) Kind, gracious, favorable.

So basically, being kind is looking out for another. It is thinking of them, more highly than you. It is putting their needs above your own. I like how Webster put it “to promote their prosperity and happiness”. This is what kindness is and the opposite would be to have a selfish attitude, only thinking about “me” and “I”. What do “I” want? What can “I” do for myself to make “myself” happy today? Yahweh said that we should be “...kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for the Anointed’s sake hath forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32)

In other words, we ought to treat others, as we would want to be treated. I will go one step farther. We ought to treat others as the Messiah has treated us, girls. When you think about being unkind to someone, (and remember that “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: ...” (Proverbs 23:7), I want you to remember how Yahshua has treated you. I don’t care if someone has been unkind to you. That does NOT make it right for you to turn around and be unkind back. Remember, Yahweh says in Matthew 5:44-45, “But I say unto you, **Love your enemies, bless them** that curse you, **do good to them** that hate you, **and pray for them** which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven:...” In other words, we are to return good for evil...in all cases.

That means girls, when you are tempted to return evil for evil, or unkindness for unkindness, you need to stop in your tracks! Don’t do it! Control that temper of yours and calmly CHOOSE to do well to them and be kind to them, EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT KIND TO YOU! Another verse I really like regarding this subject is, Proverbs 15:1 where it says that, “**A soft answer turneth away wrath:** but grievous words stir up anger.”

Remember: how you can keep the peace is with your choosing to return good for evil. When someone speaks angrily at you, or does something unkind to you, all you have to do is speak back in a loving and kind voice, and turn around and bless them. Is this not what Yahshua has done for us? Has He not returned good for our evil? Has He not turned around and repaid us by blessing us, when really, He should have cursed us, as this is what we deserved?

This is what it means to be kind, girls. Kindness starts, when another is unkind to us, and we CHOOSE to be kind in return, regardless as to if someone deserved it or not.

This brings me to our challenge for today:

As you go about your day, I want you to be kind to those around you. Carry about with you a meek and quiet spirit, and CHOOSE to be kind, even if someone is unkind to you. No, especially if someone is unkind to you! If, as you are going about your day, someone does something not so very nice to you, I want you to turn around and find something to do in return that would be thoughtful and nice to them and would actually bless them. This is what I want us to do today. Go out of your way to bless anyone who says or does something unkind to you. Show them what true love really is and watch what happens!

Challenge 14

Envy

I pray that this finds you all looking forward to tomorrow and thinking about what you can be thankful for what Yahweh has done in your life this past year! I know I certainly have a whole lot to be thankful for...we serve an awesome Yah, girls! I can't even begin to tell you of my gratitude for what He has done this past year...especially where my relationship with Him is concerned! Ah, the sweetness of being in a relationship with my precious Lord and Saviour! No, it isn't always easy, but it is a joy, nonetheless!

Okay, to pick up where we left off yesterday. I think we left off with the word "envieth", or in other words, "envy", as envieth is the action of envying or having envy in our life. 😊 Long way about saying that today we are going to be looking up what the word "envy" means! 😊

Before we look up the word "envy", I would like to first reread our verse this morning, so that it is once again fresh in our minds. 1 Corinthians 13:4 says, "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity (or love) **envieth not**; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,"

So what exactly does the word "envy" mean? You have any idea, my girls? Let's look it up in the Webster's 1828 Dictionary and see what it says it means and how we can then apply it to our everyday lives.

Envy means;

Pain, uneasiness, mortification or discontent excited by the sight of another's superiority or success, accompanied with some degree of hatred or malignity, and often or usually with a desire or an effort to depreciate the person, and with pleasure in seeing him depressed. Envy springs from pride, ambition or love, mortified that another has obtained what one has a strong desire to possess.

Ouch! Basically, when we are upset that another person has what we want, we are envying that person. Another form of envy is wishing that another person wouldn't succeed, simply because we haven't. Or, thinking only about ourselves, instead of thinking about someone else. In other words, looking at someone and getting upset because they have something that we want, and we don't have it, and instead of being happy for them, we get upset because we haven't gotten what we want.

When I first sat down to do this challenge, I thought to myself “I don’t envy, do I?” I really didn’t think I had a problem with this area in my life. Yet, as I began to search within my heart and ponder this whole thing, I realized that I did indeed have a problem with it in my life, concerning envying others.

Read this definition again; Envy springs from pride, ambition or love, *mortified that another has obtained what one has a strong desire to possess.*

As I read that definition, I had to seriously be honest with myself. I have been upset and bothered that, here I have longed to be a wife and mother for YEARS, and yet for some reason, Yahweh has chosen that it hasn’t been the correct time for me. He has me doing other things right now, which is fine. But, the problem comes in that, here I look around myself and see people a LOT younger than I am, are being married all around me, all the time. I personally know of 3-4 people getting married within the next year. Some are still in their teen years. Yet here I am, in my upper twenties, and I am still single. Why? Why does something seem to be so easy for one, yet a battle for someone else?

But girls, really, what is my core problem here? Here I am sitting here “envying” another person that Yahweh has brought them their spouse, and hasn’t brought me mine. I want to be a helpmeet so very badly, too! I have trained for this for years. I have longed to be a wife for years. Yet, it now becomes wrong when I am no longer “happy” for another’s success or happy at them being blessed in such a manner. This is when it becomes wrong. It is not wrong to long to be married. Yahweh has said that “it is not good for man to be alone”. He has said that “whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing”. Marriage is honourable. It should be desired. Yet, we also must be happy where Yahweh has us, and be happy at Yahweh so richly blessing another person, even if we are still waiting to be blessed in the same manner.

Do you see what I mean? Envy comes in when we are no longer happy, but upset at hearing the news of another being blessed. We should ALWAYS be happy at hearing of another being blessed! We should NEVER wish for them to not be blessed or try to tear them down for being blessed above us...or what we think as being blessed above us.

This brings me to our challenge for today:

I want you to *honestly* look at your life and see if you are struggling with envy in your heart. Be honest with yourselves, girls. Look within your own heart and see if you are envying something or somebody, even when you may not have ever considered it envy before. You may not struggle with envy in the same way that I have often struggled with it. But, maybe you are struggling with envy in another area of your life?

After you have searched your own heart, I want you to go before Yahweh on your knees and ask Him to help you deal with whatever it is that you are struggling with, if you are indeed

struggling with envy within your heart. He will help you, girls! He has helped me in this area so very often! Let's be happy for another's success; and not be angry or upset about it. And let us learn to be happy with where Yahweh has us all today!

Another challenge I would like you to do today is, (this will more or less help you in the area of envying another of something that they have and you do not), I want you to look within your life...think over everything Yahweh has done in your life this past year. Then I want you to make a "thank you" list to your Heavenly Father for everything that He has done in your life. Sit down and write out a list of all the different things that you are thankful for. Let's let Him know just how thankful we are for everything He has done in our lives this "Thanksgiving" season!

Challenge 15

Pride

I pray you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and had a day full of giving Yahweh the glory and praise for what He has done in your life! I know I had a wonderful day and certainly had a lot to be thankful for!

Today I would like to finish our first verse, which means including both the word “vaunteth” and “puffed up” as I believe they are pretty much the same definitions. Or atleast, they are very similar to each other and dealing with the same problem.

But, before we go on let’s first reread our verse in 1 Corinthians 13;

1 Corinthians 13:4, "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity **vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,**"

Strong’s definition puts the word vaunteth and being puffed up this way:

- 1) to boast one's self
- 2) a self display, employing rhetorical embellishments in extolling
- 3) one's self excessively
- 4) to inflate, blow up, to cause to swell up
- 5) 2a) to puff up, make proud
- 6) 2b) to be puffed up, to bear one's self loftily, be proud

The Webster’s dictionary puts them like this:

Boast; a vain display of what one is or has, or has done; ostentation from vanity.

Driven out suddenly, as air or breath; blown up; swelled with air; inflated with vanity or pride; praised.

Do you get the general idea, girls? Basically, this verse is saying that if we love each other, we will not have a prideful or vain attitude. We will not go out of our way to draw attention to ourselves, but instead, we will have a humble spirit. We won’t do something just to have someone praise us, but instead, we will do it just because we love that person. We won’t show off.

Girls, have *you* struggled with being vain and prideful? Have you been doing things only to get the praise from another, or have you been doing things because you know it would truly bless another, even if they never know it is you? Do you only do things that others will take

notice of and praise you for? Or, do you live a Godly life, even behind closed doors? What is your life truly like, when no one outside of your family sees you? Do you live a two-faced life, one when around friends, and one when around your family? What about your relationship with Yahweh? Do you serve and love Yahweh (living a life that is pleasing to Him), even behind closed doors, or do you live a life for Him, only when others will notice? What about the way you dress, girls? Do you dress in a pleasing manner to Yahweh, or are you living a life trying to attract attention to one's self and how "beautiful" you are? Are you vain, girls?

That brings me to our challenge for today:

As you go about your day today, I want you to be thinking about these questions. Go before Yahweh and really search out the reasons why you do everything in life.

Remember: if you truly love those around you (and this includes your parents and your God), you will live a life centered on the Messiah and pleasing Him, not the world. May Yahweh richly bless you this and reveal to you just why you do, what you do.

Challenge 16

More of You

I pray that this finds you doing so wonderful and growing in your everyday walk with your Saviour and Guide!

It's so hard to believe that tomorrow is the 1st of December already! How the time flies on by! Before you know it, we're going to be in the year 2010! That seems so strange...I remember as a little girl thinking "wow, I wonder what it will be like in 1998?!" and now to think that we are actually nearing the end of 2009! Yahweh is so good! He certainly deserves all of our praise and worship! (And now as I post these challenges on my site, we are now in the middle of 2010! THAT is truly amazing! How the time flies!!)

This brings me to our challenge for today:

Although, I guess you could say it isn't really a challenge, but a prayer. I thought that instead of working through our usual verses today, I would instead enclose a song that has been playing over in my mind and my heart all afternoon. This is my hearts prayer for me, as well as my hearts prayer for each of you.

May this song richly bless each of your lives!

More of You

I want to be set apart as Yours, different to this world
I lift my hands and stretch them out for You
I want to be set apart as Yours, available to You
To clothe the naked and fight for the poor
And reach out to the lost

It's You I live for; it's You I want to be
It's You I'm seeking; it's You I long to please
So take me, break me, mold me, use me
Fill me up with more of You
Could You take me, break me, mold me, use me
Fill me up with more...more of You

I want to be set apart as Yours, transformed by Your word

To follow in the footsteps of Your truth
I want to be set apart as Yours, freed by Your love
Free to dance, free to sing
And make Your name known

It's You I live for; it's You I want to be
It's You I'm seeking, it's You I long to please
Could You take me, break me, mold me, use me
Fill me up with more of You
Could You take me, break me, mold me, use me
Fill me up with more
Could You take me, break me, mold me, use me
Fill me up with more of You
Could you take me, break me, mold me, use me
Fill me up with more...more of You

Challenge 17

Unseemly

What a glorious morning we have! The sun is just shining so brightly, glistening off of our frosted grass. It is just absolutely beautiful!

It is hard to believe that we are already into the last month of the year! And today is an even more special day, since it is my Daddy's 50th birthday! Yahweh is so wonderful and I just cannot praise Him enough for blessing me with the most wonderful father on the face of the earth! You know, sometimes we can take it for granted that we have been blessed with our fathers for as long as we have been, but you know, that is something you ought to be thanking Yahweh for, every single day of your life! Because you know what? One day we will all wake up, and our fathers will no longer be with us here on earth! We need to thank Yahweh for blessing us with this precious time with our Daddy's! And for blessing each of us with the precious father He blessed us with, for my dear girls, they ARE precious!!! We have been blessed in ways that a lot of girls have never been blessed in...our father's love us and would do anything in this world for us. They long to protect us from the harmful ways of this world, from the hurt that so many go through. They love us with everything they have. Yes, our fathers are a precious gem for sure! Life just wouldn't be the same without our fathers!!

So please take a moment to thank Yahweh for blessing us with our fathers and thank Yahweh that our fathers truly love Him! For Yahweh has indeed blessed us in ways that a lot of children in this world, are not blessed in.

Okay, now to get on with today's challenge! Are you ready? ☺

We left off in 1 Corinthians 13:5. Let's read it to see what it says. 1 Corinthians 13:5 says, "(Love) **Doth not behave itself unseemly**, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;"

Okay, so what does it mean to "not behave itself unseemly"?

Strong's puts unseemly as;

Unbecomingly; something that is not becoming of a young lady (or man).

Webster's dictionary puts it this way;

Not fit or becoming; unbecomingly; indecent.

Basically, if we truly have love within us, we will not act in ways that are unbecoming for a lady to do and we will not be indecent. Girls, this means in the way we talk, the way we walk, the way we act and the way we dress...everything within our lives needs to be becoming, fit for a virtuous daughter to do, and we need to act and be decent.

So let me ask you this, is everything you do, everything you say, everything you wear, fit, becoming and decent? What would Yahshua think if He walked into your house today? Would He be pleased with how you were acting, dressing and speaking? What about if He saw you out on the streets with your friends? What if He overheard what you were talking about with those same friends? Girls, as much as you may not see your Heavenly Father about you, He is there. He does hear you and He does watch you. The question is, is He pleased with what He sees and hears?

This brings me to today's challenge:

I want to challenge you to go to your fathers today and ask him for his input on your life. Yes, you heard me correctly! I want you to ask him if you are becoming as a young virtuous woman should be. Our fathers can often see things that we may not be able to see and it is always great to get their input on our lives and how we are conducting them. It really does help us to see where exactly we should be working on in our lives, where we are falling short of Yahweh's standards. And as you seek your father's guidance in your life in this area, I want you to also seek your Heavenly Fathers. And girls, be open to hear, to listen, to learn and to change. Don't go to them if you are unwilling to follow their advice and could care less about whether you are carrying yourself in a Godly fashion or not, or could care less if you were dressing in a becomingly fashion or not and if you were talking like a lady should and conducting yourself in a Godly fashion or not, as we as virtuous daughters ought to be. Only go to them if you are sincere about wanting to live your life more like Yahshua would desire you to live it.

May Yahweh bless you as you continue down this journey!

Challenge 18

Selfless

Oh, it is so beautiful outdoors this morning! The rain is just pouring down...yes, I love it when it rains out! This morning as I was lying in my bed, it felt so good to just snuggle beneath my blankets and just soak in the sounds of the rain pelting off of the window next to me head. It sounded so beautiful! And before long, it will be months before we get to hear the sounds of rain again – atleast we hope so! Here in the snowy north, it is never that pleasant to get rain in the winter months...we much prefer it coming down in solid white. ☺ So, why not enjoy it while we have it, right???!!!

So...how many of you sat down and talked to your fathers about being a becoming, young lady? Did you sit down and question them about what it is like...if there were any areas where you were not becoming and needed to change in? What was your reaction?

You know girls, sometimes hearing the truth can be painful. It is hard to admit that we are wrong, but if we would just have an open mind and heart to hear the things of Yahweh...oh, the joy it can bring! Because now we know how to change to become more like Him!!! And that truly is our goal in life, is it not?

Today I would like to talk to you a little bit about what it means to be self-less. Let's read 1 Corinthians 13:5 again and see what it says.

1 Corinthians 13:5, "Doth not behave itself unseemly, **seeketh not her own**, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;"

To not seek our own, means, that we are putting others ahead of ourselves. It means that we are thinking about others and putting their needs ahead of our own...especially our own desires and wishes.

I want you to stop and think for a minute. What are ways that you can put others above yourself? What are some ways that you can be selfless, instead of selfish? Do you know what the two words mean? To be selfless, as I have already explained, is to think of others, instead of yourself, to put their needs ahead of your own. And to be selfish means that all you think about is yourself. You put "me" before anyone else. You think about "me" and you do things for "me" (as in you ☺).

Let me ask you, what one are you? Do you always think about ways to please yourself, to do things for yourself? Or, do you think about ways that you can be a blessing to all those around you? What you can do to ease their burdens, make their burden light and carry their load for

them? Girls, this DOES matter! There are enough selfish people in this world, without us adding to it! Look around you, and you see all people caring about just themselves, yet we can clearly see that this trait is NOT one of a virtuous daughter! Instead, we are to be the complete opposite! We are to live to serve others, to help others, to lift one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of the Messiah! We are to be servants for Him. Not being servants to ourselves, but to those around us.

This brings me to our challenge for today:

I want you to look around you right now. Think. How can *you* be selfless today? What can *you* do to help another today? This should be a question you have every single day of your life. Do not go about life, my dear precious girls, thinking about what you can do today to please yourself, but to instead think about how you can truly bless those around you. Look at the precious families that Yahweh has blessed you with and think about them and how you may bless them.

Remember: they ARE our ministry! We should be missionaries/servants first and foremost to them, before we go and reach out to those around us.

May Yahweh richly bless you today and help you to be able to look around yourself and see just how you can bless another and become more selfless...less full of yourself.

Challenge 19

Not easily provoked

I pray this finds you all in good health and serving and praising our precious Saviour, Yahshua the Messiah! I know as I look out of my window this morning, I couldn't help but praise Him for yet another beautiful day...although this one with the sun beaming in my windows! ☺

Alright, so we are now on the "not easily provoked" part of our verse. But before we begin, let's reread our verse for the day.

1 Corinthians 13:5 says, "Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, **is not easily provoked**, thinketh no evil;"

Strong's put this word provoked as;
Easily irritated and/or angered. Basically the word provoked means angered.

Now let me ask you a question, are *you* easily irritated or angered? Do you find yourself easily provoked/angered/irritated by something that happens, or something that someone says or does? Yahweh tells us that a virtuous daughter will *not* be easily angered, girls. We will have the strength of character and will not let things easily get to us and we will have a controlled spirit – a spirit that will be able to be kept under control and not let loose at the simplest of things.

But, my question to you this morning is, do you have a controlled spirit, or are you known throughout your gates (by those around you) to have a spirit that is easily angered?

This brings me to our challenge today:

I would like you to take a look within your own life and see what kind of spirit you have. Ask yourself this question "When was the last time that I lost my temper? How often have I lost my temper in the past month?" If you answer that question and realize that you have lost it quite a number of times, my precious girls, you are easily angered. You should be able to go back months and know that in that time frame, you honestly have not lost it once. This is a controlled spirit and this is the kind of spirit that Yahweh requires us as His daughters, to have.

And my girls, if you find that you indeed have trouble with this area in your life, I would like you to get down on your knees and ask Yahweh to help you overcome this sin in your life. Ask

Him every single day to be with you and guide your temper! He will, girls! He will help you with this, but you must be willing to go to Him and ask Him to help you.

May Yahweh be with you all as you search within your own hearts and try to change in the areas that you are failing in.

Challenge 20

Thinketh no evil

Okay, where did we leave off? We are on the end part of verse 5 of 1 Corinthians chapter 13. Let's see what Yahweh has in-store for us to learn today, shall we?

1 Corinthians 13:5, "Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, **thinketh no evil;**"

Okay, here we see that a virtuous daughter is not to think evil. But, instead of dwelling on the evil part, I would instead like to share another verse with you, that states just what we ARE to be thinking about! Let's read;

Philippians 4:8 says, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **think on these things.**"

So we see here, that instead of thinking about things that are evil (whether thinking evil of someone, or something), we see that we are to think of what is; true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report.

Let me ask you girls a question...Is what you think about, pure, honest, just, true, lovely and of good report? What do *you* think about?

Yes, no earthly human may know what you are thinking about, but you know what, my girls? Yahweh sees into your hearts and minds. Nothing is withheld from His sight!

This brings me to our challenge for today:

If Yahweh were standing right here with us (which He is!), and I were to ask Him "Father, what are my girls thinking about? Are their thoughts pure?" What answer would He give me, girls? This is what I want you to ponder today. Look within your own heart and see whether or not you pass this test or if you are thinking on some things that you have no right, as a Daughter of the King, to be thinking about.

Get on your knees and honestly search your thoughts and your heart, girls. Be honest with yourself and with your God and see "if there be any wicked thing with way (or thought) in you" Psalms 139:24

Challenge 21

Rejoicing not in sin

We spoke about our thoughts and whether or not they were pure, yesterday. Now I would like to talk about us not rejoicing in sin (or iniquity). First, let's read our verse for this morning.

1 Corinthians 13:6 says, "**Rejoiceth not in iniquity**, but rejoiceth in the truth;"

Let me ask you, Do you rejoice in sin? I think I can probably safely say that you will all probably answer that one with a "no, of course not!" But, I want you to think about this one for a minute. There are sin's that are pleasurable, enjoyable, atleast the world thinks so. We may know that they are wrong to do in Yahweh's line of thinking, but that's not what the world teaches us. Take this for an example.

Dressing immodestly; we know dressing immodestly is wrong, yet, do we do it? Do we *enjoy* doing it and *enjoy* the attention we get, when we do it? What about not honoring our parents, when they aren't around? Hanging out with friends, which we know we shouldn't be hanging out with? What about listening to music, which we know we shouldn't be listening to, but try to convince ourselves that it is really okay?

Girls, this "rejoiceth not in iniquity" can be applied to every aspect of our lives. Do we or do we not, enjoy the pleasure of sin "for a season"? Do we enjoy doing that which we know is wrong? Do we sin, and yet enjoy doing it?

This brings me to our challenge today:

I would like for you to once again search within each of your own hearts and lives. Look at the sin within each of your hearts and ask yourselves this question "*Do I enjoy doing it?*" Girls, if we are going to walk upright lives before our God, we need to *hate* sin! Yes, there will be times in each of our lives where we will fall and we will sin. We are human and it is our human nature to sin. Yet, the question comes down to this "*Do we enjoy sinning, or do we hate sin?*" Looking within your own heart will reveal this truth.

And my girls, I want you to be honest with yourselves and be honest before your God. Don't try to deceive yourselves or Him...it won't help you any. In order to change, you must first admit you are wrong in an area, ask Him to forgive you, and make it a point to change. This is how we grow! This is how we learn! So please, look at yourselves with honest eyes and see if

this is an area that you have failed in...if this is an area you are struggling in. Then go to Yahweh and ask Him for His forgiveness and help. He *will* help you, my precious girls!

Another thing that may help you, my girls, is if you find that you are really struggling in this area, is to go to your parents and ask them to hold you accountable and to pray for you. Share with them your struggle and let them know that you need help. I have often done this with my own dear parents and although it is humbling to share that you are struggling in a certain area, girls, Yahweh has always blessed me above and beyond when I have done this! They have been a HUGE help and blessing in holding me accountable and praying me through difficult times. So don't be ashamed to go to them and share with them your heart and your hearts struggle. They do understand and they may have an insight into being able to help you overcome something that you simply not been able to in the past. So I urge you to go to them! You will be extremely blessed if you do!

Challenge 22

Rejoicing

Let's read our verse today and see what Yahweh has in-store for us.

1 Corinthians 13:6 says, "Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but **rejoiceth in the truth;**"

Do we rejoice in the truth? Or do we rejoice in sin? Do we enjoy doing what Yahweh says, or do we think that His law is a burden?

My dear girls, there are a lot of people who may do what is right, may do what they know is the truth, but they simply do NOT rejoice in it. My question to you is this, "Do you do what you know is the truth, and do you also rejoice in doing it?" Do you do things grumbling along? Or do you do it with a cheerful smile and a song in your heart, because you know that it is right to do? Yahweh says to, "**Do all things without murmurings** and disputings:" (Philippians 2:14) and to, "**Rejoice** in Yahweh **always**: and again I say, Rejoice." (Philippians 4:4)

This brings me to our challenge for today:

I would like to challenge each of you dear girls to search within your heart and see not only that you are doing what is right, but that you are doing it in the right kind of attitude. Then I want you to get down and ask Yahweh to help you today and everyday hereafter, to do ALL things in the right attitude! That He would give you such an heart that you would not only do what is right in His eyes, but that you would WANT to do what is right in His sight! It is simply not enough to just do what is right. You must also do it in the right kind of attitude.

Blessings to you, my dear, dear girls! May Yahweh help each of you today as you go about His business, to have a cheerful attitude and a willing attitude to do what is right. May you forever always rejoice!

Challenge 23

Beareth all things

I would like to start once again by rereading our verse for the day and see what Yahweh says that we are supposed to be doing or not doing.

1 Corinthians 13:7 says, “**Beareth all things**, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”

What does “beareth all things” mean? Any ideas, my girls? I have to admit, I had to go to my father about this one! I had an idea, but reading the Strong’s and dictionary’s definition, didn’t really help me out, if anything, they confused me all the more! ☺ Aren’t father’s just wonderful! I love the wisdom that Yahweh gives them!

Someone who beareth all things, is someone that let things roll off their backs. They don’t let things bother them or take them to heart, but just let’s them keep on rolling.

For an example:

How many of us have gotten upset about something small? Or had someone tease us, and instead of just letting it go, keep it hidden within our hearts...and just let things build up inside? Or, another way of thinking about it is, being bothered by the littlest things.

As I thought about this, Yahweh brought up things within my own life and how I had fallen short in this area, too. Sometimes I CAN let things bother me and irritate me, when I should just shrug them off. Yet, we know from this verse, that we should be able to just let it roll off of our backs...or shrug them off. This is the virtuous daughter’s way of dealing with things that irritate us...letting them roll off of our shoulders.

Now let me ask you something. Do *you* my girls, bear all things?

This brings me to our challenge for today:

My challenge to you today is that you would search within your own heart, and see if this is an area that you need to work on, and then I would like you to set out to really work on this trait over the next day (or days) to come. Let us take each one of these traits and put them to practice in our own lives. For *this* is how we become virtuous daughters, my girls. One step at a time!

I love you, Girls. Keep up the wonderful job and progress you are making and ever strive to become the daughter your Heavenly Father requires and longs for you to become!

Challenge 24

Believeth all things

So, are you gals ready to hear what Yahweh has for us today?

Let's reread our verse for the day and then see what part we are supposed to be working on.

1 Corinthians 13:7 says, Love... "Beareth all things, **believeth all things**, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

Do we truly believe everything that Yahweh tells us? Do we believe His word? Do we believe all things?

I am not talking about taking everything anyone ever says, and believing it is true. If someone told you to jump off a cliff and that you will be fine if you do, it's not true, and you shouldn't believe it. This is not what Yahweh is talking about here, and I hope you all know that to be true! 😊 What I am talking about here is that we believe what Yahweh tells us to be true. That we believe His word is true and what it says is true. This is what Yahweh is talking about.

So my question to you this morning is, do you believe or do you doubt what He says and doubt His word?

This brings me to our challenge for today:

I would you do ponder this question this morning; "Do you honestly take what He tells you, to heart and believe it?"

Remember: if you truly believe something that He says, you will do it. For example: Do not steal. If you believe that what He said there is true and that we shouldn't steal, you will not steal. This holds true to every aspect of His word.

Challenge 25

Hope

Well, I hope these past challenges have found you as challenged as they have me. I've been thinking about yesterday's challenge all day yesterday and then last night and woke up thinking about it again this morning. ☺ That's the good thing about reading Yahweh's word, as it does challenge you!

With that, I would like to challenge you again this morning with continuing with our verse from yesterday. But, as usual, let's first reread our verse together, before we go on.

1 Corinthians 13:7, "Beareth all things, believeth all things, **hopeth all things**, endureth all things."

I like how the Strong's puts this hope:

To hope in a religious sense, to wait for salvation with joy and full confidence.

Do we wait with joy and full confidence in Yahshua, for our salvation?

On the daily side of things, Yahweh brought this thought to my mind "Do you wait with all joy and full confidence that I will do what is best for you...that I will perform my will for your life? Do you honestly wait with full joy and confidence that I will always do what is best, even though you may not always understand it?"

This is a very good question, my girls. Do we wait with all joy and full confidence, knowing that Yahweh will do what is best for us, regardless as to what we may understand? Do we wait and at the same time, praise Him? Do we find the blessings of waiting on Him, trusting Him and knowing that He will always do what is best for us, so whatever happens in this life, we know is His will for us? Do we accept His will for our lives, dear girls? What about with the "full joy and confidence" part? Are we joyful in waiting and trusting in Him?

Think about these questions girls. They can apply to every area of your life, regardless as to what you may be going through. I want you to pray about this and really see if you are living in the full hope of Yahweh's assurance, that you are honestly willing to wait with full joy and confidence, knowing full well that Yahweh will perform His will in you, in all things and areas of your life! Trust Him, dear girls! He is worthy of your trust and confidence! Don't put your confidence in man, but in Yahweh Himself!

I know for my own life, I had to stop and think “Am I truly full of joy with where Yahweh has me?” This has been something that I have been definitely challenged in, lately. I can’t help but think that Yahweh used this to answer my hearts prayer of the past couple of days. Yes, I was more or less complaining about my lot in life. I love life, don’t get me wrong! There is just one aspect in my life, that I find it an ever ceasing challenge to stay joyful about...not having my Love by my side. Yet, girls, doesn’t this also fall into that category of “being full of joy”? Doesn’t it also fall into the category of being thankful and full of joy with where Yahweh has us? Knowing that He will do and He does what is best for us? There is a reason that I remain single. Do I like it? No. I find myself constantly reminding Yahweh that He said that marriage was a “good” thing. ☺ But, honestly girls, this is an area where we also need to be full of joy, able to accept, and even relish in it! He has blessed us with this time, He knows what is best, and we need to trust Him in that and stop grumbling about what isn’t.

This brings me to our challenge for today:

I would like you to think about all the areas in your life that you are struggling to wait with full joy and confidence in Yahweh providing you with just what you need...His best. Girls, as much as this can be applied to those of us who are still single, it can be applied to every area in our life, as well. The opposite of this would be fretting. What areas are you having trouble leaving in the hands of God? What area’s are you struggling with being “full of joy” in? These are the areas that I would like you to pray about. Search out and see how can turn your attitude around and start trusting and hoping in God. You will be totally amazed at what will happen when you start to totally trust God for *all areas* of your life!!! It is incredible!!!

Challenge 26

Enduring

Let's reread the scripture verse this morning, so that it is once again, fresh in our memory.

1 Corinthians 13:7, "Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, **endureth all things.**"

So we see that love is also being able to endure. I think this is especially true, as we look around us at the world today. We love the Messiah, so we are willing to endure the things around us, for His sake...for our love for Him.

I love how the Strong's puts this word:

2a) to preserve: under misfortunes and trials to hold fast to one's faith in the Anointed

2b) to endure, bear bravely and calmly: ill treatments

And this is certainly what enduring means. That we can take things calmly and bravely, that regardless as to our trials, we can hold fast onto our faith in Yahshua to the end. We can prove our love for Him, by simply enduring all things. I must say, that being willing to endure these hardships and trials, our love will grow ever stronger each and every day! I know this to be fact...ask me how I know?! ☺

My question to you is, do you endure what Yahweh brings your way...do you endure it with a calmness, peacefulness, joyfulness, and braveness? Do you endure with a cheerful continence....do you endure these trials with an acceptance, realizing that this *is* Yahweh's will for your life? Or do you go about these trials, grumpily, fearful, ungrateful, and weakly and refuse to accept them as His will for you?

Dear girls, it is by learning to endure these trials and hardships that we grow in our love and dependence of our Saviour! Without these trials, you would die. Look at America today and the Christians here in the churches within it? Then look at the other persecuted churches of the world and the Christians in those persecuted churches...who's Christians are stronger because of their trials and for learning to endure them for the Messiah's sake? I dare say it is those believers who go through those trials and persecutions that are stronger.

The same is for us. My girls, even the trials that we face on a daily basis are to strengthen us. Learning to endure everything that comes our way, is essential not only for our Christian walk, but in teaching us what true love for each other and for Yahshua, is all about!

This brings me to our challenge this morning:

I would like you to think about how you can endure (and I might add, endure in the correct spirit 😊) each and everything that comes your way. Pray that Yahweh will teach you how to endure them and teach you how you can grow ever stronger, not in spite of them, but because of them! It reminds me of what I wrote about in the last challenge about enduring with the right spirit. It's so true! It's not enough to just endure, but we must endure in the right spirit...don't complainingly endure it, but cheerfully endure through them!

May you continue to grow in love and learn how to endure until the end! Know that love never fails! (1 Corinthians 13:8)

Part Three

Challenge 27

Teaching or Learning?

Yesterday we wrapped up our challenges in 1 Corinthians 13, and as I pondered and prayed about what our next challenge should be, Yahweh laid on my heart to share with you these articles that I had written in response to someone's inquiry about different questions about staying under authority and what Yahweh wants from us.

You see, atleast for myself, I had to face so many questions about what it meant to submit and stay underneath the protection of my authority and what Yahweh's will was for my life regarding so many of these very questions, that this dear mom asked me about. And when this dear mom wrote me and asked me what my views were on it and what Yahweh had showed me regarding staying under authority and submitting, as an adult and still single, living at home with my father, I realized just how thought provoking her questions really were.

You see, I don't think there are nearly so many questions in our minds about what we should do as married young ladies. I think it mainly comes down to the question of "what should we do when we are single and adults still living at home?" We know what we need to do when we marry, but what about how we need to live, NOW?

These are some of the questions I had to study and pray about, as I responded to this dear mother, and I now want to share those very answers, with you. I pray these answers will help you, as well, and will help you answer some of the same questions that you may have running through your own heart and mind. I know it wasn't too long ago, that I too, faced these very same questions.

Question 1

"In regards to staying underneath the protection and guidance of our authority figures, is it godly and right to do searches on things in scripture (doctrinal or other), and bring our findings up to our fathers/husbands?"

Yes, I believe this is very scriptural, but it can also be very unscriptural, as well. Let's look at why you are bringing these findings up to your fathers/husbands. Are you bringing these findings up to them to teach them? Or are you bringing these findings up to them, to learn from them? In other words, what is your heart's motive when you bring them up to them? What is

the core reason that you are sharing these with them? Are you bringing them up to them (especially, if you know that they don't agree with it) to see where and if you are off and to find out where you went wrong in your studying? Are you hoping to have them share with you how they got, what they got? Or, did you do the study because you are sure they are wrong, and want to show them how and why they are wrong?

In other words, are you trying to change them and teach them? Whether or not this is biblical to do, all depends on your heart's motive...whether or not you are truly trying to learn, or whether or not you are trying to teach these precious men.

It wasn't long ago, that I would study something to try to "prove" and "show" my father that he was wrong in an area and why he was wrong in it (and why I was right). I say this with much regret and sadness. If this is what you are doing, I dare say, you are not doing this in a biblical manner, my girls! Never did God give us the permission to "teach" our dear men. Never! This is not our mission, this is not our role. This is not our role if we are single, and this is not our role if we are married. Sisters, God told us to LEARN from the men, and to learn in SILENCE. The men are the ones told to teach us, not the other way around. In fact, we were commanded NOT to teach the men! One of the reasons for this is because we are easily deceived.

Let's read 1Timothy 2:12-14.

1 Timothy 2:12-14 says, **But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.**"

You see, my sisters, this is why it is important to always check your heart to see what your goal is, the core reason, for your sharing your studies with them. Ask yourselves this question "What are the reasons and the purposes for my sharing this with them?" If it is to learn more, then by all means, do it! You will find such rich blessings in doing so, for these men have such great wisdom and understanding!!! And if you aren't sure what they think on an issue, bring it to them and ask them what they think. Ask them if they agree, or if they disagree, ask them why. This way, girls, you are learning from them, even if you are the ones that did the studying. This will also help keep you on the same page as they are on, spiritually.

But I warn you! Don't you do this if your purpose is to "show them" or to "prove that they are indeed wrong" You leave this up to God and don't you take this into your own hands! God will NOT bless this, my girls!

This brings me to our challenge for today:

I would like to challenge you to think back on your life and different situations that you have had with your parents/spouse. Have you ever gone to them with the wrong spirit, trying to simply get them to change, instead to simply learn from them? What was the result? How did it

make you feel? How could you have changed the approach and made it into a Godly encounter? How can you improve the way that you handle different situations?

Think about these questions. Ponder them in your heart. If you have struggled with this area as well, seek God and ask Him to teach you how to handle these situations in the future, in a godly manner. And Girls, if you have not handled encounters correctly in the past, go to them and ask them for your forgiveness. Let them know that you are truly sorry and that you cherish their leadership and authority in your life and that you would like to simply learn from them and leave the teaching in God's hands.

Remember: Yahweh is a perfect instructor!

Challenge 28

The Holy Spirit and Submitting

As I mentioned in the last challenge, we are going to be going through some questions that another lady had asked, which I thought were some really good questions, and questions that we have either all faced, or will face in the future. This is why I wanted to share them with you all, in hopes that these questions, as well as answers, will richly bless your life and help you grow even more in your daily walk with your Saviour and help you to know how we as daughters, should act, think and do.

May this question and answer, richly bless you.

Question 2

“Will God/the Holy Spirit teach you or show you things ahead of what He will/has shown to your father/husband?”

Yes, I completely believe this is possible and does happen. This has happened in my own life. I believe God can, and often does, show you certain things through scripture, but I believe the ultimate decision lies within the father/husband.

For example; God could show me something through scripture, and I can bring my findings up to my father. Or, I could believe that God would have me to do something, and bring that up to my father (and I am using father here, simply because I am not married, but it could as easily be worded husband, as I believe the husband and father play a pretty similar role in the lives of us women – depending on whether you are married or single).

So here I am; I bring something up to my father. I sincerely believe it was from God. I show my father, or tell my father what I believe God has shown me or spoken to me about. My father decides that “No, that would not be wise for you to do”. What do I do then? Do I do it anyways, because I believe it was from God and what God wanted me to do? Do I do what I believe doctrinally was correct, even though my father does not agree with my findings? Absolutely not! God has given us these precious men to guide and protect us. Is it wrong to share things with them, and to see what their thoughts are on a matter? Absolutely not! In fact, I believe it is wise to constantly be talking to them (if we do it in the attitude mentioned in Question #1), and seeing where they are, and whether or not we are on the same page, spiritually. This is unity

and might I say, how else can we further and help them, if we aren't even on the same page as they are?

But, to go against them, even if we are right, is clearly wrong. Why? We were placed under their authority for them to protect us and lead us, and *we* were commanded to obey *them*. Not *them* obey *us*. As long as we are willing to still follow them, no matter if they agree with us or not, and are coming to them to learn from them and not to teach them, I think it is a great thing to do!

I will try to explain a little bit farther as to why I believe we are not to just "do what we believe" but instead, "do what they believe".

Hebrews 13:17 says, "**Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves:** for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

We were told to submit to them, and that submission is a yielding of one's will, to resist no longer... in other words, submission is not agreeing with something another is having us do, but we are choosing to do it, regardless as to what we feel (in other words, we disagree with them, but are doing it anyhow). This is submission. Submission is not doing something that we agree with. In order to submit, it implies that it is something that we do NOT agree with. Below is a definition for submission that the Strong's Concordance gives:

5226 hupeiko {hoop-i'-ko}

from 5259 and eiko (to yield, be "weak");

- 1) To resist no longer, but to give way, yield (of combatants)
- 2) To yield to authority and admonition, to submit

Now I would like to pull something else out of this passage. Let's read this verse again.

Hebrews 13:17 "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for *they* watch for your souls, as *they* that must give account, that *they* may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." (*Italics added*)

You see here, it is not us that must give account for ourselves. And with this I am talking about doctrinally. We will certainly all be held accountable for our salvation, walk with God, and how we act etc. But God put the men in charge of us concerning where we go doctrinally, and we were told to follow them. Thus, if they are wrong in an area and lead the family in the wrong direction, we are then protected, because we are following our head of authority like we were commanded to. We are not to step out and do our own thing, because we believe we will be judged, if we don't. God will judge the man for where he is/has brought his family. I don't believe we will be held responsible for this at all. It is those God has placed over us; they will

ultimately be the ones that will be asked to give account for us. But, in order for them to be able to do this, we MUST obey them and not only obey them, but follow and back them where God has and is bringing them.

There will be times that, yes, we will be in the right. But, God does not call us women to stand up for that rightness. No, instead He calls us to sit silently back, and pray and let Him work in their lives.

Look at the chain of authority. It is God-Man-Woman-Children. Just like we are to submit and obey the man, they are to submit and obey God, and if they do not, God will deal with them personally. We don't have to get in the way. In fact, when we do stand up, we are getting in the way of God dealing with them, because now we are standing in God's way. Do you see how this works? It would then be God-Woman-Man-Children. See a slight problem with that?

Another example would be: If a 9 year old child comes to a parent, with something they believe, and the parent disagrees, what should they do? Do they have the right to do it anyways? Of course not! Think of it as a two year old now. They want to go outside, but Mom says "no". They may very well feel like they ought to. Now what should they do? I think all of you would agree that they are to simply obey and not go outside! The very same thing holds true for us as women. Nowhere in scripture, is the process of submission different, just because of the age difference. The only thing that has changed is just who has to submit. God doesn't give age ranges for obedience, He just tells us to submit and obey.

We are protected, as long as we stay where God put us...and that is under the man.

Let me share something from my own life and what I have done about it. There have been many, many times that I have felt God telling and showing me something. I have battled with what to do with that feeling. I had a choice. I could totally come out from under the protection that God has given me...my hedge and my head...or...I could sit back and follow the authority that God has placed over me, and just leave it all up to God to show them differently, if indeed, they were the one in the wrong.

Let me share with you my choice...my decision. I decided that I would stay under God's chain of authority, regardless as to what I felt was right or wrong, and would back my authority in my life.

Girls, I have been SO incredibly blessed because of this decision! I have been spared things that I now realize I was wrong in, not him/them. God has also shown things to my father that he was wrong in, and I had been right in and I didn't have to do a thing! God doesn't need us, my sisters! That is something that is a powerful thing for us to learn. He doesn't need us to work in our parents/husbands hearts to teach them, nor does He need us to stand up for the right, and prove to them, what is right. This job was never given to us. This job is God's, and we need to leave the teaching and changing up to Him.

I would like to reread the Timothy passage again. Listen to what this passage says.

1 Timothy 2:11-14 says, Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. **But I suffer not a woman to teach**, nor to usurp authority over **the man**, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the **woman being deceived was in the transgression**.

Notice here that this was *not* just referring to the church. It was “you are not to teach or command a man” period BECAUSE, you are easily deceived, and the man is not.

Romans 13:1-2 says, **Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers**. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. **Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God**: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”

God didn't tell us to be subject unto them IF we agree! He told us to be subject (to submit) to them regardless, unless we have completely clear BLACK AND WHITE, no questions asked, ground to stand on. Obviously, we are not to murder and things like that. Those are clear black and white things. But other than that, we are to always be subject to those in higher authority than us, and if we resist their authority or leadership, we are thus resisting God.

Remember: even if we are told to do things like these (murder etc), we are not suppose to do it in a “I know better than you” attitude. We are still to do so it in an honoring, loving manner, explaining to them meekly why we cannot obey them. So even when we do stand up for the things that God has clearly said we are to do, (and again I mean things that there is no possible way on earth, that we could be wrong in), we are to still do it in a lowly, meekly, kind of why.

This brings me to our challenge for today:

I would like you to get out a pen and piece of paper. Then I would like to you to think about everything that you have ever thought was right doctrinally or different things that you have ever felt God tell you, but things that you disagreed with your father/husband on. Try to list about 5-10 different things.

Then I would like you to go over each one. Think and pray about each one. Has Yahweh ever showed either you that you were wrong in what you thought and that they were right? Did you decide to do it regardless as to what they thought, or did you choose to submit to them and watch Yahweh's hand at work? What was the result of both? What did you learn from those experiences?

Now I would like you to think about things that you disagree on right now. My challenge to you is, choose to follow them (smiling of course) regardless as to what you may feel and then watch what happens. Sit back and watch Yahweh's hands at work! And when you are tempted to go your own way, I want you to remember Eve...she was deceived and led Adam astray;

Sarah was impatient and couldn't see God working, so took things into her own hands, thus Ishmael was born...the one person who has fought her very own child, killing more of her offspring than anyone else! There are lots of examples that we can look to. When Yahweh says that the woman was deceived first, He meant what He said. We must trust our authority...thus trust that Yahweh knew what He was doing when He placed them over us.

Challenge 29

Learning from others

How are you all doing this morning? Are you ready to read more? ☺ I know some of these are a bit long, but I still pray that they will bless you, as they have me. I know just rereading them and refreshing my own mind about these things has been a blessing. It's always nice, even if we already know or believe something, to just go back and refresh our memory of them every once in awhile. Alright, let's go to question number 3.

Question 3

“Are we to learn from other sources other than those over us, in other words, our fathers/husbands?”

This is a question that I have often had before. All I can do is share with you what I have been doing, and why I have been doing it, as I myself, am still learning in regards to this very subject (as well as every other subject!). But, this is what God has been showing me, in regards to learning from other sources.

Firstly, what I have been doing right now is to try very, very hard to only read material that I believe my father (as I am unmarried at this time) would not have a problem with, and something I know he most likely will agree with. He doesn't always read everything that I read (as he doesn't read all that much, besides his Bible), so this is up to me to do. But, I even wonder about this at times.

I will caution you right here that I believe this can be dangerous, which is why I often wonder about it, and if you still choose to read ahead of them, you need to be VERY careful with doing this. We are easily deceived and easily persuaded. If our fathers/husbands do not read either along with us or before us, and we read something that sounds great, but really isn't biblical at all, or in fact, is outright falsehood, and we believe it and go with it, how is he now able to protect and guide us? He simply can't. He has no idea what false doctrines that you have heard or read. Whereas, if he reads it with either you, or before you, he will now know what it says, so will be able to protect and guide you. So this is also why I no longer read books concerning other doctrines, but instead I try to stick to books on the topics I need to learn about, like child training, keeping a house, biographies that will inspire and help me in my

walk with my Saviour etc., but, something that doesn't go into detail about different doctrines (especially if I know that they will be against what my father is trying to instill in me).

At the same time, if I find things I don't know about, or things that it is teaching contrary to my father, I will either put the book down (if I know he doesn't agree with it) or if I am not sure what he thinks about it, I will go to him and say "Dad, I read this, what do you think?" or something to that extent. This way he now has an opportunity to say "Samantha, what they are saying is wrong and this is why..." thus still able to protect me, and yet at the same time he is now able to teach me why it is wrong.

The same thing holds true for the preaching tapes, although I think these can be even more dangerous in a way than can be the books. My father almost always listens to these before us, as it is a lot easier for him to listen to something, than to read a book. Although, now that he works at home and no longer has a long drive to work, it is a bit harder for him to do. But still, he almost always listens to them before we do, or we will listen to these as a family. I pretty much only listen to preaching tapes that I know Dad has approved of, or would approve of. And anyone in our family can tell you that Dad has had to stop them more than once, and explain biblically how the pastors and/or teachers were off in an area, and why. But, had he not been there with us, he would never have been able to protect us from learning a false doctrine.

So, as much as I don't believe it is wrong to read from other sources, I do caution you to be very, VERY careful in so doing. Beware that this can be very dangerous, and that you need to be virtuous in the type of books that you choose to read, or tapes that you choose to listen to. This is a way that a lot of people go astray, especially us, sisters. I would also caution you to talk to your parents and or husband about something, before you read or listen to it. Have him look at it and give you his thoughts on it before you read it. You can tell a lot of what the book will be like by reading a chapter or the back of the book. So if you aren't sure about it, wait and have them preview it (atleast skim over it) to see what they think before reading it yourself.

Girls, I also want to challenge you to also think about something else here, that Yahweh has had me pondering on a lot lately. This kind of goes with this question, but it has a little bit of a different twist to it. It's something to think about and ponder, anyhow, so here goes. ☺

How much of our wisdom is coming from books, instead of coming from Him and/or His Word? Have you ever thought about that?

When you have a question about something, what is your natural course of action? I dare say, atleast in my own life, it is to find a book on the subject and read it. Yet, is this really what we as believers ought to be doing? Are we not instead, supposed to get on our knees and ask Yahweh? Are we not supposed to dig into His word to find out what His wisdom would be to us? What He thinks about something, what He has to say about something?

Girls, are we not learning what we should be learning, because we aren't going to Him? Would we learn more if we simply sought out what He has to say about something, instead of

going and learning what someone else's opinion was on it? Are we often being lead astray because of this habit? It is something to consider and pray about.

Also, many of the people we tend to learn from, are they Godly themselves? Are they following His word and what His word says? Are we learning from those who aren't even following Him? And if so, how are they supposed to lead us in the right way? Again, it is something to think about. These are just some thoughts that I have had going through my own mind.

I know recently, Yahweh asked me to write a book on a certain subject. Never, NEVER in my life have I even considered writing a book on that subject. Yet, He obviously had. I didn't and don't feel capable of writing a book on that subject. But, regardless as to what I think or thought I should do, He had given the command, so I knew that I must submit and do it. Yet, in all of this, do you know what my first inclination was to do? Pick up a book that someone else had written on this subject, and read it! What did they have to say about this subject? Maybe I could learn something from them...I was honestly at a loss about how to even proceed in this project. Yet, you know what Yahweh told me? "Don't you dare pick up a book on that subject!" He wanted and wants me to come to Him, to be willing to learn from HIM, not someone else! This was HIS book, I was just penning it.

But girls, I tell you this because this is exactly what I am getting at. Do we learn from Him? Or do we put others above Him? Which is the way He would want it to be?

This brings me to our challenge for today:

I would like to challenge you all to think back about the different times that you have read books and what each of those books have taught you. Have they ever taught you something contrary to what your father/husband was trying to teach you? Have you ever been deceived by it, thinking that they must know better than those over you? What damage was done because of this?

I would also like to challenge you to instead of going to books to always learn, go to Him. Get down on your knees and seek His wisdom and what He would have you to do. Follow Rebecca's example and what she did when she had a question about her pregnancy. Listen to what took place:

Genesis 25:22-23, "And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, **why am I thus?** And **she went to enquire of Yahweh.** And **Yahweh said unto her,** Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger."

You see, dear girls, Yahweh will answer you, just as He did Rebecca. She wondered what was going on, enquired of Yahweh why it was so, and Yahweh answered her and gave her the wisdom that she needed. He will do no less for you.

Remember: just like our heavenly relationship with Yahweh (our Father) is a picture of our earthly relationship with our own earthly fathers, go to your father and ask him for his wisdom on what you are wondering about. Learn from him, just as you are to learn from your Heavenly Father.

Challenge 30

The work of the Holy Spirit

Today is a question that I think we need to pay special attention to, as I know in my own life, this one question/answer, has played a huge part in my own life. This is a question, that if not answered correctly, or you do not know the answer to, will get you into more trouble than most anything else. Why? Because the world (and yes, even “believers”) will encourage you to do something that I believe is very contrary to what Yahweh says and what His divine will for us is, as His daughters.

So please, dear girls, pay close attention. Pray about this one question and ponder in your own heart, what is the right thing to do. You HAVE to have an answer for this question, so when you are faced with it (and you will be faced with it!), you will be able to stand strong in Yahweh, knowing that you are doing the right thing, even when your friends or the world, tries to tell you otherwise.

Question #4

“Are we only to learn spiritual matters from our husbands/fathers, because wouldn’t this be taken away the role of the Holy Spirit from out of our life”?

No, I don’t believe it does any harm with that, at all.

Let me give you another example; I love fathers (and whenever I say fathers, if you are married, you can just as well replace it with husbands) for a certain reason. Well, I love them for a lot of reasons other than this one, but I am going to give you this reason to try to explain my point...and quite honestly, I just LOVE this about them!

I totally and completely agree with the idea that God will lead through our authorities, with or without us. God has placed them over us, and if it is His will that we do a certain thing, He IS going to lead through them, no questions asked.

Now that that’s said; there has been many a time that I believed God was telling me to do a certain thing. You could say that I believe this was the Holy Spirit talking within me or speaking to me through the scriptures. How can I confirm this? Yep, you guessed it! I can go to my father (never telling him that I believed this was from God) and ask my father about whatever it was I

felt God telling me to do, and ask him to pray about it. IF, my father comes back and says “yes, I agree, you should do such and such a thing” I know for a certainty that it was from God. IF, my father comes back and says “No, Samantha, I don’t think you should do this” then I know I heard wrong, OR it just isn’t the right time for it.

There have also been things that I have told my parents about, and at the time, they did not see how it could have been of God. But, God was still confirming that I did not hear wrong, that this was of Him, and His doing. Okay, now what do I do? They said they don’t see that happening now or in the future, yet I have God clearly telling me, that it will. What should a person do in this situation? WAIT! Don’t do ANYTHING! You should put it on the back burner, acknowledging that it was from God, and tell God that “until He tells them and works through them, I am just going to wait on you” I have done this I don’t know how many times. And, if for some reason my father comes to me, and asks me to do something that I think “might” put what God told me in jeopardy, what do I do? I follow my dad’s leadership.

Girls, God will work through our authority! He will work through the chain of command. He won’t tell you to do something and then tell you to disobey His word and go against what they feel or believe. No. He may indeed tell you something, but we are to wait on Him to work it all out in HIS timing. We can’t just take things into our own hands, just because we heard something from God. It may not be the right timing, and that may very well be why God has not given them peace about such a thing. God may still have to show them something before they would ever be able to adopt such a doctrine or whatever the case may be. We can still acknowledge that God is God and what God has told us. But, we can acknowledge that by obeying God and staying under our authority figure...by submitting to them. For, if we just get up and do whatever we believe is right, and whatever we believe God has told us, we are now going against our authority, and we are now in direct disobedience to God’s word, thus in direct disobedience to God Himself! So, no longer are we now “obeying” God, but disobeying Him.

Let me go one step further. If we believe something differently than our authority, I believe we are not even supposed to talk about it with another. We are supposed to back our authority up, not what we personally believe and they don’t. Either, we don’t talk about it at all, or back what they believe until God changes them, IF, He changes them...remember, we could very well be the ones in the wrong here, not them!

This brings me to our challenge for today:

I want to challenge you to simply "Be still, and know that He is God" (Psalms 46:10). Don’t move out on something before you get the full blessing to all those over you. If it is His will, girls, He will bring it about in a Godly fashion...He will even work through the unbelieving parents. If you don’t have their blessing, sit back and simply “Be still”. Trust God to do what He says that He will do.

Challenge 31

Guidelines for conversations

I do pray that these challenges have been a blessing to all of you, as they have been to me. I have been learning right alongside of you, so although I am the one writing them, I am far from having learned all of these myself. I still have a far ways to go, but, with His help, we shall continue to grow in Him!

So, shall we begin today's challenge? Let's see what our Father has for us today...

Question #5

“Is talking about the law or doctrine with other women, wrong to do?”

Well, another reason I do not speak about my doctrinal type of things on my website is because I do not want to teach another young woman to go against what her father/husband is trying to teach her. I have had a lot of people in my days try to do just that, where I am concerned. They try to go behind my father's back, and try to teach me that what my father is teaching me is wrong. This wasn't their place and never will be. God didn't give me to them; he gave me to my dad (who by the way, I adore!). They don't have a command to teach me the things of God, but my Dad does. So yes, I will say that I believe it is wrong to speak about such things.

Now, let me explain myself here. If someone out of curiosity comes up to me and asks what I believe, I have no problem with telling them and explaining why I believe, what I believe. We get this a lot with just how we dress and with keeping the law. I am not trying to teach them here, I am explaining why I do “such and such” of a thing. Yet, if someone wants to get into a doctrinal conversation with me about why I believe what I believe, and is trying to defeat what Dad is trying to teach, I no longer have any part in it. I simply will back out graciously or simply tell them that I do not feel this is their job, and I can send them off to dad. 😊

God has placed me under my father, but He hasn't just placed me under my father and told my father to “protect” me, girls. He has also given me a mandate to stay under my father, as well. So, it isn't just my father's responsibility, but, it is just as much my responsibility to stay where my father can protect me, as it is my father's responsibility to protect me. I have just as

much a responsibility to protect that aspect of my relationship with my father, as he does. Do you see what I mean?

Let me try to explain this in relationship to a courtship, as I am sure most of you would be able to understand what I am about to say a little bit better. We are to be chaperoned, right? This is for our own protection. So, do we purposefully go out of our way to make it hard on our chaperones to chaperone us? Or, do we purposefully make sure that WE stick in sight of them and WE remain where all can see us (or atleast the person designated to chaperone us)? I dare say; the latter one. It isn't their job to be running after us. It would be our job to stay with them. This is just doing our duty as a courting couple. This rule wasn't put in for the one chaperoning, but for our own protection and we would have no right to fight against it and make it hard on them. That would just hurt us in the end, not the chaperoning person. So it is, with our relationships with our fathers. We are to guard our relationships with our fathers/husbands and what they are trying to teach us. But not only are we to guard our relationships with them, we are to also help them do their job, not make it impossible for them to do it.

And I know this will probably bring up another question about talking to suitors or could be suitors, about what we believe, especially if we don't agree with our fathers in all that they are teaching (and with those who could be our future spouse, we would need us to be honest with them, concerning such things). To this I would say, follow your father's leadership in this area. If he gives you permission to discuss such things with another, because of the possibility of a courtship starting, then by all means do it, because you now have his blessing in this regard.

I am not talking about not talking about how you feel or what you personally believe in a courtship environment, but in an everyday friendship with another woman and/or man. There is certainly a time and a place where I believe you should talk about it, but in general, I think you need to be very careful about this, as there will be a lot of people that will try to tell you that what you are being taught, whether it be by your father or by your husband, is wrong, and you need to guard against that.

Once again, remember, we were told to follow, they were the ones told to lead. So, whether we agree with them or not, makes no difference. We still need to submit joyfully, and back them up, and you can't do this by talking to another about what you disagree with them about, as this is NOT backing them up.

Also remember that if you encourage another to go against her head of authority that God Himself put over her, you are in direct disobedience to God Himself. You were NOT the ones put in charge of her, spiritually, her father/husband, was. So be very careful here, girls. And this goes for everything you talk about. You be careful that you teach that woman how to love her man, not go against what he is trying to instill in her.

This brings me to our challenge today:

Girls, I want to challenge you to guard your hearts! And guard your relationship with that dear man! Do not let ANYONE or ANYTHING get between you and your Daddy/Husband! And if something or someone has come between you, and you now find a wall between the two of you, go get that ax and break through that wall and don't stop until you get through it!

My prayer for you is that Yahweh will show each of you the blessing of being underneath and guarding that relationship and that He will help you break through that wall, if you find yourself on the other side of it.

Challenge 32

Teaching others

Question #6

“Is it wrong for a woman to post her opinions if her opinions match those of her husband or fathers?”

Well, this kind of goes with our last question, question #5, but since it has been asked, and I know it is a question that a lot of us have had at one time or another, I wanted to address it separately.

I would say yes, it is wrong, if those opinions do not match the things that God has told us to teach the other women (in Titus 2). Again, God hasn't given this responsibility to us women, but to the men for we are easily deceived. But more than that, if we teach other women different doctrines or opinions than their own fathers/husbands are teaching them, then we are teaching them something contrary to what their authority figures are teaching them, thus encouraging them to rebel, and so we are now doing the exact opposite than what God has commanded us to teach them...to love, honor and obey their fathers/husbands.

Do you see why I said, I don't believe this would be right? It isn't just because I believe it would be wrong to let another one know what I (and my family) believe, but I do not want to teach them to go contrary to what their fathers/husbands are trying to teach them, as that WOULD be wrong, and I believe that I would now be going against the mandate that we as women were given, concerning the teaching of the younger women.

This is the same reason why my father will often refuse to teach other women by themselves, but will often tell her to bring her husband with her, and will then go to her husband and make sure he does not mind my father teaching her (in his presence). This way the husband can then refute anything that my father says, that is not in line with what he believes. Even they are supposed to teach the women to stay under their authority.

I have seen way too many women, who rebel against their fathers/husbands, simply because they hear another women talking about what she and her husband believe (or just what she herself believes), and I think this is so sad. Each man was given his own family to teach and train them in the word of God. Never were the women told to teach other women what she should be doing, concerning spiritual matters like these. We were given specific things to teach

other women, and I would highly recommend, that before you post anything on your blogs, you would go over those mandates that we as women were given, in regards to what we were supposed to be teaching other women to do, and see if what you are writing about, is in accordance to those scripture passages.

Here is something that I have found helpful for myself in this regard. What I like to ask myself when writing something is, “Will this encourage a women to follow her authority, or discourage her from following her authority?” “Will this teach a woman to love her family more, or rebel against them?” “Will this teach a woman to be a “keeper of the home” or go out and work in a man’s world, leaving her family behind?” (And I should clarify something here. I do not believe it is wrong for a woman to work in her family’s owned and run business, helping her father further his vision, nor do I believe it is wrong for her to do some kind of ministry, as long as she has her father/husband’s blessing. I believe that this is much different, than just going and getting a job, because you want to work outside of the home. There is a time and a place for it, yes, but generally speaking, we are called to be “keepers of the home”, and this is what we are to teach others to do.)

So ask yourselves these questions, and if the answer goes against what scripture tells you to do, then please, dear girls, do not post it! Be VERY careful with what you post, as you WILL be teaching another something. But, the question comes down to, what will you be teaching them?

Another thing that I want you girls to think about is, what you talk about with other girls. Do you speak about how you disagree with your father on “such and such” of a point? Do you lift your father up in conversations, or do you bring him down? What is the outlook that you give about your dear father/husbands, to those around you? Do they even realize that you disagree with him on any given issue? If they do, my girls, then you are doing something contrary to what Yahweh wants you to do. Think back in your mind, and see if what you are talking about around your friends is in keeping with scripture. Think about what your future husband would think, if he heard you speaking about him that way (replace your father, with your husband, as what you do in regards to your father, you will do in regards to your husband one day).

This is brings me to our challenge for today:

Think about what you write, what you say, what you think etc. See if there is something there that needs to be changed, and then ask Yahweh to help you make that change, and be determined to make that change in your life.

May each of you be a blessing to all those around you, teaching all those around you by your example, what it means to be a set apart daughter.

Challenge 33

Writing for our fathers/husbands

We are now going to look at the seventh question and see what Yahweh has in-store to teach us today.

Question #7

“Is it wrong if our fathers/husbands ask us to write something for them, under their name, with them pre-viewing it, to help them out because they just don’t have the time to do it”?

Absolutely not! This is our job! We are to further our men. We are to be their helpmeet (which simply means to be someone who is able to help them)! If this is a task that they need us to do for them (or help them with), with them overseeing it, by all means, do it! You would be in the wrong if you didn’t.

But, I think that this is a whole lot different from trying to teach the women God has placed under us about doctrinal type things. One ministry you are doing for your husband, basically, being his right-arm in his ministry (which they were given the mandate to teach others, men and women). The other is a ministry you are doing, teaching other women. Do you see the difference? Yes, those same women may read what you are doing for your husband. But, it is now your husband speaking and teaching, not you. It is your husband’s name that is being spread abroad, not your own, so you are indeed furthering him and his name. And indeed, this would also be in line with keeping Titus 2 about women, and how they are to teach women to love their husbands, as you are clearly teaching them by your example, by being a true helpmeet to your own father/husband. You are also teaching those women different ways that they, too, can help their fathers/husbands, as well. See the difference here?

So, by all means, dear ladies, do this if you are asked and it can be a blessing to those precious men God has blessed you with!

Remember: become HIS helpmeet, not another ladies husband’s helpmeet! There is a big difference. You go further your own man and help your own man, and you pour your life into that dear man! And if you do this, dear sisters, you WILL be blessed for it!

This brings me to our challenge for today:

I would like to challenge each of you to find different ways to farther your father/husbands. Try to see if there is any way that you could help him with what he is doing. Go to them and ask them if there is anything at all that you could do, that would truly be a help and a blessing to him.

Challenge 34

Do we have what it will take? Part 1

As we come to a close here with our daily challenges, I wanted to leave off with a question “Do we have what it will take?” I have broken it up into two different challenges and I pray that it will truly bless and challenge each of you.

Do we have what it will take? Part 1

Do we have what it will take to be a submissive wife? An honoring wife? A wife that will reverence her husband? What about being wives that will back up our husband’s vision and jump on board with him concerning it?

As I sit here, I wonder just how many of us have what it will truly take to be the future wives that Yahweh has called us to be. Yet, we also know it is a requirement from God that we be that type of woman. But can we? How will we ever know before we marry our husbands if we have what it will take? How will our future husbands know if we will back them up and be submissive wives to them, like we should be, before they ask to marry us? These are some of the questions that I would like to look at this morning, as they have been on my mind lately.

I’d like to first look at the scripture verses concerning submission. This is the key area that I would like to focus on right now.

Ephesians 5:22-23 says, “**Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands**, as unto Yahweh. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Saviour of the body.”

Colossians 3:18 says, “**Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands**, as it is fit in Yahweh.”

We see here that we are supposed to be submissive to our own husbands. Yet, what does that really mean? How can we tell that we will be submissive to them, when we really don’t even know what they will be asking of us? I’m glad you asked! 😊

Let’s look at the definition for submission:

The word submit comes from the Strong’s #5293 and from #5259 and it means;

- 1) to arrange under, to subordinate
- 2) to subject, put in subjection
- 3) to subject one’s self, obey

- 4) to submit to one's control
- 5) to yield to one's admonition or advice
- 6) to obey, be subject

This really sums up what submission really is. When one submits themselves to another, they are yielding what they think and what they want to do, for what another thinks and wants done. They are surrendering themselves (their will)... and obeying. They are putting themselves under another, and following them...EVEN WHEN THEY DISAGREE!

Girls, a lot of people confuse submission, with agreeing. They say "Oh, I am submissive to him, I completely agree with him!" Girls, that's NOT submission! That is agreeing with them. When one agrees, they do not have to put themselves in subject to another. They already whole heartily agree with what they want done.

Instead, think of submission in this way. Here we are; we are told to do something that we don't agree with. The question now comes down to, "Will I surrender what I think and yield to what they think and obey them?"

When we choose to lay down what we think, and choose to be put under someone else's control...being willing to yield ourselves and our desires...that is submission. It is when we whole heartily disagree, yet are still willing to lay that disagreement down, and we choose to still cheerfully follow another's decision and obey them.

We have not even come close to learning submission, until we come to a place where we find ourselves in disagreement with another above us, and are willing to yield our wills and choose to submit to them...obeying them with a smile...regardless as to what we may feel or think.

This is true submission. And you ask, "Well, yes, this is true submission, but how can I learn this before I am even married?"

The answer is actually quite simple. Yahweh in His wonderful design, gave us a wonderful and I might add, a very human man, to learn this very important trait from, so that when it came time for us to be married to yet another wonderful, and again, very human man, we would be ready and armed with the needful requirements of the trait of submission!! 😊

And you are saying "Whoa! Wait a minute! Explain what you are talking about! What man were we placed under to learn this from?" Yes, I am smiling. And yes, I think a lot of you can guess who I am talking about. God gave us our fathers to train us and to be our training ground for marriage. No, they too, are not perfect. They too, are very human...as will be our wonderful husbands. Yet, God placed us ladies under some very wonderful men, knowing full well that we are both human beings and that means that we will both fail at some point. It's just a given.

Yet, this didn't matter, nor does this change a thing. It was still and is still God's perfect plan for all of us. And yes, this means that we could be submitting to a man that will fail, that is not doing what he should be doing, but never in God's word, does God say "And ladies, if your man does something that you disagree with and don't think is right, than you stand right up and put him in his place and DO NOT submit yourselves! After all, he may be sinning!" Just the opposite is true! He said, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, AS UNTO YAHWEH".

Do you know what this verse means, my friends? It means that we are to submit ourselves unto our own husbands, as if it were God standing there! That is the extent that we are supposed to be submissive to our husbands! We are to submit to our husbands, AS UNTO YAHWEH! As if we were submitting to God Himself! For you see, when we submit to our husbands, and they are submitting themselves unto God, we are then submitting ourselves to God. God just gave us a chain of authority to do it in. (In other words, when you submit to your husbands, you ARE submitting to God!) The Woman submits to Man, and Man submits himself to God. And when we women stop submitting and take over ruling, it messes this whole chain of authority up. It would then be: Man → Woman → God. See a problem with that? God said that He would deal with the man if the man was in the wrong. That is solely God's job, not ours. Man is directly under God and if the man is doing something contrary to God's will, He will deal with him directly.

But, how can He, if we stubbornly get in His way? Instead, now we are both out of God's will, instead of just the man. Now both the man and woman are not living their lives according to scripture, and the whole thing breaks down. Instead, we are to just focus on what we are supposed to do, and leave the men up to God.

This is brings me to our challenge for today:

I would like for you to start learning and applying submission in your lives, dear girls, using your father's to teach you how. When your father tells you to do something that you don't agree with, I would like to challenge you to simply stay quiet and humble yourselves and follow his leadership. Cheerfully obey him. Show him that you are yielding your will to his. For is not that what Yahshua did with His own father when He said in Luke 22:42, "...nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."?

This is a trait that every wife needs to have under her belt, before she can then be married, girls. Take advantage of this training ground that Yahweh has placed right in front of you! You will be forever blessed if you can learn this one trait, my girls. Pray and ask Yahweh to help you learn it. Ask Him to help you to become that submissive daughter that you need to become, so that you can then become the submissive wife that you need to become.

Challenge 35

Do we have what it will take? Part 2

Do we have what it will take? Part 2

The question that I have for us today is, “How can we prepare for our future husband’s by learning submission now, as singles?” The answer is that we can prepare for them, by being submissive to our fathers, in the here and now. Girls, what are our actions like when we disagree with our fathers?

Let’s say that your father and you do not believe exactly alike, scripturally. You disagree with him and you think he is wrong. He tells the family that he believes this is what you need to do. So here you are, an “adult” (and if you are like me, you are now closer to thirty, than you are to twenty). You now have a choice. You can obey your father, and go contrary to what you believe, OR, you can yield yourself and your will, and submit yourself to that of what your father believes is right. Which will you choose?

A lot of girls I know would stand up and say “I disagree with you (talking to her father), so I am not going to do it” (you know, after all, I AM AN ADULT!). Yet, that is not being submissive, is it? Now let me show you some other verses in scripture:

Ephesians 6:1 says, “**Children, obey** (remember, submit can be replaced by obey and vice versa) your parents in Yahweh: **for this is right.**”

Colossians 3:20 says, “**Children, obey your parents** (and it goes on to explain...) **in all things:** for this is well pleasing unto Yahweh.”

You see something that is correlating to the verses dealing with the “wives”? It is almost the exact wording, yet now it is saying that it is the children who need to submit. And it goes even further to explain just how much they need to submit to their parents (i.e. their fathers in this case). It goes on to say “Children, you submit (obey) in ALL THINGS!” Not just the things you agree with, but you submit and obey in ALL things, because THIS is what is well pleasing to me (Yahweh)! WOW!

Girls, this is God’s plan! When we learn to be submissive to our fathers, that submission will then be carried over to our husbands, and we won’t even have to really think about it. It will be an easier adjustment for us, because we have already learned a very important trait... submitting to a human man (our fathers).

When other men see this trait in your lives (the fact that you are very submissive to your own dear father), he will know without a shadow of a doubt that you will be that way with him! It is SO true that how a daughter treats her father, is EXACTLY like how she will later on treat her husband. You are not going to change overnight. It all begins here, in our homes and with our fathers.

Girls, the same goes for honoring, respecting, reverencing, and advancing his vision. When we learn to do this for our fathers, we have learned how to do it for our future husbands, as well, regardless as to what his vision may be. It is one and the same. Yes, their visions may be different (they most likely will be). But, the important thing is that you have learned the basics of being able to further them, encourage them, honor them, reverence them and love them. It all starts with our Daddy's, girls. The woman you are now is the woman you will still be when you are married. Marriage is NOT going to change that! So make who you want yourself to be when you are married and who God wants you to be when you are married, into that woman right now! Become that woman, NOW! Don't wait! God gave us these precious men to practice and learn from right now, so take full advantage of it! It WILL pay off in the end!

For those of you who have less than perfect fathers or even unsaved fathers...the commands still stand. God did not give you permission to ignore such a command on the basis of your father not being "perfect" or not being "saved". It may be more challenging for you, yes, but God had a reason for blessing you with your father, and whether you realize it or not, he IS a blessing! He knew what He was doing when He gave you your Daddy, and all He says you have to do, is do what He commands YOU to do. Don't worry about who your father is or isn't. That doesn't matter. Leave him in God's hands. And I might add that when fathers see this kind of change in their daughters, they WILL take notice of it! Maybe God wants to use you, and your example, to bring your father to Him. (1 Cor. 7:14)

This brings me to our last challenge:

I want to challenge each of you dear girls to become the daughter's that your fathers would be proud of...especially your Heavenly Father! This is where it all starts, in your home as a single young lady and with your own dear family.

Let's close in a word of prayer:

"Dear Heavenly Father, I pray a blessing upon each of these precious girls. Father, please help each of them to become the very daughters that you long for them to become. Help them to change in the ways that they need to change in and help them have victory over the areas that they need victory in. Please help them to become the shining lights for you, so that all who come in contact with them would see You. May you forever be the Lord over their lives. How I

thank you for bringing us down this journey together and I pray that you would continually help us learn all that we need to learn, so that we would be prepared for whatever lies ahead. May you always get the glory and honor of our lives and may we live each and every moment for you! Thank you, Father, for having your Son set the example for us. May we live up to His example!"