**Kingdom Women ~ Kim Grant ~ 22nd May 2021**

 *‘As women of the Kingdom, not only are we better together, we are destined for greatness together’.*

As Kingdom women we should be;

* settled in our identity
* know our role and calling in the Body
* looking forward to a great future

**We are to** **know our identity as a women of the Kingdom.**

‘*You will be called by a new name, that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. You will be a crown of splendour in the Lord’s hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God’* (Isaiah 62:2 NIV).

‘*Say to the Daughter of Zion, “Look, your Saviour comes, ready to do what He said He would do, prepared to complete what He has promised. You will be called by a new name; Holy People, God Redeemed, Sought Out, a City not Forsaken’.* (Isaiah 62:11-12).

The truth of who we are in God is to be fixed and seated in a heart of flesh given over to God (Ezekiel 36:25-27).

*‘This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!’* (2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT).

We have been given a clean slate and can start a new journey in Jesus.

The big question for many women in the world today is still that of their identity. ‘Who am I? What am I worth? Do I really matter? Do I make a difference?’

Society still tends to measure us by;

* our appearance
* the amount of money we have in our pocket
* accomplishments in our careers
* the success or lack of it in our relationships.

When the world is looking for glamour, youth and success the majority of women are left feeling inadequate and feel as if they are living lives with little significance.

We as women of the Kingdom have to constantly be on our guard that we do not buy into the world’s value system.

*‘I am made in the image of God and an heir with Jesus of all His blessings and it is that which brings meaning and value and dignity to my life and releases me into my future’.*

The primary responsibility of every woman of the Kingdom is to fulfil the call of God on their life.

Our choices should be undergirded by what we believe, our calling in God and our view of ourselves, our self-worth.

There are seasons to our lives and we do well to realise that different seasons bring different emphases to our life.

For such times in our lives we need to look to Father for grace to journey through when you’re not where you want to be at the moment.

*‘Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom’* (2 Corinthians 3:17). Our journey is to be a journey to freedom. the freedom to live from that inner assurance of who we are in Him. What it means to be a woman of the Kingdom. As we surrender ourselves to the Spirit we are on the path to discovering true answers.

*‘You will know the truth and the truth will set you free’* (John 8:32).

That may be a painful exercise at times but we cannot ignore the process if we want to enjoy all He wants us to be.

‘*Behold, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?* (Isaiah 43:19).

The wilderness is a difficult place to be but it’s not our final destination. We are just passing through.

In Mark 1:12 after Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan and the Spirit descended upon Him like a dove, we read that *‘at once the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness’* (Mark 1:12 NKJV). Jesus was compelled, forced, driven out into the wilderness.

The Spirit wanted Jesus there. The devil came to test Jesus and it was all about Who Jesus was. It was all about His identity and how He was going to work that out.

The devil wanted to offer Jesus an easier route to accomplish His mission here on earth. But Jesus chose to do Father’s will Father’s way.

When you find yourself in a desert place it can be because the Spirit is wanting to build something more into your life. Choose to do it Father’s way. We become those Daughters of the King with a calling on our lives.

And that calling is different for each one of us. We are all different and Father God doesn’t treat us as a job lot. He loves you as an individual. He cherishes you as an individual and He has an individual plan and calling just for you. You are that special.

God is working in each of our lives preparing us to make a unique contribution to His Kingdom. We have to ask ourselves Esther 4:14 type questions;

What have I come to the Kingdom for? At this specific time and place in my life?

Paul says, *‘Live life then with a due sense of responsibility not as those who do not know the meaning of life but as those who do. Make the best use of your time despite all the evils of these days. Don’t be vague but grasp firmly what you now to be the will of the Lord’* (Ephesians 5:15-17 Phillips).

Every one of us has a beauty to be unveiled, that essence of God to be revealed to the world. Zechariah 9:16 says, ‘*for we are as the stones of a crown, sparkling in His land. For what comeliness and beauty is ours!’*

The devil attacks us right at the core of who we are. He wants you to doubt that you have beauty. He wants you to wonder if you can bring life, he wants you to question if you bear God’s image. He wants to contest your dignity and identity in God.

When we are ground down by circumstance, we become vulnerable and prone to succumb to the oldest temptation ~ that of doubting who we are in God..

The Psalmist writes, ‘*With God’s help we will fight like heroes and He will trample down every foe’* (Psalm 60:12 TPT).

2 Peter 1:3 tells us that He has done *everything* necessary so that we have *everything* we need for life. We need to settle that in our hearts. If we don’t we will constantly battle with issues of self-worth and our past experiences will cripple our present walk in Christ.

*‘Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past’* (Isaiah 43:18).

What was Jesus’ mission statement? What did He say when He stood up in the Temple? ‘*The Spirit of the Lord is on me …..’* (Luke 4:16-21).

He is saying to every woman here today, ‘God has sent Me on a mission and I have some great news for you! God has sent Me to restore something in you and to release something through you. I am here to release your heart and to set you free to be all that I intended for you to be’.

He stands and knocks at the door of your heart and asks you to let Him in to heal what needs healing, to restore what has been robbed from you and to release what is yet to come through you.

You have a destiny to fulfil. And it starts right here. As we are brave enough to allow Him to take our hearts and let Him imprint upon them our true identity.

Being a daughter of the King is not a passive thing. We are called to follow. We hear His voice and respond. *‘He goes on ahead and His sheep follow Him because they know His voice’* (John 10:4 NIV).

*‘We have become His poetry, a recreated people that will fulfil the destiny He has given each of us for we are joined to Jesus, the Anointed One. Even before we were born, God planned in advance our destiny and the good works we would do to fulfil it!’* (Ephesians 2:10 TPT).

**As a woman of the Kingdom I am to** **relate to and work with my sisters.**

We said at the beginning, *‘We are better together’.* We are all knit into the body and have a part to play.

*‘God has carefully designed each member and placed it in the body to function as He desires’* (1 Corinthians 12:18 TPT).

Sisterly love is to be a reflection of the divine nature. It’s a love that holds nothing back. We love each other because God loves us. We are all different but we need to be in relationship with each other to be the *‘full expression*’ of Jesus to each other and to the world (1 John 4:12).

What does Father want you to be for the sake of your sisters?

I am knitted to you and you are joined to me. As Paul says, *‘the whole body joined and held together by every supporting ligament grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work’* (Ephesians 4:16 NIV).

Sometimes that work includes, *‘strengthening the feeble hands, steadying the knees that give way; saying to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not be afraid”’* (Isaiah 35:3:4 NIV).

 We should not travel alone. Relationship is built over time. We are to invest time, be open and honest, trust and respect without fear of judgement and be encouraged.

**Kingdom women have** **a future of greatness**.

*‘Keep trusting in the Lord and do what is right in His eyes, fix your heart on the promises of God and you will be secure, feasting on His faithfulness. Make God the utmost delight and pleasure of your life and He will provide for you what you desire most. Give God the right to direct your life and as you trust Him along the way you’ll find that He pulls it off perfectly!’* (Psalm 37:3-5 TPT).

*‘Even in a time of disaster He will watch over them and they will always have more than enough no matter what happens …. The godly and spiritually mature ones will have a peaceful, prosperous future with a happy ending’* (Psalm 37: 16-19, 37 TPT).

There is one question that keeps coming back to me again and again in these days. Paul says, *‘I’m not writing this to embarrass you or to shame you, but to correct you as the children I love* …. *where are the spiritual fathers and mothers among you?’* (1 Corinthians 4:15 TPT).

I believe that it is vital in these days that we look to make lasting spiritual investments in each other’s lives.

Paul observed that we may have ten thousand instructors in our lives. What we need are true mothers and fathers who will speak into our lives from a position of love and wanting the absolute best for us. Who will walk with us through the tough times and celebrate with us the good.

We need to be women who are not only well taught but who also have spiritual parents who example to us how to walk in the good of that knowledge and are able to exercise the power of the Spirit which bring victory in our lives. Women are hard wired for close relationships. It’s in our DNA

I believe the Lord is calling women today to spiritual motherhood on a whole new level.

Paul tells us, *‘the mature children of God are those who are moved by the impulses of the Holy Spirit’* (Romans 8:14 TPT).

There is a part to play by the spiritual mothers amongst us. More than ever before He is calling mothers to take spiritual daughters under their wing ad help them grow into healthy women of God, complete in every way (Colossians 2:10).

*‘When a woman possessing faith and spiritual maturity enters into a nurturing relationship with a younger woman in order to encourage and equip her to live for God’s glory’* (Susan Hunt).

Chronological age does not dictate when someone can be a spiritual mother. Age has less to do with it than Godly experience. The main qualification is the desire to serve your sisters in this way. Experience and spiritual maturity are the yardstick to who should mentor whom. It is what we carry that qualifies a woman to be a spiritual mother.

*‘The older woman’s life is to be free from gossip and drunkenness and to be teachers of good things. This will enable them to teach the younger women to love their husbands, to love their children and to be self-controlled and pure, taking care of their household and being devoted to their husbands’* (Titus 2:3-5 TPT).

The church can be impacted if older women would start teaching the younger women by their godly life styles. If they would give of themselves and invest their energies in younger women, the Kingdom will be advanced.

*‘Point them in the way that they should go and the values they’ve learned from you will be with them for life’* (Psalm 22:6 TPT).

*‘Never forget my words. If you do everything that I teach you, you will reign in life’* (Proverbs 4:4 TPT).

Mothers know what it is to *‘look out not only for their own interests but also for the interests of others’* (Philippians 2:3-4 NIV).

It is essential that we point each other to Father God. We are to focus on glorifying God by following His plan and purposes for our lives.

Spiritual mothers spend time in prayer stocking up in the Spirit to be able to supply exactly what a daughter requires in every circumstance in life.

So, how do I know if Father is calling me to spiritual mothering?

Spiritual mothering is not just another thing on your ‘to do’ list. It only works when Father imparts the desire to you personally. It needs to be birthed in prayer. Ask God to lead you to the right person and then pray into their lives.

Please note: poor self-image will hinder you in spiritual mothering. We need to care more about what Father thinks of us than what other people think. We need to have our identity. When we understand God’s unconditional love for us we will not minister out of duty but out of His love for our daughters (Galatians 5:13).

Don’t feel that you are not qualified. We are to trust God and He will allow us to use our gifts and even increase them to help others. God’s love will always win over our fear of man.

Don’t be afraid that you may make mistakes. You probably will!

*‘Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart and the pleasantness of one’s friend springs from her earnest counsel’* (Proverbs 27:9 NIV).

As we take time to invest in a relationship we will be encouraged as we open our lives more fully to each other.

We need to listen to older women and realise they have a lot to offer and that we would greatly benefit spending time with them

Spiritual mothers are not trying to make carbon copies of themselves by having our daughter make the same choices as us to win our approval. They are accountable to God first and foremost. We offer ourselves in relationship but it’s up to them to respond to God and change and grow.

Listen more than talk!

The best and most fruitful kind of relationships are those that are two way. Both mothers and daughters can benefit and learn.

*‘God lovers make the best counsellors. Their words possess wisdom and are right and trustworthy’* (Psalm 37:30 TPT).

The important ingredients are commitment, honesty and support.

Please note that it’s not a life sentence!

Together we learn that women who uphold each other become more powerful.

The Psalmist says that *‘our hands are trained for war’* (Psalm 144:1 NIV).

Part of that training is by learning from our spiritual parents. Paul writes to Timothy, *‘all that you have learned from me, confirmed by the integrity of my life, deposit in others who will also be qualified to teach others’* (2 Timothy 2:2 TPT/NIV).

As we learn from the spiritually mature we are to pass it on to others so that we will see the spiritual environment changed which will bring healing and prosperity in all areas of life for ourselves and our sisters.

Father says, *‘I will send down showers in season, there will be showers of blessing’*  (Ezekiel 34:26).

Where *‘gladness and joy will overtake them and sorrow and sighing will flee away’* (Isaiah 35:10 NIV).

*‘You, O God, sent the reviving rain upon your weary inheritance, showers of blessing to refresh it. So there your people settled and in Your kindness You provided the poor with abundance. God Almighty declares the Word of the gospel with power and the warring women of Zion deliver its message’* (Psalm 68:9-11 TPT).

Kingdom women are designed for greatness and fruitfulness. We are to be refreshed and find abundance in God. We are to run with the Word, we are armed with the Spirit and as warriors we will deliver the gospel message of victory and freedom.

*‘The conquering legions have themselves been conquered. Look at them flee! Now Zion’s women are left to gather the spoils’* (Psalm 68:9-12 TPT). Victory is ours!

God is calling us to rise up as women over the land He has given you. You are the company of women who nurture, protect and defend your sisters. The enemy, all the issues in your life that in the past tried to conquer you, are now conquered. You will pick up the spoils, the rewards of being on the victorious side.

 He is knitting the hearts of women together so that together we will see God’s power at work in and through our lives. We are designed for greatness. We are designed to take the message of the gospel and plunder the enemy’s territory. We are designed to be winners. Operating from a place of faith, not fear.

*‘And don’t allow yourselves to be weary or disheartened for the season of reaping the wonderful harvest you’ve planted s coming’* (Galatians 6:9 TPT).

Let us make sure that we embrace our identity as women of the Kingdom.

Let us work on our relationships with each other. Let’s be brave enough to be open and honest with each other so that we can stand with each other especially in those wilderness times. Let’s make sure we stick together.

Let’s be open to hearing the call to be spiritual mothers and daughters.

And let us remind each other constantly that we are designed for greatness. We are to be a company of women who delight in doing the will of the Lord, who look to each other because together we are stronger and determine to see the victories in our lives that Father has lined up for us.

We are called to;

· Our vision of knowing who we are in Jesus

· Our desire of building our hearts together

· Our purpose of taking back what the enemy would steal from us

· Our voice to declare the good news of the gospel

· Our calling to be women of the Kingdom

· Our destiny be part of that company that live in the power of the Spirit and gather the spoils of victory