

## **Celebrating Being a Woman of God** By Heather-Dawn Small

Theme: Celebrating As a Woman of God

Suggested Call to Worship: SDA Hymnal Reading #699, *O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord*

Primary Bible text: Psalm 139:1-6, 13, 14, 17, 18

Opening Song: *Praise Him! Praise Him!*, #249, or *All Creatures of Our God and King*, #2, SDA Hymnal

Closing Song: *Take My Life and Let it Be*, #330, or *I Surrender All*, #309, SDA Hymnal

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Prayer

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The story is told of an elderly spinster who one day was visited by her church pastor. The pastor was delighted about the news he had received about the spinster and could not wait to congratulate her on what he had heard. As she opened the door to let him in he cried, “Congratulations my dear sister. What wonderful news. This is truly a day of celebration and much joy.” The woman looked at him in shock and inquired why he was so excited. The pastor told her that he was thrilled to know that she was getting married after all this time and that her friends wanted to celebrate the occasion with her.

The spinster looked at the pastor in amazement. Then she chuckled to herself and said, “My dear pastor. I’m sorry to say that the news you have received is incorrect. I am not getting married. But I thank God for the rumor.”

When we celebrate being women of God it’s not based on a rumor. We are celebrating something that is true. You see in God’s eyes we are chosen vessels and that makes us special, which means we have something to celebrate. But not everyone is celebrating. Why? Because we don’t know who we are.

So let’s take a moment to answer three very important questions:

- ◆ Who am I?
- ◆ What does God expect of me? and
- ◆ What is my purpose in life?

To answer “Who am I” we need to answer “Whose am I?” 1 Cor 6:19 reads, “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? “

That’s right my dear sisters. This body we possess is not ours, it belongs to God and it is the dwelling place of His Holy Spirit. This means I am not a nobody. In God’s eyes I am somebody. I am a princess, a daughter of the King of Kings, a child of our Heavenly Father, a friend of Jesus. And that means that I am somebody.

Our next question is “What does God expect of me.” Mt 11:29 Jesus tells us to “Come unto me, all [ye] that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon

you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” That yoke that Jesus asks us to bear is a yoke of surrender.

When the farmer places the yoke on his oxen, the oxen stand meekly in place and allow the farmer to do what he has to do. The oxen do not turn to the farmer and say, “Now listen Mr. Farmer, I don’t want to wear this yoke. Leave me alone let me do my own thing.” Instead they bear their yoke without murmuring. With the yoke in place the farmer can now lead the oxen in the direction that is best for them.

It’s the same with us. God knows what’s best for our lives. He knows the future and He wants to direct our path, but we must first surrender to His leading.

And finally we need to answer the question “What is my purpose in life?” “Why am I here?” And we’ll find our answer in Mt 28:19, 20 and it reads, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.”

God has told us our purpose in life and that is to go and tell the good news about Jesus. For every born again Christian our first purpose is to go and tell. It comes before being a good teacher, doctor, technician, housewife or pilot. It should be our primary goal each day – to go and tell. To live a life that tells.

Well now we know who we are, why we are here and what God expects of us now we can focus on celebrating. Why should we celebrate? Because of what God has done for you and me.

- “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16
- Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

What a reason to celebrate! Not only am I special in God’s eyes because my body belongs to Him and He lives in me, but I can also celebrate because of what He has done for me. Salvation in Jesus is reason to celebrate. The sacrifice He made for me and you is so unbelievable. We do not deserve it. We are not worthy. But when He looks at us He sees women of value and worth. And He rejoices over us.

Being a woman of God is no small thing. It is an awesome responsibility. It means that God is first in my life. It means that I live to please Him. It means that I am no ordinary woman. David reminds us in Psalm 139:17, 18 what God thinks of us.

“How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! [If] I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.”

We are precious in His sight. He thinks of us all the time. We cannot count the number of times He thinks about us. Now doesn’t that give you reason to celebrate?

But how should we celebrate?

- The psalmist writes in Ps. 145:1 – 3 “I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I

will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. Great [is] the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness [is] unsearchable.”

➤ And Ps 92:1 – 2 says, “[It is a] good [thing] to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High. To show forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.”

The psalmists tells us to celebrate every day. Praise God and bless His name each day for as long as we live. But not only should we praise God but we should also tell others about His lovingkindness and faithfulness to us.

When you are happy about something what do you do? You celebrate. You call friends and tell them the good news. You might even have a party or a lunch with friends to celebrate the event. In other words, you tell someone and that’s what we need to do.

We have much to celebrate as children of God. We can celebrate our identity in Him that gives us a new status that no one can take away. We can celebrate His gift of salvation that comes at no cost. The Bible is filled with reasons for us to celebrate. Don’t put it off for tomorrow. Celebrate today. Take a moment during this day and write a list of all the reasons you have to celebrate. Then call some friends and tell them. Have a celebration of joy and thanksgiving for all that God has done for you. Not next week or even next month. Do it now.

In closing I will share with you a poem that someone sent me years ago. A poem that celebrates the joy of being a woman of God –

AGod made me a woman; it was by no mistake,  
no error in production,  
that life came to me  
in the form of a girl;

No accidental blend of  
genes and chromosomes  
provided me with a heart  
Full of love and sensitive femininity.

God designed that I should be  
His woman, His servant  
here on earth. He gave  
me a woman’s body with which to serve Him.

He asks my service, desires my heart,  
carries my burdens, creates in me  
the yearning to do His will,  
to be all that He designed me to be.

God made me a woman; I rejoice in that  
I praise Him for the time He gives  
to carry out His purpose.  
God made me a woman, and I am glad.®

(Appeal: Make an appeal to women present to reaffirm their calling in God by standing. Then have a prayer of consecration for each woman. Let the prayer be one of praise and thanksgiving for what God has done for us.)

**Biographical Information on Sermon Writer:**

Heather-Dawn Small, a native of Trinidad, is the associate director of Women's Ministries at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. An ordained elder, Heather-Dawn is married to Joe, a pastor, and they have a college-age daughter, Dalonne, and a son, Gerald.