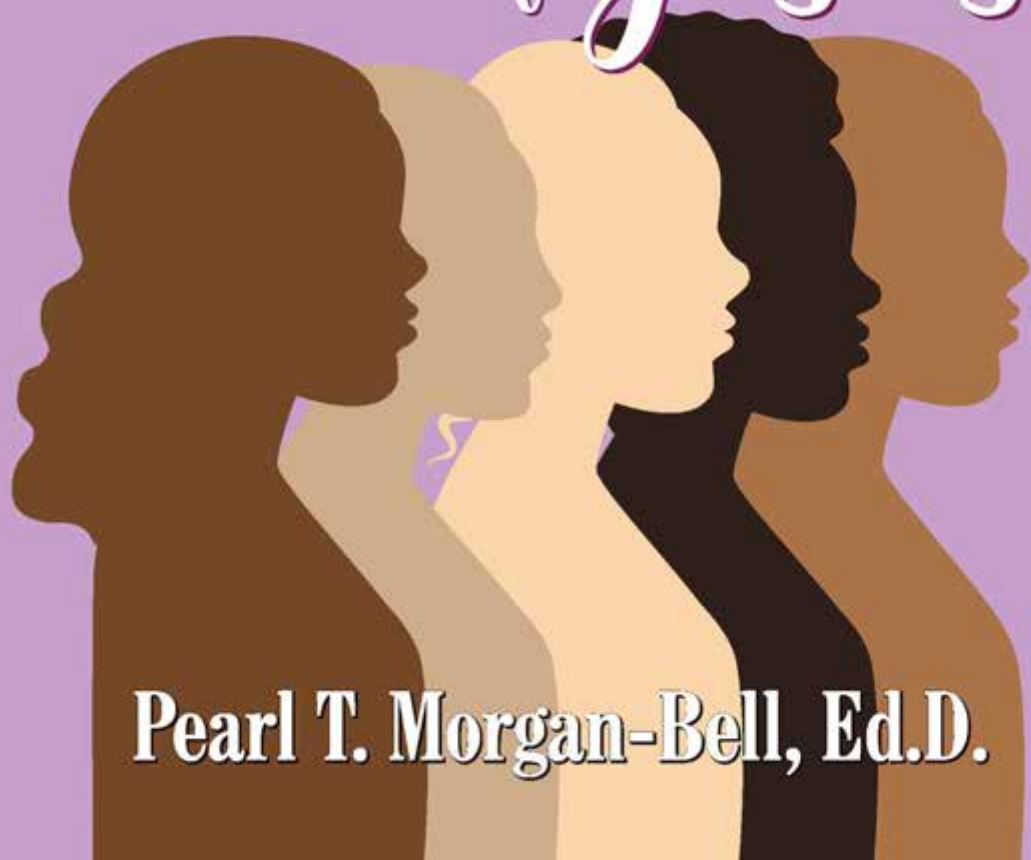


Daughters
of God and
sisters
of Jesus



Pearl T. Morgan-Bell, Ed.D.

Daughters of God and Sisters of Jesus

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Dedication

*This volume is dedicated to all “my sisters” everywhere;
all women of whatever clime, culture, ethnicity, or class.
This book is for you.*

Acknowledgement

This second devotional could not have been written except at the express command of the Holy Spirit, who authorized me to write a devotional for women—“Daughters of God and Sisters of Jesus.” I thank my son Easton Bell, who recommend that I should write a devotional that speaks to the needs and concerns of the female gender only. Based on that suggestion, I went to the Lord to seek His guidance and felt impressed to address women’s needs and their multifaceted roles in the home, church, family, the workplace, etc. Because our Father made her so special and has imbued her with such a wide a variety of talents, she is very special. God made her unique and crowned her with gifts that no one else possesses; she is God’s treasure trove. What you have is a series of discourses that speak to the woman’s many selves: temperamentally, existentially, wholistically, and ethically.

I give thanks to my son Ronald, who came to my aid and fixed the computer that was giving troubles saving, retrieving, and printing the document. I appreciate Maryann Dawkins for her tireless help in assisting me with added computer skills. Above all, I thank Dr. Ken Knosp for the pastoral review. More than anything else, I praise God for the fortitude and for the constant presence of the Holy Spirit that guided me through this process. Many times, because of the disappointments I was experiencing, I was at the point of giving up and not completing the task, but I know the enemy was trying to interfere and prevent this volume from getting into the hands of my sisters. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I prevailed, and here it is in your hands to bless your lives and enrich your

relationship with both your Father and your Elder Brother. Special thanks to the publishers and editorial staff for so painstakingly getting this volume to press.

Happy reading, and be spiritually blessed as you experience a closer walk with the heavenly pair—your Dad and Brother!

Dr. Pearl

Preface

This volume addresses the many facets of womanhood: who she is, her purpose, and how she functions in her multifaceted roles. It will look at the existential inquiry of Who is she? What is she doing here? and Where is she going? In other words, it seeks to identify who she is in the great scheme of humanity and how she perceives her role; what she has done and what she is capable of doing. It will explore the multitudinous tasks she has been assigned and how effectively she manages them.

We use the twelve-month cycle of the year to assign her different roles as each month unfolds. January unfolds the “Existential question of identity: Who am I, What am I doing here in this place on earth at this time of human development, and Where am I going?” February investigates her “Relational self” in terms of the humors: the “Elemental self and the Temperamental self”-sic; emotional self, the rational self, the phlegmatic, the sanguine and the choleric self. March speaks to the special gem she is and addresses the theme of “Woman, More than Rubies”; April, the “Middle C –The Christ-centered Woman”-capable, convicted, committed, and complex; May presents “God’s Resolute Woman, a Woman of Character.” June – “God’s ABC Daughter-the Alphabet Woman.” July introduces “Jesus and Women”, August discusses “Women Who Changed the World”, while September presents the” Caring and Care-giving Woman.” October gives us another side of the female species and discusses “Disobedient and Deceitful Women” while November presents “Woman’s Role in a Changing

World” and December brings the discourse to a close with “Women-Bearing Fruit in Old age.” The volume ends with a Prayer for all Women.

I invite you to engage yourself and find your true self as you journey this year and, maybe, a lifetime with the Lord. May each of us discover and or rediscover our true self and move on from there in the direction that providence leads. It has been my pleasure to pen these few lines as the Holy Spirit guided me in the process. In doing so, I truly learned what David said Psalm 32:8:

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will (guide) counsel you with my eye upon you.” What joy and assurance we find in being led and guided by the Holy Spirit!

Dr. Pearl

Introduction: An Apotheosis of Womanhood— God’s Crowning Jewel of Creation

God made woman out of man (see Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:21–23). When God presented her to Adam in all her beauty and symmetry, she was perfect, in other words, flawless. I know you have seen strikingly and stunningly beautiful women. Their eyelids, eyebrows, nose, and lips are proportional and well formed, but despite their seeming flawlessness, none can be compared with that first woman. No matter how beautiful these women appear, they have traces and elements of imperfection.

Our first woman, Mother Eve, was flawless, perfect in symmetry and form. God made and formed her in His likeness by imbuing her with His character, His DNA, His genes. Perfection abode and lodged in her entirety. She was hand-made, as it were.

Now effaced with sin, no woman—present or past—can compare to the unsullied beauty that Mother Eve possessed. She was clothed in righteousness, truth, beauty, equity, justice, and integrity; there was no scar, scab, or mark on her skin—and no tattoos. God gave her a wonderful gift: the power to choose; freedom to think, to do, and to act on her own. So this Eve, mother of all the living, has many sides to her, and so we will take a peek into her, and thus many sides and, thus, of all women.

God made her *able*: He imbued her with ability and ambition to become all that she could become. He made her *believing*. She is *bold*. And He made her *capable* as well as *capricious*. She is *daring* in seeking adventure; in other words, she is willing to go out on a limb on her own and find out what else there is to be seen. She had that creative inquiring desire and lust to know more.

She is *exotic*, *energetic*, and *elegant*. She is also fearless: not intimidated, and forward. She is willing to take chances in her quest of the unknown to discover and unearth something new.

She is *gracious and graceful*, and she possesses genuine concern for what else there is to see. She is *happy* but *hasty*. She is *idealistic* yet *indulgent* and, most of all, *inquisitive* and *inquiring*.

She is *joyful*, easy to talk to, engaging, and jolly. She craves knowledge—to know it all; nothing is to be hidden from her.

She is *loveable*, lovely, lively, and full of laughter. She is *mystifying*, mysterious, modest, and can be manipulated as though misguided. She is a nocturnal searcher, yet somewhat naïve, hence negligent of nuances. She is not always *obedient* but is obsessed with her own thoughts and is *oblivious* of evil or sinister forces lurking nearby.

For a moment she forgets how *precious* she is. She is priceless, and she is one of a kind, a rare and unique jewel, an unusual creation—the best that came from God’s hand. It is *pathetic* what happens to her, and all her daughters follow suit. One lonely and tired woman once said to me, “When I go to heaven, I want to ask Eve Why? I will have a conversation with her. ... For a moment, she had no patience or regard for God’s command. Why didn’t she run away from the talking serpent but tarried and questioned him further in her quest to get an answer? And here I am saddled with all kinds problems, all because of her.”

Being a daughter of Eve is a *wonderful* experience; we belong to the mother of all living, the matriarch. To us is committed the most wonderful task of procreation. We were made for the purpose of creating. God built that into our DNA. How special we are!

Even though the man was made first, by himself he could create nothing. He was not made to procreate; that is God’s gift to the female kind. We can concur with David as he exclaims, “I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Ps. 139:14).

Show me a man in all of sacred and secular history who conceived and brought forth a child. God came down to a woman, and the Holy Spirit planted a seminal holy seed in the woman, and she conceived and bore the Christ child. What a wondrous act, one that could be done only through a woman! What a wonderful experience, one that could have happened only to a woman.

Ladies, God made you special; revel in your God-given, God-directed specialness.

As daughters endowed with our mother's DNA, we possess some or all or a significant number of her attributes. So to some degree, we are all trapped; we are all progenitors of the race. Daughters are usually *expected* to do what their mothers do because she is the model. Let us be aware, learn, search, inquire, study, and practice those virtues that are holy, noble, upright, practical, realistic, and righteous so that we are not led astray by our inquisitiveness and become *victims* of cunning or sly incantations.

Let us stand firm based on what we know, what we have read, and what we believe, and let us not *yield* any of our members to do unrighteous, unholy, and sinful acts.

May we *zealously* guard our integrity so that one day we can look in Eve's face and say, "Mother, despite our inheritance, we are overcomers, we have won the race, we have jumped the hurdles, and we can see you face to face."

January

The Existential Questions:

Identity: Who am I?

Purpose: What am I doing here?

Destination: Where am I going?

January 1

Identity: Who Am I?

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.—Genesis 1:27

Who am I? What am I doing here? Where am I going? In response to these elemental questions, the answer comes back thus: “I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O ... thou shalt not be forgotten of me” (Isa. 44:21, KJV).

Who am I? How do I define myself?

I am *God’s daughter*, formed in His image to “look” like Him. I bear His DNA; therefore, I am programmed for goodness, integrity, and righteous living. When God formed me, He remarked, “This is very good” (see Gen. 2).

I am a woman; I am female. As we begin this spiritual inquiry, this journey of self-discovery, it is important that we trace our roots, our ancestry, our heritage. It is a joyous discovery to find out that it goes all the way back to God, our Father, and Progenitor of the human race. Therefore, I know who I am. I have discovered my roots, my heritage, and, thankfully, agree with David, who said that we “are fearfully and wonderfully made” (Ps. 139:14). I am God’s daughter; I have a divine heavenly Father who knows how to nurture His daughter. I am very happy and thankful; I am a royal princess, a child of the King. Shout, sing, celebrate! Claim your lineage!

January 2

Identity: Who Am I?

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived.—Genesis 4:1, KJV

First, I am God’s daughter, but I also have several roles. I am a wife, a mother, and a grandmother. I am a sister and I am an aunt. Who am I really? Firstly, I am a daughter made in God’s image. I have an earthly father and an earthly mother who taught me how to pray and how to read the Bible and how to acquaint myself with the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God has imbued me with a desire to connect with Him, to reach out to Him, and to share my most intimate thoughts with Him. I feel secure and safe, for I know what I tell Him remains with Him, and no one will ever know what I have said. He is my Keeper, my Sustainer, my Protector, and my Savior, my very best Friend and Confidant.

As a daughter, my responsibility is to my parents. I have to practice the fifth tenet of the Decalogue, “Honor thy father and thy mother” (Exod. 20:12, KJV).

I have learned to refrain from running ahead of Him, regardless of the need, cause, or haste, but to wait patiently on Him until He gives me the desires of my heart. The text in Ephesians 6:1, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord,” and David’s counsel in Psalm 27:14, “Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage: wait for the LORD!” have become the guarding principles of my interaction with my parents.

January 3

Identity: I Am a Sister

*Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman.
—Proverbs 7:4, KJV*

I belong to a family whose members have specific roles and responsibilities. One of the roles I occupy is that of a sibling. I am a sister; I have five sisters and one brother; I also have a mother and a father. I am the youngest, and that makes me unique and special. I was born on a Wednesday, and according to the adage my late mother told me, “Wednesday’s child is loving and giving,” so that is also part of my heritage—part of who I am.

I have found that there are both advantages and disadvantages to being a younger sister. For example, when the older ones leave home, you are left to take care of your older parents. You must manage and direct and control all the affairs of the house. On the other hand, you can be well cared for, for the older ones will often send leftovers and hand-me-downs to you. The situation is a mixed bag.

As a sister, I (you) must display love and concern for the others, to be there to listen, to offer suffrage, and to be there when help is needed: physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual, and moral. You have to be all things to all people. I have to be available for prayers and counsel. The sister has to ensure that family stasis and harmony are maintained; she has to settle family disputes and bring salience out of disharmony.

As I think of my sisterly role, I am reminded of the home in Bethany belonging to Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (see John 11), offering cheer, comfort, and support; a place where love, harmony, and contentment thrived. That was a place where Jesus and His disciples found comfort, warmth, and solitude. Sisters have that unique ability to offer the kind of nurturance people need. May we, dear

sisters, evaluate our role and ensure that we are the kind of sister of whom our Brother would be justly proud!

January 4

Identity: I Am a Wife

Whoso finds a prudent wife finds a good thing.—Proverbs 18:22

This was King Solomon's assessment of a good wife. I became a wife when I was 25 years old and have been holding for 53 years. I feel I have measured up to the King's stature of a virtuous woman cited in Proverbs 31. I believe many wives bear a similar testimony.

As a wife, you have been chosen to be a *helpmeet* and a companion to your mate—your husband. The injunction *To have and to hold until death us do part* (see Gen. 2:24) is a life-and-death decree. When you stand at the altar before the priest/pastor and the many witnesses, and as the latter reads the charges and what it means to be a wife, and you respond, "I do," you have just made a lifelong commitment, and it is only death that can and should ever sever that bond. The wife has to love, nurture, and succor under all conditions.

A wife can have only one partner. Even in patriarchal times, men took multiple women partners, but never is anything cited of a woman seeking other husbands while the current one was still alive. She must be content to live with the husband of her youth. She has to love, perform her wifely duties, nurture, and give care under all circumstances; that is what God expects of the God-fearing and obedient wife.

These words are frightening: "To love and to cherish in sickness and in health, for better or for worse...." That means "stick-to-itiveness"; when you say "I do" at the altar, it is in the present tense, and every day is a present-tense scenario—a present action.

Despite the challenges you face, you are still a wife, and it is expected that you will remain faithful to your initial commitment and that death is the only genuine solution; but until then, you must toe the line and keep the home fires burning.

The wife has to have strong and enduring qualities. Under strain, stress, or severe challenges, she cannot abandon the ship. The "I do" encompassed all the sweet with the sour, the bitter with the acidic.

The wife needs to have a strong and boundless faith in God, her Keeper and Sustainer; she has to stand amid all the vicissitudes of life. This she can do because God made her in His image, imbued her with His mind, so she will sally forth, for she is made for greatness.

A Prayer for All the Women of the World

This is a prayer for all the women of the world:

Those who are lonely, distressed, battered, sorrowful, incarcerated, self-defeated, bereaved, grieving, happy, and joyful in the Lord; grant, Oh Father, grant that their joys may be filled.

Relieve their suffering; increase their joy; open doors that are closed to them.

Help those who are weak and need comfort and solace. Bring peace to their homes and strengthen the weak knees of those who cannot stand. Fill their hearts with joy. Bring back the peace they once enjoyed. Relieve the suffering, fear, and restlessness and replace it with stability and serenity.

Above all, put Your love in their hearts. Ease their suffering and let them know that Jesus is there for them.

Be with the young and the restless; be with the blooms and berries. Give them sensitivity and open their eyes that they may read and trust in Your Word. Provide companionship for the single and the lonely; give them Your Joy and Your Love. Be with those in their middle life, those in the autumnal season of their lives; be with those who mourn, those on the bed of affliction, those suffering from altered states of minds, those in nursing homes, in hospice care, and those facing surgery.

Release those trapped in abuse and pray for those in leadership roles, those who serve in politics and those in laboring camps and those laboring amidst servitude.

Bring deliverance to the incarcerated; give obedience to the disobedient, manipulative, deceptive and cunning ones;

Give freedom and deliverance to ALL.

Bless as only You can do, and let them all rise up and stand as true Daughters of God, sisters to Jesus, our Brother.

Bless all mothers and grandmothers and let them continue to give guidance to their charges. Bless those who sit in halls of justice; imbue them with wisdom and insight and let them form a Forever Friendship with You and please guide their every step, action and activity. Consecrate all of them to your service and may their lives be fruitful.

May all God's daughters be blessed!

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Daughters of God and Sisters of Jesus

is a devotional book and labor of love from Pearl T. Morgan-Bell. Born from a Spirit-filled passion for enlightening ladies about their divine identity, potential, and royal significance in God's eyes. God's princesses can achieve anything they set their minds to, armed with spiritual insight and humble determination, especially if they do so with the chief aim to bring glory to their Father and to bless those around them.

Bell's devotional entries express compassion and empathy for women and the myriad of challenges facing them, given the natural, social, and divine responsibilities often entrusted to them by default. Women take on a variety of roles in their lifetimes, and often they do not see the value and fruit of their labors.

Sharing wisdom from the Scriptures—various women in the Bible and passages on women's virtues—as well as famous historical and current examples of ladies who have made and are making notable, positive changes in their communities, as well as being a far-reaching influence in the world. Dr. Bell takes care to remind them of their indispensable worth and gives them tools and principles to guide, strengthen, focus, and encourage them on their journey.



A well-educated and hardworking woman, Pearl T. Morgan-Bell has worked at educational institutions for over 40 years in various capacities, including as a professor. Having obtained three master's degrees and one doctorate, Bell exemplifies the limitless achievements and purpose available to every woman who believes in her potential. However, despite her many accomplishments, Bell remains deeply spiritual, compassionate, and empathetic. She makes a special effort to connect with the elderly on a daily basis wherever she encounters them, bringing comfort and cheer to the lonely and often neglected individuals. Throughout her busy and fruitful life, she has also served tirelessly in leadership positions at her church. Her favorite Bible text is Micah 6:8, which speaks about walking humbly with our God.



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