

Droplets of Theological Knowledge: Nazarene Wesleyan Feminine Perspective

May these "drops of knowledge" inspire and strengthen you in your walk with Christ!

1. Hope:

- **What is it?** Hope is a **firm trust** in God's promises, a **joyful expectation** of eternal life and ultimate redemption. It is not a naïve optimism, but a certainty rooted in God's faithfulness, even in the midst of difficulties.
- **Scripture:** Romans 8:24-25 "For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."
- **For the Nazarene woman:** Hope impels us to persevere in faith, to dream of a better future, and to actively work for justice and the transformation of the world, trusting that God will fulfill His purposes.

2. Faith:

- **What is it?** Faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). It is a **trusting relationship** with God, based on His Word and His character.
- **Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight."
- **For the Nazarene woman:** Faith allows us to live in fellowship with God, experience His transforming power, and face life's challenges with courage and confidence.

3. Grace:

- **What is it?** Grace is God's **unmerited favor**, His unconditional love, and His free forgiveness. It is the basis of our salvation and the source of our sanctification.
- **Scripture:** Ephesians 2:8-9 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."
- **To the Nazarene woman:** Grace frees us from guilt and shame, enables us to love and serve God, and impels us to extend His love to others.

4. Theology of Prayer:

- **What is it?** Prayer is an **intimate conversation** with God, a dialogue of love and trust. It is a means of **communication** with our Creator, a way of **expressing** our needs, gratitude, praise, and worship.
- **Bible Text:** 1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

- **For the Nazarene woman:** Prayer is vital to our spiritual life. It connects us to God, strengthens us in faith, guides us in decision-making, and allows us to intercede for others.

5. Women's Leadership:

- **What do we believe?** We believe that God calls and trains **both men and women** for leadership in the church and community. We recognize the gifts and talents of women, and we promote their active participation at all levels of ministry.
- **Bible Text:** Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is no slave or free; there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
- **For the Nazarene woman:** We have the opportunity and responsibility to use our gifts to serve God and His church, leading with integrity, compassion, and wisdom.

6. Temples of the Holy Spirit:

- **What does it mean?** It means that our bodies are **the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit**, consecrated to God, and set apart for His service. We must take care of our physical, emotional, and spiritual health and live in ways that honor God.
- **Bible Text:** 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."
- **For today's woman:** We must reject harmful messages from culture that objectify or exploit the female body. Instead, we must embrace our identity in Christ, cultivate healthy self-esteem, and live holy lives consecrated to God.

7. Unity:

- **What is it?** Unity is the harmony and deep connection that God desires for His creation. It is the restoration of the broken relationship between God and humanity, and between human beings themselves, through Jesus Christ.
- **Bible Text:** "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:21)
- **Impact on Women:** Unity calls us to break down barriers and prejudices, recognizing the inherent value of every woman as a beloved child of God. It invites us to work together, celebrating diversity and building a community where everyone feels included and loved.

8. Image of God:

- **What is it?** The image of God is the divine likeness imprinted on every human being, male and female. It reflects attributes of God such as love, creativity, intelligence, and the ability to relate.
- **Bible Text:** "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)
- **Impact on Women:** Recognizing that we are created in the image of God gives us inestimable value. It reminds us that we are not objects, but beings with dignity and purpose. It prompts us to reject any form of oppression or abuse and to live lives that reflect God's character.

9. Women in this Time: The Nazarene Wesleyan perspective affirms God's call for all people, including women, to participate fully in the life and ministry of the church. It recognizes the unique gifts and talents that women bring to the table, and empowers them to serve in leadership and ministry roles.

At this time, women are called to be:

- **Unity Agents:** Promoting reconciliation and healing in their relationships and communities.
- **God's Image Bearers:** Living lives that reflect God's love, justice, and compassion.
- **Reflections of God's glory:** Shining with his light in a dark world, sharing the gospel, and serving others.

Nazarene Wesleyan theology offers an empowering framework for women to live out their faith fully and meaningfully. By embracing unity, God's image, and glory, women can positively impact their world and fulfill the purpose God has for them.

Beacon Bible Dictionary and Global Wesleyan Dictionary