

Letters to Young Black Women

INTRODUCTION

“The true worth of a race must be measured by
the character of its womanhood.”

—Mary McLeod Bethune

I am forever amazed at the broad shoulders of black women, and how God has used them down through the years in this country and beyond, to not only help the black community stay together, but to move us forward as a race — yea, indeed, to even help hold America together, and to move her forward as well.

I think about the courage of Harriett Tubman, Ida B. Wells, and Sojourner Truth. I also think about the class, dignity, and toughness of Coretta Scott-King, Rosa Parks and Dorothy Height. I am afraid, however, that these women had something that many of our young black women today simply do not have.

I am very concerned for our young black women. In light of the quote above by Mary McLeod Bethune, “*The true worth of a race must be measured by the character of its womanhood,*” many of our young women today are not expressing the character and the class that the black women

of old showed. Many of them have dropped the standards of the past. I remember even when I was a child back in the sixties and seventies, when the young ladies were admonished by the grandmothers, mothers, and aunts to “stop being so fast”: a clear warning that meant to stop carrying yourself like a loose girl. It meant to stop running after boys and to carry yourself like a lady. Well, I haven’t heard that phrase in a long time, and unfortunately, it is showing. Consider with me some horrifying statistics regarding our young women today:

- ◆ Young black women have the highest teen pregnancy rate among all races in America (134 per 1,000 women aged 15-19).
- ◆ AIDS is now the leading cause of death in African-American women ages 16-34.
- ◆ Our young women are 7 times more likely to be depressed and twice as likely to commit suicide than our young men.
- ◆ The average number of abortions performed on black women each day in the United States is over 1500.
- ◆ Slightly over half of all female prisoners are African American, while this group constitutes just 14 percent of the U.S. population.

Besides the painful facts above, what troubles me the most is that more young black women today are allowing themselves to be used, mistreated, and hurt by unscrupulous men who do

not care anything for them, and who do not even have the capacity to treat them with love and respect. And what happens is that moral failures that are pleasurable and seem small while doing them, end up impacting the rest of their lives with devastating consequences. I believe this lack of self-respect is what breeds the horrifying statistics above.

This book is more about prevention than it is about healing. There are many other great men and women of God who are doing great work in the healing and restoration department for young black women. (We mention some of these individuals and ministries on our “Motherboard” in the back of the book.) I believe that many of the problems that you, as young black women are dealing with today can be prevented from happening in the first place. I also believe that in order for you to be victorious in this life, you must operate from a position of strength and power based upon the Word of God. This book will empower you to win against your enemies: the devil, sorry men, and even yourself. I hope that you will read it and never live a defeated life again.

If Black America is to survive and thrive, not only do our young black men need to rise, but our young black women need to rise again.

—**Daniel Whyte III**
Irving, Texas

FROM MY HEART

Letter One

Dear Daughters & YBW:

These letters are written with a full heart, yea, a heart overflowing. What I mean by that is this: I have shared these thoughts and principles with my daughters for years in the presence of my wife, Meriqua. These letters are addressed first to my daughters, and I am just going to open a vein and bleed these loving truths out to you as well.

As I begin writing this letter, I am reminded of a book title I read some time ago by the famed Southern author, Lewis Grizzard; it read: *Elvis is Dead and I Don't Feel So Good Myself*. Grizzard's book title aptly describes my current condition, because you see, I now lie in a hospital bed under observation for chest pains, and, as I dictate this book to my daughter, Daniella, I think of Coretta Scott-King's funeral to be held tomorrow, and Rosa Parks' funeral that was held just a few days ago.

I strongly believe that with the passing of these two great women is the passing of an era of great black women. Very few women, black or white, today, carry themselves with such high standards, class and dignity.

I hope that you, young dear sisters, will follow the example of these great women and walk in their footsteps to bring back the standards of old that America so desperately needs.

In order to begin to do that, you have to *Let God Touch You*, and that is what I will deal with in my next letter.

From My Heart,

Papa

P.S.: Throughout this book, I will refer to Young Black Women as “**YBW**.” The information contained after my letters are some things that you can take with you throughout your life. Instead of calling them **P.S.**’s, they will be called **P.T.**’s for “**Power-Thoughts**.”

P.T. (PowerThoughts):



- ◆ “When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, ‘I used everything you gave me.’”

—Erma Bombeck

BIBLE GEM: “*Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.*”

—Proverbs 4:13

TALK TO GOD: Lord Jesus, as I read these letters, help me to have an open heart and an open ear to receive Your words of truth and love. Help me to apply all that I read to my life and to be the woman that You want me to be. In Jesus’ precious name. Amen.

BOOK: *A Jewel in His Crown - Rediscovering Your Value as a Woman of Excellence*, by Priscilla Shirer

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ABOVE ALL, GET WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING

Letter Twenty-One

Dear Daughters & YBW:

Along with getting a good education, let me encourage you to get wisdom and understanding as well. Education will tell you how to do something, but wisdom will tell you why you should do something. King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, said in Proverbs 4:7 that ***“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.”***

You ask, how can I obtain wisdom and understanding? There is only one way to get wisdom and that is simply to

ASK GOD FOR IT!

The Bible says in James 1:5: ***“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”***

Wisdom cannot be taught. Wisdom cannot be bought. It cannot be borrowed or extracted from others. Wisdom can only come from God, and if you have faith enough to ask Him, He has the grace enough to give it to you.

The glorious wisdom that God gives will help you to see so many things that you wouldn't see otherwise. Wisdom gives you a great

advantage in life. Using wisdom can save you a lot of time and trouble in life. Again, let me say here, daughters, I believe many of the painful and devastating things so many young black women go through in our society today can be prevented in the first place, and having wisdom and understanding from God will help you to avoid these pitfalls. By the way, some of those pitfalls take a long time to overcome, so it's best not to fall into them in the first place.

I strongly encourage you to pray and ask God daily for wisdom and understanding to guide you through this life successfully.

With Wisdom and Love,

Papa

P.T. (Power-Thoughts):



- ◆ “To know the will of God is the highest of all wisdom.”
—Billy Graham
- ◆ “We can be knowledgeable with other men’s knowledge, but we cannot be wise with other men’s wisdom.”
—Michel de Montaigne

BIBLE GEM: *“For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.”*

—Proverbs 8:11

TALK TO GOD: Dear God, I thank You for all of the education that You have allowed me to receive from my teachers, but Lord I pray

that You would give me wisdom and understanding above everything else. Help me to use it for Your glory in all that You would have me to do with the life You have given me. In Jesus' Holy Name. Amen.

BOOK: *Daily Wisdom for Women*, by Carol L. Fitzpatrick

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