

Strong and Secure in God or the Flesh?

"Strength and dignity are her clothing and her position is strong and secure. She rejoices over the future—the latter day, or time to come [knowing that she and her family are in readiness for it]." Proverbs 31:25 Amplified



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This woman's position was strong and secure because of verse 30 (Amp.), which says she, "...reverently and worshipfully fears the Lord." Because her life was surrendered to God, she had His inner strength and security at all times and in every situation. In Scotland as a child in the Second World War, growing up in an alcoholic home where I was constantly beaten and abused, there was nothing strong and secure in my life. My position was always threatened by violence. My life was daily filled with fear, loneliness, and insecurity. I never knew if I had a future. At any moment it could end with the next beating or the next bomb. Because I had no hope that anything would change, I never wanted to think of the future.

As we all know the war ended, and at age 16, I walked out of my house and spent the next 22 years trying to find my position in this world. Trying to find security in my looks, my clothes, job, and relationships, I was constantly trying to find my self-worth and security in the things of this world. It was a never-ending work of my flesh that never brought lasting satisfaction or fulfillment. Anyone looking at me would have thought that I had a good life, but I knew that my life was a wreck. Thank God my story doesn't end there. At age 38 I acknowledged that I was a sinner, and I put my trust in Christ as my Savior.

As I would daily read and obey the Bible, I experienced God's amazing grace. As Jesus healed my heart and delivered me from hate, bitterness and unforgiveness, and His precious blood cleansed me of all of my sins, Christ gave me an inner strength that I had never known. Through my relationship with Jesus, being clothed in His righteousness and adopted into His family, I am one of God's royal daughters. This is what the Word says about me. My values are no longer temporal but eternal; my position is immovable in Christ and secure in His love for me. No matter what changes come into my life or this world, even in the midst of the greatest of pain, my hope is in Jesus, and I can look forward to my future in this life and in the world to come; for truly His grace is sufficient for me.

Even as believers at any moment we can lose all our worldly security through death, illness, loss of a job or divorce. It can all be gone, gone in a moment. Are our strength and security in the things of this world, the works of our flesh, or in our relationship with Jesus Christ? Are our values temporal or eternal? It would be good if each one of us asked the Lord to search our hearts and show us the truth here. Exactly in what are we trusting?

— Janice McBride

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