

1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Today's devotional is more for the men, but women, it's ok if you read it as well.

Men, does it seem like your prayers have not been answered of late, like you are just speaking to the ceiling with no response? Well, one possible reason can be found in today's verse when it says, "***that your prayers may not be hindered.***" You also need to read the first half of the verse to gain understanding on how our "***prayers may not be hindered***" which has to do with how we are to treat our wife's. Peter says to, "***dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life***" or as it says in the NLT bible:

† **1 Peter 3:7 (NLT2)** *In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.*

And the Message bible says it this way:

† **1 Peter 3:7 (MSG)** *The same goes for you husbands: Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them. As women they lack some of your advantages. But in the new life of God's grace, you're equals. Treat your wives, then, as equals so your prayers don't run aground.*

Men, we are given instructions; not a suggestion or even asked if you want to do this or not, but are required to be the spiritual leaders in our homes. When you asked your wife to marry you, not only were you saying I love you and want to live with you the rest of our lives, but you were also telling her that you want to guide her spiritually for the rest of your life, and that you wanted to make sure that she has a true relationship with Jesus, and not a false one that they read about on social media or in cults and false religions. You were telling her also that you want a family, including children and that you want to make sure they have a relationship with Jesus as well and that they are raised in the ways of God, not the ways of man.

Maybe your response to this or even what you are thinking could be, "*Blah, blah, blah, I have heard all that before, and it just doesn't work for me, I'm too busy working hard to make a living to supply for my family. I don't have time for that stuff, I let my wife deal with it.*"

So what you have done now is, you have made excuses for not leading your family spiritually, not being obedient to God's word which tells us men to lead our family, both with the physical needs, but also the spiritual needs as well, and you have passed the buck and given your job to

your wife to do. But if you think about it, when you do that, you are giving your family, not just your kids, but your wife as well, second best, because it says that she is the “*weaker vessel*” and there are only two vessels in a marriage, you and your wife, and if she is the weaker vessel, then that means that you are to be the stronger vessel. So why would you want the weaker vessel to be the spiritual leader in your home?

With football season in full force, think about your favorite team. Would you put the second best Quarterback on the field to lead the team, or would you put the best Quarterback to lead them? I know that sounds like a no brainer, yet if you just read today’s verse, then you would have read that we as men are to give “*honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel*” and “*weaker vessel*” means second best to a stronger vessel, which we are to be. No way is this belittling women, so any woman reading this should not take it that way, and men should not think they are greater than a woman. But men, even the bible says that Eve was deceived, not Adam.

† **1 Timothy 2:13-14** *For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.*

† **2 Corinthians 11:3** *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

When a lion looks into a pack of antelope, it does not look for the strongest one to attack, it looks for the weakest one to take as it’s prey. The enemy is the same way, he doesn’t look for the strongest one to attack in a marriage, but the weaker one, and as we just read, which is our wife’s. But also if you think about it, if you are pawing the spiritual leadership to your wife, then YOU (husband) are the weaker vessel and the enemy is going to attack you, which usually leads to divorce or a really bad marriage.

As men, shouldn’t we be protecting our wife’s and family from the attack of the enemy? You may say yes, but are you? Do you pray for them? Are you teaching them or making sure they are getting good teaching in the church you go to. No, not the church you drop them off at, but you go with your spouse and kids to church, leading them by example.

Men, it’s time for us all to step up and be able to say this next verse.

† **Psalms 71:7 (NLT2)** *My life is an example to many, because you have been my strength and protection.*

The Lord should be your strength, and as He is your protection (*you have been my strength and protection*), so should you use that protection to protect your wife and children and even grandchildren.

We are the bride of Christ, so as men shouldn’t we follow His example of being a good husband to our wives and spiritual leaders in our homes!

† **Ephesians 5:1-2 (NLT2)** *Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.*