

# What Does The Bible Say About Women Teaching

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There are reformations that teach that women should not teach men the Bible. This teaching is false. The Bible tells us that women not only taught men but ruled over men. When we are taught, we should study to see if we were taught correctly. The Bible says that God doesn't change and what was written in the Old Testament is relevant today – the Bible was written for our learning. (2 Timothy 3:16)

- Psalm 119:89 KJV says, *“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.”*
- Isaiah 40:8 KJV says, *“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”*
- Psalm 199:160 NIV says, *“All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.”*
- Malachi 3:6 KJV says, *“I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.”*
- Deuteronomy 8:3 NIV says, *“He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.”*
- Matthew 4:4 NIV says, *“Jesus answered, ‘It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”*

The Bible says that God's word was not just taught to men, but women and children were taught as well. (Joshua 8:30-35) Women are listed in the Law of Moses and were held accountable if they did not live by God's word. Women had to go before the priest just like the men and were judged according to God's word so; women are expected to know and do the word of God.

The Bible tells us that women were and are called to ministry – not just hospitality. For instance, Deborah judged Israel (including men) by the Law of Moses. Deborah was married however; her husband had to respect her call to leadership. Deborah was also a military leader and Deborah went into war with Barak who was under her command. Deborah was also a prophet and; she prophesied the defeat of the enemy and the shame on Barak for saying that he would not go to war unless she went with him. Deborah was expected to know, live and judge according to God's word, the Law of Moses and she was responsible to teach it to all of Israel (Judges 4 & 5).

There were other women listed in the Bible who ruled such as the Queen of Sheba/Ethiopia (1 Kings 10:1-13), who went to see King Solomon to hear his wisdom that was given to him by God. Queen Candace of Sheba/Ethiopia (Acts 8:26-40) whose

treasury official (*the Ethiopian Eunuch*) went to Jerusalem and received Jesus as Lord and Savior through Phillip's teaching; and Queen Esther who believed that God would protect Israel from her enemies just like the Law of Moses/God's Word said He would.

There are other women listed in the Bible who were prophets such as Huldah. Huldah was married; however, God called her to be a prophet. Huldah heard God about the Tribe of Judah's judgement and other things just like the prophets who were men. The Bible says that after the Book of the Law was found, King Josiah sent Hilkiah, the priest, along with others to the prophet Huldah (*a woman*) to find out what the Lord said. King Josiah recognized that women were also called to teach and prophesy God's word. (2 Kings 22:1-20) The Bible says, "*Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.*" (Amos 3:7 NIV) Many people are without knowledge, wisdom and understanding because they reject the Holy Spirit that lives in women also. (Isaiah 11:2-3)

The Bible/New Testament tells us that Anna was a prophet and teacher in the Temple where the priests, who were also teachers, lived and served. Yes, Anna was called to pray for the nation of Israel and the coming Messiah but, she was also a prophet and teacher. Anna understood God's word; she believed and was waiting for Jesus' coming; and the Bible says that Anna taught about Jesus to all those who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. (Luke 2:36-38)

The Apostle Paul wrote, "*For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.*" (Romans 15:4 NIV) Also, the Apostle Paul wrote, "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV) The Lord Jesus taught me that the apostles were not perfect and made mistakes. Their mistakes are written for our learning. For example:

- The apostle Paul wrote the Epistle to the Ephesians which says, "*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelist, the pastors, and teachers.*" – not just men. Ephesians also says that these offices are gifts from Christ to his people. (Ephesians 4) However, in the letter to Timothy (1 Timothy 2:12) the apostle Paul discouraged women from teaching in the church, which was wrong. The apostle Paul said, "*I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet.*" The key words are "I do not." The apostle Paul went on to use Adam and Eve as his justification saying, "*For Adam was formed first, then Eve*" (verse 13). "*And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner*" (verse 14). The Apostle Paul changed in his writing to the Romans. The Bible tells us in Romans 16:1-6, 12 that the apostle Paul recognized

and made others recognize the work and office of women in ministry saying, *“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me. Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. Greet also the church that meets at their house. Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia. Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you. And verse 12 says, “Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who work hard in the Lord. Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman who has worked very hard in the Lord.”*

Above we learn that Phoebe (a woman) was a deacon and the Bible tells us that deacons were not just administrators but also, able to teach (1 Timothy 3:2). Also, Priscilla and Aquila were the married couple that Paul stayed with when he went to Asia, and they were tent makers (Acts 18:1-3). They are the same couple that taught Apollos (Acts 18:18-28) and I should add that except for the initial meeting between Paul and Aquila, Priscilla, the wife, is always mentioned first in reference to ministry. The Lord Jesus helped me to understand that the apostle Paul had to learn and put aside his personal thoughts about the role of women in ministry because they were not biblical.

Another example of the apostle’s immaturity and need for growth can be seen in the apostle Peter when he reprimanded Simon the Sorcerer/Diviner (Acts 8:9-25). Peter told Simon that he was going to perish, because his heart was not right because he offered money to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit; and that he was full of bitterness and captive to sin. The account clearly tells us that Simon became a believer in Christ and therefore no longer captive to sin (Satan) after he heard Philip preach the word of God (Acts 8:12-13). However, when Simon saw Peter and John lay hands on the disciples and they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, he offered money to be taught how to lay hands and perform miracles. The Bible helps us to understand that all people need deliverance through God’s word and Simon needed deliverance from divination. The Lord Jesus helped me to understand that Satan appeared like an angel of light to Simon (2 Corinthians 11:14-15), and he made money performing what he thought were miracles; receiving accolades so he didn’t see any harm in offering money to the apostles. Simon did need to repent once he understood that he did something wrong but, the Lord Jesus helped me to understand that the apostles Peter and John (*who didn’t correct Peter*), should not have been so harsh. There are people in the church who are without patience, mean harsh and quick to judge. The apostles Peter and John should have lovingly explained to Simon that his understanding of the miracle was wrong and should have taught Simon, and everyone else about the Holy Spirit’s work in individuals. The bible says in 2 Timothy 2:19 says, *“Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who*

*confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.*” We must never judge people (Matthew 7:1) because we don’t know who belongs to God and we could discourage someone. God’s word does the cleansing, washing, sanctifying, justifying, and maturing (Ephesians 5:21- 27).

The Bible tells us in 2 John 1:1-13 that the apostle John wrote to a lady who was chosen by God to pastor his disciples – John also references the lady’s sister who is also a pastor. Throughout the letter, the apostle John called the disciples of Christ “children or little children”. The apostle John was writing to let the lady know that as a pastor, she must protect the people she was given to teach and lead to Christ, like a person should protect a child. The Apostle John warned her of false teachers and told her to keep her heart toward God so that she could genuinely love the people. The apostles mentored the pastors so John sent the letter of encouragement and warning and was planning to visit so that he could help her more. The Apostle John was already with her sister’s congregation at the time he wrote the letter.

Women are called by God to witness, teach, preach, pastor, lead and rule and must do all according to the Word of God so that God gets the glory.