

# Worthy Women's Words

## Continuing Education *by Sue Walker*

Most professionals (doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, etc.) are required to take continuing education (CE) courses to maintain their certificate or license. This continued training helps us effectively serve our patients, clients or students. We also need continuing education so that we may be pleasing to God. Why is continuing education important to our salvation?

Discipline is defined as “love + training + consequences.” External discipline internalized becomes self-discipline. Self-discipline is synonymous with conscience.

Conscience has been defined as “your mother’s voice in your head.” Guilt results when we think or act contrary to our mother’s training. But what about those who were *not* trained or taught by their parents to love and serve God or those who have forgotten their training? It’s not too late.

Self-discipline and conscience are what guides us when we are alone in the world—when we are bombarded with sin and ungodliness from television, movies, radio, magazines,

friends, family, teachers, coworkers and others. Situation ethics, rather than training, is how some justify their sinful behavior. If the situation warrants a behavior, then it is acceptable. After all, everyone is doing it. WRONG! Our training determines right and wrong, and then we apply that training to the situation.

We are taught throughout God’s word that we are to continue in prayer and study so that we may grow spiritually. 1 Peter 2:1-2 provides “...*laying aside all malice, all guile, hypocrisy, envy and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.*” Did you stop studying God’s Word when you left school?

Or perhaps when you retired, did you retire from continuing in prayer and study?

Our adult Bible classes require very little effort outside of the classroom. That requires us to be self-disciplined enough to study on our own and pursue an understanding and application of the principles shared in the

classroom. I confess that I do much better when I am given an assignment with a deadline. If a teacher required me to memorize verses and recite them by a fixed date, it would be done. With no study assignment and no due date, I’m a little murky on the results. How about you? Are you getting the most out of your Bible class?

We are stellar in answering the call of service when someone is in need. We enjoy

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serving God by serving others. On the other hand, I admit that I am not always self-disciplined in my study of God’s word. I feel guilty.

How may a mature Christian woman continue in her spiritual training? How may we hunger and thirst after righteousness?

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## Continuing Education *concluded*

Reading God's word is good. An encyclopedic knowledge of the Bible is handy, but it's application that counts. Perhaps we could do something simple like reading and applying a passage every day for a week or month. Maybe use a daily Bible reading schedule or daily Bible reader. *Each Day I'll Do* gave us some simple daily thoughts and thought-provoking questions. We can print character verses or passages and put them on our mirror or refrigerator.

For example, there are several Bible references to *mercy*: Micah 6:8 ". . . And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, to love *mercy*, and to walk humbly with your God?" and Luke 6:36 "Therefore be *merciful*, just as your Father also is merciful." As well, we are encouraged to *pursue peace* in Romans 14:19

"Therefore let us pursue the things which make for *peace* and the things by which one may edify another." and Hebrews 12:14 "**Pursue peace** with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." "Let him **seek peace and pursue it**" is found in 1 Peter 3:11.

A **gentle and quiet spirit** is a very precious thing in the sight of God (1 Peter 3:3-4). Philippians 4:5 encourages us to "let your **gentleness** be known to all men." "But you, O man of God, flee these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, **patience, gentleness**", Paul admonishes us in 1 Timothy 6:11.

Philippians 4:8 provides "Finally brethren, whatever things are true, . . . noble, . . . just, . . . pure, . . . lovely, . . . good report, if there is any virtue and

if there is anything praiseworthy – **meditate on these things.**"

Maybe my assignment today could be to be extra specially kind to three people without thought of personal recognition. Then repeat that assignment for thirty days. They say behavior repeated for thirty days becomes a habit. Next month, I could work on mercy or compassion. The next month I could memorize the passages on patience and gentleness, and work on those.

Lives transformed begin with education or knowledge. Lights that shine follow education with application. Lives without continuing education cause their lights to flicker and fade. I need to continue my spiritual education by studying, applying and meditating on these things every day. Won't you join me? 🌸

## Our Family *by Carol Crawford*

Our family is so special  
Though time has taken its toll.  
We lost an infant baby sister  
Many years ago.

Our father became very ill  
In a short time he was gone.  
Our mother too has passed away  
Time keeps rolling on.

Our eldest brother lost the fight  
Our eldest sister too.  
That's five of ten, it seems so sad  
And makes us all feel blue.



One of us has lost a son  
Some have lost a mate.  
Life just keeps on passing by  
So let us celebrate.

This time we have to be together  
Is precious come what may.  
So let's rejoice, enjoy this time  
Today and every day.

The five of us that yet remain  
Can stay close and share our lives.  
With love for God and Christ His Son  
Our perfect sacrifice. 🌸

**Editor's Note:** Carol Crawford is the sister of our brother, Bob Pierce.