

Women of Worth | Word for the Week

Y-WoW Nation

Scripture: "But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today." (Deut. 8:18 NIV)

Girl Power

Pop superstar Beyoncé recently released her fourth CD as a solo artist. The first single to hit the airwaves, "Girls (Who Run the World)", is quickly becoming an anthem among the teen and 'tween girl set. A sample of the lyrics follow.

Boy you know you love it
How we're smart enough to make these millions
Strong enough to bare the children
Then get back to business

My persuasion can build a nation
Endless power
Our love we can devour
You'll do anything for me

While the song celebrates the virtues of successful, educated young women, it's important to keep things in perspective. As Christians, we know that God is the source of our strength. He gives us the power both to work and to get wealth. Whether singers or teachers, actresses or astronauts all of our skills and resources come from the Lord. That being the case, it's important to give honor where honor is due. It's important to acknowledge God and bless His name not only for the gifts He gives us, but also for the opportunities to use them productively.

As important as it is to acknowledge God as the source of our strength, wealth and power, it's also important to understand *why* He bestows such blessings on us. The lyrics to Beyoncé's song are spot on in this regard. "*My persuasion can build a nation.*" That's a powerful statement because it is entirely true. With persuasive *words* a woman can either build other women up or tear them down to the

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ground. With persuasive *actions* a woman can either move men to great achievement or grievous incapacity. With persuasive *influence* a woman can inspire either greatness or failure in children and others. In effect, a woman's gift of persuasion is her power in the purest sense. As such, it's important to use that power wisely. Ultimately, God gives us power so that we can advance His kingdom. He gives us the power of persuasion so that we can *build a nation* of believers here on earth. Likewise, He gives us resources and influence so that we can reach out to others for Him—to teach others about His Son, Jesus Christ; to share our material goods with the needy; to feed the hungry; to help the sick, etc. God gives us blessings of all kinds so that we'll share them with others. By sharing our blessings with others, we influence them for Christ. By influencing others for Christ, we build His kingdom here on earth. That's the result that God desires. That's how our persuasion can *build a nation*.

An African proverb states, *"If you educate a man, you educate an individual. If you educate a woman, you educate a nation."* Do your part to educate a nation. Use your persuasion to build a nation. Run the world, girl! But don't just run it for good, run it for God.

Be blessed.

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