

GRACE FOX

Author • Speaker

Leading Women in Fearless Faith



Fall 2008
Newsletter

Devoted to Ministry or to Jesus?

It was early morning when I poured a cup of coffee and settled into my leather loveseat with a copy of Oswald Chamber's *My Utmost for His Highest*. "What lesson do you have for me today?" I prayed as I flipped its pages. A moment later, my eyes fell on a quote that hit my heart like a carefully aimed arrow hits its target.

The greatest competitor of true devotion to Jesus Christ is the service we do for Him... We are not sent to do battle for God but to be used by God in His battles. Are we more devoted to service than we are to Jesus Christ Himself?

I thought about my calendar and its little squares colored with yellow and pink highlighter. Speaking engagements, meetings, writing deadlines, classes to better equip me for ministry, and other commitments filled my days. I thought about the hours invested in service done for Jesus, and felt a twinge of pride.

Zing! Another arrow whizzed my direction. "All those hours spent in service to Jesus mean precious little if they take precedence over your relationship with Jesus," the Holy Spirit. "If ministry obligations keep you too busy to spend time with the One in whose name you profess to minister, then your focus needs a realignment."

I'm convinced that the most effective service flows not from a stuffed calendar or skillful time management; it flows from a life that's filled with Jesus. I'll be honest – I've had days when I've allowed a busy schedule to take priority over spending quiet time in His presence. I've rushed from one obligation to the next feeling painfully empty, hoping that God, being kind and understanding, would bless my efforts done in His name.

Those days are now few and far between, thankfully, as the Holy Spirit continues to reveal my dependence upon Him. More and more I realize that my effectiveness as a leader and Kingdom-builder is based not on natural abilities or God-given gifts; it's based on the depth of my relationship with Him, the One who has called me and knows the needs of those whom I serve. My intentions might be honorable, but my devotion is in the wrong place if I'm too busy to cultivate that friendship.

How about you? In the midst of your busy schedule, where does your devotion lie? Are you committed more to doing service *for* Jesus or to your relationship *with* Jesus? I pray it's the latter, for that's the secret to a truly effective ministry.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 3-5 – Abbotsford Pentecostal Church women's retreat – Sumas, Washington

Oct. 9 – Christian Women's Club Annual Fall Fair – Tswassen, B.C.

Oct. 31-Nov. 2 – Missions' conference – LaCrete, Alberta

Nov. 7 – "100 Huntley Street" TV interview. Check www.crossroads.ca for listings.

Nov. 8 – Women Unlimited – Cambridge, Ontario

Nov. 14-16 – Central Heights Church women's retreat – Chilliwack, B.C.

Dec. 5 – Newton Fellowship Baptist – Surrey, B.C.

Resources for Women

Women love a good deal, right? My website has two freebies:

- “Growing With Grace” – This monthly devotional contains relevant insights and personal growth questions designed to challenge and encourage readers in their spiritual journey. “I love receiving your newsletter,” says one reader. “It always addresses the issues I’m facing at the time.” Includes book giveaways and links to helpful articles and sites. Sign up on my website: www.gracefox.com.
- Visit www.gracefox.com and click on the TV icon for media giveaways. You’ll find three PDF articles teeming with practical suggestions and Scriptures to help women who are struggling with fear. Feel free to copy and distribute them.

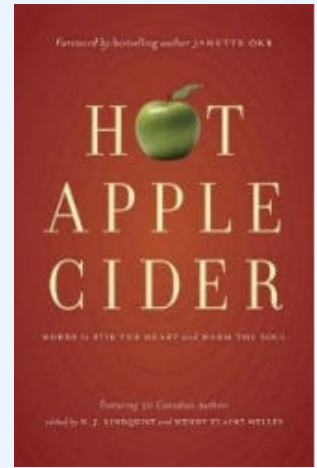
What’s New?

Hot Apple Cider is a compilation of inspirational stories written by 30 Canadian Christian authors including myself. It would make a wonderful Christmas gift for men and women alike.

Available at

www.gracefox.com.

Also available – a downloadable file of my favorite apple cider recipe – perfect for Christmas entertaining.



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