

# Proverbs 31 - The Source of a Woman's Strength

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## Happy Mother's Day

Proverbs 31:10 - ESV - "**The Excellent Wife**", KJV "**The Virtuous Woman**"

- The word in Hebrew is used interchangeably (Wife, or Woman)
- The context here is about a wife in one respect -- it talks about her husband and her children
- But there are also some **universal qualities that define strength for ANY woman**
  - It's not like these things automatically happen the day you are married
  - And they don't go away if you find yourself no longer married (divorced or widowed)

### **Intro**

When some women read the chapter, they can feel overwhelmed - "**How can I measure up?**"

Others may feel out of sync because there is so much said about the domestic life - "**That's not me!**"

I want to approach it today with some **universal principles** (whether married or not, whether you have domestic strengths or not, whether you have children or not) and share with you **the source of a woman's strength**.

## Who Can Find a Woman of Strength - She is Rare and Precious

Pro 31:10-31 ESV An **excellent wife** who can find? She is **far more precious** than jewels.

The word "excellent" has to do with **FORCE**, strength and valor, wealth, even an army

- a **force**, whether of men, means or other resources; an **army, wealth, virtue, valor, strength**: - able, activity, (+) army, band of men (soldiers), company, (great) forces, goods, host, might, power, riches, strength, strong, substance, train, (+) valiant (-ly), valour, virtuous (-ly), war, worthy (-ily).

**Some versions say "a virtuous woman" - so the strength is an inner strength as well**

She is **FAR MORE PRECIOUS** than jewels

Here are some of those qualities that describe the source of a woman's strength

She has a commitment to do what is good for others

11 The **heart** of her husband **trusts in her**, and he will have no lack of gain. 12 **She does him good**, and **not harm**, ***all the days of her life***.

- In the **deepest core** of his being - her **husband TRUSTS her** - **but it is for a reason**
- His trust is tied to - "**She does him GOOD = *to surround the house*** - and NOT HARM
- **All the days of her life** - some days you want to give up...this is where commitment kicks in
  - Her doing good is not with strings attached...the trust is simply a by-product

Ladies - What is the good you can do? - What are you surrounding your "house" with?

Pro 14:1 ESV The wisest of women **builds her house**, but folly with her own hands **tears it down**.

## She has the heart of a servant

### **She works with willing hands**

- 13 She **seeks** wool and flax, and **works with willing hands**. 14 She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. ... ..

### **She makes sacrifices for others**

- 15 She **rises while it is yet night** and **provides** food for her **household** and **portions** for her maidens.

## She does not fear the future - she plans for it

### **She makes good buying decisions**

- 16 She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard

### **She places value on her work and seeks to excel**

- 18 She perceives that **her merchandise is profitable**. Her lamp does not go out at night.
- 19 She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle
- 24 She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant.

### **She is generous**

- 20 **She opens her hand** to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.

### **She prepares**

- 21 She is **not afraid of snow** for her household, for **all her household are clothed** in scarlet.
- 22 She makes **bed coverings** for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.
- 25(b) and she laughs at the time to come.
- 27 **She looks well to the ways** of her household and does not eat the **bread of idleness**.
  - She Looks = **Watchtower** - She sees the ways = **journey**

## She uses her mouth to build up not to destroy

### **She teaches**

- 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom,

### **She guards her tongue**

- and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

## She is focused on inner beauty more than outer beauty

- 30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
- 17 She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong
- 25 Strength and dignity are her clothing,

## She has a legacy to be proud of

### **She has great influence upon her family**

- 28 Her **children** rise up and **call her blessed**; her **husband** also, and he **praises** her:

- 29 "Many women have done excellently, but **you surpass them all.**"

**Her life is blessed with “fruit” and her testimony spreads abroad**

- 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

**Her strength plays a role in the life of her husband**

- 23 Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.



