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I Peter 3:1-6

1. “In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,
2. as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.
3. Your adornment must not be *merely* external--braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;
4. but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.
5. For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;
6. just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.”

In this passage God gives wives instructions on how they may help their husbands become obedient to the word of God. In context, this instruction seems to apply whether or not the husband is a Christian. So ladies, whether you are trying to win your non-Christian husband to the Lord, or help your Christian husband to obey the

word of Christ more fully; this Scripture passage was written just for you! And as heaven knows, living with a husband who follows Christ at His word, yields the most abundant life for you and your family.

In verses 1 and 2 wives are instructed to use their godly behavior coupled with an attitude of respect to influence their husbands for good. Notice also the phrase “they may be won without a word.” The wise woman understands that her words, with the exception of honest praise, seldom moves her man to good behavior. Often the words of a wife’s mouth are interpreted by her husband in a negative way, if in fact he is really listening.

Verses 3 and 4 go on to point out that husbands are more attracted to and influenced by his wife’s inner beauty of character, rather than her outer adornment. Verse 4 points to “the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit.” This is precious in the sight of God, as well as your husband.

This passage ends in verses 5 and 6 by giving Sarah as an example of a godly woman who greatly influenced her husband through her attitude and behavior. Now Abraham, her husband, was a real turkey in some respects. We read in Genesis 12 Abram told Sarai to tell the Egyptians that she was his sister in order to save his own skin. The pharaoh took Sarai into his household, and gave Abram many gifts. Then again in Genesis 20 we read when Abraham settles in the southern part of Canaan, he told King Abimelech that Sarah was his sister-

-because Abraham was frightened for his own life. And King Abimelech took Sarah into his household; and this was even after she had become the mother of Abraham's son Isaac.

Now ladies, I doubt if your husband has done anything as dreadful as this! Yet because she hoped in God, as stated in I Peter 3:6, God honored her by protecting her and blessing their family. In many ways Abraham could not have become the father of the faithful, as Paul writes in the book of Romans, without the aid of his godly wife Sarah.