

## CHAPTER 17 - Her Work

from The Power of a Praying Husband by Stormie Omartian

**The perfect woman, according to the Bible, is a hard worker. This woman creates, manages, and provides.** She buys and sells property (a real-estate agent?). She plants a vineyard (a gardener?). She makes clothing (a seamstress?). And she sells it (a retailer?). She is a woman of strength, energy, and vision, who works into the night and knows that what she has to offer is good. In the midst of it all, she takes care of her family, gives to the poor, and makes her husband proud. He is blessed by the excellence of all she does (Proverbs 31). If this is what your wife aspires to, she needs your help. Frankly, I'm exhausted just reading about it.

**Every woman works. But some are more appreciated for what they do than others.** Many wives work because they want to contribute financially to the family. Many work simply because they enjoy what they do. Others have abilities that are valuable to people who are willing to pay for them. For many women, maintaining a home and raising children is their work. And they take it seriously and want to do it well. For other women, ministry opportunities or volunteer activities are their work. No matter what the particulars of your wife's work, it gives her fulfillment and the satisfaction of accomplishment if it makes life better for her, her family, or someone else. But she needs your prayers and support.

**Don't be hesitant to encourage your wife to be all she can be in her work.** It won't mean that she will no longer need you when she is successful. In fact, quite the opposite. It will cause her to need you even more. If you support your woman in prayer, she will not get arrogant and cocky when the blessings roll in. She will not think, "Look how great I am. I don't need him. Why, I can do better without him." That's what women think who are married to men who don't encourage and support them in prayer. Your wife will never become so complete that she doesn't need you. Her success will never undermine your position in her life. It will elevate it. Your prayers will mean so much to her that she will become "addicted" to them. Remember, the two of you are one and what happens to her happens to you. You need never feel intimidated by her success.

Because my husband is a producer in the music business, we have come to know many women who have had phenomenal success. The couples who have been able to see this success as a blessing from God for them both have dealt with it the best. The husbands who have resented their wife's success have destroyed the marriage. Limiting a woman's potential will destroy her. That's why her achievements must be covered in prayer.

**A woman needs to have a sense of accomplishment, just like a man does.** However, if a man doesn't have it, he feels like a failure. If a woman doesn't have it, she experiences frustration and unfulfillment. This will in turn affect all the other areas of her life—especially her relationship with her husband. A woman whose work is raising children and running a successful home still needs that sense of accomplishment and the recognition for a job well done. Unlike her sisters in the workplace, the only one she can really hear that affirmation from is her husband. That's why his prayers for her are so important. They breed affirmation.

**No matter what kind of work your wife does, she needs your prayers and encouragement, and God's guidance and blessings. Pray for her to find that perfect balance of confidence in her abilities but total reliance upon the Lord to enable her to do what she needs to do.**

SHE SAYS...

### **Please pray for your wife that**

1. She will glorify the Lord in her work.
2. She will do her work well.
3. She will be respected for the work she does.
4. She will be compensated well for her work.
5. She will have strength to get her work done.
6. You will approve of her work.
7. Her work will bring fulfillment to her.

## **HE SAYS...**

By Michael Omartian

I remember that early in our marriage, during our child-raising years, Stormie expressed the desire to write books. She had written the lyrics to many songs, and we collaborated frequently. She was comfortable with writing songs since it required only a relatively small time commitment, but she felt strongly that to sacrifice time to write a book, time that would be spent away from raising the children, was out of the question. That impressed me to no end. I began praying that God would bless her more than she could imagine for her faithfulness to our children in their early years.

**Psalm 37:4 says, “Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”** My wife delighted herself in the fulfilling of the responsibilities God had given to her. My prayer was for her to have strength and patience. When the children were older and she had more time available, God gave her the desire of her heart to write books. Of course, I prayed her through each one. Now she is the author of many successful books, and God has blessed her work because she relied on Him every step of the way.

### **Prayer Power**

**Lord, I pray that You would help (wife’s name) to be successful in her work. No matter what her work is at any given time, establish it, and help her to find favor. Thank You for the abilities, gifts, and creativity You have placed in her. Continue to reveal, develop, and refine those gifts and talents, and use them for Your purposes. May her skills increase in value, and may she excel in each of them. Open doors for her that no man can shut, and bless her with success.**

**Keep us from ever being in competition with one another, and help us to always rejoice in each other’s accomplishments. Help us to build one another up and not forget that we are on the same team. If what she is doing is not in Your perfect will, show her what Your will is. Keep pride far from her so that the enemy will never be able to make her fall. Show me how I can encourage her.**

**Lord, Your Word says when we commit our work to You, the financial blessing we receive will not bring misery along with it (Proverbs 10:22). You have also said “the laborer is worthy of his wages” (1 Timothy 5:18). I pray that (wife’s name) will be rewarded well for her labor and that it will bless us, our family, and others. Give her the gift of work that she loves and establish the work of her hands (Psalm 90:17). Enable her to accomplish great things so that You are glorified.**

### **Power Tools**

**Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands. - Psalm 90:17**

**The labor of the righteous leads to life. - Proverbs 10:16**

**This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. - Joshua 1:8**

**He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. - Proverbs 10:4**

**In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty. - Proverbs 14:23**