

MARCH 2026

FAITH THAT FORMS FOLLOWERS

Heart2Heart Ministries

“Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see... Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation.”

—Hebrews 11:1–2, 39–40 9 (NLT)



FAITH THAT FORMS FOLLOWERS

by Aileen Reid



As pastors' wives, we often underestimate just how closely others are watching our walk of faith. Discipleship does not always happen in classrooms or church programs; it often happens quietly, relationally, and from a distance. Women are watching how we pray, how we endure, how we respond to disappointment, and how we remain faithful over time. Long before they ask us questions, they are reading our lives.

That raises an important question: **Do we have a reputation of faith that points others toward Christ?**

THERE'S AN OLD STORY...

About two gas company service men, a senior training Supervisor and a young trainee were out checking meters and parked their truck at the end of the alley and worked their way to the other end. At the last house, a woman looking out her kitchen window watched the two men as they checked her gas meter. As they finished the meter check, the older supervisor challenged his younger co-worker to a foot race down the alley back to the truck. As they came running up to the truck, they realized that the lady from the last house was huffing and puffing right behind them. They stopped and asked her what was wrong. Gasping for breath, she said, ‘When I see two gas men running full speed away from my house, I figured I had better run too.’[1]

She didn’t have the full story, but she trusted their judgment. Their reputation was enough to prompt her to act.

In many ways, pastors’ wives carry that same kind of influence. We steward something precious—the witness of faith lived out over time. As disciples of Christ, we are practical examples of what it means to follow Christ, be changed by Christ, and commit to the mission of Christ. Even when others don’t know the full context of our struggles, they often follow our example. That is discipleship.

“Let us strip off every weight that slows us down... and let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus.” Hebrews 12:1-2

KNOWING WHY WE

RUN Hebrews reminds us that the life of faith is a race – it’s a marathon, not a sprint. And pastors’ wives know this well. Ministry life unfolds over decades, through seasons of joy and sorrow, growth and pruning. Along the way, Scripture gives us three essentials for running well:

1. Throw Off What Hinders

Discipleship begins with integrity. As women who lead, often informally but powerfully, we must be mindful of the “weights” we carry. Sin, unresolved wounds, bitterness, comparison, and exhaustion can quietly slow our pace and distort our witness. Those who are watching us don’t need perfection; they need authenticity. When we practice confession, humility, and repentance, we teach others how to walk faithfully with God in real life.

2. Persevere With Endurance

Many of us have walked alongside our husbands in ministry for decades—through transitions, losses, growth, and long stretches of unseen faithfulness. You have not only navigated your own hills and valleys, but you have also walked with others through theirs. That is discipleship. Perseverance forms a reputation that speaks louder than words. Unbelieving women in our family, neighborhoods, and workplace “see” us. We may not tell all the details (and sometimes we do), but women can often “feel” each other’s struggles. Younger women in ministry are watching to see if faith can endure over time—if it can survive disappointment, fatigue, and unmet expectations. Your steady presence answers that question with a quiet but powerful yes.

3. Fix Your Eyes on Jesus

Ultimately, discipleship is not about drawing attention to ourselves; it is about pointing others to Christ. Jesus is both the pioneer and the perfecter of our faith. He has already run the course, and He stands at the finish line, inviting us forward. When women look at our lives, they should see not only endurance, but also dependence—a visible reliance on Christ as our source of strength, joy, and hope.

A REPUTATION THAT MAKES DISCIPLES

Hebrews tells us that those who lived by faith were “commended.” That commendation did not come because life was easy; it came because they finished the race.

As pastors’ wives, our lives are living testimonies. Whether we realize it or not, our faith is forming disciples—women who are learning how to trust God, love His Church, and run their own race with endurance.

May we run well—not just for ourselves, but for all those who are following behind us.

*“Oh, may all who come behind
us find us faithful.
May the fire of our devotion
light their way.
May the footprints that we
leave lead them to believe.
And the lives we live inspire
them to obey.
Oh, may all who come behind
us find us faithful.”*

REFLECTION: RUNNING THE RACE AS A DISCIPLE MAKER*

Take a moment this month to prayerfully reflect on the race God has entrusted to you—not only the one you are running, but the one others are learning to run, by watching you.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. When you think about your “reputation of faith,” what do you hope others see most clearly in your life?
2. Are there women—inside or outside your church—who may be following your example from a distance? How does that awareness shape the way you live out your faith?
3. What “weights” or distractions might be slowing your pace in this season? What would it look like to intentionally lay them before the Lord?

ENDURANCE IN MINISTRY

4. How has God sustained you through the hills and valleys of ministry life over the years?
5. In what ways has perseverance become part of your testimony as a pastor’s wife?
6. What lessons about faithfulness, patience, or trust could you intentionally pass on to a younger woman in ministry?

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH EXAMPLE

7. How do your daily practices—prayer, worship, service, rest—serve as quiet forms of discipleship to others?
8. When others observe your response to disappointment or challenge, what do you hope they learn about trusting God?
9. Who has modeled endurance and faith for you, and how has their example shaped your walk with Christ?

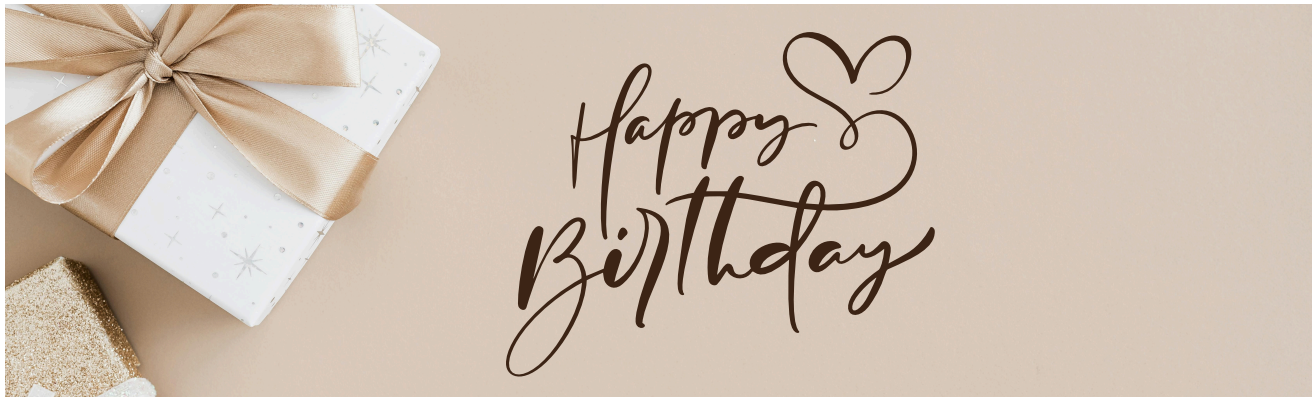
FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS

10. In this season, what helps you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus rather than on the demands or pressures of ministry?
11. Where might God be inviting you to deepen your dependence on Him as the source of your strength?
12. How can your life more clearly point others—not to your endurance—but to Christ’s faithfulness?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, help me to run the race You have set before me with endurance, humility, and faith. May my life quietly disciple others as I fix my eyes on You. Amen.

*Questions developed with ChatGPT.



3	Pearl Sullivan
6	Lula Thompson
7	Wilma Daniels
9	Gina Julien
10	Deborah K. Bevis
10	Madette Gaspard
15	Joycelyn Lawson
15	Brandi Reyes
18	Camille Heron
22	Aretha Caley
22	Marie Rose Francois
23	Vierge Simon
26	Vinnette Hastings
30	Ruby Dean
31	Karen Miller

BIRTHDAY PRAYER

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you.”

Gracious God, thank You for my sister that You have called and sustained. On her birthday, **refresh** her spirit, **strengthen** her faith, and **fill** her heart with joy. Bless the work of her hands and the ministry of her life. May she know she is **seen, cherished,** and **deeply loved** by You. Grant her **wisdom** for the journey, **peace** in every season, and renewed **grace** as she pours into others. May she continue to grow in love, faith, and service, and may her life be a testimony of Your goodness.

Bless her coming and going and let this new year overflow with Your presence, favor and rest.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.