

# RADIANT



*Living as Light in a Dark World*

MARIAN JORDAN

## Chapter One

1. Marian uses the example of a bride on her wedding day to illustrate radiance. Describe a bride that you've seen who was truly radiant. Why was she glowing?
2. Marian writes: *"There is a very good reason why brides are most often described as radiant. It is universally acknowledged that a woman is most beautiful when she is in love. When basking in the glow of another's love, she feels whole, complete, confident, and adored...her outer expression and countenance emanate from an inner reality. She knows she is loved, and she is head over heels in love with her groom. That, my friends, is radiance."*

Not all of us have been brides, but describe a time when you've felt radiant (glowing from within).

3. What motivated Mary Magdalene to rush to the empty tomb on Easter Sunday? What touched you about her story?
4. Marian writes: *"Like Mary, I fell head over heels in love with my Savior. How could I not? Forgiveness fuels love's flame. I was whole and healed, something I'd never known before Him. This love drove me, propelled me to follow after Jesus with my whole heart. And I did. The more I followed Him, the more I loved Him. The more He revealed Himself to me through His word, the more my life transformed for His glory. I, too, was enthralled. I couldn't wait to spend time with Him. I was ruined for anything else but Jesus."*

Have you experienced this type of heart transformation? If yes, describe it. If no, do you want to? What did Marian say was the key to this transformation?

5. According to this chapter, why is our love for God a "battlefield?"
6. What is a radiant woman's motivation for living a pure and holy life?
7. Read Matthew 5:14. Who in your life would you describe as a radiant woman...a light in the darkness?

## Chapter Two

1. Marian uses the movie "My Fair Lady" as an illustration of transformation. What other movie or story also illustrates this truth.
2. Marian writes: *"The word redemption means to "buy something back and to restore it to its original intent." Every human heart beats to be redeemed—restored to our original intention. Instinctively, we know that we were created for more. We were indeed created for glory, formed to manifest radiance. Christianity is the ultimate transformation story. You and I are invited into a relationship with God, and in this relationship we are transformed from the inside*

*out—from darkness to light. Jesus takes our brokenness and forms something beautiful. We are transformed into a masterpiece for which only He could get the glory. Miraculously, sinners become saints, the lost are found, and the blind can see.*

Read the following scripture passages to discover more about redemption:

1 Peter 1:18-19  
1 Peter 2: 9-10  
Ephesians 1:7  
Colossians 1:13-14

3. Why is authentic transformation so vital?
4. Why was Moses radiant? What caused him to glow? What do we learn from his experience?
5. Read section entitled, “Son Kissed Glow.” Describe a time when your love for Christ propelled you to share His love with others. Describe a time when you missed an opportunity to do so.
6. Jesus said that His followers are “the Light of the World.” What do you think would happen if you and your friends took up the charge to live as “light” in the darkness? What would you need to do? What would you stop doing? Who would you treat differently?

### Chapter Three

1. Marian opens this chapter with a story about a forgotten I.D. Share a time when you forgot something extremely important.
2. Read section entitled “Identity in Christ.” What is our “identity in Christ?” Why is it important?
3. What does Marian mean by the statement “We behave how we believe?” How does her pig story illustrate this truth?
4. Marian writes: *“Before I met Jesus, my identity was formed primarily by my culture and my experiences. My culture shaped me in many ways (through movies, television, and education) into its mold. From this mold emerged a woman who lived for people’s approval, feared rejection, hated her body, lived a dangerous, promiscuous lifestyle, and believed her worth was found in gaining a guy’s attention. My culture convinced me that my I.D. read “usable object.”*

What other I.D.s does our culture place upon women?

5. In what ways do woman today strive to feel “chosen and loved?” Marian writes: *“You are chosen and loved by God. This is not something you can earn. This is who you are. How does believing this truth transform a woman?”*
6. How does the movie “Taken” depict God’s love for us?
7. What does it mean when scripture says that we are “members of the royal priesthood?”

8. The word holy means “set apart.” Marian describes holiness as living as God’s precious treasure. She writes: “*Like my expensive teacup, God sees you and me as His treasure. That’s what holiness is about. Living a life that reflects your value. Refusing to devalue what was worth dying for.*”

How would you respond to the question Marian asks in this section? Do you treat yourself as holy? And do you expect others to do the same?

9. Based on this chapter, why is remembering your “identity in Christ” essential to living a radiant life?

#### Chapter Four

1. Do you ever feel discouraged about your relationship with God? Do you ever feel like a “failure” at some aspect of the Christian life? Do you ever feel like your light is dim? If yes, explain why.
2. What did Marian’s Texas star illustration explain about a Christian’s relationship with the Holy Spirit?
3. Why is it impossible for us to be the “light of the world” in our own power?
4. Explain the phrase, “whatever fills us, controls us.” What does this chapter teach about the power of the Spirit?
5. Marian describes two “radiant barriers” in this chapter. Name each and give a short description.
6. Which radiant barrier is presently blocking God’s light in you?
7. Read the following excerpt and discuss:  
*When the Spirit of God comes to dwell in us, we have a new nature and a new desire. We want Jesus to be applauded, lifted up, and exalted. He is the Famous One whose praise we live to proclaim. Of course, there is a battle between our old sinful nature and the Spirit of God living in us, but each time we say “yes” to the Spirit, we overcome the flesh—fulfilling our purpose of glorifying God.*

*The Holy Spirit will always shine the spotlight on Jesus. This serves as a good litmus test for our lives. We can know if we are under the Spirit’s influence by whether or not our lives are bringing Jesus glory.*

#### Chapter Five

1. Looking back over the various fashion trends that have come and go, name a time when you were a fashion victim?
2. How does a person’s wardrobe express their identity?
3. Read Romans 13:11-14 (p.) and discuss the following excerpt from this chapter.  
“One thing I’d like to clarify from the start is *why* we undergo this wardrobe change. It is not an attempt to earn our salvation or to make us acceptable before God. Actually, it is the opposite. The reason we change our clothes is because we *are* now different people, new creations in Christ—complete with new clothing

that reflects this new identity. “

4. What are a few things that a Christian woman should “take off” and “put on” if she desires to live a radiant life?
5. What does it mean to “make no provision” for the flesh?
6. Marian proposes two reasons why Christians today aren’t more loving. What are these reasons? (Hint: the both begin with the letter B.)
7. Read Ephesians 4: 22-27, 29. What should a Radiant Woman “put off?” Share an example of how words can harm or hurt others.
8. Explain the phrase “clothe yourself in humility.” How is pride the opposite of radiance?
9. Read the following excerpt and discuss.

*Before someone mistakenly assumes that humility then means low self-esteem, let me quickly say, “no.” Humility, as C.S. Lewis said, “is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less.”<sup>1</sup> I hope you can discern the difference. When God is in His rightful place in our hearts, then we see ourselves rightly: sinners in need of grace who are redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus. We recognize our true value and worth in Him, but at the same time, this truth humbles us.*

## Chapter Six

1. In this chapter Marian shares a story of a divided heart. How would you feel if you were in her shoes? How do you think God feels when our hearts are divided?
2. Marian writes: “our “ex” is the world system that Jesus Christ redeemed us from when we placed our faith in Him. James Boice describes the world as “an organized system, made up of a set of ideas, people, activities, purposes, used by Satan for opposing the work of Christ on earth. It is the very opposite of what is godly.” It is that very kingdom of darkness that Boice describes that held us captive before Jesus rescued us, bringing us into the Kingdom of Light. (Colossians 1:12-13)

Share examples of how you’ve felt pulled back into the world.

What temptations do you face that you recognize as lures from your “ex?”

3. Marian writes: “Every woman must ask herself, “Am I influencing the world or is the world influencing me?” How would you honestly answer this question? Are you shining as a light or is the darkness hiding your glow?

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4. What can a radiant woman take away from the Samson and Delilah story?
5. What are the three warning signs of a divided heart?
6. In this chapter, Marian highlighted several ways that media can “brainwash” us into the world’s mode of thinking and behaving. What influencer has impacted you the most and why?
7. How does materialism cause a divided heart?
8. How does Solomon’s story of a divided heart caution us today?

#### Chapter Seven

1. What is a legacy? Whose life has impacted your own in a similar way as Jill’s did to Marian?
2. What does the Apostle Paul teach us about leaving a legacy?
3. Marian shares three essentials needed to intentionally pursue Jesus. What are these essentials?
4. What role does prayer play in the radiant Christian life?
5. What priority does God’s word play in your life? What changes do you need to implement in your daily routine in order to spend time daily in God’s word?

6. Marian writes:

*Radiant women, it is time for us to rise up!!! We cannot fall into the cultural traps of apathy and laziness, or even the busyness that can take us away from prioritizing Christ. We cannot waste our lives, missing out on the high calling that God has for each one of us. Yes, I’m talking to you. You are called of God. You have a part to play in His kingdom. You are extremely significant in God’s purposes. If we don’t wake up, seize the day, and align our lives with God’s will, we will get to the end of our lives and have very little to show for it.*

What is your response to this encouragement?

7. How does living for eternity cause us to shine brighter in the midst of darkness here and now?
8. According to Matthew 25: 31-46, does God care how we spend our time on earth? Will it matter in eternity?
9. Marian writes: “*Radiant women of God, think about the truth God has entrusted us with—His gospel message. Today, you and I are His messengers to the world of the hope and healing available in Jesus Christ. If we are to leave a legacy, then we must be woman passionate about leading others to Jesus.*”

Who has God placed in your path who needs to know Jesus?

10. What did Marian's story about *The Price is Right* caution against? What is the key to maintaining passion?