

Chapter One

“Call me Sister Chayil”

What is virtuous?

What does it mean? Where does virtue come from and how does it apply to the woman of Proverbs 31?

If you look at the strong’s definition of the word from the Old Testament, you find that virtuous here is translated from the word **Chayil** (pronounced khah'-yil). **Chayil** is a word with layered meanings. It first implies force as in power. That means to have the necessary ability to make things happen. It then goes on to reflect the meaning of resources. That is having all the needed things required to make things happen. It moves on to the next meaning of wealth or financial strength, substance, riches which combine with ability produces results.

**Proverbs
31:10
...who can
find a
virtuous
woman?
KJV**

So if you consider the word **Chayil** in the context of the virtuous woman, you find a woman with substantial power. That is not only externally focused power, but really it is

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talking about internal fortitude that enables her to produce results out of who she is and not just what she knows. This word, CHAYIL appears nearly 250 times throughout the Old Testament. And there are many ways the word is used. But there are three other places where Chayil is used in ways that relate to this concept of “virtuousness and its expanded meaning.”

*Deuteronomy 8:18 – ...but thou shall remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that gives you the power to get **wealth**, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day. (In today’s language, that means he gives you the intellectual savvy to wheel and deal in business.)*

*1 Samuel 16:18 Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty **valiant** man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him. (In today’s language, that means he gives you courage to take risks and stand strong in the face of opposition.)*

*Habakkuk 3:19 –The LORD God is my **strength**, and he will make my feet like hinds’ feet. And he will make me to walk upon mine high places; to the chief singer on my stringed instruments. (In today’s language that means God is the source of your self esteem and you learn to look to him for encouragement and support rather than people)*

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In each of these references, we see that the virtuous woman was not just a homemaker, but she was a woman with the internal fortitude to get things done. She was a powerful woman. She was mentally strong, she was courageous, and she was wealthy. Not only wealthy in terms of money, but in the mental ability to create an environment where things worked well.

So let's review. What is virtuous?

Virtuous = CHAYIL

It is strength, ability, might, efficiency, wealth, and army (team or people you work with to get things done).

So the virtuous woman manifested these six characteristics...

1. **Strength**—she was strong. She had physical power and energy. She had the emotional intelligence necessary to deal with many different situations even the ones that were stressful or difficult.
2. **Ability**—she possessed the means or skill to do stuff. She knew things.
3. **Might**— she was filled with impressive power and/or strength and she didn't quit when things got tough.
4. **Efficiency**—she was competent, organized and effective. She got results.

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5. **Wealth**—she maximized her assets, used her influence, and created financial strength for her whole family. She dug multiple streams of income.
6. **Army** (team or people you work with to get things done). She knew how to leverage people and make them more productive. She maximized her relationship circle.

Now let's put the word to work.

Putting the Word to Work

Review each of the 6 areas above. Select a partner or close friend. This should be a person who can hold you accountable. Ask them the following questions.

On a scale of one to ten (1 – 10) 10 being highest, how well do you rate me in each of these six areas?

1. Strength ____	2. Ability ____	3. Might ____
4. Efficiency ____	5. Wealth ____	6. Army ____

Which area should I focus on most? _____

Which area is my greatest strength? _____

Which is my greatest weakness? _____

What one thing can I do to improve in each of these areas?
