

# How should you honour high achievers? (31:31)

Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

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## THE TEXT (NASB)

Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

*Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates. Classic KJV - Proverbs 31:30*

## INTRODUCTION



Reward excellent workers in two ways.

First pay them tangible benefits in keeping with their accomplishments. Then give them public honour and recognition.

High achievers deserve a twofold prize.



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## COMMENTARY

### The City Gates



In the cities of the Orient the gates were the public place (or places if the city had more than one set of gates) for commerce, legal matters and the announcement of important news. That's where people met to hear important announcements (2 Chronicles 32:6, Nehemiah 8:1) and elders transacted legal business (Deuteronomy 16:18, Joshua 20:4, Ruth 4:1-2). The current day equivalent is city/town hall, the civic centre or possibly, depending upon it's size and structure, the airport. It's a place where the key citizens meet.

### Public Recognition



With respect to public recognition the point is this: Praise for excellent work should be given in a place of prominence. It's not just for the market place or sports field, but wherever important news is announced and where law and order are administered. If public media such as TV or newspapers are used then proper recognition calls for a major broadcasting station and a respectable paper, not a tabloid.

### Women Working in the Home

Moms who work hard at home and are dedicated to the success of their families make an extremely valuable contribution to society. Unfortunately most men have stopped praising the dedicated homemaker. I believe this lack of public praise and recognition has led to the increase in feminism and a feeling that unless women are active outside the home, their work is of little significance. But not all stay-at-home moms are also work-at-home moms. It's the ones



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who diligently work to make their family members successful, those are the ones who deserve medals.

## Translation: Product, Works



The Hebrew word for “product” can also be translated as “fruit, reward, price, earnings, result.” The Hebrew word for “works” can also be translated as “achievements, accomplishments workmanship.” I don’t really know why two words are used that mean essentially the same thing, but the message is clear. Whatever the successful woman has achieved, let her enjoy it. Let her possess it. It’s all about recognizing the individual for her unique accomplishments by ensuring that she is able to enjoy her achievements, and then recognizing her efforts publicly. Personal responsibility and personal reward and recognition—not pooled consequences, but individually specific should be tailor made to fit the individual. It’s private property, not a collective.

## Rewards and Recognition

Rewards are primarily financial and tangible. Pay for performance includes: More money, higher pay, bonuses, profit sharing, stock options, prizes, vacations. Recognition starts with a simple “Thank you.” Additional recognition includes: Public announcements, newspaper ads, radio or TV notices, billboards, government bills/citations.

## OUR CREATOR, REDEEMER, AND FRIEND

Rewarding people based upon their performance is not bribery.

Bribery is the abuse of justice whereas the distribution of rewards is the administration of justice, namely giving people what they deserve. When the Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, returns physically to planet earth He will recognize and reward everyone appropriately.

That’s His promise (Revelation 22:12). **Maranatha!**



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## APPLICATION

- Memorize the text in your favourite translation and think about it often.
- Reward high achievers with tangible assets *and* with public honour.
- Try to make the reward match the achievement.
- Maximize your praise by giving it the best setting. The more public the praise, the greater the praise.

Which one of these steps, if any, does Jesus want you to take now? Ask Him.



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## KEY WORDS

charm

## ILLUSTRATION

### Who is Diligent Daniel?



Diligent Daniel is a friend of Steady Eddie. Whereas Steady Eddie is known for his staying power, Diligent Daniel is known for his decisiveness and thoroughness. He is an early riser, a quick starter, and a job finisher. There's no room for procrastination here.

Daniel is tough-minded and sharp. He tells himself each day, “I snooze- I lose.” He pushes himself and calls himself lazy. He is tough on himself—not rough.

He’s the one Benjamin Franklin was thinking about two hundred years ago when he came up with the maxim, “Early to bed, early to rise makes a man healthy, WEALTHY, and wise.” Daniel’s also the one the author Oswald Chambers described with the words, “The heights by great men reached and kept, were not attained by sudden flight, but they while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night.”

Daniel is more of a thinker than Steady Eddie, but is known for his enthusiastic work capacity, not his brilliance. He’s a mover and a shaker. He’s not afraid to get his hands dirty and is in good physical condition. He’s a builder. He starts the job right away and gets it DONE. He doesn’t flip-flop in this thinking. He is not double-minded. He remains humble while exuding confidence.



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One of his favourite financial tools is the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP).

