

# *Heart to Heart*

Devotional Thoughts for Women

August 2016

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## **Called to Holiness**

God calls us to a life of holiness. Not moments of holiness, or “when I feel like it holiness” but a complete, all-encompassing life of holiness. When we think of holiness, we may consider it to be cleanness, moral living, or righteousness and while all of these are certainly characteristic of a holy life, there is much more involved. Living a life of holiness requires us to be separate and set apart.

**We separate ourselves from the world.** II Corinthians 6:17a states, *“Therefore, ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord.’”* We live in this world, but we are not to be of the world, being drawn into becoming like those around us. Romans 12:2 warns against this as it states, *“Do not be conformed to this world...”*, and Colossians 3:2 reminds us to, *“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”* Being separate from the world means shunning everything that is offensive to God and embracing everything that is God-honoring and righteous. We shouldn't be longingly gazing at everything the world offers that would lead us farther and farther away from our heavenly Father.

In Genesis 19, we read about righteous Lot and his family living in the sinful city of Sodom. God mercifully sent two angels to warn them of the coming destruction and to give them a chance of escape. However, Lot and his family were told by the angels not to look back as they were escaping, no matter what. As Lot, his wife and two daughters reached the safety of the plain city of Zoar, the Lord began to rain down fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot and his family had safely separated themselves from

the sinful cities slated for destruction, but despite the warning from the angels, Lot's wife chose to look back. As she did so, she was turned to a pillar of salt. Why did she look back? Perhaps it was just a natural curiosity to see what was taking place, but her husband and daughters heard the same destruction and obeyed the Lord by not looking. Perhaps the real reason was that she longed to look back at what she had left behind. Her heart may not have been inclined to escaping a sinful city but yearning for her life to remain as it had been, **comfortably living among the heathens and feeling no urgent need to separate herself from them.** How tragic for her and how tragic for us if we are enticed by the world and do not see the need or have the desire to separate ourselves from it.

**We are set apart for God.** I Peter 2:9 tells us, *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”* Notice what God has called us out of – darkness. This is where separating ourselves from the world comes in. We have to come out of the darkness of this world first in order to be set apart for God. Setting ourselves apart then requires walking in the light, living a life of purity and holiness, never to return to the darkness. I John 1:6-7 reminds us, *“If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

I Thessalonians 4:7 reminds us, *“For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.”* Our purpose as Christians is to be holy in all of our conduct because God our Father is holy. (I Peter 1:15-16) Holiness should totally permeate our lives and be reflected in our speech, our actions, our dress, our priorities, our choices, and our worship. God is calling, *“Be holy, for I am holy.”* How are we answering?  
~Heather Pryor

*(Adapted from the book “Purer in Heart” by Heather Pryor)*

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**Ladies Bible Class** – There will be no classes in July or August. We will resume in September with a new study in the book of Nehemiah. Books are \$4.00 each. Please see Angela if you are interested in ordering a copy.

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### **More Holiness Give Me**

More holiness give me, more strivings within.  
More patience in suffering, more sorrow for sin.  
More faith in my Savior, more sense of His care.  
More joy in His service, more purpose in prayer.

More purity give me, more strength to o'ercome,  
More freedom from earth-stains, more longings for home.  
More fit for the kingdom, more useful I'd be,  
More blessed and holy, more, Savior, like Thee.

~Philip Bliss (1873)

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### **Search the Scriptures**

#### **“Holiness”**

1. What article of clothing had an engraved plate which said “Holiness to the Lord” and who wore this item? (Exodus 28:36-38)  
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2. Who referred to Jesus as the “Holy One” while announcing his birth? (Luke 1:26, 35) \_\_\_\_\_
3. What unlikely group called Jesus the “Holy One of God”? (Mark 1:23-24) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is called holy in I Corinthians 3:17? \_\_\_\_\_
5. According to I Peter 1:15, in what should we be holy?  
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# RECIPE CORNER

*"She...provides food for her household." ~Prov. 31:15*

Turn down the heat in the kitchen by cranking up the crock pot!

## SPANISH ROUND STEAK

- 1 small onion, sliced
- 1 rib celery, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, sliced in rings
- 2 lbs. round steak
- 2 tsp. dried parsley
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 T. dry mustard
- 1 T. chili powder
- 2 cups canned tomatoes with juice
- 2 tsp. minced garlic
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

Place half of the onion, celery, and green pepper in crock pot. Cut the steak into serving-size pieces and place in crock pot on top of vegetables. Place remaining vegetables over the steak pieces. Combine the parsley, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, chili powder, tomatoes, garlic, salt, and pepper and pour over meat. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours. Serve over noodles or rice.

## CHERRY DELIGHT

- 21 oz. can cherry pie filling
- 1 pkg. yellow cake mix
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1/3 cup chopped walnuts

Grease crock pot, then pour in pie filling. Combine dry cake mix and butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over pie filling. Sprinkle with walnuts, then cover and cook on low for 4 hours or high for 2 hours. Serve with vanilla ice cream.