

# *Heart to Heart*

Devotional Thoughts for Women

July 2017

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## **Hang On, Help Is On the Way**

It happened one night around midnight. I was laying in bed reading *War and Peace* on my tablet while all in the house was dark and silent except for the steady breathing of my sleeping husband beside me. As I was drowsily staring at the glowing screen in front of me, I started to notice a faint acrid smell. It caught my attention so I deliberately started taking deep breaths. There was no mistake – there was definitely a burning smell. I figured it was my tablet going haywire so I started sniffing it and praying it wasn't going to blow up in my face. That's when I changed my mind about it being my tablet and decided there was a definite smell of smoke in the air around me. I was wide awake by this time and had no qualms about disturbing my blissfully unaware husband. I woke him and told him I smelled smoke. Imagine our dismay and panic as we ran through the house to locate the source of the problem only to turn around and see a haze filling the top of the kitchen. We searched in vain but couldn't find out what was burning. So I did the next logical thing; I called 911.

The operator was calm and helpful. She asked questions about the smoke and then told me to get everyone out of the house as she had fire rescue units on their way to our home. Help was on the way! We woke our teenagers and got everybody out in the front yard. Fortunately, our local fire station is literally just a few blocks down the street from our house so they were there in no time.

We watched as one, two, three, four fire trucks and smaller rescue trucks pulled up as well as the truck containing the fire chief himself. You would have thought they were responding to a three

alarm fire. I'm sure our neighbors wondered what in the world was happening as trucks lined our neighborhood street with swirling rescue lights flashing in their bedroom windows.

The fire chief came up to us and asked a couple of questions then sent in four firemen to check things out. Two came out in just a couple of minutes while the other two remained in our kitchen. In a short while they came out and showed the chief the problem...a plastic lid had fallen down in our dishwasher and landed on the heating element, melting and smoking as we were drifting off to La La Land in our beds.

You can imagine my mortification. A whole brigade of firetrucks were parked on my street, after midnight, to rescue my family from a melting plastic lid. I was sure that each and every fireman as well as all of my neighbors were going to want to thank me personally for calling 911 after midnight for such a good reason. I apologized profusely to the fire chief. I explained that if my husband and I had had any idea of the cause we would never have presumed to call 911. We just smelled smoke, saw smoke, thought of our children, and called for help. I'll never forget what the fire chief told me. He said, "You did the right thing."

He very kindly explained that he was glad it wasn't a dangerous fire or a situation where anyone could have been harmed. He said it didn't matter how small the problem seemed to be. He understood and sympathized with the fact that we felt we were in trouble and called the ones we thought could help us. He then emphasized to me never to hesitate to call again if we ever felt we needed their help.

The attitude of the fire chief is the same one we should have for each other in the church. Have you ever been called in the middle of the night by a brother or sister in Christ who needed help or have you ever had to be the caller? We've been on both sides of that coin, and I can attest to the blessings of each. How encouraging and comforting it is when you know that help is always on the way when

you need it from someone in the family of God. And what a blessing it is to be able to offer encouragement, comfort and security to one of your brothers or sisters in Christ who needs it. Nothing is too small or too trivial when we're looking out for each other. *“Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”* (Philippians 2:4)

I was so thankful for all of the firemen who came to help us when we called. They didn't feel inconvenienced or miffed because it was a simple, small matter or because it was late at night. They did their job which was to be there when we needed them. Galatians 6:2 reminds us to, *“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”* May we in the body of Christ always remember to be each other's spiritual 911 as well. ~Heather Pryor

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**Ladies Bible Class** – This fall, we will begin a study of the book of Hebrews based on the book ***Perfected: God's Best Reserved For You.*** Mark your calendars for September 16<sup>th</sup> when classes resume!

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## **Search the Scriptures**

### **Answers to last month's quiz**

#### **“God's Will”**

1. “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” I Thessalonians 5:18
2. “For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that you should abstain from sexual immorality.” I Thessalonians 4:3
3. “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.” I Peter 2:15
4. “For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.” Hebrews 10:36

# RECIPE CORNER

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

## CHICKEN POT PIE

- 4 cups chicken, cooked and shredded
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 2 cans mixed vegetables, drained or 1 (16 oz.) bag frozen
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, melted
- 1 cup buttermilk

Place the cooked and shredded chicken in the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking dish. Pour in the mixed vegetables and combine. In a bowl, combine the broth and the soup until blended. Season with a little pepper if desired. Pour over the chicken/vegetable mixture. In another bowl, blend the flour, baking powder, salt and pepper. Pour in the melted butter and buttermilk and stir until blended. Carefully pour or spoon the batter on top of the casserole and spread it close to the edges. Bake in a 425 degree oven for 35 minutes or until the top crust is golden brown and casserole is bubbly.

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*Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ~Romans 12:13*