

Heart to Heart

Devotional Thoughts for Women

June 2016

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Life is Short, Use the China

For my 45th birthday, my husband bought me a wonderful present – a set of Royal Albert china in the Old Country Roses pattern. He had only been looking for a tea set in that pattern when he stumbled across the deal of the century. The lady who was selling the china lived about 45 minutes away so we took a little road trip. We arrived at her house, and within minutes we were helping her wrap up and box 96 pieces of china. I was so excited when we got back in the car and started home. I couldn't wait to get all of those beautiful pieces home and arrange them in our antique china cabinet (which was currently being used as a bookshelf), but I really wanted to use my china too, not just admire it in a case. So as we started home, I turned to my husband and asked him if we could actually use the china. He didn't even hesitate but said, “Of course! Life is short, use the china!”

We enjoy using our china quite frequently and have never regretted the decision. Might something get broken? Perhaps. But we aren't going to deny ourselves the pleasure of using it because of the risk. Life is too short.

Life is too short for a lot of other things as well. How many things are put off for some day in the distant future and that day never comes? How many important things are being neglected until “the time is right”? How many things are we holding onto when we just need to let go? Consider the following list of things that life is just too short for:

- **Life is short – invest in relationships.** Kids grow up so fast, parents age, friends sometimes move away, and spouses pass on. Don't wait to spend time with the people you love. *Make* the time to build and strengthen relationships that are important and worth it. No one ever regrets the time that was spent building precious memories with loved ones.
- **Life is short – don't hold grudges.** One of the saddest things, in my opinion, is to see family members or close

friends have a falling out and refusing to speak to each for years. Even sadder is when one of the parties passes away and no peace was ever made between the two. Too late! Our time on this earth is so relatively short compared to the vastness of eternity. It is certainly way too short to hold grudges. *“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”* (Romans 12:18)

- **Life is short – choose to look for the good.** There are those who look at life as the glass half empty while others choose to look at it as the glass half full. There is so much negativity, criticism, and complaining out in the world, and life is too short to waste time and effort on that. Choose to be positive, looking for God's blessings and goodness in our lives; they are all around us.
- **Life is short – be bold.** Is there an adventure you've always wanted to undertake? A new skill you've wanted to learn? A dream you'd like to fulfill? What are you waiting for? Fill your life with things that bring you joy. On a more serious note, do you have someone close to you that you wish would become a Christian? Do you have a loved one you grieve for because they have fallen away from the Lord? What are you waiting for? Life is too short to be timid. Reach out to someone who needs to have God in their life and give them the chance of a lifetime.
- **Life is short – don't sweat the small stuff.** Corrie ten Boom (a holocaust survivor) so aptly said, “Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.” Worrying and fretting about every little thing wastes precious moments of our lives that could be spent on something else much more productive or pleasurable. And many times, the things we worry so much about don't even come to pass, which makes it a pointless pursuit. Jesus said, *“Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?”* (Matthew 6:27) Life is too short to worry all the time. Relax and enjoy peace by placing your trust in the Lord. After all, He is in control of all things; there is no need to worry.
- **Life is short – focus on what's important.** You generally don't hear people at funerals talk about how much money the departed had, what great possessions they owned,

how nice their house was, or what kinds of clothes hung in their closet. Instead, you hear memories shared of good times and of kindnesses shown. You hear about the things that really matter: love, family, service, friends, sacrifice, faith. Those are all things that money cannot buy yet they make life richer and fuller than any material possessions or worldly pursuits. Life is too short to focus on things that won't amount to a hill of beans at the end of it. Focus on what is truly important.

- **Life is short – live for the Lord.** Our time on earth is so uncertain. James tells us, *“For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”* (James 4:14) We don't have one minute to spare not living for the Lord. Our lives are well-spent when they are devoted to the Lord and His will. The prophet Micah sums up the agenda for all of our days in this one verse: *“He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”* (Micah 6:8)

Many of these things occurred to me because I know they are things I need to remember. I think I'll go think about them for awhile as I enjoy a snack served on my china. Why not? Life is short.
~Heather Pryor

Ladies Bible Class – June 25th at 9:00 a.m. We will finish our study on prayer. Read and do the **August** assignments before class. Please bring your Bible and a breakfast item to share.

Answers to Last Month's Quiz “Putting Off & Putting On”

1. “And that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness.” (Ephesians 4:24)
2. “...Let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.” (Romans 13:12)
3. “That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.” (Ephesians 4:22)

RECIPE CORNER

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

Refreshing soup and salad to be served on your best china! ;)

TUNA TARRAGON PASTA SALAD

- 1 T. salt
- 5 cups small shell pasta
- 1 1/4 cups penne pasta
- 1 cup spinach fettucine
- 2 T. canola oil
- 2 (6 oz.) cans tuna
- 2 cups sweet pickle juice
- 1 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 cups sweet pickles (diced)
- 1 cup celery (diced)
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 1/2 T. dried tarragon
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

Break fettucine into 3-inch pieces. Bring 3 quarts of water and 1 tablespoon of salt to a boil. Cook pastas for about 10 minutes. Drain and run cool water over pasta. Toss with canola oil to prevent sticking. Place pasta in bowl and set aside. In a large bowl, break up tuna into small chunks. Combine sweet pickle juice, mayonnaise, pickles, celery, sour cream, and spices. Mix thoroughly. Add in pasta and mix well. Marinate salad in the refrigerator for 8 hours. Add extra pickle juice and salt and pepper to taste before serving. *This is a copycat recipe of the salad from Sweet Tomatoes Restaurant.*

RASPBERRY SOUP

- 1 bag (20 oz.) frozen raspberries, thawed
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 1/4 cup white grape juice
- 1 cup cranberry-raspberry juice
- 1 carton raspberry-flavored yogurt
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 3 whole cloves
- 1 T. lemon juice

Puree the raspberries along with the water and grape juice in a blender. Transfer to a large saucepan and add the cranberry-raspberry juice, sugar, cinnamon and cloves. Bring to a boil then remove from heat, strain the soup, and let cool. When cooled, whisk in the lemon juice and yogurt. Refrigerate. Serve chilled and garnish each bowl with a sprig of fresh mint if desired.