

Heart to Heart

Devotional Thoughts for Women

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Four Words that are Hard to Pray

Several months ago, I faced a surgery to remove a tumor from my kidney. I was extremely blessed with a good surgeon who had performed these types of surgeries for years and was very confident that mine would go smoothly, and that I would be just fine afterward. I must admit, however, that I was very nervous about the whole thing, and I prayed about it...a lot. I knew that most surgeries were very routine and non-eventful, but I also knew that anything could happen and it was possible (albeit not probable) that I could die during the operation. I started having difficulty when I prayed about it because I was finding it harder and harder to pray for God's will to be done in the matter. What if God's will was that I should not survive the operation? Was I prepared to accept that? How could that be what was best for my family? What about my plans, my hopes, my dreams? What about what *I* wanted?

The words “thy will be done” can be difficult to pray because those four little words carry some serious implications with it:

- **Sovereignty of God** – We are acknowledging that God is the One in control, and it is His will and not ours that must be done.
- **Submission to God** – We humble ourselves before God Almighty, willingly being the clay in the hands of the Potter to be molded and shaped as He desires.
- **Sacrifice of Self** - We surrender our wants, our plans, our desires to whatever God wants, plans and desires for us, realizing it will always be what is best for us.

Those three implications were what swirled around and around in my head as I prayed those four hard words. I *knew* God was in control, and I *wanted* to be submissive to Him which meant I had to be willing to sacrifice my own desires to His and be strongly confident in the fact that He is faithful and will always do what is right.

I take comfort in the fact that I am not the only one who has struggled to pray those words. When Jesus was praying in the garden of Gethsemane on the night of his betrayal and arrest, He struggled with those words as well. The account of his prayer recorded in Matthew 26 tells us that Jesus was “*sorrowful and deeply distressed*” (v. 37). Being a man of flesh and blood and knowing the excruciating ordeal he was facing, Jesus pleaded with God to let that cup pass from him if it could. Why? Because Jesus had a will of his own. He had wants and desires and dying a slow, agonizing death on a cross bearing the sins of the world was not something he naturally desired. But, Jesus also recognized the sovereignty of his God and Father and willingly submitted to Him in all things. Because of that, he sacrificed his own will by sacrificing himself - literally.

We struggle with those words because we know what they mean – they mean that we may not get what we want, that things may not go as we had planned. We struggle with wanting our will to be God's will. But those words that can be so difficult to say are also a blessing to pray because they mean that God will *always* do what is best for us even when we cannot see how it is best for us. God is faithful. (I Corinthians 1:9) And those three words are what encourage me and embolden me to pray those four hard words, “Thy will be done.”

~Heather Pryor

Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth and it stands fast. ~Psalm 119:90

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*. If you are interested in ordering a copy, please see Heather. The cost of the books is \$12.50 each and the money is due by June 25th.

Search the Scriptures

“God's Will”

Find the reference for each scripture quotation. (All quotations are taken from the NKJV.)

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

Answers to last month's quiz

“Chosen by God”

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| <u>d.</u> 1. Paul | a. He was a prophet told by God to marry a harlot. |
| <u>e.</u> 2. Moses | b. He was ordained to be a “prophet to the nations.” |
| <u>a.</u> 3. Hosea | c. He was a farmer chosen to be a prophet. |
| <u>b.</u> 4. Jeremiah | d. He was to be a “light to the Gentiles.” |
| <u>c.</u> 5. Amos | e. He was a shepherd chosen to lead a nation. |

RECIPE CORNER

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

CHOCOLATE PIZZA

- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 pound white almond bark (or white chocolate), divided*
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1 cup crisp rice cereal
- 1 cup peanuts
- 1 (6 oz.) jar red maraschino cherries, drained and cut in halves
- ½ cup flaked coconut
- 1 tsp. oil

Combine the chocolate chips and 14 oz. of the almond bark in a large glass bowl. Microwave on high for two minutes, stir. Microwave for one to two minutes longer or until smooth, stirring every thirty seconds. Stir in marshmallows, cereal, and peanuts. Spoon into a greased 12-inch pizza pan. Spread evenly then top with the cherries and coconut. Microwave the remaining 2 oz. of almond bark with the teaspoon of oil for one minute. Stir. Microwave for thirty seconds to a minute longer or until smooth, stirring every fifteen seconds. Drizzle over pizza. Chill until firm. Store at room temperature. Cut into small wedges or squares to serve. Yield: 12 svgs.

Options: Red and green M&M candies may be substituted for the cherries. Pecans or walnuts may be substituted for the peanuts.

O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty like You, O Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.

~Psalm 89:8