

# *Heart to Heart*

Devotional Thoughts for Women

May 2017

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## **Chosen**

My husband and I met when I was only fifteen. I was living in south Georgia at the time when one Sunday morning a tall, blond handsome twenty year old walked into church and set off a ripple of excitement among all the single young ladies. The man of my dreams since the time I was a little girl was a tall, blond, blue-eyed man, and this guy certainly fit the bill, but as I was so much younger and there were many other “fish in the pond”, I didn't give him much thought.

Over the next year as we attended different church functions together, my mother started to get an inkling of something. She finally clued me in and told me that she thought this particular young man had his eye on me. I laughed and told her that was impossible. Yet, when I was just sixteen years old, I stopped laughing at the prospect because the impossible was becoming a reality. It took me awhile to believe that this handsome twenty-one year old had singled me out, that he had chosen me.

I didn't meet my father-in-law until the weekend of the wedding. He was a preacher and was going to perform our marriage ceremony, wearing his snappy purple suspenders under his suit coat. I remember talking with him the night before the wedding and at one point shaking my head and telling him I still couldn't believe Paul had picked me. My father-in-law smiled his gentle smile and said, “I can. He looked long enough until he found exactly what he wanted, and it was you.”

How special does it make us feel when we are chosen? By a

husband? By adoptive parents? By friends? By an employer? By a teacher?...By God? We all have an innate need in us to belong, to be wanted, to be chosen, and God fills that need perfectly. Consider these tender and moving words from scripture that show us how God feels about His people:

*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. (I Peter 2:9)*

*Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. (Ephesians 1:4)*

*You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit... (John 15:16)*

*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom He has chosen as His own inheritance. (Psalm 33:12)*

*But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (II Thessalonians 2:13)*

Over and over again in the scriptures, we see that God chose us - not randomly or out of necessity or desperation but deliberately. Many people are chosen for their merits, but God chose us when we were as undesirable as we could be. *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)* Yet, from the beginning, before the foundation of the world, God had His eyes on us. He wanted us to belong to Him. How amazing! How humbling. How wonderful.

We are chosen by God to be saved through the blood of His precious Son and our Savior. We are chosen to come out of darkness and into the light. We are chosen to walk blameless before Him in love. We are chosen to fill our days living lives of holiness, bearing good fruit

that will glorify Him. We are chosen to be His special people, to belong to Him forever and ever. How blessed we are to be chosen.

~Heather Pryor

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**Ladies Bible Class – May 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.** Please bring your Bible and a breakfast item to share. We will be studying the final lesson in the book, **Lesson 13.**

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## **Search the Scriptures**

### **“Chosen by God”**

Match who was chosen by God to the task or purpose God had for him.

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

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*The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. ~Zephaniah 3:17*

# RECIPE CORNER

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

Thank you to Sister Frances Greer for sharing this fun recipe with us!

## SCRIPTURE CAKE

- Judges 5:25 - 1/2 cup butter
- Jeremiah 6:20 - 1 cup sugar
- Isaiah 10:14 - 3 eggs, separated
- Exodus 16:31 - 1 T. honey
- I Kings 4:22 - 2 cups all-purpose flour
- Leviticus 2:13 - 1/2 tsp. salt
- I Corinthians 5:6 - 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 Kings 10:10 - 3/4 tsp. ground cinnamon, 1/4 tsp. each of ground cloves, allspice and nutmeg
- Judges 4:19 - 1/3 cup milk
- Genesis 43:11 - 1/2 cup chopped almonds
- I Samuel 30:12 - 1/2 cup chopped dried figs
- I Samuel 30:12 - 1/2 cup chopped seeded raisins

Cream butter. Add sugar gradually, beating until light. Add egg yolks, one at a time, beating thoroughly after each addition. Beat in honey. Sift together the flour, salt, baking powder, and spices. Add the sifted dry ingredients alternately with the milk and beat until smooth. Stir in nuts and fruits. Beat the egg whites until stiff peaks form. Fold in beaten egg whites and pour into a loaf pan (9x5x3 inches), lined on the bottom with wax paper. Bake in preheated moderate oven (350 degrees) for 1 hour, or until done. Cool cake in the pan for 5 minutes. Turn cake out on a rack and peel off paper. Turn cake right side up to cool.

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*Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ~Isaiah 43:1b*