

Heart to Heart

Devotional Thoughts for Women

September 2015

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The Student Who Taught the Teacher

Recently, I received a letter in the mail from a sweet woman whose words served to be such an inspiration to me and helped to teach me some valuable lessons. Here is an excerpt from her letter:

I hope you are doing well. I am good. God has shown me so much favor. He is such an awesome God. My schedule has gotten busier. I am glad of that. It seems the more I do the faster the time goes by. I started a horticulture class and am very excited about that. I am also in a dog training program. I started studying Genesis back on January 1st of this year. I read 3-5 chapters a day and take notes on what I read. I just finished the Old Testament and started on Matthew today. I am excited about that!...So my days are full and I am content.

The woman who wrote this letter is currently incarcerated in a Florida state prison. After digesting that piece of information, go back and reread her words. Do they take on a new meaning now?

When I received this letter, I confess it blew me away. I felt happy (for her), ashamed (of myself), and blessed by God for being taught by my student. You see, I correspond regularly with this woman and send her Bible lessons. Technically, she looks at me as a teacher and as herself as the Bible student, but little did she know that she so aptly took on the role of teacher through her letter to me. So, just what exactly did she teach me?

First, she taught me to be more appreciative of Who our God is and the awesome things He does for each of us. Notice that in the opening sentences of her letter, she acknowledges that God has shown her favor. How many times am I guilty of neglecting to recognize and be thankful to the One who is showering favor on me? Instead of focusing on the negative elements in her surroundings, this lady chooses to focus on the goodness of God.

Second, she taught me to be grateful for having things to do. She made the comment that her schedule had gotten busier and she was glad of that. I'm ashamed to say that many times, I begrudge my schedule being too busy and don't look at it for the opportunities and blessings that it is. Instead, I need to serve, to learn and to work by walking willingly through the doors that God opens up for me each day.

Third, she reminded me what a blessing it is to study the Word of God. She studies diligently and is excited about doing it. Her enthusiastic attitude was contagious and inspired me to be more excited about the privilege of opening the precious pages of my Bible.

Finally, she blew me away with the three little words, "*I am content.*" Knowing where she was and what her situation is, I couldn't imagine being in her shoes and saying those same words. Too often, I let contentment be a result of my circumstances when contentment should be *in spite of* my circumstances. No matter where I am or what is taking place in my life, I have the love of God, and no one can take that away from me. "*For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, now things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" Romans 8:38-39

It's amazing to me how the Lord uses people in our lives in ways we never expect and perhaps in ways they never expect (or suspect!) themselves.

I have kept that brief letter to serve as an encouragement to me and to allow my student to continue to teach her teacher. Thank you, Lord, for Stacey!

~Heather Pryor

Ladies Bible Class – Mark your calendars! Our ladies Bible class will resume on **Saturday, September 19th at 9:00 a.m.** Please bring your Bible, your book (if you have one) and a breakfast item to share. We will be studying Lesson 4.

Search the Scriptures

“Students & Teachers”

Match the following students on the right with their teachers on the left. Answers will be provided in next month's bulletin.

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Philip | a. Apollos |
| _____ 2. Gamaliel | b. students in the school of Tyrannus |
| _____ 3. Aquila & Priscilla | c. Timothy |
| _____ 4. Eunice & Lois | d. Paul |
| _____ 5. Paul | e. Ethiopian eunuch |

“A wise man will hear and increase learning...” Proverbs 1:5

“Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.” Psalm 25:4-5

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” II Peter 3:18

“Ancora imparo” (I am still learning.) ~Michelangelo, age 87

RECIPE CORNER

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

Here's a tasty dish for all of that zucchini your neighbor will give you this fall from their garden!

ZUCCHINI AU GRATIN

- 4 thinly sliced zucchini
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/3 cup butter
- salt, pepper & seasonings
- 1/3 cup heavy whipping cream
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup – 1 cup shredded mozerella cheese
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup parmesan cheese

In a large skillet, melt butter and add sliced zucchini and chopped onion. Cook for 5 minutes on medium high, then add salt, pepper and any additional seasonings to taste. Cook until you have a slightly browned color to the zucchini. Pour in a greased 8x8 square baking dish. Next, whisk together the whipping cream and eggs. Pour over the vegetable mixture. Sprinkle mozerella over all. Combine the bread crumbs and parmesan cheese and sprinkle over mozerella layer. Cover with foil and bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes.

Missed a back issue of Heart to Heart? Each ladies bulletin is posted online in the Women's Corner of Pryor Convictions Media's website starting with January 2015. Please visit the following link and click the month of your choosing to view.

<http://pryorconvictions.com/womens-corner/>