

# *Heart to Heart*

Devotional Thoughts for Women

April 2018

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## **Can't Never Could**

In my desk drawer at home, I have a beautiful hardback journal which I use to record inspirational quotes, scriptures, and poems. One of the quotes I have recorded is from the professional hockey player Wayne Gretzky who was nicknamed “the Great One”. He once said, “You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.” Do you think Gretzky scored every time he took a shot? Certainly not. But he would never have become the leading scorer in NHL history if he had never taken any.

When my siblings and I were growing up, we learned very quickly not to say the words “I can't” around our dad. Because we knew if we did, we would not only get zero sympathy, but we would get to hear one of his most famous quotes - “Can't died in the poorhouse!” What he was striving to teach us kids was to try. At least make an effort, and don't throw up your hands and quit before you even begin.

There are a couple of reasons why it is so easy for us to say, “I can't.” One reason is fear. Fear can be paralyzing. So much so that it becomes easier and much more comfortable to say, “I can't”, than to attempt to take any action. God understands how crippling fear can be to us. I find it very interesting that the words “fear not” are found 365 times in the Bible. That's one time for each day of the year. Clearly, fear does not come from our heavenly Father. I Timothy 1:7 reminds us, *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”* We are also given encouragement to step up and try in Philippians 4:13, *“I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.”*

Another reason is laziness. My father knew that most of the times one of us kids was saying, “I can't”, was because we really didn't want to. There are many things in life that require some effort on our part. Maybe we have to learn something new. Maybe we have to work a little longer or try a little harder at something, and we just plain don't want to, so we resort to “I can't.” The book of Proverbs has a lot to say about the subject of laziness. Proverbs 10:4 says, *“Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.”* (This is probably the basis for my dad's quote!) And Proverbs 19:15 warns, *“Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.”*

Moses serves as an example of one who experienced both of the above reasons and tried to cop out with “I can't” before God. In Exodus 3, the Lord appeared to Moses at the burning bush. Moses was being called into action to lead God's people out of Egyptian bondage. At this time, Moses had been away from Egypt for 40 years and was quite comfortable in his quiet life tending sheep in Midian, thank you very much. But God had work for him to do. The days of tending sheep were over as God now needed Moses to lead and shepherd the flock of God's people on their journey to the promised land. As the Lord spoke to Moses and told him what He wanted him to do, Moses thought fast and came up with three excuses as to why he couldn't do what the Lord was asking of him. He basically said:

- 1- I'm no one. (I can't do this; I'm not a person of consequence.)
- 2- No one will believe me. (I can't do this; I'm scared of rejection.)
- 3- I'm not a good speaker. (I can't do this; I'm not qualified.)

Within these three excuses, we see that he was afraid, and he just didn't want to go. But God strongly overcame all of these objections because fear and laziness were not valid reasons to not do the work God was giving Moses to do.

Consider what might have happened if the following people had said, “I can't” -

- Noah wouldn't have built an ark.

- Abraham would have never left his homeland.
- Joshua and the Israelites wouldn't have tumbled the walls of Jericho.
- Gideon wouldn't have defeated a host of Midianites with just 300 men.
- Little boy David wouldn't have slain a giant.
- Esther wouldn't have risked her life to save her people.
- Jesus wouldn't have died on the cross.

God has a will for each one of our lives and work for us to do. Using “I can't” to mask fear or laziness isn't going to get it done. The Lord will do all He can to help us and enable us to succeed; we just have to be willing to do our part by taking the first step of believing we can. Because can't never could. ~Heather Pryor

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***Ladies Bible Class & Breakfast*** – Mark your calendars for **April 21<sup>st</sup>**. We will continue our study of the book of Hebrews. (Book Lesson #7) Keep reading the entire book of Hebrews.

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## **Search the Scriptures**

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

1. What happened to the servant who did not prepare himself to do the will of his master? (Luke 12:47) He was beaten with many stripes.
2. What will be brought to us if we prepare our minds? (I Peter 1:13) Grace
3. Who prepares in summer for the harvest? (Proverbs 6:6-8) The ant

# RECIPE CORNER

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

## CREAMY CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

### Enchiladas:

1 1/2 pounds of cooked, shredded chicken  
12 oz. salsa (your preference)  
1 tsp. chili powder  
1 tsp. cumin  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. onion powder  
1/2 tsp. garlic  
8 flour tortillas  
1 cup shredded cheddar or colby jack cheese

### Cream sauce:

1 cup sour cream  
1/2 cup chicken broth  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. pepper

### Topping:

4 oz. salsa  
1 cup shredded cheddar or colby jack cheese

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In a bowl, combine the chicken, 12 oz. of salsa, chili powder, cumin, salt, onion powder and garlic. Spoon the filling down the center of each tortilla and sprinkle with cheese. Place the tortillas seam side down in a lightly greased 9x13 inch baking dish. In a separate bowl, blend the sour cream and chicken broth. Add salt and pepper and mix well. Pour the cream sauce over the enchiladas. Spoon 4 oz. of salsa down the middle. Sprinkle 1 cup of cheese over all. Bake for 30 minutes.