

I CHOOSE



Love



A newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry

August 2020 Vol. 16 Issue 8

455 South Church Street
Winston Salem, NC 27101

Office Hours:
Tuesday-Thursday
10am-2pm
or by appointment
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Prayer Support Groups

PRAYER SUPPORT
AT ON WINGS OFFICE
First Monday of each Month
Next Meeting is August 3
6:30 to 8:00 pm
PRAYER AND REFLECTION

RIVER OAKS CHURCH
CLEMMONS, NC
Meet in Room #4 on 2nd & 4th
Tuesdays at 6:30 pm
Currently studying
The Bondage Breaker
by Neil T. Anderson
Led by Jeff and Sherye Hall

Ladies Bible Study

Each Tuesday at On Wings Office
from 12:30-2:00
Currently Studying Ruach

SAVE THE DATE

Fall Retreat....October 2-4
"Whispers of God's Love"

Lord, Change Me

All your sons will be taught by the LORD, and great will be your children's peace.
Isaiah 54:13

Years ago, I attended a prayer conference led by Jennifer Kennedy Dean. At that conference I picked up one of her books entitled, "Legacy of Prayer". Since that time Jennifer has entered heaven's gates but her writings remain to encourage and direct us. Let me share a snippet from this book which will hopefully cause you to do a self-examination:

The focus of the mother's relationship changed. Within days, she says, our relationship began to smooth out. She quit trying to fix Jennifer and began to just allow God to work in her. Is there some element of a desire to be in control mixed with your concern for your child? Are you frustrated that you can't make things happen the way you want them to? We mean well, but let's face it, we often want them to act or think the way we do, and it seldom happens.

These are questions I have asked myself over many years. As a control freak, I tried to make things happen in my prodigal's life. The trouble is it only made things worse. I discovered I have no control—at all. That is when I began asking God to change me. I recommend another book, "Lord, Change Me" by Evelyn Christenson. In it she says she began to pray like this; "Lord, change me—don't change my husband, don't change my children, don't change my pastor, change me!" It did not mean she condoned everything they did, but she concentrated on how she handled her actions and reactions. She realized she was not responsible for the actions of others, but only for the changes she needed to make.

As my two granddaughters decided to wander away from God's plan and purpose for them, I went straight to God's Word to receive direction. Here is where He took me, "But I know where you stay and when you come and go and how you rage against me. Because you rage against me and because of your insolence has reached My ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will make you return by the way you came". This was God telling me, "I've got this regarding them, so you continue to let Me work on you and don't interfere with what I am doing in them".

It is funny because back in 1999 I had marked this passage in regard to our son. He brought him back to his senses and I can trust Him to do the same with my granddaughters, so I don't try to control it. It hurts to see our children and grands make unwise decisions, but it is their journey and we must stay focused on ours. He wants us all holy and consecrated unto Him and with our surrender, He will pull up everything that is not of Him in His timing. I am in my seventh decade and I still see my evil heart and pray for His work to continue in me. I pray that my loved ones will also at some point allow God to work in their hearts and make them everything He created them to be.

I don't know about you but this choice of letting go has been so freeing to me. I am not responsible for the choices of others and I won't have to answer for their actions when I see Jesus, just mine, and believe me that is going to be enough!

Thank You Lord for instructing me in Your Word. You say, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not/ and it shall be given to him" James 1:5. Give me wisdom, Lord and give it to me liberally. Thank You that we can ask You and You will gladly share the way of life you have for us. We ask in faith, believing that You will change our hearts. Amen.

~ Sandra



Wishing For Wings

Have you ever wished for something that was impossible? Yes, I am aware that with God all things are possible. However, there are some things that are not made to be possible. It just isn't in God's plan for us to have wings.

You see, David was in a very difficult place. He was pleading with God to hear his cry for help. David was facing a most difficult time in his life. Not only were his enemies giving him fits, his friends were giving him fits. We can understand that our enemies give us trouble and cause us grief – that is in the nature of an enemy. But what about when friends turn into enemies or at least cease being friends?

Psalm 55 finds David in this exact place. The first part of his cry extends to God because the enemies were...well, they were being enemies. They were making threats; they were making loud threats; they were angry, and they were hunting him down in their anger. He describes his fear of them and his prayer for deliverance.

Later in the passage, we see why these enemies were weighing on him so heavily. He states that he could bear this if it were just an enemy doing enemy things. But this is not the case – this is a friend who has turned into an enemy and is now taunting David. This is someone who walked with him to the House of God. This is someone who knew David's innermost thoughts and secrets, and the pain is so great that he wishes for wings.

In Psalm 55:6, David says,

“Oh, that I had wings like a dove; then I would fly away and rest!” (NLT)

How many times have we wished the same for ourselves? But God did not create us with the ability to sprout wings. He didn't create us with the ability to develop gills. He didn't give us the option of becoming the four-legged panther. All of these would have taken David away from where he was to a place where he could rest – he thought.

But running, or in this case, flying, would not bring David the comfort he **wanted**. It **wouldn't** bring the friend back. The friend-turned-enemy's taunts would not stop – they can ring in your head and wound your heart for days and years. Even out of sight and far away, the wounds of the friend-turned-enemy can continue to make you question your own standing before God or your own attitude and actions in the breakup of a friendship.

So God will not do this particular impossible thing because we weren't made to have wings.

But we were made to run to Him with every care and concern that touches our lives. We were made to wish for and seek after the comfort of being surrounded by his loving arms. We were made to rely on Him to heal the hurts and wounds caused by our enemies and our friends-turned-enemies.

Wishing for wings? Run to God and pray for comfort – it always works better.

Taken from CBN Devotionals

Easy Does It



It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Philippians 2:13

My father and I used to fell trees and cut them to size with a two-man crosscut saw. Being young and energetic, I tried to force the saw into the cut. “Easy does it,” my father would say. “Let the saw do the work.”

I think of Paul's words in Philippians: “It is God who works in you” (2:13). Easy does it. Let Him do the work of changing us.

C. S. Lewis said that growth is much more than reading what Christ said and carrying it out. He explained, “A real Person, Christ, . . . is doing things to you . . . gradually turning you permanently into . . . a new little Christ, a being which . . . shares in His power, joy, knowledge and eternity.”

God is at that process today. Sit at the feet of Jesus and take in what He has to say. Pray. “Keep yourselves in God's love” (Jude 1:21), reminding yourself all day long that you are His. Rest in the assurance that He's gradually changing you.

“But shouldn't we hunger and thirst for righteousness?” you ask. Picture a small child trying to get a gift high on a shelf, his eyes glittering with desire. His father, sensing that desire, brings the gift down to him.

The work is God's; the joy is ours. Easy does it. We shall get there some day.

Taken From Our Daily Bread

