



A Newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry

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

No Prayer Support
Meeting for May

Ladies Bible Study

Each Tuesday
At On Wings Office
From 12:30-2:00

We are studying
The God Who Sees
by Kathy Lee Gifford

Come Join Us!

It Is Wise to Surrender Your Will

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7

The action of surrendering our will for God's will is one of the primary issues in the lives of Christians as I see it in this age. We are living in a day where we want to do it our way, so we often don't even consult God before we jump into action and if we do consult Him, I often see people not waiting on His direction. We want everything instantaneously, so we step ahead of Him.

In military terms, surrender means defeat but as followers of Jesus, it means victory over whatever is hindering our Christian life. When we accept God's gift of salvation it is our first act of surrender to the One who paid for our sins. But often we don't want to fully surrender our lives and give God full control. We don't like His guidelines and we fight against them because we think we have everything under control and that we know better than He does. We might not even know His guidelines because we don't read His Guidebook.

Charles Stanley is one of my favorite teachers and this is what he says about surrendering fully to God's perfect will for our lives:

"The application of this principle looks different for each believer. What one person finds easy to release to the Lord, someone else may not. But we can each sense what He is asking us personally to relinquish. It's a conviction or that "thing" that keeps cropping up when we pray. It may be a bad attitude or habit, or it could be something that isn't sinful but is not presently part of God's will for our lives".

Jesus is the perfect example of full surrender as He knelt in the Garden of Gethsemane and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

We tend to beg for the cup of sorrow or trouble to pass from us without asking God what His will is. I remember my spiritual mentor teaching me years ago to ask God when a sickness or trouble was upon me to take it away but if not, that He would teach me in the midst of it. He is always refining us for His service and His glory.

I see this a lot with the Residents who come into On Wings of Hope. Even though they are given our guidelines for the program, and they sign them sometimes it doesn't take long for them to begin to complain about them and they have even left the program because they say they are grown men and women and don't want to be told what to do. The reality is we are all up under guidelines whether at work or in ministry. The sooner we submit to the guidelines the better off we are if we want to have success in the job. If we keep fighting against the rules, we will not have perfect peace and we will make everyone around us miserable.

I have seen these residents choose to leave after two or three months in good shape financially with a great job, a vehicle they have acquired due to budgeting for it, having been restored to their family but then we hear reports that they have lost it all down the road because they weren't willing to surrender to God's will for them. On the other hand, those who stayed on the course and completed the program have their own place, a good job, and good relationships with their loved ones. They chose to surrender to the program offered and that brought success that they had not experienced by trying to do it on their own.

Surrender All,

Sandra

Prayer Thoughts

A Card and a Prayer

The recently widowed woman was growing concerned. To collect some vital funds from an insurance policy, she needed key information about the accident that had taken her husband's life. She had talked to a police officer who said he'd help her, but then she lost his business card. So she prayed, pleading with God for help. A short time later, she was at her church when she walked by a window and saw a card—the policeman's card—on a windowsill. She had no idea how it got there, but she knew why.

She took prayer seriously. And why not? Scripture says that God is listening for our requests. "The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous," Peter wrote, "and his ears are attentive to their prayer" (1 Peter 3:12).

The Bible gives us examples of how God responded to prayer. One is Hezekiah, the king of Judah, who became ill. He'd even received word from Isaiah, a prophet, saying he was going to die. The king knew what to do: he "prayed to the Lord" (2 Kings 20:2). Immediately, God told Isaiah to give the king this message from Him: "I have heard your prayer" (v. 5). Hezekiah was granted fifteen more years of life.

God doesn't always answer prayers with things like a card on a windowsill, but He assures us that when difficult situations arise, we don't face them alone. God sees us, and He's with us—attentive to our prayers.

Taken from Our Daily Bread
November 13, 2023



LADIES RETREAT

JUNE 7-9

Unplug from the cares and worries of your daily life and enjoy a weekend of renewing your personal relationship with God along with laughter, sharing, worship, and fellowship at



Velma McCloud

SPEAKER

**On Wings Ladies Retreat
Caraway Conference Center
Sophia, NC**

Package Price \$250



Elizabeth Trogden

WORSHIP LEADER

Includes speaker, worship leader, five meals, two nights lodging, and retreat materials. Space is limited and we request a \$100 deposit to secure and confirm your attendance that is payable upon registration. The remaining balance is due by Thursday, May 16, the date by which On Wings must confirm absolute attendance. Please note that NO REFUNDS will be issued after May 16 for any reason. Your understanding and total cooperation are greatly appreciated.



GOD AND DOG

When Adam named the animals, was there a reason he reversed the letters in God's Name to come up with "dog"? As I sit here looking at my dog, I am persuaded to think that Adam saw, like I see now, much of God in my dog.

She is loyal and forgiving. My dog does not hold against me what I did or did not do yesterday, she always looks at me with eager anticipation of what we might be about to do. I am so thankful that God reminds me frequently that He does not remember my sin and short comings, what I've done and left undone. Once I've received His forgiveness, He remembers it no more! And, perhaps, God also waits with eager anticipation to see what we might be doing next.

My dog loves to take me outdoors, where there are frequent opportunities to stop and enjoy God's creation. The changing colors, the new floral scents, the sky ever changing. Every walk is a new and exciting adventure, never mundane. God loves for me to marvel in His creation. "The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of His hands!" (Ps 19:1) Walking with God is never mundane.

My dog has a favorite activity. She loves her ball and waits every day to be able to go outside and chase it. She knows it will happen, and waits expectantly for this special time. God has favorite activities too, and one of them is to listen to me sing His praises and read His Word. He waits expectantly for me every morning. It is a special time for us.

My dog leaves her fur wherever she goes. It's her special type of "glitter," a small reminder that she was there. Seeing her glitter brings her to mind even though I might not see her. God reminds me of His presence, through an aroma, a song or a sight. Even though I can't see Him, I know He is near. One might say that He leaves "glitter" around, bringing Him to mind. "I am with you always". (Matt 28:20)

My dog is protective. She is aware of "intruders" (geese, other animals) long before I am and takes her guard dog responsibilities seriously. God is protective. He is aware of potential dangers and places a shield around me, often without me knowing. I sometimes ponder what might have happened and what I've been protected from without me having any knowledge of it. God takes seriously His role of Mighty Fortress, Strong Tower and Shield!

Lastly, my dog's name is Gioia, Italian for joy. When we named her, we were unaware of how she would grow into that name. We've enjoyed a couple years so far of being with her, watching her play and snuggle, and laughing over her abounding silliness. She has brought us great joy. Though her given name is Gioia, she has several other monikers that we use with her, according to the characteristic we are seeing (or smelling) at the time. God has an abundance of Names. His formal Name is Yahweh; but He also goes by Savior, Peace, Provider, All Sufficient, Lifter of my head, Healer, Shepherd, Comforter...His Names are many and they affirm that He will meet every need. I am growing in my knowledge of God, and His encompassing character.

God and my dog are constantly teaching me. God uses my dog to show me some of Himself; my dog, in her sweet way, points me to God. What a creative God we serve!

**Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your justice like the ocean depths**

You care for people and animals alike, O LORD.

Psalm 36:6

Book Review #5

The Way Of The Shepherd by Dr. Kevin Leman and Bill Pentak

When our former mission pastor retired, he gave me his Shepherd's staff which I consider a great treasure. Along the way after the birth of On Wings Like a Dove I had the privilege of being introduced to the valuable insight into this book, *The Way Of the Shepherd*, as it gives the reader the correlation between a shepherd and his sheep. Jesus gave the example of the sheep several times in His Word as He speaks of being our Shepherd and we are His sheep.

As the book begins it is an interview between a student and a potential employer. The employer is older of course and teaches him there are Seven Principles he has learned to follow as a leader.

- Know the Condition of Your Flock
- Discover the Shape of Your Sheep
- Help Your Sheep Identify with You
- Make Your Pasture a Safe Place
- The Staff of Direction
- The Rod of Correction
- The Heart of the Shepherd

I like several quotes in the book such as this one: "What makes a shepherd a shepherd isn't the staff or rod; it's the heart. What distinguishes a great leader from a mediocre one is that a great leader has a heart for his people."

I think back to Ezekiel 34 which describes the difference between a hireling and a true shepherd. A hireling is a person who tends the flock only because it's a job and the sheep mean nothing more to someone like that than an opportunity to get paid. The shepherd on the other hand loves the sheep and cares for them because he loves them and has their best interests at heart.

The staff I mentioned is used by the shepherd to direct and lead the people to a safe place. The shepherd can steer the entire flock by getting in front of the herd and using his staff to gently nudge the lead sheep in the direction the shepherd wants them to go. He keeps an eye on where the flock is going because the sheep tend to just look down at the green pasture in front of them and wander off.

It is the shepherd's responsibility to keep the sheep together and pointed in the same direction. If he sees the sheep going its own way, he will take the straight end of his staff and tap the sheep on its far shoulder as a signal that it is headed in the wrong direction. If the sheep doesn't get the message, he will slip the curved end of the staff around its neck and physically pull the sheep into alignment with the rest of the flock.

The analogy is used in the workplace or ministry in leading the sheep. If you invest yourself in your workers, if you have a heart for them, then your people will return your investment with a heartfelt following. Some of our volunteers have served here for years.

I want to be a true shepherd in my leadership style, not a hireling only wanting what I can get out of the role. My sheep must know that I care for them and have their best interests at heart. This book will teach you how to lead the people around you so they will view their work as a calling rather than a place to work. It shows you how to infuse work with meaning and how to engage and energize your workforce. You can use the principles of this writing in any position of leadership you find yourself.

~ Sandra