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This past month-the first month of a new millennium-has been a month of reflection and fasting for me. It has been a month of seeking God, and trying to draw closer than ever to Him. I truly believe, ladies, that our eternal futures could very well end up resting in our relationship with Him. I believe this is the bottom line, so to speak.

My reason for saying that is because, if we aren't totally sold out to Him, then one day an offense will come along that will result in our walking away from Him. If we don't love Him totally, there will come along some hurt, some wound, that will outweigh the love we have for Him. I see it, or hear about it, almost every day. Someone gets offended and loses all perspective. It is hard to understand how someone can walk out on God because they were hurt and offended by a human being. We know people are going to fail us. We know that only God will never fail us. And yet, when it happens, we can allow the pain to dull our understanding, and we lose out with God.

Repentance

I feel such a need for repentance-for more fasting and prayer. If you haven't heard my message, "Lord, Break Me," please try to order it. In 2 Chronicles 7:14 God says, *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*

Someone told me recently they saw no need to repent, that they had not really done anything all that wrong. Speaking for myself, I believe I need to repent for something every day. Since I am not yet perfect, there will always be some thought-some desire-some word-that I will need to repent of. When we get down and truly, deeply study the Word of God, we see just how demanding it is. He tells us to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only. There is an awfully lot, my friend, in the Word that we are called upon to do. If we fail to do it, it is a sin of omission, and it needs to be repented of. We are told in this scripture that we need to repent-"turn from our wicked ways." What has happened to our concept of sin? We call sin by everything these days except for what it is. As an evangelist, God has been showing me that we have drifted far away from the concept of sin.

Too Busy!

God once brought someone across my path. My assignment was to do what I could to win her soul. We each have people like this and, all too often, we do not take them seriously enough. I know I didn't. I wasted time. I put things off till another day, because I was so busy. Too busy! This woman died lost because I was too busy! God entrusted her soul to me and I failed them both.

After that happened, I wrote the following poem, which was subsequently published in WAP's "Vision" Magazine.

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TOO BUSY FOR THE HARVEST

by Lynda Allison Doty

I looked out across the harvest, It seemed all nice and white,
Filled with wondrous treasures. It was such a lovely sight.

My Master whispered gently, "Hurry out into the field.
Bring in those wondrous treasures, You'll gather quite a yield."

I went to fetch my bonnet To protect me from the sun,
And planned to start my harvest Just as soon as lunch was done.

After lunch, the dishes. And then the evening meal.
By then, the sun was setting And I could barely see the field.

The next day bright and early I toppled out of bed,
Hurried to the window-- But the field was gray, and dead!

Panic rising in my heart, I searched the whole house through.
He wasn't there, He'd slipped away! Outside, a cold wind blew.

Harvest time had come and gone; I broke my Master's heart.
My hands and field were empty now, For I'd failed to do my part.

Joel 1:10-12 echoes this tragedy: *"The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth. Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished. The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men."*

Sanctify a Fast! Call a Solemn Assembly!

And then the Lord goes on to tell us what to do. Let's pick up in the next chapter of Joel 2:12-15. The Lord speaks, *"Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly."*

That is what I am doing in this newsletter this month. I am calling for those of you who want to join together in a fast, a solemn assembly of women who are sick and tired of what the devil is doing to our families! I will be praying an hour a day for my son, Joseph, the rest

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of this month. Next week, February 7, 8, and 9 I will be fasting and praying. I respectfully ask each of you who will and who can, to join me. Join with me to get my boy back from the enemy! Just do what you can. Any thing you give for this cause will be deeply appreciated. Someone has GOT to touch God for my boy!

He used to serve God with his whole heart. He was the kind of person you didn't think would backslide. He was hurt very deeply and now he is in dire need of deliverance. Being hurt is never an excuse to walk out on God, so now perhaps you can understand better what I was talking about in the first two paragraphs of this Newsletter. About making our relationship with Him sure. That is part of the reason for calling this "solemn assembly" to prayer and fasting. As we draw nigh to God, we will begin to fall in love with Him anew.

Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you! Let's seek Him! Love Him! Adore Him! Worship Him! I look forward to hearing some good reports from far and wide, of what the Lord is doing in your lives as a result of seeking Him First.

God bless you,
Your friend,
Lynda Allison Doty

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