

*A Woman's Place Ministries  
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## January 1999

Another year! Wow! Where did the last one go! Has anyone else noticed how time is just speeding by in unprecedented ways? It reminds me of the verse about God shortening the days for the elect's sake....hmmm....I wonder if the days are indeed shorter....just a thought....

I know one thing-I will be so thrilled when He comes for His Bride! No longer do I pray for the Lord to tarry, delay His coming. I am ready to go home, aren't you? But even so, until then, we must continue to work while there is time. The day cometh when no man can work....

My husband and I were gone three weeks and I've just gotten back home. You were on my mind, and I wanted to get this Newsletter out. I appreciate so much the responses I've received from you. The letters and cards and e-mail about the newsletter, the website, and the correspondence course.

The past few weeks brought many things into my life. Two deaths and one birth, among other things. If any of you have read my book, HELP ME HEAL, you know how, as a single person, only my cat C.B. accompanied me as I drove away from my home and everything I loved in California. Whatever I could get into my little station wagon, and C.B.- we left together. C.B. and I put in many thousands of miles together on the road after that. And, missing home and children and precious grandchildren, as well as cherished friends, C.B. dried many a tear from my face. He would put his little cheek against mine, and he was so sensitive to my hurts. He was my little companion, and he was more like a child than a pet. Many of you know that on December 22nd, C.B. had to be put to sleep and the loss is so great for me. I appreciate your continued prayers for me during this time of grief. I miss him so deeply! Sometimes I think I hear his little sounds, and feel him on my pillow, and the loss is so heavy.

If any of you have any pet experiences you'd like to share, I would love to hear them. Please e-mail them to me. [director@awpministries.org](mailto:director@awpministries.org)

Also, our beloved District Superintendent, Brother Jerry Tiller, passed away early this month. He was up in years and ready and eager to go be with the Lord. But he is sorely missed. Your prayers for his family will also be appreciated.

And a birth! Ah joy! Another little grandson joined our family January 2. I thank and praise the Lord that I was able to be there and to hear his first little cry. So many things could have gone wrong, but the Lord fixed them all and mother and baby are both doing well. Many of you were praying for her, and I thank you again for your prayers. God heard! God answered!

We know that the Word promises that all things work together for good if we love God. Sometimes it is difficult to remember that. We don't understand so many things. God doesn't require that we understand, only that we trust. Trust Him. I truly believe God's

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message for His people in these days is a simple one: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5)*

It may be a simple message, but often difficult to do. But the bottom line is this-either we believe His Word or we don't. Either we believe what He says or we don't. Have you ever read through the Bible and come upon a certain verse that seemed "too good to be true"? For example, take John 14:14. "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." And here's another one, Matthew 21:22. "*And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*"

Oftentimes we try to "claim" those scriptures and then still do not get our requests. My most recent example is C.B. I had prayed so many times for God to let me keep him. He had an illness that God could have healed. Many of you wrote to me about miracles God did for your pets. He could have done it for my C.B. I prayed, believing, many times. Yet I did not receive. What went wrong?

Many times we pray, believing, but it simply is not His will. I remember learning this lesson early in my walk with God. My best friend was dying of cancer. I prayed in faith believing. My faith was incredibly high and strong. But she continued to suffer and grow worse, and I would pray all the harder. I KNEW, I just KNEW that God would heal her. One day, after about four months of her suffering more and more, the Lord spoke to me and let me know it was not His will to heal her on this earth. He wanted to bring her home. He told me to let go of her, because He was obligated to my faith. With tears streaming down my face, I mentally and emotionally let her go, and could see her in the arms of Jesus. Later that day I learned that she had died at that particular hour. She got her healing-but not in the way I had wanted.

It was a sobering experience for me. Many times I regretted praying the way I did; because of me and my prayers of faith, she suffered more than she should have. But I learned a lesson. Because there is another verse that sheds light on the matter. Look at I John 5:14,15: "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." This is a powerful promise. And it's one that helps my faith to soar in those matters that I know to be His will-salvation of lost souls, for example. When we pray for lost souls, we can have this kind of confidence. But when we pray for things that we are not sure are His will, we do not have this confidence. Sometimes healing a certain individual-at least on this earth-is not His will. Perhaps it is a sickness unto death. In those cases we must be willing to let go. But it can hurt.

Comfort, though, comes from knowing we have done the will of our Lord. Joy in life comes from knowing that. Joy comes from surrender. Joy comes from sacrifice. Joy comes from obedience. To be obedient is to live a life filled with joy. We can smile through our tears, knowing He is pleased with us. It all boils down to trust. Chapter 14 of HELP ME HEAL is about trust. When faith fails. It is not necessarily that our faith "fails," it's the experience of learning that something is not the will of God. And it might not make one bit of sense! At least not to us and our frail way of thinking. I've looked at situations and felt that something

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just HAD to be God's will-that He couldn't have it any other way-and yet-it was not. His WILL was opposite of what I thought it "should" have been. We seek His will. We pray His will. Then we take comfort in the fact that His will has been done. When you think about it, nothing else really matters.

Even so, sometimes it seems that easing the pain is more important than His will. I've felt that way at times, even though I didn't really think of it in those terms. Are we willing to pay the price? That price is often deep hurt. I don't want to hurt! I'm so tired of hurting! Am I willing to pay the price of more hurt? Yes-because being out of the will of God is ultimately the most hurtful place one can be! And I've been there, too!

So what is the conclusion of the whole matter? To fear God and keep His commandments. His first commandment is to love HIM with everything that is in us. You see, our relationship with HIM makes all the difference. I can remember a time when I SERVED Him with all my heart...I LIVED for Him with all my heart...but I didn't really KNOW Him. Things were so much harder for me back then. So long as we have that deep and intimately personal relationship with Him, we can endure all things. And he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved.

Love God and keep our eyes lifted towards Heaven, even though they be filled with tears.

A most blessed new year to each of you. I love and appreciate you deeply,

God bless you,  
Your friend,  
Lynda Allison Doty

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