

*A Woman's Place Ministries
P O Box 936
Winnsboro, SC 29180
Director@awpministries.org*

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My mind right now is on the coming of the Lord, and I feel a renewed thrill and excitement. It seems we as a Church have gotten away from living in that precious state of expectancy, looking for His return at any moment now. For many, the theme has grown old. We've heard so much about it and still it hasn't happened. In the New Testament, they were watching for it, and here it is....almost 2000AD and still He has not come.

Then, as if that were not enough, there have been so many books written and messages preached—naming dates. And the dates came and they went and still...no rapture. And so many of us have just placed the matter on the back burner. When He comes, He comes.... Well, essentially that's true. But I believe we need to live in such a way that, should He return in the next minute, we shall be ready!

You might not agree with me, but I think those books and messages naming dates are inspired by the enemy because he wants us to stop watching. Our Lord tells us to Watch! Look up! Lift up our heads! The enemy tells us, "Surely the Lord didn't really mean what He said." Hmm.... Hath the Lord said....? Indeed—didn't this whole thing begin in the first place with something like that spoken to Eve--?

Oh my friends, let's not get caught up in the cares of this life and neglect our Lord. If the enemy can keep our eyes off the coming of the Lord, he can get us diverted. Please read that again and listen carefully. My daughter recently had a baby son, Michael. She had all kinds of "labor pains" that turned out to be false labor. She went to the hospital, absolutely certain that the baby was on his way. The hospital said, no sorry, not yet. And so she had to go back home empty handed. My question is this: just because Michael didn't come when she expected him to—just because she had false alarms—did that mean that Michael wouldn't be coming at all? Of course not! I remember when my first child was born and I was in labor. I remember screaming out, "I've changed my mind! I can't go through with this!" Well...you know what they told me....I had no choice...I could not change my mind... that baby HAD to come! That baby was going to be born no matter how I felt about it! And so it is with the coming of the Lord. Look up, ladies! Keep your heads lifted high! Your Lord is coming for you! And it will be soon! So do not be weary of keeping your eye upon the eastern sky.

My husband and I have a plaque that hangs over the door. It says simply, "Today Perhaps." That is a constant reminder to us—it keeps us in that state of expectancy! Not only about the Rapture, but also about prayers that are waiting to be answered. Today perhaps—my son Joseph will call with the good news that he's prayed back through! Praise God! Expect miracles, my friends! The God we serve is a miracle-working God, and He Himself said that nothing is too hard for Him!

Y2K Update

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I keep getting questions about the upcoming "Y2K" and whether or not I think Christians ought to be concerned about this. I believe we need to be alert to it. There are a lot of emotions out there, and they range from sheer panic to unbelief and indifference. The fact of the matter is simply this—we don't know what's going to happen when computer clocks roll over into a new century! We hear things ranging from a total meltdown of the world and the ushering in of the "mark of the beast"—to "everything's going to be okay, this is all pure hype." So you see....only God knows for sure. Would you agree?

We know that it is possible for anything to happen. This could very well be the catalyst for ushering in a whole new economic system and eventually bringing in what Revelation speaks about as the mark of the beast. It could happen. The Lord said that would happen, but He did not say how. He did not tell us what the catalyst bringing it all about would be. For that matter, the catalyst could be the Rapture itself! Some of the effects of Y2K could mean that we might be without comfort and conveniences for awhile. Utilities might go out and we could say, lose all our money—well— Who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, anyway? The one thing I know for sure is this: God knows. And the thing WE need to make sure of is that we are right with Him. We have these next few months to really work on our relationship with Jesus Christ. Getting into the Word and spending a lot of time there. Getting on our knees and staying there. Reading books that are ordained to edify and strengthen. Practicing the presence of God in all our thoughts and activities throughout the day.

You see, not only does the doing of these things ensure our right standing with the Lord, but they also keep us in a place, spiritually, where we are able to hear Him speak to us. We need to be listening closely and carefully for His instructions on what HE would have us do regarding Y2K.

I would never tell anyone not to prepare and provide for his own by putting away some water and food. Firewood, warm clothing, Balance Bars. My husband and I plan to do that. He picks up an extra gallon of water from time to time, and it goes downstairs in our "stash." We would eventually use those things, anyway, so it certainly can't hurt. But the point is, dear ones, do not panic. Our God is still on the throne and totally in control! I believe with my whole heart that He will take care of His own. Jesus tells us not to worry about food and raiment, but we are also admonished in Proverbs 22:3: "*...the prudent foreseeth the evil and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.*" This is repeated in Proverbs 27:12. I think the Word is reminding us to consider these things carefully and prepare ourselves as much as we can without going overboard. What does "overboard" mean? Well, doing something we might later regret, such as giving up a good home and gainful employment to go hide out in a cave—in other words: panic. Panic is not appropriate for a child of God. We are instructed over and over again not to worry, and certainly not to panic. "Fear not."

I know a number of Christians who are preparing in a big way. Something that disturbs me about all of this is—say we are prepared with a garden, plenty of firewood, etc. etc. Will we let our sinner neighbors starve? Go without heat? Will we have guns and ammunition for

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protection? What if someone breaks in to steal and destroy? Will we shoot them over a loaf of bread? How would we explain that when we stand in judgment?

The Most Important Thing

For what it's worth, you know what I consider the most important thing during these next few months—other than making sure that we are right with Him? Not studying up on which company is Y2K compliant, and how far each government agency has to go yet. Is the gas company prepared? Will the water supply be ready? No, the important thing is reaching the lost. What an opportunity Y2K is to evangelize our world! People are fearful and don't know where to turn. Those without the Lord have reason to panic. That's where the Church comes in. Reach out to these poor souls and comfort them with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have been entrusted with what we call "The Great Commission." God loves these lost people! He did not save us just so we could sit around and chew our nails and be comfortable. He has endued us with power from on high that we might be witnesses! Above everything else, I want to go to Heaven. But I don't want to go alone...I want to take someone with me, don't you? And I see a new hunger in people now. People who are hearing about Y2K, and are in fear and confusion. Let's use this to the Lord's advantage!

The bottom line is, we really don't know what to expect when 2000 comes in. I've heard a lot, and the Bible talks about Christians being persecuted. When I read the book of Revelation I see that many horrible things are going to be happening on this earth. The exact moment of His coming for us—the "Rapture"—we do not know the hour or the day. But we must be ready. I hear a lot of talk about pre-trib and mid-trib, and pre-wrath, and it could get us confused if we let it. Maybe we'll have to go through some things. If the early Church did, why not us? Jesus said to pray always, that we may be counted worthy to escape... (Luke 21:36). That comma in there...I don't know that we should pray to escape, or that we must pray in such a way that we become worthy to escape. I think maybe both.

Trust Me!

You see, I believe God's message for His church in these days is "Trust Me." I've spoken from California to Carolina, and every time, He is reminding the church to trust Him. Trust in the Lord with ALL our hearts, and lean not unto our own understanding. I have personally been put through the paces in order to learn to keep my focus where it belongs—on Him, and my trust to Whom it belongs—to Him. What about you? Have you been going through some things where the only leg you had left to stand on was trust in God?

I'm talking about the kind of thing that goes past even faith. As I wrote in HELP ME HEAL (Chapter 14), there comes the time when our faith will "fail," and then what do we do--? Ephesians 6:13, Paul tells us "...*having done all, to stand.*" Honey, it takes trust to stand. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. A lot of us are in some kind of leadership position and, as such, we are accustomed to being active...to doing something. Anything—just do something! You know what I'm talking about. But we reach that place when there's nothing else we can do. And that's a good place to be, in a way, because we start doing what we should have been doing all along.... trusting Him!

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Well, that's it for now. To sum up, I'm really feeling an excitement...an urgency...a need to get out and win the lost and confused and hurting. The more we reach out to others, the more we find healing for ourselves. The more we lose ourselves in helping souls for Jesus, the more life we find for ourselves (Luke 16:25). When you find yourself growing weary...burning out...remember to check your focus—be sure it is on Him, and that you are doing this for Him.

I have something else on my heart so you might be hearing from me again in the next week or so. Until then,

God bless you,
Your friend,
Lynda Allison Doty

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