

A Woman's Place Ministries
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October, wow! Where has this year gone? It seems like only yesterday we were all scurrying around, wondering about Y2K and what it might mean. It is so lovely here in Nebraska. We had record-breaking temperatures this summer, plus we are in a drought, so it has not been good, weather-wise, here for some months. But today—ah joy! Such a lovely Fall day. I sat on my front porch swing in the chilly air, and it was so lovely. Now we are getting ready to head off for General Conference. We are expecting an awesome move of God this year. Those who will be in Birmingham with us—please stop by the Publishing House booth where I'll be signing books, and say Hello.

One thing I believe so strongly is that we must have a solid and good relationship with Jesus if we are going to make it all the way in. If we don't love Him enough, sooner or later there's bound to be something that offends us, and we will turn our backs on Him. We have to be grounded in Him so strong! No wonder He tells us we are to love the Lord our God "with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." (Deut. 6:5)

But how do we have this kind of relationship, that will last through thick and thin? Let's go into some of the ways.

1. We must purpose in our hearts to be obedient and to do His will. This means we must begin to die to "Self." Take one thing at a time, one obedient act at a time. It is so important to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. (James 1:22) We do this by learning not to go by our feelings. Feelings will trip us up everytime.

"I don't feel like it." --Do it anyway.

"I'm afraid." --Do it afraid.

If we are not obedient, we can't have close fellowship with Him. Like the kid with her hand caught in the cookie jar, we feel guilty. Like the wayward child, we draw back. The walls go up. You remember how you felt when you did something against somebody, and that "somebody" came into the room.

2. We have to forgive others.

3. We hear about people needing to forgive God. God has never done us anything but good. We read in Jeremiah 29: 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. What we must do is repent for holding things against God. It is not our place to forgive Him. If we have anger towards God, we need to go to Him with it. We can tell Him all about it without being disrespectful. He already knows our feelings, anyway.

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4. We must let go of our own guilt. Some call this “forgiving self,” but I cannot find any scripture that says we must forgive ourselves. No wonder we can't do it! What freedom to know He doesn't ask us to! I want to go into this subject more in a later newsletter.

Remember Bro. Doty and me in prayer as we travel. We have many, many miles to go the month of October. (But he is going with me and I praise the Lord for that!)

God bless you,
Your friend,
Lynda Allison Doty

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