

This devotional reading is an outreach birthed from the reflections of my heart.

As He leads me.....turning dreams into reality, it is my “soul” purpose to provoke life change and promote healthy living (holy living); to be a visible display of God’s transforming power that is available to us all.

It is my desire to share the love of Jesus by encouraging, comforting, and inspiring those who, with determined purpose, want all that life has to offer them.

For more information concerning sharing in song, testimony, or an enlightening word of encouragement, please contact Val Bolinger.

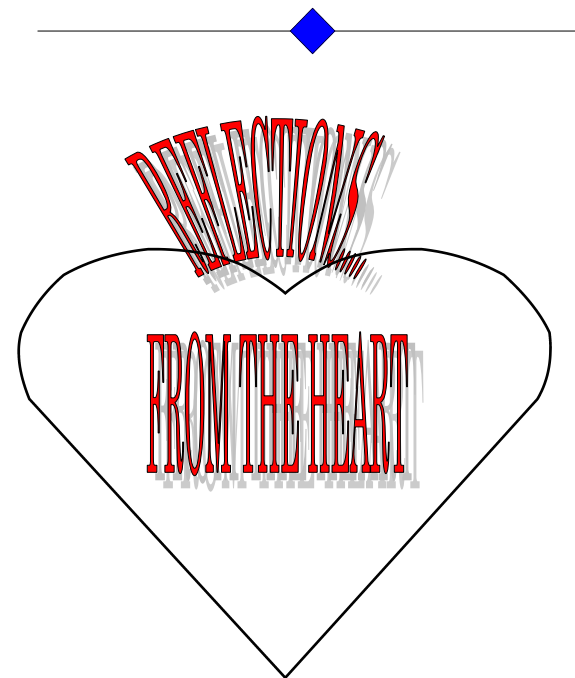
Phone - 570-721-1721

E-mail - bribol@epix.net

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**Valerie L. Bolinger
RR 4 Box 4030
Wyalusing, PA 18853**



***LETTING
GO***

A God-inspired word for your day

I'm beginning to realize that much of life is about letting go and taking hold of. It's about learning the balancing act of knowing when to fight for something no matter how stacked the odds are against you, or when to drop what you've been carrying for so longjust because it's time to do so.

We are faced with so many uncertainties as we live out our days. Every situation has it's pro's and con's. How do you know when to stay or go? How do you know when to fight or just stand? How do you know when it's time to speak, or when it's time to simply listen.

Oh, how I wish I had the answers!!!! The bible tells us the story of a woman - a mother - who may have faced these very same issues.

Exodus 2: 1) "Now (Amram) a man of the house of Levi (the priestly tribe) went and took as his wife (Jochebed) a daughter of Levi. 2)And the woman became pregnant and bore a son; and when she saw that he was (exceedingly) beautiful, she hid him three months. 3)And when she could no longer hide him, she took for him an ark or basket made of bulrushes or papyrus (making it watertight by) daubing it with bitumen and pitch. Then she put the child in it and laid it among the rushes by the brink of the river (Nile).

Prior to this portion of scripture we learn that Pharaoh becomes a little worried about the increased number of the Israelites, as well as their strength. He decides to have Hebrew sons thrown into the Nile River, destroying them to prevent further growth and any possibility of them being a source of his demise. (Oh, how foolish for Pharaoh! I must stop here and point out — isn't it just like the enemy to try and destroy something before it ever has the chance to grow and learn how to conquer him?!?! In reality, the Bible declares our enemies defeated foes.)

So Jochebed has a son and does all she can possible do for the first 3 months of his life to keep him hid...to keep him protected and safe from harms way. Can you really imagine how she did it? I mean, babies cry....and loud....and often. (Just maybe Jochebed was blessed with a child who didn't make a peep. I, on the other hand, was blessed with two children who had a G-R-E-A-T set of lungs and they were not afraid to use them -even to this day-when they had/have a need). In all seriousness, can't you just feel her heart pounding whenever he made a sound? Would she be found out? Would she have to witness the demise of her child? She may have had times where she would worry about the happen if she failed. How could she

about the day her baby was potentially exposed. Would she be able to live with the guilt of not being able to keep him safe?

The scripture says she did all she could do for as long as she could. She did everything possible for the salvation of that child. But, then the time came when she could do no more. She'd exhausted every idea and resource within her to save him. It was time.....time to let him go. So, she makes him the best form of protection she has access to (the basket), reinforces it the best she can, and places him in the water...in some weeds. The story goes on to say that the babies big sister keeps tabs on the baby. It doesn't say Jochebed was anywhere near the area. I wonder if she'd resolved to go and pray for her boy; intercede; call upon the name of her God with all her heart and soul. Something tells me that what she did when she'd exhausted every available solution she could think of. She resorted to the ability of her God to step in and save in only His way. I recently gotten a little bit of a taste of what Jochebed went through - on a much smaller scale. My son has made a decision to walk away from something that I fought tooth and nail for him to be a part of. There were good role models involved, there was a

lot of team effort, and so on. I wanted more than anything my son to continue to be involved...for fear of him losing some positive influences in his life, becoming selfish if he doesn't work with a team, putting distance between him and a few really good friends, and fear of him filling that void with negative influences, having too much time on his hands. What would all of this lead to??? I tried to persuade, argue, and demand having it my way. I was putting up a wall between us because of what I felt would be good for him. (C'mon now, I'm only human, and I'm his Mama. I was looking out for the child).

Then, I began to feel conviction. I felt the Lord show me that it was time to start letting go and allowing my child to make some decisions on his own. And trust the rest to the Lord

I need to trust God to do a work in my child that only He can do. I can go so far, but then it's time to let my child spread his wings and fly.

I feel that God is weaning me of my TOTAL CONTROL over all that happens in my sons life, to the point that I'll seek and trust God more in that area. God is teaching my son how to make decisions on his own and live with the consequences. (Through trial and error, the lesson might really stick!) And God may be weaning my son from relying heavily on his earthly

parents when he needs to learn that there is a Heavenly Father who has a far more perfect way than Mom or Dad. God knows answers, Mom doesn't, God has plans for him that Mom probably won't understand or want to accept, and God wants to be his personal God, his savior, his redeemer...his everything.

I wonder if far too often we're trying too hard in our own strength. Are we of a certain way of thinking that hasn't even asked God for His opinion or His thoughts? Ya know, we can have a mindset and think it lines up with God's thoughts, just cause we think it. Nothing could be further from the truth. **Isaiah 55:8** says **"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. 9) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."**The Bible says in **Romans 12: 2...** **"And be not conformed to this world: {don't do it according to human standards - human flesh and thoughts} but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God"** {that you would see it HIS WAY, and allow HIS PLAN to take place}. When we come into seasons of trial it's only instinct to deal according to human means.

After all, that's just what comes naturally. As such, we become frustrated, tired, drained, exhausted, unsettled, confused, fearful, and so much more. Our emotions, mental capacity, physical & spiritual strength will be adversely affected by such acts of the flesh.

The days in which we live are (sadly) growing darker. We have to make a conscious decision and constant effort to maintain that decision to TRUST GOD IN ALL THINGS. Are you hearing a voice telling you it's time to "let go and let God?"

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter or purpose under heaven: A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to break down and a time to build up, a time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together, A TIME TO EMBRACE, AND A TIME TO REFRAIN FROM EMBRACING, a time to get and a time to lose, a time to keep and a time to cast away, a time to rend and time to sew, a time to keep silence and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

Special thanks to Mary Jane who's revelation of Jochebed has been with me for some time. I've held on to your words.

They've been an encouragement and inspiration to me. May others be blessed as well!