

BECAUSE HE LIVES...

...I will give my heart willingly to Him! The Lord calls us to be “of a willing heart.” In any day and age, it takes a person with a willing heart to commit to the work of the Lord. He gave His all for us. Let us also be willing to give our all to Him--in whatever way we can--to assist in building up the cause of Zion!

Exodus 35:4-30 And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the Lord commanded, saying, Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord; whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord...And every wise-hearted among you shall come, and make all that the Lord hath commanded.

...I will be wise-hearted in service to Him! The Lord is eagerly awaiting our response to His instructions. He waits for us to be willing to work, to be willing to sacrifice. He is waiting for an outpouring of service from those whose hearts stir them to action!

Exodus 35:25-26 And all the women that were wise-hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun...And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun....

...I will pour my “self” out -- and I will sacrifice for Him! If we move forward in obedience to Him, with willing and wise hearts, and give our whole souls to Him in sacrifice, He will bless us. He promises to strengthen us, assist us, and uphold us!

Read Exodus 36:3-7 ...the people bring much more than enough...

What if, in our day, the cry went out, “Oh stop, we have enough; enough Sunday School teachers, we have enough youth leaders, we have enough people to mow the church yard and clean the church, we have enough workers, we have more than enough money for everything we need!” Would that not be a wonder to behold?

We hope you will actually be inspired to re-read the full devotionals from last year. See www.ogrb.org Resource Page. May we continue to put the actions the Patriarchs recommended into our lives--for the cause of Zion!

Questions: Contact Pat Chadwick, Women’s Leader, 2010-2016

Stepping Stones for Spiritual Growth



Take My Life and Let it Be...

Preparation Guide for April Women’s Devotionals:

This month I will pray that the Lord will open my eyes and lead me into fuller service for Him. I will pray for a willing heart and the courage to move out in faith. I will seek to respond to opportunities for service to my God and my King. I will go where He leads me even if it is beyond my comfort zone into new uncharted territory. I will attempt to be like the women in Exodus who were **willing-hearted and wise-hearted.** I will give willing service with Joy and Excitement!

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore...by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God is.

Seventh thing listed in the guide prepared by the Patriarchs of the church: “Am I willing to give my whole soul unto Christ?”

Action = “Commit everything that you have and everything you are to the work of the kingdom.”

Read D&C 64:7a

Week #1 April

Consider two interpretations of waiting upon the Lord:

1. be still
2. do His bidding

Psalm 59:9 Because of His strength will I wait upon thee; for God is my defense.

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Remember the sermon at OGRB by Kreg Levenoood? Example: Tomato plants in a greenhouse have fans on them to keep them moving--otherwise when they grow they will not have enough strength to hold the fruit!

Compare that example to our work for the Lord: How can we ever build the Kingdom if we don't know how to work? It stands to reason that if we don't work now, but think we will work at a later time when Zion comes, we won't be strong enough to bear the fruit.

Get moving. Do something for the Lord! He will strengthen you for the task when you ask Him to use your efforts for His work!

Also read D&C 58:6c-f

Week #2 April

Read Hymn #323:

"Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to Thee."

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

What is reasonable service? Convenient, only on Sunday, when I'm in the mood? No!

What is a living sacrifice? My time, my money when it is convenient for me? No!

Rather, let our response to Him always be, Yes!

Recognize that God created each one of us with a purpose. Be willing every day to be stretched and used wherever, whenever and however needed, even in uncharted territory, in response to His call.

Stand ready to sacrifice everything daily and present yourself to God in prayer--unselfishly--ready for any new opportunity He brings to follow Him and serve Him!

Are you ready? He may even call on you today!

Also read 3 Nephi 5:87

Week #3 April

Read Hymn #323:

"Take my heart, my mind, my will, Let them be thy servants still."

Matthew 6:11 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven.

Catherine Thomas has a pro-life exhibit that she takes to different events and rallies. She can always tell just by talking to someone if they think "it would be a good idea" or if they are someone who is "going to make it happen." The ones that make it happen always are ready to assist and do whatever it takes.

When WE pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy Will be done," do we pray like it is a good idea or like someone who is going to make it happen?

- Will we assist and spring to action?
- Will we sacrifice and give up our sins?
- Will we give our time, our talents, and our tithes?

Do you think the Kingdom is a good idea? Take the next step: Ask God, "What do I need to do to make the Kingdom happen?"

Also read John 12:26

Week #4 April

Read Hymn #323:

"Take my silver and my gold; Naught of thine would I withhold...Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee."

Genesis 4:6 And Adam was obedient unto the commandments of the Lord. And after many days...Why dost thou offer sacrifices unto the Lord? And Adam said...I know not, save the Lord commanded me.

Saints at Kirtland sacrificed to build the temple. Women cut their hair to put in the plaster and broke their china to make the plaster sparkle.

Parley Pratt and other missionaries walked from St. Louis to Independence during a winter they called "the winter of the deep snow." They sacrificed much and survived on frozen bread and pork.

Perhaps we wouldn't mind giving up our hair or our china today; and perhaps we would even endure a long trek in the cold on a limited diet.

But, what if you were asked to give up your smart phone, fast food, or leisurely screen time?

Do we love the gospel enough to sacrifice and be willing to give our all for the Kingdom?

Also read Lectures on Faith 6:7a-d