

## Preparation Guide for April's Devotionals



### UNCHARTED TERRITORY

Susan Freeze has given us our devotions for April. She chose as a hymn "Take My Life and Let it Be." The words are beautiful and express this concept of giving our whole soul unto Christ.

**Consider the words in that hymn: Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to Thee; Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hand, my feet my love, at Thy impulse let them move; Take my voice and let me sing always only for my King. Take my silver and my gold; Naught of Thine would I withhold; Take my heart, my mind, my will, Let them be Thy servants still. Take my love, my Lord I pour, at Thy feet its treasure store; Take myself and I will be, Ever only all for Thee."**

The words in this hymn remind me of the children of Israel and their willingness to give, when God called them to build the Tabernacle. I believe when we talk about commitment and sacrifice and being willing to give our all, they provide a good example. The call of the Lord to the children of Israel, to bring their gifts for the embellishment of the Tabernacle, is similar to the call to us today to build 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.**

The Lord also 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.

**D&C 64:7a Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind; and the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days.**

The people were thrilled to be able to contribute to the building of the Tabernacle and they gave generously. They were willing-hearted. I believe God is calling us today to be willing-hearted—to give our all in the building of His Kingdom!

**Exodus 35:21 And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the Tabernacle of the congregation, and for all His service, and for the holy garments.**

**Exodus 35:22 And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing-hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold; and every man that offered, offered an offering of gold unto the Lord.**

Note: See how all the women that were wise-hearted did spin with their hands. In other words they were busy working for the Lord. Are we wise-hearted? Are we busy working to build up and embellish God's Kingdom in, this, our day and age?

**Exodus 35:25-26 And all the women that were wise-hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen. And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair.**

I believe the Lord is waiting for us to respond to His call. He eagerly awaits 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 such as occurred in the days of Moses.

**Exodus 36:3-7 And they received of Moses all the offering, which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, to make it withal. And they brought yet unto Him free offerings every morning. And all the wise men, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came every man from his work which they made; And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the Lord commanded to make.**

**And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the**

**offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.**

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?

Sisters of the Faith, let us be willing to pour ourselves out—a willing and ready sacrifice for the Lord. Let us be willing to do whatever it is that He asks of us. If we move forward in obedience to Him, with willing hearts, and give our whole souls to Him, He will bless us. He will strengthen us, assist us, and uphold us.



**Romans 12:1-2 [modified version]**

**"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."**

**Seventh challenge in the guide prepared by the Patriarchs of the church:**

**Am I willing to give my whole soul unto Christ?**

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. 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.  
Romans 12:1-2

**Action: Commit everything that you have and everything you are to the work of the kingdom.**

**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!**

**My Plan to Accomplish this Discipline:**

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**Week #1**

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**Week #2**

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**Week #3**

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**Week #4**

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**My Partner to Assist Me & Help Me Be Accountable Is: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Self Evaluation:**

**How Am I Doing & What Do I Need to Do to Be More Successful:**

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