

A Young Woman After God's Own Heart

A DEVOTIONAL

Elizabeth George



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Dear Friend,

As you begin this practical and fun book of devotions, I want to thank you. Because of you, and the many letters I've received from other young women who want to meet with God regularly, this book was born. Although it is small in size, its message is a big one—keep on seeking the Lord and loving Him with all your heart. These devotions are for you. On each page you'll find—

- life-changing truths from God's Word to your heart
- something to do each day to grow more like Jesus
- a prayer to help you talk to God about your life

Enjoy your journey into loving God even more!

With all my heart,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'E'.

Enjoy Jesus

Have you ever felt nervous...fidgety...on edge... cranky? And even though you didn't want to act the way you were, you kept on stomping through your day, lashing out at everybody who crossed your path? Well, take heart! You're not alone! This happened to Martha, a woman in the Bible. She got too involved in the activities of her life. In all her busyness, Martha didn't take time to enjoy Jesus and worship Him when He came to visit.

Are you thinking, *I would never ignore Jesus if He came to my house!* But imagine how easy it is to go about your day without lifting up a prayer, without doing devotions, without serving Jesus, without thanking Him. You're missing out! Put aside the busyness and chaos of school, pressures, and worries. Totally enjoy time with the Lord.

What can you say no to today so you can say yes to time with God?

*Lord, I love You. I want to hang out
with You. Life gets crazy sometimes.
I want the peace of Your love. I want the joy
of being in Your presence. Amen.*

A Heart After God

God is always looking for a heart that will obey Him, that will do His will. Do these words describe your heart? Is God's desire your desire? Do you follow hard after God—close to Him, on His heels, clinging to Him? If any behavior is keeping you from pursuing God with your whole heart, confess it, cast it off, and step right back onto God's path of peace and joy. Spend time in God's Word every day so you'll grow to better understand His character. Are there people in your life who have this kind of passion for God? Ask them how they keep their hearts focused on God.

As you desire all that God desires, love all that He loves, and humble yourself before Him, your heart will indeed become a heart after His. What a terrific thought! What a terrific life!

*Jesus, I want a heart that abides in You.
Help me embrace Your desires rather than my
own. When I walk forward, I want to be headed
in the direction of Your heart. Amen.*

Pitiful or Prayerful?

Attitude has to do with your moods. And your moods can be right and godly or they can be sinful. Is your attitude generally cheerful, helpful, vibrant, pleasant, positive, giving, respectful? Or do you tend to mope around, grunt and grumble, resent your parents, your family, your responsibilities...even your life as a teenager? Do you bring others down? Do you let others change your good mood into boredom, anger, or jealousy?

An upbeat, positive attitude is born, grown, and cared for in your quiet time as God's Word fills your heart and sets the path for your day. God points the way, and your prayer joins your heart with His. If you fail to have this all-important time with God, you're starting your day in weakness. Prayer changes all pitiful moods. It also changes a day with no plan to one of purpose.

*God, my moods shift quite a bit during a day.
I let the words and actions of others affect how
I think and feel. Give me Your heart and
perspective and attitude! Amen.*

Lots of Good

In Galatians 6:10 the apostle Paul said, “As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Begin working on goodness and then stand back as God grows in you a heart that serves. The instructions are simple. However, doing it takes a lifetime! John Wesley said,

Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.

There is so much good to be done. Once you start serving God by serving others, life gets exciting! Discover your heart of goodness and put it into action.

Lord, help me see the need for goodness all around me. I want my heart, hands, words, and deeds to serve You. Show me how, and give me a heart of true compassion. Amen.

Refocus Your Faith

If you aren't careful you can spend all day—and all night—doing less-important tasks—anything!—to put off the most difficult, but most rewarding “task” of all—praying. Why is it so hard to pray? Well, for one thing...you live in the world. The world affects you more than you think. It bombards you with encouragement to sin or distracts you from the things of God. Do you ever become so busy you forget to pray? To reflect? To take time to consider the decisions you are making?

Very few voices in the world encourage you to take care of spiritual things. And prayer is a spiritual exercise. It cuts through the busyness and refocuses your eyes, heart, mind, and full attention back on God. So take charge and pray!

God, the world can be pretty interesting and enticing. When my thoughts are more about clothes, friends, music, movies, and money than about faith, help me get my eyes back on You through prayer. Amen.

One Choice

Mary (Martha and Lazarus' sister) was a friend to Jesus and a woman whose heart was devoted to Him. She was preoccupied with one thing at all times—Jesus! Mary consistently made the choice to spend time hearing God through His Word and worshiping Him in her heart. She chose to spend some of her precious time with her wonderful and loving Lord. Time spent this way is never wasted, and the benefits can never be taken away from you. Why? Because it is time spent in activities that result in daily and everlasting blessings.

How do you spend your time with Jesus? Do you listen to Him with great attention? Do you bring your faults to His feet and ask for forgiveness? Do you thank Him for His forever friendship? Choose to invest your whole self in the time you spend with your Savior.

I love You, Jesus. I'm sorry for the times when I don't talk to You with honesty, openness, and respect. Today I give You my heart and my love. Amen.

Wherever You Are

Every woman of wisdom works at creating a pleasant atmosphere in her space, her own little home-sweet-home. As a single woman, that home is wherever you happen to live. Whether you are in your own room in your parents' house or share it with a sister or two, whether you live in an apartment or a dorm room, the place or space you stay in is yours to "build." And the habits you develop now will help you down the road. Do you make your space inviting? Does it reflect your faith?

What you are at home is what you are. So are you messy or neat? Buried under things or on top of them? Unorganized or orderly? Living in chaos or following a plan? What character qualities are you showing as you care for your place, for your space? Your heart is showing. Do you need to make any changes?

Lord, I want my surroundings to show others my love for You. Help me develop a heart of discipline so that my space will be a delightful place to spend time with You and dream about what lies ahead. Amen.

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

God's Word on the Fruit of the Spirit

The word “fruit” is used in the Bible to refer to telltale evidence of what is on the inside of a person. If what’s inside is good, the fruit of that person’s life will be good. But what if what’s inside is rotten? The fruit of that person’s life will be bad. That’s what Jesus taught when He said, “The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him” (Matthew 12:35).

What sort of fruit have you seen in your actions lately?

Any person who has received Jesus as Savior and Lord and has Christ living within will bear good fruit. She will be “filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God” (Philippians 1:11). How do you think exhibiting the fruit of righteousness brings glory and praise to God? And in what ways has your fruit shown others what Jesus is like?

In Galatians 5:22-23 the apostle Paul lists these godly habits—“the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness

and self-control.” All nine fruit stand together and make up your walk with God. They are like a string of Christmas lights—with many lights that all light up at once when plugged into the electrical socket. But if one bulb goes out, the entire string goes out. That’s how God’s fruit is borne in your life. Not one of them can be missing, and all must be evident—be lit up—to be God’s fruit.

As you recall your actions this week and today, were any of these spiritual habits missing? What must you do to get plugged into God, the ultimate power source, again?