

Letting Go

I wasn't sure what to write until the answer literally landed at my feet. As I was taking a stack of papers down to the recycling bin, a plastic-coated, wallet-sized card that I hadn't noticed before slipped out to the floor. On it was printed this poem by Lauretta P. Burns, entitled *Let Go and Let God*. I figure God knew that someone needed to hear it today. Is it you?

*As children bring their broken toys with tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to God, because He was my friend.
But then, instead of leaving Him at peace to work alone,
I hung around, and tried to help with ways that were my own.
At last I snatched them back and cried, "How can you be so slow?"
"My child," He said, "what could I do? You never did let go."*

Letting go isn't easy. We see a problem, and we rush to solve it our own way. We feel like we're under attack, and our human nature tells us to fight back. We make plans for ourselves and then push, push, push to accomplish them. Oh sure, we'd like God's help with the hard stuff, but we want to keep control in our own hands. There are times, however, when God calls us to step back, stop striving, and be still so He can work on our behalf, as when the Israelites were backed up against the Red Sea:

Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today... The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." ...That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and...when the Israelites saw the great power the Lord displayed... they feared the Lord and put their trust in him... (Exodus 14:13-14, 30-31)

When we're determined to fight our own battles, we don't give God opportunity to show how great He is. When we're too busy and distracted to sit at the Savior's feet (Luke 10:38-42), we will fail to see how He is present and active in our lives. Being still isn't doing nothing; it's trusting that God knows what's best and is able to work all things for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). It means to be patient, watch, and pray, waiting for God's solution in God's time. Do you see yourself in the poem above, too impatient and controlling to leave room for God to work? Ask Him to show you what you need to surrender into His hands. Then let go and let God.

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