

Mindy Ferguson

Hugs

Bible Reflections for Women

52 Inspirational Studies and Stories
to Draw You Closer to God

Chapter Forty-five

I knew from his tone that he was not going to go back to sleep until the glasses were found, so I began crawling around on the floor. *Lord Jesus, please help me honor my father and walk in a way worthy of my calling*, I prayed silently as I dove under the rented hospital bed. Thirty minutes later, I finally found his glasses—wrapped up in his tangled bedsheets.

A month after my dad moved in with us, our two-year-old granddaughter also came to live with us permanently. At fifty-one, I found myself caring for my sick, elderly father and a high-energy toddler. *Hey, wait a minute, Lord! I'm a singer. I gave up a secular music career so I could sing for You full-time. Now You want me to babysit?* I felt confused and disoriented in my unexpected role.

Dad was hospitalized often with a variety of ailments. Because of his confused mental state, I had to stay with him around the clock. My granddaughter and I spent many days and nights in the hospital, where I learned to be grateful for children's programs and portable DVD players.

Even at home I rarely slept through the night. "Beth! Beth!" Dad would call at all hours with one emergency or another. I repeatedly begged God to help me finish the race well, to give me patience, and to empower me to always treat my dad with respect—even when I was exhausted and frustrated.

My husband supported me throughout that long year by often fending for himself and taking care of my father's financial affairs. Everything in my life seemed to be on hold: my marriage, my music, and even my time with God. My mother's piano sat in a corner, gathering dust. I longed to sit down and play, but I only knew how to play the guitar, not the piano.

One morning I decided to try to spend a few minutes reading my Bible. Remembering a friend's suggestion that I put scriptures to music, I sat at the piano and found myself writing a song on an instrument that I didn't know how to play. As I sang the chorus to my new song

Chapter Forty-five

Heavenly Minded

*Set your minds on things above,
not on earthly things.*

Colossians 3:2

"Beth! Beth! Help!" Startled out of an exhausted sleep, I heard my father's voice frantically calling me. Certain he'd fallen out of bed, I jumped up in a panic and ran to the dining room that had been temporarily turned into his bedroom.

"What's the matter? Are you okay?" I asked, surprised to see him in bed.

"I can't find my glasses."

What?! I thought. You're yelling in the middle of the night because you can't find your glasses? I searched for a couple of minutes and then told him, "It's two a.m.—we can find them in the morning."

"No, I need them now! I can't see what time it is!" Dad responded with a note of distress in his voice.

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Heavenly Minded

from Colossians 3:1–3, "Set Your Mind on Things Above," I knew it was a gift from my heavenly Father to help sustain me.

The Lord inspired me to write a number of scripture songs that year. Whenever I had a free moment, I'd run to the piano, close my eyes, and be transported to the feet of Jesus as I sang one of my new songs for Him and to Him. Without fail I felt refreshed, renewed, and at peace.

My beloved father died in late October. I miss him, but I am grateful that God relieved his suffering. It was the hardest year of my life but also the most fulfilling. Sometimes I think I hear Dad calling, "Beth! Beth!" But now it reminds me to set my mind on things above, for I know my dad's eyes are beholding Jesus—without the aid of glasses!

—Beth Williams

Embracing God's Truth

As circumstances stretched Beth beyond her normal limits, her heart's desire was to spend time in the presence of God. Even when her schedule was dominated by the needs of people around her, she spent the few moments she had worshipping and seeking to be close to Him. She discovered the benefits of learning to set her mind on things above.

Read Colossians 3:1–4. Why do you think it's important to have both your heart and your mind focused on Christ? _____

Sometimes our hearts and minds are out of sync. Our hearts long to be in the presence of our Lord, but our minds are occupied with the obligations and desires of our earthly nature. Write down the earthly things listed in Colossians 3:5–8 that can distract us.

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