

A FRIEND WHO STICKS CLOSER THAN A....SISTER

My friend Betsy is on a first-name basis with God. Quite honestly, she is the Godliest woman I know. She prays about *everything!* It's really quite annoying. Any problem, no matter how big or small she takes to His throne and talks to Him like reasonable people are supposed to talk with a spouse or friend. It's true that sometimes she gets upset. Sometimes she asks God to explain Himself, but she never seems to get bent out shape if He doesn't. She says He's God and He can do whatever He wants.

Sometimes she cries and gets exasperated that He has such a completely different timetable than we do. This is when I like her most, probably because it's when she seems the most like me! But my point is, she always goes to *Him* with whatever needs His attention. I tend to whine to my friends, try and justify myself and my situation to anyone who will listen, and personify what I call, "The Eve Syndrome."

Please tell me you know what I'm talking about and that I'm not the only Eve in the crowd. I'm talking about when I fall into sin, anger, loneliness, frustration, etc., I tend to run *from* God instead of *to* Him. I think this response started in the garden after Eve bit into the fruit and then more or less ran around in a panic saying, "God who?" in a largely falsetto voice. This whole response was obviously orchestrated by Satan because he has been employing the same tactic ever since. You'd think he'd adopt a different strategy after all this time, but then again, he doesn't really have to, does he? We still buy into the original one! We allow the devil to be lazy. How stupid is that?

Can't you just hear him on his cell phone talking to one of his minions? (I'm certain he invented the darn things.) "Yo, hey baby, we can lighten the load on Catherine. Yeah, we've pretty much got her where we want her. She's talking to all her friends instead of the Big Guy. Just try and keep that Betsy chick from praying for her, okay? It's driving me *nuts!* She prays and our operation is shut down! I can't have it. Meanwhile, go ahead and keep working in South Tulsa. Yeah, just keep trickin' 'em into thinking they can meet their own needs. You got it. Good jobs, the right schools, above average incomes, kids aren't on fire for God but aren't too rebellious either. We'll seduce them with complacency! Just make sure nothing *too* awful happens 'cause that's the Big Guy's way of trying to get them to seek Him."

Then something happens that we don't understand, whether big or small, and what do we do? If we are human, we tend to run *from* God, missing the fact that He is desperately but gently trying to get us to run *to* Him.

I'm the first to admit that living for God can be hard. Even when it's the thing you want more than anything else. That's why I'm so grateful for Betsy. She prays for me and with me and keeps me focused on the One in whom I live and move and have my being. Do you have a Betsy in your life? Someone who is so in tune with the Spirit that they will call you when God prompts them to, then listen, then pray without any agenda or judgment? Someone who knows all your garbage but loves you anyway?

If not, you are missing out. Let it be one of the things you run to God about. Just don't ask Him for Betsy because I am quite sure she will be much too busy with me.