



### My Heart Ever His-Prayers for Women -Barbara Rainey part 2

I Chronicles 16:11 (NIV)

*“Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.”*

#### Reflection Questions:

- 1) What is your view of prayer and its power to change your life?
- 2) What is currently keeping you from fully surrendering to His presence?
- 3) Do you often allow life’s detours to prevent you from staying on God’s path for your life?



### Extended Devotion:

Do you enjoy taking road trips? I have a love-hate relationship with them as I'm sure many people do. I always fall in love with the "new" scenery regardless of how many times I've traveled the same route. I love the excitement of seeing beautiful landscapes and stopping to enjoy them. Inevitably, traffic jams or sleep deprivation always seem to drain my joy and create uncomfortable tension in our vehicle. Whether we're making a new trip or traveling the same journey, there's a desire to veer off the path we know is true. I so desperately desire the more appealing detour, the one that promises immediate sleep, food, and rest. The problem is that no matter how appealing the detour seems, a whole new host of issues arises.

We frequently deal with detours in our lives as well, don't we? Life in general is uncertain. Even the best-planned days can turn on a dime and leave us reeling. We can often feel like this is normal in life. But it doesn't have to feel that way. Sometimes we feel this way because our focus was on the plan and not the Planner. In the craziness of life, it's easy to forget that we are not in control, God is leading the way. Instead of feeling overwhelmed by life's detours, **we can view them as a way to move closer to God's presence.** How do we do this?

**The key to contentment is surrendering to Christ.** In this episode, we talked a lot about learning to recognize God's voice. Surrendering our lives in prayer helps us create a love relationship with God. In doing that we learn to recognize His voice and live in His rhythms. When we try follow our plans, it leads to discontentment.

Daily praying pulls us closer into the presence of God. Hebrews 12:2 says, "*looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*" Our contentment comes from focusing on Jesus and constantly seeking Him.

### Application:

1. We will all struggle with surrendering areas of our lives. Write down one area of your life that you can give over to God right now. Write down that area on a card and then write the word "**surrendered**" next to it. Keep it in a place you can come back and surrender it again when you're tempted to dwell on it.
2. Write down this verse in a place you'll see it often, Psalm 18:30 (NIV): "*As for God, his way is perfect: the Lord's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.*" When detours happen, remember His way is perfect.



Takeaway:

True surrender comes from daily focusing our eyes on Jesus.

