



Happy Friday April 18, 2008

Ever had doubts? Ever prayed about something and as you were praying you figured out in your mind how that prayer would be answered? You might have even decided on the timing of the answer, but time passed and the prayer wasn't answered when or how you had thought it would be. Did this cause doubt, unbelief, discouragement? I have to say that I have been there and done that.

The Lord uses the oddest things to speak to me. Some of you know my story of the Oreo cows, but I really feel impressed to share it this week.

I drive the same way to work every Monday through Friday - see the same things over and over. About a year ago, one morning on the way to work, something different caught my eye. In a field on the left side of the road were the oddest looking cows I had ever seen. They had black heads and back-ends with a white middle. Oreo Cows! I grabbed my cell phone, called Terry, and left him a message on his phone saying that he was going to think I was crazy, but I had just seen some Oreo cows. That night when I got home, he teased me -- told me I didn't see those cows, it was my imagination, there were no such cows. The next morning there they were again. That night Terry once again told me there was no such thing and that it was my imagination. A few days later...the Oreo cows were gone. Each morning and evening I would look toward the field for the Oreo cows but wouldn't see them. I'd report this to Terry, and he would tell me, "See, told you that you were imagining them." After a few more days of not seeing the cows, I began doubting the Oreo cows' existence.

A few weeks later, one morning as I sped (I mean drove) down Highway 71 going to work, guess what I saw? You know it, the Oreo cows were back. I was so excited. They were real. There they stood, in that same pasture in all their Oreoness!!!!

Just as clear as day, I was reminded of times in my prayer life when I'd pray for something or someone, know that I am praying God's will, believe He is going to answer that prayer, and begin looking for the answer. But after a few days when I don't see the answer, I begin doubting that He will. The ole devil starts feeding my doubts by whispering, 'God won't answer your prayer, look how long it has been, you might as well give up.' God reminded me that morning that just because He

doesn't answer prayers when I think He will, doesn't mean He isn't going to answer. I am to just keep trusting and believing that He is at work.

Some mornings later, on my way to work, I looked to the left and the Oreo cows were gone again. I said to myself, well here we go again, but as I turned my head and looked to the right side of the road, there they stood in another pasture. I asked, "What are you doing over there?" Then that sweet Holy Spirit whispered, 'you keep looking in one direction for the answer to your prayers but the answer could come in a completely different way than you imagined. His will, His way, His timing – Him glorified. Just keep praying and keep trusting.

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit" John 3:8

This verse speaks to me as the wind being the Holy Spirit in our lives. Speaking to us, leading us, holding us up, encouraging us and we don't even realize or acknowledge some times that it is the Holy Spirit. But since the Holy Spirit is in our lives, we are being influenced by Him. This makes Philippians 1:6 clearer to me – *"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."*

So even when we don't realize or acknowledge it, God is working in our lives. I take refuge in these verses. Though I may not see outward evidence when or how I 'want' to see it; God is still doing His work.

Keep Trusting – and Happy Friday!

Love,
Terri