



Put the Cart Back!

By April Snook

Have you ever gotten that shopping cart in desperate need of healing, restoration or recycling? You know, the one you pull out, load all of your (way too heavy to lift) kids into, and take a deep breath. Only then it turns out you've been lucky enough to have grabbed the basket that squeaks loudly down the aisle and runs you in to things. Yes, more times than I would like to admit, that lady is me. Even though I've had this experience enough times to know what the end result is, sometimes I just think, "I don't want to have to start over and take it all the way back - I'll just have to work harder to keep it under control."

By the end of my journey, I'm leaning with all of my weight against the hateful bend of that basket. I'm worn out, frustrated and irritated at all those other women zooming past me with their quiet kids in quiet baskets, driving with such grace and speed which makes me hate them all and ruins my day. Did I say hate?

How different my whole experience is when I start to pull out that demonic basket, stop, push it back and pull out the right one; the one I can control, the one which allows me to walk with ease and peace. It may not be the first cart that comes out, but it's up to me to push it back and pull out the right one.

This is much like our emotions, our feelings. Our feelings are from God, given to us to connect us, not direct us. If you're feeling something that doesn't connect you to Who God is, DON'T FOLLOW IT! Or if you aren't dealing with people and things the way God says to, then STOP! Push that feeling back down and pull out the right feeling. The RIGHT feelings will bear witness with the Word. If your feelings aren't right, change them. Our emotions and feelings are just like that cart. It's up to us whether we follow the first one that comes out, which may try to direct and lead us into misery. It would be much better to push it back and pull out the one that will allow us to walk in ease and peace. The less we follow our emotions, the more we're able to follow and hear the Holy Spirit. Now go teach it to your kids!