

ABBA'S DELIGHT

Established April 2008 Daniel Mingo, Min. Director

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THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13*

2009, A New Year To Be Fruitful

I am not one much for New Year's resolutions anymore. I used to be, though. It's not that I am against change. I used to be **determined** that I would make these significant changes in my life or character at the beginning of each year, and that I would become this totally **new and improved** version of the magnificent specimen of God's man of faith and power that I thought He desired to turn me into. And having just enough of the obsessive/compulsive trait in me, sometimes I would be moderately successful in the venture. But eventually, I'd give up, having gotten bored or, more likely, discouraged. And I never could figure out why my grit and determination wasn't serving me very well. After all, they have all been brilliant ideas, or so I thought.

The last several years, though, have been different. Joining in with my church congregation, we begin each new year with a week of prayer and fasting. We take the opportunity to set aside this time to pray about those people, circumstances, events and endeavors Father has laid on our hearts. We seek the Lord not only for personal direction and revelation, but also for our corporate destiny in Christ as our portion of His Body on earth. We spend time in worship and prayer specifically dedicated to seeking Father's will as we listen for the promptings from the Holy Spirit. We pray for God's blessing on ministries that have sprung up out of the visions some of our members have had, like Abba's Delight.

And that is what has made the difference for me. In the earlier times when I would decide what to change in myself or what undertakings I would give myself to during the coming year, it was all **my ideas and decisions**, all **my ways** of accomplishing what I had set out to do. I never stopped to consider that Father might desire to have some input into the plans I was making, or want to change or halt them, or that maybe I wasn't supposed to be doing that undertaking at all. I had known to seek the Lord for the every day things, but **I had been leaving Him out** of some very important matters.

When I seek the Lord for the things **He** has put on my heart, the people **He** desires to touch through me, the plans **He** has birthed in my spirit, the lives and events **He** looks to me to pray for, I am assured that they will be fruit-bearing endeavors. **He** does the initiating, and I follow **His** lead. I know that He will always answer, and right on time, because He is always faithful. I no longer find I have set myself up for boredom or discouragement by taking on unfruitful tasks; instead I can find the Lord's peace and contentment, doing all things through Him who strengthens me, and knowing that I am right where I belong, doing His will.

Holiday Season

I trust all of your Christmas and New Year's celebrations were blessed with joy and a fresh revelation of Jesus, our Savior incarnate, and that your new year is off to a blessed and Spirit led beginning. Our ministry participants were able to celebrate together a few days before Christmas

with a dinner and gift (white elephant) exchange that left us roaring with laughter at the restaurant. I still don't know what I am going to do with that turkey!

Responses From You

From a brother in IN: Daniel, nice news letter. Thanks for your openness and honesty.

From a different brother in IN: Thanks for including me in this update. I hope everyone is able to read this, as your reflections are, in my opinion, right on the money! I was recently shown how far short I was falling in the area of thankfulness and surrender to the Lord, and I am grateful as well how he keeps trying with me, despite my resistance! But now when I read comments such as yours, I can relate.

From a fellow overcomer in IN: I've been praying for this and believe that also having a grateful/thankful heart brings about the healing in our lives. Yes, I need a lot more thanking and then again to remember my first love of what the Lord has done.....His sacrifice.

From western KY: Hi, what a wonderful message.....I am looking for a job and nothing seems to be happening. We need to remember to be thankful for our blessings. I know God will open the door for me when the time is right. Not my time but His. Prayer is so important.

From a Buddy here in Louisville: You left out (being thankful for) under-2\$-gasoline. I know I have a lot to be thankful for this year, and I don't plan on taking it for granted.

From one of my most favorite people ever: You have touched my heart.

Ministry Goals

In an earlier newsletter, I had written that one of Abba's Delight's goals is to begin a support group for families/friends/loved ones of people who are in the homosexual lifestyle. A group like this can help with understanding root causes; separating fact from fiction as it relates to the gay lifestyle; knowing how to relate; dealing with the whole range of emotions when someone close to you is connected to the gay life; sharing hurts, pain, joys, victories, etc and getting prayer, support and encouragement from those who face the same situations. I believe that time is now. I have already been in touch with some people I have known over the years, and so far the prospect has been well received. So plans are underway. Soon I will be announcing the first organizational meeting.

If you or someone you know is troubled by the existence of a family member or loved one involved in homosexuality, this group is for you and Abba's Delight can help. Spread the word. Pray for the group's success, as well as the rest of the ministry's efforts. I can be reached at 502-939-9269 for a confidential call.

Thank You

Thank you to those of you who have contributed financially to Abba's Delight. Your tax deductible gifts are a blessing and are most appreciated. Upcoming expenses for this year include the Application Fee for Tax Exempt status with the government; resource expenses for building a ministry library of books, CDs and DVDs pertaining to the overcomer's life; annual Exodus International conference registration, travel and accommodation expenses—just to name a few. Thank you for your prayer and financial support of Abba's Delight.

Prayer Needs

Please pray that Father will send new participants to the ministry, that their hearts will be prepared and softened. Please pray for the current participants that their maturity, healing and recovery process will be continued and strengthened. Pray for the formation of our parents/friends/loved ones support group. Pray for me that Father will continue to give me vision for Abba's Delight and for my own continued growth and healing.

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 24, 25