

ABBA'S DELIGHT

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An Exodus International Applicant Ministry

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A Referral Ministry of ROCK

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking on the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Phil. 2:5-8*

Finding Humility

I suspect clothing ourselves with humility, as Peter admonishes us in his first letter, is as challenging a concept for other believers as it is for me. I know it certainly doesn't come easy for me. It is not natural to my personality. Yet, it is a way of life that Father has called me/us to. I'd like to share with you some thoughts I've had and the conclusions I've come to, at least in this stage of my journey, with the huge disclaimer that I think I've only begun to scratch the surface of what I believe Godly humility is.

I was involved in a discussion recently about the 7th Step in the 12-step recovery process. It states, "Humbly asked Him (God) to remove our shortcomings." In my way of thinking, I first have to understand (more than I have in the past) what it means to be humble, in order for me to know how to approach Him in that way when asking Him to remove those shortcomings. I remembered the Philippians verses above and began to think about Jesus' example. I also thought about the mealy-mouthed, Caesar Milk-Toast, spineless, pushover type character I've seen portrayed in the past of men who were supposedly humble. But that characterization certainly doesn't fit my Savior and King.

Jesus lived His life on earth as a well-spoken, strong-of-character individual. No one could ever describe Him as spineless or a pushover. Jesus knew who He was, knew where He came from, knew what His mission was, and faithfully served His Father's will as a man on earth. And He accomplished all that He did in a loving and caring way.

Jesus exercised great self-control in His mission. He was the one who emptied Himself, no one did that to Him. He Himself took on the form of a bond-servant by His own choice. He chose to humble Himself obediently in death to fulfill Father's plan. No one forced these decisions on Him. He took them on intentionally and with purpose. I believe part of the reason He was able to live His earthly life in this way is because of the close relationship He maintained with His Father. Jesus knew He was here on earth to carry out His Father's will, and He told His disciples that He only spoke and acted upon

His Father's bidding. See John 14. And I believe therein lies the key for us in discovering how to live in humility.

I believe we first have to know who we are in God. We are sinners saved by God's grace, yet in that gift of salvation, we have become His sons and daughters. We are no longer merely His creation; we have become co-heirs with Christ to Father's kingdom. We are no longer slaves to sin, but have been set apart for holiness to God. We are kings and priests. All this, **and more!** But just like Jesus, we must intimately know our Father and His will for us, so that we may do His bidding on the earth to further His kingdom according to **His** plan. Co-heirs? Wow, that's pretty cool! Yeah, it is! But we have to be careful, as Paul encourages us, not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think. Or less highly, for that matter! We must avoid becoming arrogant in our knowledge of who we are in God, in any position we hold, in the church we attend, in our expressions of worship, etc. And at the same time, we must also avoid the false humility claim of "I am nothing, and worthless."

So, my conclusions about walking humbly before God are all tied in to knowing Him more intimately, knowing who I am in Him, knowing His will for my life and carrying that out day-by-day as His obedient servant, and learning to die to self so that I might become more perfectly conformed to the image of His Son Jesus. I'm sure there is more to clothing ourselves in humility, but for today this is where I've landed for the challenge.

It's a good thing Father sent the Holy Spirit to help me. Can I get an Amen?

2010 Exodus Freedom Conference

In late June, I spent a full week in California attending the 35th annual Exodus Freedom Conference at Concordia University in Irvine, CA. The theme this year was *Moving Forward*. Actually there were three Exodus conferences that week. During the first few days was the Leaders' Conference, where I was encouraged and further equipped to press on in Abba's Delight's calling. I was able to see and spend time with old friends, re-acquaint myself with other leaders I'd met previously, and begin new relationships with co-laborers who will be a part of my life and ministry in the years ahead. The next few days were allotted to the Freedom Conference itself, a gathering of probably 800+ men, women and young adults, all gathered to catch a vision of what moving forward will look like in their lives and spheres in their futures. Overcomers were there, looking to find renewed strength and vision for the struggle. Families, friends and loved ones of those who are still in the snare of homosexuality came to find out how to love and relate in the midst of their difficulty and pain. Professional counselors, Pastors, and Youth Leaders were there to network and become educated in the most effective ways to love and serve clients and congregants. But the one thing in Jesus that brought us all together in united focus on Him was the amazing expression of worship

times we had, as led by Holland Davis, pastor of Worship Life Calvary Chapel in San Clemente, CA. A favorite part of the conference for many, worshipping in the power of the Holy Spirit's presence was an awesome thing to experience. Already I am looking forward to next year's conference in North Carolina. The final day was set-aside for a Love Won Out conference. Speakers included Joe Dallas and Nancy Heche, who are always dynamic, and Mike Haley of Focus on the Family was the final speaker of the event. If you ever get a chance to attend a Love Won Out conference, it is an excellent way to become educated about the homosexual condition.

A Big Thank-You!

Thank you to those who have been contributing financially to the ministry. Your tax-deductible gifts are enabling Abba's Delight to reach people in ways that we've not been able to in the past. We continue to trust the Lord for some ones who are able to commit to a monthly pledge for a one-year period.

Thank you for your prayers for the ministry as well. Thank you for your intercession and warfare for me, my family, and for the work of Abba's Delight. May we found faithful in our calling and our mission to the sexually broken and their loved ones!

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

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