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NEWSLETTER– July 2016

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Hope For Wholeness Referral Ministry



Referral Ministry of ROCK-Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."*
James 4:6

[Are We Proud About Our Pride?](#)

Recently, I have been thinking a lot about pride; more so than I have before. I have become increasingly more uncomfortable with the idea of being proud of, or about, things in life as I have observed different expressions of pride in our culture.

"Is there a good kind of pride?" I asked myself. Our culture seems to think so. We have national pride, gay pride, pride in our favorite sports team, and pride in our own or our children's accomplishments. In recent decades, a trend among mental health professionals and educators has been for them to encourage parents to instill pride in their children so as to not leave room for any hurt feelings. But what does God say about our pride?

I pulled out my Cruden's Complete Concordance and counted nearly a hundred separate Scripture passages referring to the words pride, proud and proudly. You know what I discovered? Not one of those examples of pride in the Bible portrays it in a good light.

Then I started thinking about different scenarios in the Scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments when it seemed God or the people involved might have had cause to be proud about something. There is no mention of Abraham being proud when Isaac, the son of promise, was finally born to him and Sarah. And he certainly would have cause to be proud of siring a son at around a hundred years old, wouldn't he? Moses could have displayed some pride coming down from Mount Sinai, after having received the ten commandments from the hand of God Himself. Instead, he was angered at the behavior of the Israelites. In the New Testament, Joseph and Mary could have taken on a prideful manner when they presented Jesus for circumcision in the temple and received those amazing attentions toward their Son from Simeon and Anna praising God for the birth of the Savior of the world. Or when Zacchaeus was favored with the Lord's presence in his home to share a meal, he could have bragged all about town of his good fortune. Rather, he responded to God's conviction of his hurtful behaviors by restoring with generosity what he had stolen from Jewish citizens. Finally, when Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, God's voice could have shouted, "Way to go,

Jesus! I'm proud of You, Son!" Instead, He said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." I like that difference. It may be subtle, but it seems to be an important one.

I believe that is where we should take our cue. As I think about my accomplishments along my life's journey so far, I'd much rather hear Father say to me, "What you have done pleases Me," or "I love how you ministered My love to that young man." I think I'll begin trying that with my own sons.

Responses From You

From one of our ministry supporters: Daniel, your heart is so clearly connected to our Lord's. I appreciate your most recent newsletter and I will pray that this pastor will receive a revelation from the Lord, as will the families involved, especially the girls.

From a ministry leader on the east coast: Enjoyed your newsletter, Daniel! Thank God He is patient with us, a loving Father who wants nothing more than to shelter us under His wing and tell us how much He loves us!

From a brother in Louisville: Daniel, After reading your newsletter, I was reminded of Hosea 4:6 " my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge." I'm sure that you have operated in this area of ministry far more than many church pastors and I have found that people get pretty defensive when you enter an arena where they really have a lack of knowledge. I've also experienced Pastors unwilling to look beyond their own ministry for the sake of the kingdom, so they protect what they perceive to belong to them. I don't think it is pleasing to God, but it is very common church government. So- press on, God knows your heart towards ministry. I think you have to follow the Holy Spirit and what you know to produce fruit in the lives of people struggling with homosexuality. Ministers with a lack of knowledge should yield to your leadership, but I understand the conflict with that idea. As a leader, they want to control things. You are in a tough place, brother. But remember in the end, we only need to please Him.

From a Christian counselor: Daniel, I agree with your position in this issue. Forced attendance rarely produces heart conviction. It can happen, but it is much better to approach it your way. Keep up the good work.

From a missionary friend: Daniel, What a wise, godly, biblical, Spirit-led policy for helping those with same-sex attraction honestly and realistically deal with this issue, because they want to find victory rather than "victory" imposed upon them. You are exactly right in your irenic and loving approach to both those struggling with SSA and those who care for them, both parents and pastors. May God continue to bless the ministry of Abba's Delight!

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

Overcomers Group: Thurs, July 28, 2016; Thurs, August 11, 2016; Thurs, August 25, 2016

Family & Friends Group: Tues, August 2, 2106; Tues, August 16, 2016; Tues, August 30, 2016

Ongoing Prayer Requests

As always, we covet your prayers for our ministry to grow, financial support to increase, to move forward proclaiming freedom to the captives, and that churches would open their doors to Abba's Delight. Please pray for our ministry participants, our Family & Friends Support Group, our meetings, our conferences, events at which we sponsor and exhibit, our Board of Directors, and most importantly that many lives will be touched by the Holy Spirit to draw closer to Jesus, seeking freedom from their bondage. Please pray that church leaders and congregations will awaken to the necessity of being prepared Biblically with wisdom and God's love to face head-on the growing numbers of those in our congregations who are being impacted, either directly, or indirectly through a loved one, by homosexuality and the ever-increasing acceptance of gay life in our culture.

If you do not wish to receive the Abba's Delight Ministry Newsletter any longer, please let me know. If you do wish to continue to receive it, please be certain to put our email address in your address book, so that this mailing does not go to your spam, and report to your carrier. Thank you.

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