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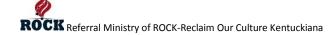
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THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord... Acts 3:19

Leaving Homosexuality in Louisville, KY

In just a little over a month, I will begin my 24th year since having walked away from a secret life I lived in homosexuality. I was leading a double life at that time, and had been since I was a teen. Towards the beginning of those years, when I was 17, I became a born-again Christian. I had been raised in a denomination that did not teach the born-again experience, so when I heard for the first time that I could have a personal relationship with Jesus, the Savior of the world, I jumped at the chance to be born again.

I felt my life up to that point was a miserable existence. Though my family would show me love in the ways they knew how, I did not know how to receive their love in the ways they were showing it. Growing up, I felt lonely and friendless, unworthy of anyone's love. I wasn't like the other boys, but so much wanted to be. With the onslaught of puberty, my desire to be like the other boys turned into sexual attractions to them. So a few years later, through being born again, I hoped my sexual attractions to guys would disappear. That was not the case. I never wanted these attractions. There was never a time when I thought the Lord was pleased, or even OK, with my sexual acts with guys which, aside from being molested at 13 by a man I didn't know, began when I was 14. Even at this time, before I was born-again, I knew by my conscience alerting me that these behaviors were not pleasing to Him.

Yet, I was so conflicted in my being. My flesh wanted to act on the attractions, but my mind and heart were telling me this is sin. I kept my secret intact until I was in my midtwenties. I was in a good church, and was comfortable sharing my secret with one of the pastors. The first time I did that, though, his response was, "Well, you know that's a sin. Cut it out!" As years went by, there were other church leaders I told, but no one knew how to help me to keep from hooking up with guys. I felt compelled, driven to act out. There were seasons, sometimes for years at a time, when I would be free and thought the attractions would go away, but they would always come back. This back and forth went on for decades.

It wasn't until I was 41, married with three sons, and living in Louisville, that the Lord finally broke through significantly enough to get and keep my attention. I repented, and prayed for a while that God would prepare her heart. And when the time came to share my confession

with her, we saw that He truly had prepared her for my story. I began rebuilding trust with her, and provided assurances that I had not brought home any diseases that would affect her or our boys.

When I repented in 1993, I left a whole slew of behaviors behind in order to choose the life Jesus had prepared for me. Sharing with my wife began the healing process, as James talks about in his epistle's 5:16. At that time as part of my healing process, the Lord revealed to us that I was feeding a decades-long sexual addiction. I went into recovery immediately, and continue that recovery process to this day.

Ten years into my recovery, after thinking my sin had disqualified me from being used by the Lord to help build His kingdom on earth, He told me He was going to use me in ministry to other men and women coming behind me along the same road, who would need to hear for their own victories my story of His triumph in my life in overcoming the effects of homosexuality in me. 2 Cor. 1:3,4 God's impartation of truth throughout the Body of Christ is part of that plan to establish His kingdom here.

Father has brought major ongoing healing to my spirit, my soul, my heart, my emotions, and even to my body. He brought about all kinds of changes to my life. No, my same-sex attractions are not completely gone. But He doesn't need them to be gone from my life in order for me to change, or for Him to use me. Believe it or not, my same-sex attractions may not be the most important thing on His agenda that He desires to work out of me. The fact is, very few of those who walk away from a life of homosexuality or gay identification will be completely free of same-sex attractions. Most will see change in the decreasing of the power of the impact those attractions have on their lives. I am no longer driven by those attractions; they no longer rule over me, having been submitted to the Lordship of Jesus. And as we draw ourselves closer to Him, He draws us to Himself, and we become more perfectly conformed to His image.

Abba's Delight ministry can play a major role in the life of anyone who feels trapped in a gay life and/or homosexual sin, if a person is willing to deny himself, take up his cross <u>daily</u> and follow Jesus. There is hope for change: God's change, His agenda for us, His will. Spread the word!

Responses From You

From a brother in TN: Daniel, thank you for sharing your newsletter.

If an article in our newsletters impacts you in a certain way, positive or negative, please share your thoughts with us by responding to the newsletter email. And feel free to forward the newsletter to anyone else you think may benefit or be blessed.

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

Overcomers Group: Thursday, December 1, 2016 Overcomers Christmas Party

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, December 6, 2016 F/F Christmas Party

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 everincreasing acceptance of gay life in our culture. Thank you.

Year-End Contributions

A big THANK YOU! to those who have already begun including Abba's Delight in your year-end charitable giving. We have just over a month left to include your tax-deductible gifts for 2016. Thank you for your consideration.

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