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 Hope For Wholeness Referral Ministry

 Referral Ministry of ROCK-Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana

**THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart. Colossians 3:20,21***

### [Fathers and Sons](#)

As I am writing this piece, my Dad is dying. He has been in the late stages of dementia for some time, and has now developed aspiration pneumonia. There are no heroic measures being taken, according to his wishes, and that includes a feeding tube. It's a matter of hours to days at this point. To some degree, I have already begun my grieving process.

Dad was a very likable guy according to everyone who met him, and his personality suited him well enough as a salesman to get promoted later to District Sales Manager. Unfortunately, that's not the Dad I was able to see.

Dad and I have had a life-long complicated relationship. Growing up, in my mind I questioned his love for me. In my adult years, I began to realize some things about Dad and how he expressed love. He was from a generation that was known for not verbally expressing love to its offspring. That a roof was provided, that there was food on the table, and that there were clothes on our backs were expected to be enough of a love expression that it didn't need to be said. Back then, nobody knew about love languages, and Dad didn't feel the need to tell me he loved me. And I couldn't see it.

It's been said that males need the three A's: attention, affirmation, and affection. For decades, it had been my perception that these needs in my life were neglected by my Dad. In truth, they were not. But, for me as a child, my perception was my reality. So, in my adult years as I began to gain a more realistic perspective, I realized that my Dad really did love me, and that he did his best to meet the needs of those three A's in my life. By that time, though, I had dug a hole deep enough for myself in my relationship with him that I spent years trying to dig out of.

My wife has reminded me on several occasions of something Dad said to me the day that she and I disclosed my homosexual history to Dad and Mom, and my siblings and their spouses during a family meeting I had called when I was preparing to begin active ministry to those with same-sex attractions and their families. At the end of the conversation, Dad said, "I've always been proud of you, but now I respect you, too."

We have never gotten to where I would have wished it could be, and over the years the Lord brought a lot of healing to our relationship. Yet, in my grieving, I am realizing already I am mourning the loss of what will never be maybe even more than grieving him himself. I knew with his dementia, as time went on, this would be the case, but with his impending death, it becomes final. We were both incapable, for whatever reasons, of giving and receiving certain things with each other in our relationship.

I was talking with one of my sons yesterday, after his trip to say good-bye to his grandfather, about the fact that because of how I perceived my Dad the way I did, I raised him and his brothers being intentional about how my wife and I expressed our love to them as they were growing up. God is a God of redemption, and I trust that there is future healing both for me in my relationship with my Dad even after he's gone, and for my sons in their relationship with me.

Fathers, and prospective fathers, let us be intentional going forward with our sons to discover how they receive love best and to sow into those needs.

### **Responses From You**

From a fellow struggler: Thanks for the letter, brother! I especially liked that phrase in the prayer of a porn addict "I will see repentance as a way of life, not as a destination." I think it was Luther's first of the 95 theses that said precisely that, that our lives have to be one of constant repentance. I used to understand repentance as something mainly for "conversion", but I see clearly it has to be a way of life.

From a former pastor: Thanks Daniel, This is a good prayer. Every sex/porn addict can identify.

From another fellow struggler: Brother, I am sorry for you, but at the same time I really understand where you stand. I have prayed for you and would like to say that your transparency encourages me and, truly, amazes me. You are in my heart and prayers. I do not condemn you. Love you in Christ!

From a ministry supporter: Thank you! This prayer is loaded with scriptures & can be used by anyone, for/ about any sin. Very good resource.

### **Upcoming Ministry Meetings**

Overcomers Group: Thurs, Oct 5, 2017; Thurs, Oct 19, 2017

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, Oct 10 2017; Tuesday, Oct 24, 2017

### **Upcoming Prayer Initiatives**

Louisville Prayer Breakfast: Wednesday, October 4, 2017, 7:00-8:30am. Ramada Inn on Zorn Ave at I-71 in Louisville. \$6.00 continental breakfast. Speaker is Mike Corder of the Kentucky Prayer Caucus Network

1 Voice Prayer Movement: Friday, October 6, 2017 6:00pm Check 1 Voice Prayer Movement FaceBook page for location and directions.

God Belongs in My City Prayer Walk at the Big 4 Bridge: Saturday, October 28, 2017 10:00am. Meet at the Silver Parking Lot on the KY side.

### **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. We are beginning to see some answered prayer around being invited into churches. 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 and transgender life in our culture. Thank you.

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***