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NEWSLETTER-September 2021

Referral Ministry of
Transformation Ministries Alliance

He rescued me because He delighted in me. Ps 18:19b

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. Titus 2:11-14

From the Abba's Delight archives, July 2018

Permission to Say "NO!"

In 12-step addiction recovery programs, Step 1 calls for the addict to recognize and accept that he/she is powerless over their addiction. For some, this is easy; for others, it is quite difficult. The addict often makes this step more complicated than it needs to be. For the Christian, as we see in this month's medication Scripture passage, God's grace teaches us that in our salvation experience and process we must "deny ungodliness and worldly desires..." In other words, we are to give no place to them in our call to righteous living. We struggle with our desires, we fight against temptation, but often end up giving in when we feel the battle becomes too fierce, choosing to end the skirmish (temporarily) by indulging our sin. Then, of course, after we give in to the sin, we often find ourselves clumsily navigating through the cycle of shame for having fallen...again.

For many of us, in our minds we believe that it's a foregone conclusion that we'll end up giving in when the temptation to sin enters our minds, so we may as well just not fight and go ahead and repeat the lust-temptation-sin-shame process, getting it over with until the next time we're attacked. But in all of this disorder, we forget one very important truth.

We must give ourselves permission to say "no" to temptation. We know that we are instructed to avoid sin as our passage above tells us, but we also need to learn to speak to our souls as David did in the Psalms and give ourselves permission to deny ungodliness and our worldly desires. I have seen this intent become a revelation for strugglers who felt their only alternative was eventually to give in to their sin each time the inclination struck, but we don't have to live there.

In James 4:7, we are told, "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." I've heard this verse misquoted and mishandled many times when people have said they resisted the devil, but he didn't flee, and then wonder why they don't have victory. First, we must be submitted to God, then when we resist, the enemy will flee. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 6:18 to flee sexual immorality. Fleeing sexual immorality reminds me of the story of Joseph when he fled from Potiphar's wife who pursued him to have sex with her. He did not want to offend God, or her husband who was his boss. She lied about Joseph to Potiphar and Joseph ended up in prison. He chose correctly, even to his own hurt. And God used it to advance Joseph toward His own purposes for His people Israel.

We have the command to say no from Paul, we have the process from James by which we can avoid giving in to temptation to sin. We must act on the Scriptures by giving ourselves permission to say no to those temptations to help us remain in holiness and in right standing with God our Father. Each time you have a choice, give yourself permission to say "NO!" and stand your ground.

Responses From You

From a brother in Louisville: Daniel, Thank you for speaking truth into a world with so much deception and lies. I hope all is well with you this year.

From a fellow church member: A well-written expose and eloquent counter to a deceptive film/portrayal of the lies perpetrated by the film. Praying for God's manifold blessings for your life and ministry.

From a former ministry leader and pastor: Daniel, I love this article and continue to stand with you and all of our brothers and sisters who boldly bow before their God and weather the cultural storms that buffet us all. May God's Blessings and His Spirit breathe ever increasing Life into and through you and all who stand follow God's call to relationship and Holiness. Blessings.

From another brother: Excellent!!

From another ministry leader: This is great, Daniel. Do you get the Alive in Christ newsletter? I also spoke about the film in it.

From one of our network counselors: This newsletter provides awesome truths in response to the Netflix film "Pray Away"! Thank you for standing for Biblical Truths with "Love and Grace"! Godly love always speaks the Truth! Thank you for your courage and boldness to stand and above all stand for the Truth! In Christ's love and prayers.

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

Overcomers Group: Thurs, Sep 30, 2021; Thurs, Oct 14, 2021; Thurs, Oct 28, 2021

Family & Friends Group: Tues, Oct 5, 2021; Tues, Oct 19, 2021

Upcoming Ministry Events

Commonwealth Policy Center's Christianity and Culture Conference, Friday, October 1, 2021, McCracken County Convention Center, Paducah KY.

Ongoing Prayer Requests

New Participants for Overcomers Group • New members for our Family & Friends Group (especially wives) • Ministry Finances • Open doors to churches, so pastor and staff can be effectively equipped • Those currently being served by Abba's Delight ministry, both Overcomers and Family & Friends • Continued freedom to operate ministry in Kentucky • Smooth establishment of new network, Transformation Ministries Alliance

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