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Est. April 2008

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NEWSLETTER—May 2023



Referral Ministry of
Transformation Ministries Alliance

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

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *"...But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! I will go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."' And he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him, and kissed him..."*

[Addiction Recovery Must Bring Us to Our True Identity in Christ](#)

"The embodiment of so many of our addictive tendencies, the prodigal son had dissipated his own resources and those of his father in a mistaken effort to establish his youthful identity." This statement caught my attention one night at a sexual addiction recovery group meeting, during our devotion from the Serenity Bible. For those unfamiliar, the Serenity Bible uses scripture passages throughout the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs to illustrate principles of the 12-Step Recovery program.

In thirty years of addiction recovery and twenty years of ministry, I have noticed a distinct pattern in the lives of men and women who have dealt with LGBTQ issues in their lives. The overwhelming majority are either addicted to the sexual acts; or they are emotionally addicted to unhealthy and sinful romantic relationships, hopping from one partner to the next. And from experiencing these feelings and behaviors, they have chosen to embrace their LGBTQ identities.

The world, not the Scriptures, has taught them to seek their identity from other than God. Jesus does not reveal in the Prodigal Son parable why the younger son felt the need to leave his father and family, his home and benefits of sonship, and his relational identity behind. Nevertheless, he did, and acted foolishly seeking "to establish his youthful identity." In doing so, he lost not only who he was, but also whose he was. He was lured and blinded by the things of the world—a world of which he knew nothing, and into which he was quickly and totally immersed. In his newly chosen state, he was completely lost and without hope.

The prodigal's own thinking brought him to the point where he decided that he wanted to live outside of his father's life and provision for him, so he demanded his inheritance and went off to live apart from everyone who loved him, isolating himself. In the end, when he had lost everything that he had received from his father, and came to the end of his self-government and his sin, he realized those things he had traded in for his 'better' life of sinful pleasures had been the most valuable things in his life all along: living in right relationship to his father and enjoying all the blessings and provisions of a son.

We did not choose our attractions, but we certainly chose to act on them either physically, mentally, emotionally, even lustfully. Whether we called ourselves gay/bi/trans or SSA, somewhere along the line we made the immature decision to go looking "to establish our youthful identity" apart from God, the One who created us, the one with the blueprint for living. We exchanged our true identity for lies. However our heavenly Father brings us through our regeneration and sanctification process, in the end we must find our true identity solely as His children with no qualifiers, no descriptors, and no modifiers. Only as sons and daughters in His kingdom, seeking His will and His destiny for us.

Responses From You

From a past Abba's Delight board member: It was a pleasure to read about your perspective of the journey to Israel. What a treasured experience. I chuckled as I read of you and Fran sitting out the extra day of sight-seeing. I know it's a life-time of memories trip. Blessings to you both.

From a pastor friend in OH: Sounds like an awesome trip, Daniel! So great you were able to go! Many Blessings!

From a sister in Christ out west: Interesting that God calls Israel a Holy people. The question is why? I believe the verse answers that, because He chose them to be "set apart", Holy. And yet they suffered in being able to walk well in that chosen path. Makes me think of 1 Pet 1.

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

Overcomers Group: Thursday, June 8, 2023; Thursday, June 22, 2023

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Upcoming Conference

There is still time to register for the Transformation Ministries Alliance first annual conference "Epic Transformation", June 22-24, 2023 at The Ark Encounter in Williamsburg, KY. To register, go to www.TMAcorp.org. This conference is for overcomers, parents/family/friends of LGBTQ-identified loved ones, pastor and church leaders, Christian counselors, anyone who has a heart for and wants to know how to love those struggling with identity and unwanted LGBTQ issues.

[Conference Scholarships](#)

If you would like to help fund someone to attend the Epic Transformation TMA conference next month, please send a check payable to Abba's Delight marked for conference scholarship to the address at the top of the newsletter front page. Or you can go to the Abba's Delight website, www.abbasdelight.com, and donate by PayPal. The conference starts June 22nd, so the time is running short. If you use PayPal, please email to let me know how the funds are intended to be used. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

[Ongoing Prayer Requests](#)

New Participants for Overcomers Group and new online lay-counselors • 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 KY

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