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NEWSLETTER—July 2025

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

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Take thought of what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Romans 12:17,18*

Making an Amends in the 12-Step Tradition

Recently, my wife and I traveled back to my hometown for the visitation and going-home-celebration of a long-time friend I'd met in the early '70s through the girl I was dating at the time. This friend eventually married another friend of mine and they were fellow church members in the same congregation as my wife and I for many years until my family moved. It was a beautiful service, and we were able to catch up with several people from our old congregation that we'd not seen in quite some time.

At the end of the service, I walked over to say good-bye to the sister of the deceased lady and one of their good friends whom I'd known since childhood. This friend is the one who had introduced me to that girlfriend, who later became my fiancé, back in the '70s. To my surprise, this former girlfriend came to the services as well. I had not seen her in over 50 years, and we were re-introduced right there.

As we were getting reacquainted, the Holy Spirit whispered into my spirit, "You owe this lady an amends." Immediately my mind went back to our breakup. I was 19, she was 18. We got engaged at Christmas, but had no date set for the wedding; and there was not even an engagement ring purchased yet. I'm not even clear on how long we remained together, but at some point later, in my mind, I concluded that she was not as serious about her relationship with the Lord as I believed I was about mine. And seeing that reality led me to the further conclusion that I needed to break up with her. So I did.

Only, I never told her I was breaking up with her. I never talked to her about why I thought she was not serious enough about her relationship with the Lord, or what led me to the 'we need to break up' conclusion. I said nothing. I ghosted her. I dropped out of her life and moved on, never to see or speak to her again. Until now.

As we stood there talking, I saw the opportunity the Holy Spirit presented me, and I took it. "I need to make an amends to you. I am asking you to forgive me for the way our

relationship ended all those years ago. I just withdrew. I stopped calling you, I stopped talking to you. I treated you horribly. And you did not deserve how I disrespected you like that. Will you please forgive me?" When I started saying, "I am asking you to forgive me," she jumped in and said, "No, you don't need to..," but I continued, ending with asking her forgiveness. She was very gracious and extended her forgiveness to me readily. She commented about how it all worked out for the best, and I replied that I thought so, too.

I came away from the conversation thankful to the Lord that He had provided the opportunity to make amends in that once-important relationship in both our lives. Steps 8 and 9 in the 12-Step Tradition address being willing to make amends to those we have harmed and then making "direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others." There was such freedom and relief that came in seeking forgiveness for such a long-ago unkind act on my part, especially understanding that there are never guaranteed positive outcomes to such endeavors.

In that moment, I was grateful to the Lord for His grace and mercy. And I was treated to a gracious response as well from an individual I'd once held dear many years ago.

Responses From You

From Australia: This is a great newsletter. Taking it from the perspective of the wife as well, is so important. She too needs help and has to process what has just been revealed about her husband. As you mentioned, she also needs time to understand and grapple with her own emotions. The husband that she thought she knew, has betrayed her. Building that trust again is crucial. It is certainly a new journey that both in the marriage need to go through. Regards.

From a Louisville believer: Thank you LORD JESUS CHRIST AMEN and AMEN...

From a high school classmate: Daniel, thank you for posting this! It is so very relevant in today's world. Thank you, Jesus, for our salvation through belief and repentance.

From an online group member: Thank you for sharing!

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

Overcomers Group Meetings: Thurs, July 31, 2025; Thurs, Aug 14, 2025; Thurs, Aug 28, 2025

Upcoming Ministry Events

Rainbow Revival Freedom March: Aug 21-24, 2025 Portland, OR

Ongoing Prayer Requests

New Participants for Overcomers Group and new online lay-counselees • Ministry Finances • Open doors to churches, so pastor and staff can be effectively equipped • Those currently being served by Abba's Delight ministry's Overcomers group and online lay-counselees • Continued freedom to operate ministry in KY. Continued speaking engagements

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