



## THE LOVE LETTER

Abba's Arms International, Inc.  
(Kings Kids Unlimited, Inc)

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### Update about Abba's Arms Int'l



We appreciate each of you that pray for us and all that Father has us involved in. We would covet your prayers for the following:

1. Our finalizing a new logo for Abba's Arms International, Inc.
2. To have a website established by the end of the year.
3. For Father's love to touch people's hearts as we share in a home group, three Tuesday's in November.
4. God to direct us as we plan a trip to Indonesia in 2011 for about a month.

### What Tree are You Eating from Every Day?

Recently the Lord spoke to me saying, "My people are so used to eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that it seems natural to eat words and thoughts that point out faults, condemn, and bring shame. Those have a familiar taste. It is time to realize that the tree of life is very different and tastes different. It makes you conscious of Me, not you." He said more but that started me on a quest to understand the differences between the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Long ago in the garden Adam and Eve ate of the wrong tree, but Jesus died so we can eat and live from the tree of life. We need to develop our spiritual taste buds to eat only from the tree of life.

We are used to eating food naturally to give us energy and sustain our lives. But what is eating? To eat you take something that is outside, put it into your mouth, chew it up, and then what you eat becomes a part of you. The same is true with what we eat spiritually. **Whatever we watch, hear or read** introduces ideas, images, and thoughts which **become the "food"** that our spirit and soul feed on; that food then becomes a part of us. What have you been feeding your spirit this week?

#### True Identity is rooted in Relationship

In the beginning, Adam and Eve freely walked and talked with Father God and enjoyed a close intimate relationship, experiencing the goodness of their Father face to face as they walked in His abundant provision. Despite this intimate relationship the two shared with Father God, they did not fully understand they were already just like God, having been made in His image. They **failed to see that their identity, value and worth were rooted in their relationship with Father God.** The serpent got them to think **they needed to do something** on their own to "be like God."

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, you are "in Christ" and can walk in a close intimate relationship with Father. That is meant to be the source of your identity, value and worth! But if you are like me, sometimes I don't see my identity as Father's daughter, thus I question my value and worth. Father has had to show me where I have been feeding on the thoughts and ideas from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (the world) and failed to hear His voice or allow His thoughts to take root in my heart.

#### Feeding on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

What happens when we focus on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? First, our enemy gets us to question God's character just like he did with Eve. He asked, "Did God really say?" Satan has been asking that question ever since to whoever will listen. While Adam and Eve didn't die physically, they lost their ability to have a relationship with Father God. This tree can move us from living out of our hearts to relying on our minds and intellect. We live in the "information generation," yet information alone will not solve all the problems in our homes and families.

*Knowledge* involves ideas, concepts, thoughts, and principles, which we think will make us more like God. The enemy said that if they ate of this tree "their eyes would be opened and they would be like God." Any time we gain knowledge about something, that knowledge can force us to have an opinion about what is good or bad. An example is someone that has gained knowledge about music, he or she may find it difficult to come to church and enjoy the worship if the leader is singing off key. His or her focus is on what is good and bad rather than the heart of the person leading. Relying only on knowledge



can cause a person to look to himself and his own efforts to do good and stay away from evil, rather than looking to God to help and teach him His ways. We can put ourselves in the place meant for God if we depend on self and decide in our minds what we think is good or evil.

## Fruits of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

### 1. Blame Shifting

One of the major ways we live from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is through blame shifting. Blame shifting places the responsibility for the problem onto someone else, meaning we think our problems are someone else's fault. True sons and daughters accept responsibility for their problems. Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent and blame shifting has been going on ever since (**Gen. 3:12-13**). There is no faith, no connection, no power in blame shifting, and it always ends in failure. "It's their fault" – the devil, the elders, the president, the school system, a spouse, etc. Any area where we blame shift, we are admitting that Jesus is not Lord of that area of our life. If the president is the problem, then the president is Lord and we are subject to the world's system and not heaven's! We will never be truly free until Jesus is Lord of every area of our lives!

### 2. Shame

Focusing on the knowledge of good and evil also causes us to evaluate ourselves to see if we measure up to the standards that others expect us to meet. *Did I do it right? or Was I wrong?* becomes the question we ask ourselves all the time. When Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they knew they didn't measure up. They were inadequate! What does that cause? SHAME! Shame says there is something wrong with me or I'm flawed. **Shame can become our identity when we look at what we do or don't do or we believe what others say about us.** Following an unbending set of rules or commands can cause us or others to experience condemnation every time we mess up. The enemy loves to accuse us which causes us to feel condemned and leads to feelings of shame. Shame is a big bitter fruit hanging from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil!

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil causes people to either feel terrible about themselves or to look down their noses at others. When we are deciding what is good or bad, we may find ourselves saying, "I'm not good enough, I'm bad, I'm not smart enough or not spiritual enough, I'm from the wrong family, I'll never be able to pray enough, etc." All these words cut us down and say we will never meet our goals, therefore we are nothing or worthless. The other side is "I'm pretty good, but you are no good." Because you read 5 chapters of your Bible a day, you think someone is evil if they don't read their Bible every day. Growing in the knowledge of good can be deadly! When someone is focused more on "being right" than anything else, he or she can hurt other people. Knowledge can puff up, get us into the works of the flesh, and lead us off into darkness. The issue isn't good and evil; it is life and death.

### 3. Hardening Your Heart

The Lord has started to show me how feeding on the tree of the knowledge of



good and evil can take us from having sensitive, tender hearts to hard, cold, and calculating hearts. We start off loving people and caring about them, but then something happens and we get hurt by a person, usually those

closest to us. We experience negative words or actions, feelings of blame, and shame, which usually causes us to build walls to protect ourselves. Next we take the knowledge we have about what happened and we decide who was right or wrong. If we keep thinking about all that happened, it goes down into our heart.

**Our mind gets stronger and our heart gets harder.** The Bible says, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (**Matt. 12:34**). What are the words like that are coming out of your mouth? Are they blessing or cursing others? Just like our Father, we create death or life by the words we speak (**Prov. 18:20-**

**21**). If we focus on the negative, our hearts will struggle to have close, intimate relationships with God and others. Our hearts will not value people as God's precious creations, but place worth on our "being right." The end result is that we are no longer walking as sons or daughters of God, but as orphans who have to take care of themselves. We no longer enjoy life but find ourselves going through the motions. This is not the life Father ever planned for His children. It's time to ask Him to show you any area where you have allowed your heart to get hard and come home to His love and life!

## Fruits of the Tree of Life

The fruit and taste of the **tree of life** is something that is not familiar to us. Father is still teaching me what it means to eat and live from the tree of life, but I believe it is about being in relationship with Him, not "doing." God is the One who created everything for us to enjoy. He always wanted to have fellowship, to walk and talk with His children as He did with Adam and Eve. Life is more about relationship and living from our hearts than from our heads. The tree of life makes us conscious of Father and not ourselves. **John 6:63** says, "It is the Spirit who gives life, the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life." When the Lord personally speaks a word to you, it comes alive. I believe we are to live by revelation knowledge that comes straight from our heavenly Father's heart to our hearts. He wants us to eat and chew on His words and thoughts from the Bible so that He can reveal His ways to us. We do not have to look to the world for our answers.

While Adam and Eve lost these realities that Father had given them, Jesus Christ came to show us the way back to the life that Father wants for each of us. He said, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (**John 14:9**). The more we see Jesus and gaze into His eyes, the more we will experience the fullness of life that God planned for us. Jesus came and died on a tree on Calvary to set us free from all the shame, condemnation, sin and trying to be good, that separates us from Father. Now when God looks at you, He does not see any flaws or faults in you for He **sees you "In Christ."** He has nothing but love for you! I am convinced He wants us to live



each day as His child, seeing His eyes burning with love for each of us and His smile affirming us. He longs to see our childlikeness or innocence restored. How does a young child act? They are fun-loving, bright eyed, joyful, innocent, and carefree. Webster's dictionary says, innocence means freedom from guilt or evil intentions; simplicity of heart. We think of a newborn baby as being innocent. When we are born anew into God's family, He sees each of us as pure and precious. He delights in us, rejoices and sings over us as a proud parent! (**Ps. 18:19, Zeph. 3:17**) Eating from the tree of life means **freely receiving Father's love and delight in you every day!**

I have been asking the Lord what living from the tree of life looks like. **Psalm 34:8** says "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good." He desires that we take advantage of all that Jesus has done through the finished work of the cross. As **1 John 4:17** says, "As He is so are we in this world." We should see Jesus as He is today and expect to walk more like Him. We must take time each day to gaze into His eyes and eat of Him. Eating of His body and blood will connect us to eternal life. I see the tree of life full of good gifts that we can partake of each day. We come and receive His grace, favor, strength, health, prosperity, and much more. We need to see ourselves flowing with the fruits of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit in our lives to bless those that He brings across our path. We are to be a reflection of Jesus and our Father to a lost world.

It is time that the body of Christ looks like its head, Jesus Christ, and no longer like the world. I believe we must find our life "in Him" and be connected to His heart. The word, *abide*, means to stay at home, settle down. We need to get back to the garden like it was in the beginning, walking and talking with our God, seeing Him face, to face, letting Him teach us His ways as we listen to His voice and hear His thoughts motivated by love. I sensed not only does **Father desires that we eat of the tree of life, that we become trees of life that others may eat of.** By this I mean that we become so full of Father's thoughts and ways of love that others find life and not death through our words and actions. The Bible says they will know we

are His disciples by our love! (**John 13:35**) Father wants us to enjoy life with Him and then become **"like a tree** planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf does not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper" (**Ps. 1:3**).

## Conclusion

Father God has always wanted a relationship with His children. Eating from the tree of life is where we will find our true identity, value, worth, and much more.

### Fruits of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil:

- Living more from our minds and not from our hearts.
- Form our own opinions about what is good or evil.
- Relying on self's efforts rather than looking to God for help.
- Feel shame when we do not meet the standards or to put shame on others.
- Blame others for our problems and not take responsibility for our actions or responses.
- Harden our hearts and strengthen our thoughts of being right!
- Live as orphans that have to take care of themselves.

### Eating from the tree of life:

- Live conscious of Him and the truth that we are made in His image.
- Live from a place of a personal relationship with Him.
- Walk by revelation knowledge, words spoken directly from His heart to yours.
- Daily receive His love, grace, mercy, forgiveness and much more.
- Yield our "self" focus, gaze into Jesus' eyes and begin to see who we are "in Christ."
- Experience more of His love and His delight in being Father's son or daughter.
- Be a reflection of Him to a hurting world that needs Father's love!

I pray that each person reading this will experience more of the eternal life Father has planned for you. God's kind of

life comes by getting to know Him, the only True God and Jesus Christ (**Jn 17:3**).

Paul wrote, ***"For my determined purpose is that I may know Him – that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and clearly. And that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection, which it exerts over believers; and that I may share His sufferings as to be continually transformed in the spirit into His likeness even to His death, in the hope that, if possible I, may attain the spiritual and moral resurrection that lifts me out from among the dead even while in the body. (Phil. 3:10-11 Amp).*** Jesus said, "I have come that they may have and enjoy life and have it in abundance – to the full, till it overflows" (**John 10:10 Amp**). I pray that you experience the fullness of the life Jesus died to give us!

May you awake each morning aware of Father's acceptance and sense the pleasure He finds in your being His son or daughter! Take time to focus on your relationship - see only Him and be His child! This is the way to live life as **Psalm 131 Message Bible** says, "I've cultivated a quiet heart. Like a baby content in its mother's arms. My soul is baby content." After a child has eaten all he can, he simply rests content in his mother's arms feeling secure and loved. We need to learn how to be a child and let our heavenly Father be the parent. That is living from the tree of life!



# A FATHER'S BLESSING FOR YOU

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." I bless you with the understanding that your Creator, your heavenly Father, created and formed your spirit. I bless you with realizing that the very essence of who you are was placed deep within your spirit before the foundation of the earth was laid. Within your spirit you carry the DNA of your heavenly Father. I bless you with a lifetime and a lifestyle of discovering the very character and nature of your Father and Christ in you, the hope of glory. In discovering who God is, you uncover and awaken your spirit to who you are in Him.

I bless you with the good gift of God of an undivided heart, right desires, and a new spirit. I bless you with repentance from rebellion and offenses, and I bless you with singleness and tenderness of heart to obey God as one who is truly His. I bless you with knowing that it is the spirit of a man, the breath of the Almighty that gives you understanding. I bless you with the inner unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. I bless you with a spirit that yearns for God in the night and longs for Him in the morning. I bless you in the name of the Father of Life.



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