



THE LOVE LETTER

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

Volume 4, Issue 3

3rd Quarter

We Have Launched Our Website! – www.abbasarmsintl.org



We invite you to visit our new website and use the information and materials that we are providing for you through the site. We encourage you to share this website with anyone who you think might benefit from the contents of the site. Since it is new, we encourage you to give us feedback about your experience using it. We want to know if there are any problems navigating the site, opening or downloading any of the materials, spelling errors, or things that could be added or improved to make the site better. We will be putting the audio recordings from our 2009 Life Group and other materials on the site after we get back from Kenya. There will be a new blessing and confession every month too, so keep watching for changes to the site!

Kenya update: We have begun our preparations for going to Kenya October 4 – November 7. Please continue to pray for all of the finances to come in for the trip and that we have Father's guidance and open doors for other ministry opportunities besides teaching at the Word Ablaze Ministries Bible Training Center in Nakuru while we are there. Pray for hearts to be prepared to receive His love and healing from past wounds and hurts.

Will the Real You Please Stand Up!

Some of you more "mature" readers might remember a TV show called "To Tell the Truth." Each week three contestants would tell the audience three separate descriptions of themselves and answer questions, each one claiming to be the same person, but only one of them was that person. At the end of the show, the real person was asked to stand up. Many of us tend to be like the two false contestants who were trying to convince the audience that they were really someone else.

Have you ever wondered or questioned who the "real you" is on the inside? Have you ever asked any of these questions: Where did I come from? Who am I? Where am I going? What is my place and purpose in the world? Why am I here? I think all of us have at least wondered about the answers to these questions about ourselves in our search to discover our true identity. If you have allowed the imposter or some lesser self-image to cover up who you really are, there is a part of you on the inside that is crying out to be discovered and revealed. When you know in your heart, not just your mind, your true identity, you will move into a place of rest, peace, joy, fullness of life, and confidence. For me (Rick) this journey of discovery about my real self-image became clearer as I recently read the book "Pilgrimage to Personhood" by Fount Shults, and some of thoughts I share here are taken from this book.

The False Self

For most of us, we end up as adults with these false images of who we think we are, and we carry around these labels or wear costumes that try to tell us and others who we are. We fear that "if anyone knew who I really am, they would not like me." Unfortunately, the only one that we end up deceiving is ourselves. Shults presents a progression of how we can move away from our true identity and take on these false images.

We start out at birth with what Shults calls our "basic nature", we are born innocent and free of any "worldly" ideas about who we are. We have no problem with how we look or concern about what other people see. We're perfectly comfortable with or without clothes, unless it's cold and we need something to cover up with. We don't care about what other people think about us and we quite openly express our opinions and needs. What we are at this point in our life was given to us before birth and in our innocence we are completely open, at the mercy of our parents or those who raised us, for our identity and self-image. The verbal and non-verbal communication (tone of voice, looks, jesters, and body language) and how we receive them from the important people in our lives begin to shape our image and identity. By our nature, we may passively accept the words as true or

actively try to prove them wrong. These words (which we use to label ourselves with) and false identity begin to filter everything we see, how we think about ourselves, and affect our actions and behavior. For me, I felt rejected, clumsy, and uncoordinated, leading to not liking myself.

We wear our labels and begin to try on costumes that help us fit into our acquired identity. They validate and prove who we think we are, and hopefully will allow others to accept us without finding out who we really are. Our false identity gives us an illusion of being accepted by the group we are trying to fit into. However as we grow older, peer pressure, feelings of shame, guilt, pride, fear of rejection, fear of man, fear of what others think, and the desire to "fit in" drive us to cover up the labels and false identity received earlier in life. We allow the imposter or false self to live our lives for us. For me, I developed a bitter expectation that I could not do anything, could not play any sports, and people would always make fun of me or put me down. I withdrew into my own private little world, rejecting people before they had a chance to reject me.

As we move into adulthood a new longing begins to take over and we want to find a "place of significance." Careers, money, possessions, power, position,



influence and knowledge become more important, and we try desperately to keep our false-self intact for fear of what might happen if anyone really knew us or what we have done. We begin to fear exclusion or rejection from the group that we identified ourselves with; the group where we find value and significance. We may not try to change or improve ourselves for fear of being separated from our group. However, some are driven to climb up to the next higher group or level. We need an “outward evidence of our self-worth.” Unfortunately, the labels from childhood continue to stick with us and they continue to affect our actions, behaviors, and thoughts. My evidence of self-worth became projects and being involved in groups, I kept myself busy so I did not have to deal with the pain in my heart. I also felt good about ministering to children and seeing the results from the changes in their lives.

Hindrances to Finding Our True Identity

Besides the labels and words from those of importance in our life, our image and behavior are also affected by the ungodly beliefs and mind viruses (the thoughts, words and actions from our parent that infect our thinking) that we add to our subconscious growing up. Ungodly beliefs may look or sound true or logical, but do not agree with God’s Word. Although untrue, they become so much a part of us, our thinking, and how we see ourselves and life that we don’t even realize that they are there or not true. **What you think is true is true to you.** Our brain flips all of the information that comes in to conform to these ungodly beliefs and mind viruses. People could compliment me about what I did, but it never changed what I thought about myself inside, making it very hard to receive criticism or correction too.

Another hindrance to discovering our true identity is walking around with an orphan heart. If we did not get our love needs met growing up, the pain and wounds can build up to the point where we withdraw from being a son or daughter to our parents and begin living as an orphan. We may physically leave our family or we may just close our spirit and emotions from interacting with them. This isolation leads to independence, rebellion, and disobedience. The orphan heart prevents us from hearing the Father’s voice or having any

fellowship with Him. You can learn more about the orphan heart on our website www.abbasarmsintl.org.

Having an orphan heart opens the door for other problems coming out in our lives like fear, anger, shame, rejection and strongholds, or bad habits, that hinder us from finding our true identity. Hurting people make bad choices and we can allow shame, pride, or guilt to cause us to hide our past mistakes or keep them in the dark where satan can continue to traffic and bring more problems. Our pain from the past seeks comfort and pleasure which can cause us to choose false lovers like sex, drugs, smoking, pornography, comfort foods, or masturbation to try and comfort the pain in our heart. These strongholds and bad habit patterns can give us a wrong image of who we think we are and to break free from this we must be as transparent as possible with those whom we can trust. We need to ask Father to help heal our hearts from the root issues that are contributing to these negative behaviors, emotions, and feelings.

Finding Our True Identity

The first step to discovering our true identity is found in Jesus’ instructions to Nicodemus, “...You must be born again.” **John 3:6-7** John makes it a little clearer in **1 John 5:1** when he refers to

being “born of God” and “begotten of Him.” Our mothers brought us into this world and we were *born* in the flesh through the seed of our natural fathers. But to be born of God is a spiritual birth that comes through the supernatural seed of our Heavenly Father. Father transfers His “DNA” to us as we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and our spirit comes alive. We are *begotten* of God. We have all of the qualities and characteristics of our heavenly Father who now dwells in us. “We are just like our Daddy!” We are partakers of His divine nature. **2 Peter 1:7** Now we are His



children and joint heirs with Jesus. **John 1:12-13, Rom. 8:17** The Father loves us as much as He loves Jesus!! **John 17:23**

The labels and false-images are powerful in our life and stick with us until they are removed and replaced with godly labels and a godly image of who we are. There have been a number of people who have come to us for prayer, and when they get rid of the old labels and past images of themselves their lives are transformed and their countenance changes. They throw off the old labels like a cloak and then ask Father to give them a new name. Father gives them new names and a godly image of how He sees them through the finished work of the cross. I have begun to see myself through the cross like Father does and it has been very liberating to my being able to start loving myself.

The dividing of the soul and spirit is also necessary for our spirit not to be influenced by intellect and reasoning and to be able to receive the Word into our heart as living and active. **It was words that formed the old image of ourselves, and it is the Words of our Heavenly Father that form the new “God-image” of ourselves.** The true image of ourselves is formed in our hearts from what the Bible says and the words spoken into our spirit directly from the Father. We have to hide the Word in our heart, meditate on it, and then act like it is so in our life, then Holy Spirit begins to bear witness with our own spirit that we are the children of God. **Rom. 8:16**

We cannot change our image by ourselves; that only leads to works of the flesh. Our carnal man and mind are not able to understand the things of God. The desires of the flesh try to cover up our true identity. The flesh and self must be put out of the way so that our spirit can take on the divine nature of our heavenly Father. Religion cannot help us either; it must be by faith in His Word. It is as we are led by the Spirit of God that we become His sons and daughters. **Rom. 8:13-14** With the presence of the Father in us, we have His holiness, absolute righteousness, love, and abundant life. **John 10:10, 14:23, 1 Pet. 1:15**

Our True Identity

First and foremost we are a spirit that has a soul and lives in a body. **1 Thess. 5:23** Our spirit was made to live for eter-



nity! Our spirit is meant to be in control of the soul and body, not the other way around. We need to strengthen our spirit man keeping him awake and free to be in control over our soul and body all of the time.

The biggest discovery about who I am came about 12 years ago when I learned that I am a **child of God**. That revelation rocked my world and set me on a new course learning how to live and walk as His son and how to rule and reign in the Kingdom. **2 Cor. 5:20** Father gave Adam and Eve the command and authority to replenish, subdue and have dominion over the whole earth. **Gen. 1:28** Although Adam gave that authority over to satan in the Garden, Jesus got it back through the finished work of the cross and has given us authority to use His name to fulfill the original commission given to Adam and Eve. **Matt. 28:18-20**

We were made to find who we really are by **resting - being still and seeing ourselves "in Him."** The more conscious we are of it being "Christ in us," the more we can begin to see Father in us. Then we can imagine Father talking and interacting with us as He did with Jesus. That can lead to us allowing His thoughts to impact our thoughts, emotions and actions. As we die to the old man and our flesh, the more we take on the image and character of Jesus in our life.

Just as Jesus was accepted and loved by the Father, with Jesus in us we are also accepted as His beloved sons and daughters. Father is saying to you right now, "This is (put in your name) my beloved son (daughter) in whom I am well pleased!" Father sees us through the finished work of the cross as righteous, holy, clean, and pure. His blood has cleansed us of all our sins; past, present and future. Jesus' death and resurrection has defeated sin and death in our life forever!

In the state of absolute righteousness or "rightness" nothing unrighteous or wrong can exist. Therefore, Father's absolute righteousness and "rightness" in us will change everything that is wrong in our lives to being right! Sin, sickness, disease, poverty, lack, or anything wrong in our lives cannot remain in the presence of our absolute rightness. As we declare our righteousness in Christ Jesus we are cre-

ating an atmosphere around us that will change us, our environment, and current situations. If you have sickness in your body, if you are controlled by bad habits, if you are in financial difficulties or in the midst of any bad situations, stand up and declare that, "I am righteous!" Consistently do that until the circumstances change. Let Him transform you into more of His image!

Father says that *each of His creation is a special treasure to Him. You are valuable and precious in Father's eyes!* From the beginning Father desired to have His people as a "peculiar treasure" to Him. **Ex. 19:5** Peculiar treasure in Hebrew means jewel, special, wealth shut up. Father saw us as having great worth, to be desired. (Strong's Concordance 5459) Jesus spoke of our value and worth too; then He demonstrated our



value by laying down His life for us! Jesus spoke of our value

being much greater than other parts of His creation. **Matt. 10:31** He never saw one person having less value; even the lowest in society had value in His eyes. **Luke 8:27; Luke 19:1-7** We need to see the treasure in ourselves and look for the treasure in other people instead of focusing on what is wrong or not perfect.

Blessed is another word that I have discovered relates to our true identity. After Father created Adam and Eve He spoke a blessing over them. **Gen. 1:22, 28** Barak is the Hebrew word for **ble**ss. It means *ble*ss abundantly, salute, praise. (Strong's Concordance 1288) The verb *baruch* means to empower to prosper. We have an extravagant Father who wants only good for us! We are on His mind and His will is to bless us! **Ps. 115:12-15** According to **Eph. 1:3** our Father God **"has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ."** It is already ours! We are the blessed of the Lord now! So don't try to get blessings on your own. Walk in a close loving relationship with your Father and expect blessings to follow you!

I cannot close this section without addressing the fact that we live in a Kingdom and the King is our Daddy! In a kingdom the king owns everything and there is no lack. **Lev. 25:23, Ps. 24:1** Father gave us dominion (**Gen. 1:28-29**) and we are to rule and reign as kings and priests in the Kingdom and reflect the King's glory as His royal sons and daughters. Our source of supply is from the King and He provides our protection and gives us the authority to enforce the rules and regulations of the Kingdom. Since the King owns everything He can ask us to give what He has given us to someone else and tell others to give to us what we might need. In return for our loyalty and honoring Him, He takes care of us in every way!

Your Personalized Identity

Besides being royal sons and daughters, each one of us is wonderfully and uniquely made and equipped to fulfill Father's plan for our lives. **Ps. 149:14, Eph. 2:10** Father was there at our conception bringing our mother and father together to create us with the right qualities, traits, and mental/physical make-up to be able to do what He has called us to complete here on earth.

Ps. 139:13 You are beautiful and just perfect in Father's sight; He doesn't see what is wrong in you, only what is right, pure, and holy! There is no one else on earth that has the ability to accomplish what you have been made to complete. Listen to Holy Spirit and His Word what the Father is saying about you and who you are to Him. Pursue the desires in your heart put there by Father to help you determine what you are to accomplish before you leave this earth. Never give up on your dreams and don't let anyone, including satan, try to talk you out of living in the blessing!



A Blessing for Your True Identity

I bless you with a greater revelation of your true identity as Father's son or daughter and your calling in this life. I call your spirit awake to hear and receive what He is speaking to you right now about who you are in Christ Jesus and what He has accomplished for you through the finished work of the cross. I bless you with dreams and visions of yourself moving through life fulfilling His plan for your life and completing every task He has placed in your heart to do. I bless you with seeing yourself ruling and reigning over every circumstance, situation or problem in your life and being victorious over every work of the enemy trying to come against you. I bless you with eyes to see and ears to hear what Father sees when He looks at you! In Jesus name, Amen.



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

Po Box 1396
State College, PA 16804-1396
kku1mccoy@verizon.net
www.abbasarmsintl.org