



THE LOVE LETTER

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

Volume 7, Issue 1

1st Quarter

Look What's New on Our Website!



Over the past several months we have added some new items to our ministry website www.abbasarmsintl.org.

All of the changes have occurred under the **Media** dropdown menu on the **Home** page.

♥ **Marriage Encouragement** messages have been sent out every other month. These are to help married couples with information and suggestions on how they can strengthen their marriage and experience more intimacy and love in their relationship. All of the messages are now being archived on the website.

♥ **Messages from the Heart** are audio files from our monthly evenings of Soaking in our home. So if you can't come to the soaking, you can listen to the short messages!

♥ **Experiencing Father Heart-to-Heart** is a new audio series from our special October meeting. These are powerful messages on having the heart of a son, the comforting nurturing love of our heavenly Father and how Father sees us as valuable and accepted plus a special Father's Blessing.

♥ **Experiencing the Father's Love** – There are **14 audio files** and the printed lessons from our life group on the website.

♥ All of the materials on the website are **downloadable and free**; so go and check out everything that is available and let other people know what is there too!

Father Sees You – Valuable and Approved!

In the last Love Letter entitled **Father Says, "I See You!"** I (Sue) emphasized how Father sees us and values us all the time. The world and other people may not see us as having any value, but our Father's eyes are always on us for He truly cares about us and our lives. He so desires that we have a face-to-face relationship with Him just like Adam and Eve had in the beginning in the Garden of Eden. In Luke 15 Jesus told a story of two sons who really didn't know the heart of their father. Without him doing anything to deserve it, his father loved him, restored him as his son and threw a party to celebrate him coming home! My desire in this Love Letter is to help each of us receive a greater revelation of the place you have in His heart and **how much our Father already loves, values and approves of us!**

As I mentioned in the last Love Letter, we all desire to be seen and know that we have a place in someone else's heart. Our hearts long to hear that we are accepted, approved, and pleasing to other people. Does a young baby have to do anything to be the center of attention? NO! But none of us remembers what we experienced as babies – having people pleased with us while not doing a thing! From a young age, we all want to please our parents and

gain their approval. But how did we get their approval or pleasure? If you were like me, it was usually based on what I did or didn't do - my performance! We usually look to authority figures such as our parents, teachers, church leaders, employers and others that we look up to, to validate our worth. This leads us down a path that can be exhausting and seldom fulfilling. There is not enough approval on earth for any of us. We can only get that from our Father!

Can you imagine what it was like for Adam and Eve to walk and talk with Father God in the garden? He gave them His full attention and they sensed His pleasure in being with them. But ever since they chose to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, mankind has been prone to judging themselves and others by what they do or don't do and whether something is right or wrong. If we let what others think become bigger and more important than what Father thinks about us, we will never find a place of rest.

Father says, ***"It is time, My child, for you to experience and know in your heart your total acceptance and approval in My eyes without you're doing anything to***

merit it! You are Mine and belong to Me and My family! I want you to come home as Jesus made the way and now all you need to do is rest in My great love for you!" As Father spoke those words to my heart, I became aware of how I can still fall back into old patterns of needing to perform to merit love, acceptance and approval. Let's look at the world's way and Father's way! As we look at the world's way and Father's way, may you experience more of Father's approval and find a new way of living your life!

The Pull to Perform

Most of us grew up with other people making us feel that we had to perform to be accepted or approved. Wayne Jacobsen in his book, *He Loves Me*, calls it a "favor line." Jacobsen says, "It is the invisible line that tells us whether or not we've met enough of someone's expectations to merit approval. It is impossible to live in this world without recognizing the favor line's impact on every area of life." The favor line says if we do good, we get good, but if we do bad, we get bad. We knew what made our parents proud of us and what we did that caused us to know their anger or



displeasure. If we could never please or meet our parents' expectations, then approval may be something we aren't familiar with. My parents were good parents and loved me, but there was a day that I believed I had to "do" more than just "be" their daughter to merit their attention and approval. Father showed me the danger in looking to our parents or others adults for our value and worth because there are no perfect parents. I saw myself as a little six year old girl wearing a new dress coming down the steps of our house wanting my dad's and mom's attention. But my dad was busy with something else and my mom was busy in the kitchen. There were no looks or words to say I was seen, valued or special! Later as a teenager, I knew my dad liked to be served, so I learned to serve him which got his attention and I felt loved. But Father showed me that from a young age I became performance oriented and found it difficult to believe I could be loved or find approval without performing! Father has been removing the roots of performance in my heart and allowing me to see myself as valued and loved **just because** I am His daughter!

School is another place where our value and worth seem to be tied to our performance. All kids want to be noticed and accepted. If we did well on our schoolwork and got good grades, then we got greater approval or recognition from our teachers and parents. But if we got poor grades, we probably saw ourselves as being stupid and having little worth and value. To be popular or be a part of the "in" crowd, we had to act a certain way or meet the expectations of other people. If we couldn't play a certain sport well, we may have been the last one chosen for a team and felt rejection, not approval. Quite often as we grow up we compare ourselves to others and feel we don't measure up. What stands out from your school years? Are your memories based on who you were as a person or on your performance? Do you remember only negative experiences or did you receive someone's approval that impacted your life? The approval of my performance from my fifth grade

teacher inspired me to be an elementary teacher, something I enjoyed doing for many years. Teachers or coaches may see us and be the ones that Father uses to impact our lives and show us our value and gifting!

The favor line goes on beyond high school or college as we are rewarded by our job performance and evaluations. Our experiences cause us to believe that God has a favor line too. Bad experiences may cause us to believe that we have lost God's favor. Jacobsen suggests we may ask questions like – *Does He love me? Have I offended Him? Am I doing enough for Him to like me?* Our uncertainty about God's love may cause us to play the game girls play with a daisy, pulling off petals and saying, "He loves me, He loves me not."

We can do the same thing with Father, never sure of His love. We may think we have to do something to be loved and get back on God's good side but **Father doesn't have a favor line!** By the time I became a born again, spirit-filled Christian, I looked for God's approval based on my performance. I made sure I read the Word, prayed daily, served in the church and more! I felt good if I performed well, but I felt bad about myself if I didn't perform well. Later when we were in leadership, once again I looked to others for their approval but seldom found it. I tried really hard to do my best, but I was never sure it was enough!

Self Approval

Father never meant for our identity, value and approval to come from our efforts and how other people see us or how we see ourselves! We've all experienced someone's disapproval. People can say angry, hurtful words which can communicate that we have no value or worth in their eyes. *Non-verbal messages* can be even more hurtful. These come by the way *a person looks at us or ignores us, their tone of voice or their body language* that tells us they aren't pleased with us. Whether we hear

hurtful words or get nasty looks, we can feel rejected and think we don't measure up. Because of what we experienced with our parents and other people growing up, we can get locked in past images of ourselves that may not be true. We can judge ourselves when we do something wrong and feel we don't deserve anything good. We may withdraw or build a wall because we aren't sure others or Father God would approve of who we think we are.

If we don't withdraw, we may try even harder to gain other people's attention and approval. Many in our world today desire the fame and recognition that movie and TV stars or famous sports stars get. Yet notoriety in the world often doesn't last long. I heard someone share Father asking "*Who are you trying to impress?*" In today's world, many people are out to impress Father or other people hoping that they will be noticed and experience their approval. None of us can be sure that we will impress others or get their approval, but Father sees us all the time and He already approves each of us!

Father's Approval and More

Our Father never planned for us to find His approval from any of our own efforts. He sent His Son, Jesus, to redeem us so we could be a part of His family and enjoy the blessings of our inheritance in Christ Jesus. There are four words that can help us see and understand how much our Father wants us to know in our hearts that we belong and have a place in His heart! These words are **accepted, pleased, sealed, and approved.**

Ephesians 1:6 tells us that "...He made us **accepted** in the Beloved." The words "made" and "accepted" are both past tense meaning it has already taken place. We simply need to allow that truth to sink into our hearts and believe that we already are accepted in the Beloved! Who is the Beloved? Jesus is, but we are "in Him." Therefore, we are just as accepted as Jesus! **Accepted** in Webster's dictionary means *receive with favor or with pleasure!* The Greek word





for **accepted** means to grace, to endure with special honor, make accepted and highly favored. Our true Father fully accepts us just the way we are and will never change His mind! Think about that!

Do you know that your Father is **pleased** with you? **Pleased** in Webster's 1828 dictionary is "affected with agreeable sensations or emotions." The Greek word for "pleased" means to think well of, approve, think good, and take pleasure. As Jesus was baptized before He did any ministry, Father speaks from Heaven and says, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matt. 3:17; Mark 1:11) Our Father is saying the same thing about each of us. Take a moment and put your name in that verse and hear Him affirming His pleasure in you! Listen with your heart to the way the Message Bible translates this verse, "This is My Son, chosen and marked by My love, delight of My life!" Let Father's love flow over your heart and awaken you to the depth of His pleasure and love for each one of you, His children!

Next, let's look at the word **sealed**! The Greek word for "seal" means to stamp (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation, to keep secret or fencing in or protecting from misappropriation. Being "sealed" brings the image of belonging, being protected and feeling secure! **2 Corinthians 1:22** (NIV) affirms this, "set **His seal of ownership on us**, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." We have been marked in Him with a seal guaranteeing our inheritance as we are God's possession. (**Eph. 1:13-14 NIV**) Our Father will never change His mind about us for He has sealed us for the day of redemption "**knowing those who are His.**" (**Eph. 4:30b; 2 Tim. 2:19**) What a joy to know that we are a part of His family destined to enjoy all the good gifts He has for us now as well as to eternally be with Him!

Our last word is **approval or approved**. Webster's defines approved as to like, to be pleased with; to commend; to make or show to be

worthy of approbation (act of approving). The Greek meaning is to show off; to exhibit; to accredit. **Acts 2:22** says, "...Jesus of Nazareth, a Man **approved by God** to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst..." As we see ourselves "in Christ Jesus" then we too can know that we are approved by Father –accepted and pleasing! Paul says, "But as **we have been approved by God** to be entrusted with the Gospel, even so we speak, **not as pleasing men, but God...**" (**1 Thess. 2:4** emphasis added)

How often do we find ourselves pleasing men out of fear or wanting their approval? We can get in fear of what other people may think or say about us and not follow God's ways. King Saul is an example of fearing what the people thought more than what God thought. (**1 Samuel 15:1-35**) Rather than following the Lord's directions, Saul feared displeasing the people which led to him losing his kingdom. It is important that we daily see how much Father's heart is approving us.

Jesus told us to "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. **For on Him God the Father has placed His seal of**



approval!" (John 6:27 NIV emphasis added) We all have a legitimate need for approval, but Father wants to be the One we look to, and let Him speak to our hearts what we need. The more we know how loved and special we are to our Father, the easier it is to receive His love and approval and let everything else go!

In New Zealand, a man shared his story about experiencing Father's approval of him, and then he ministered to us individually. He stood in front of me and spoke words of approval and acceptance, placing a red sash on me as a tangible way of

showing us Father's pleasure in me. As he did, I saw myself standing in the middle of a large field with a stadium full of people. I hadn't done anything to merit the attention but everyone's eyes were on me. Suddenly, I saw Father come from the side of the field and place a red sash on me. Next He raised my arm affirming my great value in His eyes. Then He picked me up and placed me on His shoulders. What a feeling as Father started running around the outside of the field and all the people in the stands started cheering. When I looked up into the stands, I saw my mom and dad and my grandparents all cheering for me too! This vision impacted my heart deeply to really know just how much my Heavenly Father sees me, knows me, and has placed a seal of approval on me saying I am His forever!!! He wants to do the same for you. He wants to replace all the negative images, negative words and negative experiences from your past with a fresh revelation of your total value and approval in His eyes and heart! Open your heart to receive that through this prayer now!

Dear Papa,

Pour out Your love into each one individually that they may know their value, worth, acceptance, and approval in Your eyes. May they each experience Love coming. Speak the words directly to their hearts that they each need to hear! Cleanse their hearts of any images that don't agree with how You see them. Remove the fear of what others may say or do. May their attention be totally focused on You! May each person experience You being their true Father, knowing you as the One who cares and is always there to love and protect them. May they rest in Your acceptance of them, Your being pleased with them, their being sealed with Your Spirit belonging to You forever, and knowing in their hearts Your full approval of them! Help them to walk in the place of security assured of their value and worth in simply "being" Your son/daughter! Amen!





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

Po Box 1396
State College, PA 16804-1396
abbasarms55@yahoo.com
www.abbasarmsintl.org

A Father's Blessing

I bless you to know that My door is always open for you to come home to Love! I bless you to simply “believe” and humbly “be” like a little child willing to be loved. I bless your eyes to see your True Father running to you now, ready to embrace you no matter what you have done or the mistakes you have made. I bless you to know My Love covers and removes all shame, guilt, and condemnation. I bless you to let Me be your glory and the Lifter of your head as you look directly into My eyes and see only Love flowing from Me to you! I bless you to let Me kiss you and shower you with the blessings of being My son/daughter! I now place a robe of righteousness on you, My child, purchased by Jesus so each of you can be right with Me too. I place the royal ring on your finger saying not only do you belong, but that you have My authority to stop the enemy any time he tries to steal your identity! I bless you to receive your full place of sonship and walk like Me more each day. See Me celebrating, rejoicing and singing over you for all eternity! I love you!

