



Rick & Sue McCoy

The Love Letter

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Hungry For More?

If your spirit is hungry and you want to read a couple of good books to stir your heart to experience more, we want to highlight a couple books that have impacted our lives in this issue of our Love Letter. Here is a brief overview of two books by **James Jordan** of Fatherheart Ministries based in New Zealand.

In **Sonship: A Journey into Father's Heart**



James shares part of his personal experiences of coming to know God as his personal Father. He helps the reader understand the importance of engaging your heart to experience the depths of our Father's love as well as how impactful it is to forgive from the heart. James shares what it means to live as a son of our true Father. He helps the reader recognize how we can live with an orphan spirit until we truly come home and become a son to our Father. What a glorious freedom He has planned for each of us as we live as sons experiencing heart-to-heart fellowship with Him!

In **The Ancient Road Rediscovered - What the**



Early Church Knew James shares some deep rich insights into topics that we have never heard many talk about. His revelation on the Two Trees, Opening the Eyes of our Heart and The Third Law will give you plenty to chew on and allow Father to reveal more to you. He also shares on Transitioning from Orphaned Christianity to Sonship Christianity, True Christian Character, Abiding in Love and more! This is a book that we have both read several times because there is so much in it!

If you live near us and don't have a copy, we have copies of both available for a bit less than Amazon. Give us a call or send us an email to arrange getting a copy of these books. But if you live some distance from us, they are available on Amazon both in paperback or in Kindle version. May your hearts and spirits continue to be stirred to walk with Him more closely as you read these books!

Humility, a Key to Sonship

Father has spoken much to my (Sue's) heart about what it looks like to walk as a son in humility like Jesus did. There is so much in my heart that there will be Part 2 in the next Love Letter! He took me to **Isa. 55:8-9** where He says His thoughts and ways are higher than ours. My thoughts and decisions have been influenced by the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil; I think that I know what is right, wrong, good or bad based on what I know and **my** senses. Jesus lived as a son looking to Father as His source for everything. He knew Father's thoughts and let Him direct His life as a son. Failing to be aware of Father's presence like Jesus experienced has caused us to make choices and decisions from **self, our souls, and flesh** rather than looking to our Father. Self is used to taking charge rather than yielding to Father. He has been working in my heart to get rid of my independence and thoughts that Sue can handle anything herself! He has shown me areas of pride where I exalted self and left Him out! Ouch! He is continuing to tenderize my heart and show me how to be like a humble child, teachable and ready for help. May you also allow Him to show you all the places where SELF is not letting Him be your Father so you can walk more as His son/daughter!

Problems with Pride

The world today is very "me" or "I" centered, thinking life revolves around us. This leads to doing whatever it takes to get what "I" need or want. Self-centered living is a place where we can get stuck living like orphans and failing to see Father as our source. Trying to get our identity, value and worth from outward things alone can lead us into pride. Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines **pride** as "**inordinate self-esteem; unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talents, wealth, beauty, position, etc.**" Pride in Hebrew means **arrogance, exaltation, lifting up**. Pride in Greek means **to appear above or to puff up like smoke**. Lucifer became the devil through his pride when he said, "I will be like the Most High," a position that he was never given but decided he would take! We too can turn from seeing our Father as all and in all, becoming deceived that we have life in ourselves and we can live independently pleasing self. Our gifts and talents become who we are and we use them for our glory, not His!

In *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis says, "**Pride is a major obstacle to knowing God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you... Pride is spiritual cancer: it eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense.**" Since Adam and Eve ate of Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, man has been prone to doing life without considering God's thoughts or ways. I can see where my being overly **self**-confident, thinking I know what to do, leaves no room for God to speak to me. I remember a time when I thought I knew how to get a spot out of a brand new sweater. What I did ruined my sweater! Ugh! I acted like an orphan trying to solve problems

myself and never asking for His help. I am learning to slow down, look to my big Papa and ask what needs to happen each time I am faced with a decision.

Proverbs reveals how strongly God feels about pride. **Proverbs 16:18** The Message says, “**First pride, then the crash – the bigger the ego, the harder the fall.**” One example is the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, who personally experienced the results of his big ego. He had people bow down to a golden image of himself and later boasted about all he had built by his mighty power. God tried to warn him in a dream, but he didn’t humble himself. He lost his mind, his kingdom and lived like an ox, eating grass for seven seasons until he understood the Most High rules. Nebuchadnezzar was restored when he came to understand that God is able to put down those who walk in pride! **Daniel 4:28-37** God can humble a person if they choose not to humble themselves!

He also showed me pride in Job’s life, who was an upright man fearing God and shunning evil. As I read the book of Job, I saw where Job stood on the **integrity of his ways** and also **defended his ways**. When times weren’t easy, Job focused on himself and his circumstances. By **Job 37:14** Elihu asks Job to “**stand still and consider the wondrous works of God**” rather than looking at himself. In **Job 38-39** God confronts Job asking him many questions about where Job was when He created everything. Job realized he had talked too much about things he didn’t understand, was ready to listen, and finally saw and experienced God in his heart. **Job 40-42** Self-righteousness leaves God out and connects us to Leviathan, who is king over all the children of pride. The human race has lived blinded to seeing our Father. Instead we get our identity from our talents and live with self being responsible to sustain life. Self is a place where we can get stuck looking within and failing to see our Father’s greatness and His heart to supply whatever we need! We each need Jesus to show us how to live as a son totally depending on Father to be everything!

Self & Independence

If I don’t think Father is there or that He cares, **SELF** will take charge and walk as an orphan. I can walk in self-sufficiency and self-reliance each time I still don’t trust Him. I can also attempt to control or manipulate, become people pleasing, justifying self, live feeling dissatisfied, unsettled and more! All those qualities describe orphans who don’t have a Father and have to look to self as their source to do life!

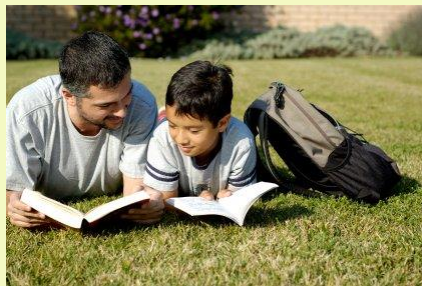
Independence causes us to separate from God and others usually out of mistrust or anger. This leads to following our own agenda without asking God or others for help. Then our identity comes from what we do - our progress with God, ministry, position, etc. If we face a situation by ourselves that is too big for us, worry, fear and striving all keep us from seeing that God is there and cares. We must choose to humble ourselves and ask for His help; He will never force us! He will

let us do life on our own even though He loves us and wants to help.

Jesus’ Example

Jesus came to reveal His Father and His Kingdom ways. Repeatedly we see Jesus’ humble attitude of total dependence on His Father. He didn’t live from His own thoughts or plans. Instead He totally focused on living from what Father showed Him to say or do. Do we live allowing Father to tell us what to do and say? I am learning the importance of being still and letting Him reveal who He is and His ways!

In **Matthew 11:25-26** Jesus talked about how His Father had hidden this great revelation from those who are proud and wise in their own eyes. Instead, Father shares it with those who humble themselves and become like trusting children. **Matthew 11:27** The Message says, “**Jesus resumed talking to the people, now tenderly, ‘The Father has given me all these things to do and say.’ This is a unique Father-Son operation, coming out of Father and Son intimacies and knowledge. No one knows the Son the way the Father does, nor the Father the way the Son does. But I’m not keeping it to myself; I’m ready to go over it line by line with anyone willing to listen.**” Are we willing to take time to ask Father to teach us His ways and not think we know what to do in the situations we’re facing?



The stories of Jesus’ life paint a clear image of how He totally trusted His Father and lived continually in a love relationship with Him. Their hearts were one, having one purpose to demonstrate to mankind their love and make the way for us to come home. Jesus knew why He came,

identified totally with us, and followed His Father’s will – emptying Himself of His deity and humbly living as a man. It was never about His will but His Father’s will!

In **Philippians 2:5-8** it states how He humbled Himself being willing to die on the cross, not for anything He had done, but for our sins! He denied His flesh and chose His Father’s plan, not man’s ways! When Jesus stood before Pilate, He said nothing in the face of His accusers. He wasn’t concerned about what men said. Can we choose to lose our reputation before others? Recently Father asked that question of me – can I feel secure in Him alone even when I feel misunderstood, fear losing something or am overly concerned about how others see me? It was a very stretching time, but I realized He is the One that will always be there for me! Our Father is waiting and hoping that we will stop trying to do life on our own with SELF in control. Will you join me in letting Father reveal and remove areas of self and pride in your life so that you can walk as His humble child needing His help and letting Him teach you His ways?

(To Be Continued!)

Father's Blessing

I bless you to see your Father as your true source and let Him be involved in every part of your life. I pray you will be quick to turn to Him and ask Him what needs to happen with the situations you face daily. May your heart also be open to let Him reveal any places where you are still acting more like an orphan living independently and relying on self rather than your Father. May you live in close intimate fellowship with Him, letting Him teach you His thoughts and the ways of His Kingdom! I bless you to look up, stand still and see the greatness of your God! May you walk like Jesus walked humbly saying and doing only what He heard and saw His Father doing!

