



Rick & Sue McCoy

## **WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE!!**

Abba's Arms International, Inc. opened a Facebook page (**Abba's Arms International, Inc.**) for the ministry last year. We have received many comments and compliments for what we have done with it. If you have a Facebook account and have never visited the page, we encourage you to take a look and "like" our page! If you have been there, look for some new things and posts that we will be putting up on a more regular basis. We will be highlighting many of the ways the ministry touches others, as well as sharing mailings that we send out on a regular basis like our Love Letter and Marriage Encouragements, quotes, scripture verses and other articles on the Father and His Love for us. We will also carry information on our itinerary for the ministry.

We would appreciate your feedback and any comments you could offer to make the page more effective and attractive to those who visit it.

<https://www.facebook.com/AbbasArmsIntl/>



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## **Having the Heart of a Son**

Recently I (Rick) came to realize that I have spent most of my time these past 15 years focusing on my identity and position as a son of God and not very much on what it means to "be" a son in my heart. A large part of this skewed focus on sonship came as a result of my struggles to walk away from an orphan heart and orphan thinking and begin living like a true son. I have had to rebuild an image in my heart of what a son looks like, how I now view my life and how I can relate to God as my Father. I believe that was all necessary to establish a base from which I can just "be" His son and go deeper into a more intimate relationship with my Heavenly Father.

Jesus tells us a poignant story about two sons who were asked by their father to go work in his vineyard. (**Matt. 21:28-31**) The first son said that he would not go, but regretted his words and went to work in the vineyard. The second son agreed to go, but then did not work at all. Both were natural sons of the same father, but only one of them demonstrated the heart of a son. We can also be part of the family, saved and filled with the Holy Spirit, operate in the gifts, operate in the anointing, cast out demons and yet not experience the close relationship of love and intimacy with our Heavenly Father. ***We can be sons and still not have the heart of a son.***

### **So What Makes the Difference?**

The difference comes from what is or is not going on in our heart. I remember many years ago when Father showed Sue and I ***that everything in life revolves around or is connected to the attitude of our heart.*** Because God knew us before we were born (**Jer. 1:5**) and formed us in our mother's womb (**Ps. 139:13-16**), in Father's eyes, we have always been His sons and daughters even more than we are to our natural fathers. The sin issue was dealt with at the cross. However, our heart still has to be open to change. The "***revealing of the sons of God***" (**Rom. 8:19**) refers to making known what has been concealed or held in secret about sonship, both regarding our own true identity and the identity of all those who are in the world! This revelation has to take place in each of our own hearts because our TRUE SONSHIP has been covered up and concealed by all the negative things that have happened to every one of us since coming into this world. We are held captive in our own self-made prison by our responses to all the pain, trauma and negative events in our lives. My prison was isolation, fear, rejection, addictions and wearing a mask or false self. When we don't know His love in our heart, we will try to present our self to others as someone who we hope they will love.

Paul points out in **Gal. 4:1-5** that even though we are “heirs” (sons), we are held in bondage by the world until we accept the finished work of the cross, are redeemed from the law, and receive the “adoption” as sons. (Adoption here literally means “given full rights as sons.”) The prison door is swung open and we receive the “Spirit of His Son” into our heart crying out “Abba Father.” **v. 6-7** When Jesus becomes real in our heart, Father sends forth the Spirit of Sonship into our heart. We can now shout, “I am your son!” “You are my Father!” “I am your child!” It’s when ***we really know it in our heart*** that we can walk out of the prison and begin to have a face-to-face relationship with our Heavenly Father.

### The Heart of a Son

It’s one thing to believe that all of this is true, but what we really need is to have our heart come into alignment with the TRUTH. If our heart is not in harmony with a Spirit of Sonship, it will not cause any lasting change in our life. If our heart is still consistently aligned with an orphan heart, we still won’t be able to walk as a son. I was saved when I was 21 years old, but I walked in darkness for the next 30 years because I had no concept or understanding of sonship. I tried to control everything in my life and used my will to control myself, which never worked very well!

We all start life with the heart of a son, but as we grow up all the negative experiences of life damage and close our heart. Often the first person we close our heart to is our natural father. We get back the heart of sonship when we go back to where we lost it, typically in our relationship with our natural father. I pulled away from my father when I was eleven years old and became an orphan in my own home. Not until 2002 through forgiveness and receiving enough of Father’s Love, was I able to restore a right relationship with my dad, even though by that time he had been dead for 15 years. You may not be able to restore the relationship with your father the way you want, but the important thing ***is it allows the restoration of the relationship with your Heavenly Father.*** When we open our heart to our natural father again, God brings back the heart of sonship to us. Through much love and healing of my heart, I now have a Father-son relationship with God!

When we know the Love of the Father in our heart, we will be able to be our “real” or “original” self and discover who we really are in Father’s sight. ***Love sets me free to be me!*** I now live in a state of contentment,

peace, rest, and joy. “I’m loved as I am!” I don’t have to try and be somebody everyone will love because I’m already loved by my Heavenly Father! It doesn’t matter what others say or think about me because Father loves me just as I am. I’m at peace with myself and less vulnerable to self-hatred, shame, embarrassment, guilt and beating up on myself, even though I can sometimes go there from the unhealed orphan parts of my heart!

Sue and I are now more sensitive to words like “obedience, discipline, perfection, and the “shoulds.” Our spiritual antennas go up when we hear people talk about the “things we should or have to do,” lists of “do’s” and “don’ts,” or this is “right” and that is “wrong.” These are all coming from the Tree of the

Knowledge of Good and Evil or trying to live by the letter of the Law rather than living by the Tree of Life and the Law of Love.

As Paul says in **Rom. 8:2** and **2 Cor. 3:7**, that the Law can only produce death. Sonship is not about obedience or living under the law of sin and death. Obedience is only necessary when we do what we don’t want to do.

When our heart matches and comes in alignment with His heart, obedience (keeping the Law) is no longer an issue. ***With a heart of sonship, we will only do what Father wants us to do.*** Our thoughts and actions come from the heart of the Father and we will do His will. Just like the perfect son, Jesus, we will only do what we see or hear the Father doing. **John 5:19, 8:26, 12:49** This goes even beyond just wanting to please the Father; instead we only do what love naturally does. We don’t ask, “What Would Jesus Do?,” what we need to ask is, “What Would Love Do?” ***We can start living a love-driven life!***

I don’t want to imply by all of this that I’ve arrived and always walk in the heart of a son. We can all have things happen to us that can shake our foundation of His Love towards us and begin questioning, “Why did this happen if He really loves me?” There is a continuous downward flow of His Love to us, but we can distance our self or lose contact with His Love in our heart. Jesus pointed out to the church in Ephesus that they had lost their “first love.” (**Rev. 2:4**) John points out in **1 John 3:19** that “*we love Him because He first loved us.*” We can only love Father, our self, and others when we receive His love first! The “why questions,” and fears, doubts, or hopeless despair can block our receiving the love that He is continuously pouring out on us.



Just open your heart again and come into the party where Father is always celebrating over you. Father's joy over you isn't based upon your response to Him. He is always rejoicing over you with gladness and singing, and quieting you with His love. **(Zep. 3:17)** That's why we can "*rejoice always*" and come to Him as we are. Whatever we bring to His continuous celebration of us, He will exchange it for something new or better and give that back to us!

### How Do We Get There?

After salvation and receiving the Spirit of Sonship, we can begin the process of transformation in our heart. Sons live in total submission and dependency on Father for everything. ***We are not achieving, but receiving from Him.*** We come in our weakness and imperfections no longer trying to do it our self.

We are at peace with our self and no longer feel vulnerable or insecure because of His comforting always-good love continuously pouring into our heart. Even if it is not safe or possible right now to be close or submitted to you natural mother and father, you can still be a son to them in your heart. "*Honor your mother and father*" means to be a son to them in your heart. We also need to submit to those in authority over us and allow them to father us. However, someone can only father you in the areas where your heart is open and submitted to them! Having the heart of a son is where I plan to focus in 2017 and I pray that you will too!

## HEART OF A SON BLESSING

I bless you to have the heart of a son and walk in an intimate fellowship with your Heavenly Father. I bless you to experience a new freedom from every negative thought and emotion as you receive more of His love for you. I bless you to have a new confidence and boldness to step out and flow in His love and allow Father to love others through you. I bless you to walk free from old patterns of fear, worry, anxiety, doubt or addictions as your heart becomes aligned and in harmony with His. As you yield to His love and submit to Father's will, you will begin to walk in a new place and live a love-driven life. I bless you with a new relationship with your parents and family members as you carry His presence everywhere you go. People will see the difference in you from the Father's Love and be drawn to the Father themselves. You will begin to experience and see more of His favor and blessing in your businesses, where you work, and in your relationships at home and in the work place.

