



THE LOVE LETTER

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

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Upcoming News:



We would like to invite each of you to join us **Tuesday, December 13th at 7 pm** for a special evening at our home. Trevor and Linda Galpin of Fatherheart Ministries will be with us sharing on Father's love for all. Some of you may remember them from this past February when they were at our house. If Tuesday evening does not work for you, Trevor will also be speaking at **Unity Church of Jesus Christ on Wednesday, December 14th at 7 pm**. Pastor McKenzie welcomes everyone to join them that evening too.

Pastor McKenzie's church will also be sponsoring a **Fatherheart A School March 11-17, 2012**, conducted by Fatherheart Ministries of New Zealand with James & Denise Jordan, Trevor & Linda Galpin, and other speakers. The school will be conducted at the State College Assembly of God Church. Rick and Sue are presently helping to put together all the details for this week-long A School. The aim of the school is to have each person have a greater revelation of the Father's Love and experience His love for themselves. Please begin to pray now about your participation in the school and make an investment that we believe will impact your life deeply! For questions about either December or the March school, please call us at 234-1774.

We are excited about what Father is doing in these days! We are hearing more people speaking on the Father's heart of love as being the foundation for our lives. We want to encourage each of you to keep pressing in to a greater revelation of His love for you! As we continue to hold our monthly "soaking nights," people have been touched and blessed. Our time of fellowship afterwards has become a special part of those evenings.

In His Presence

The Father is really trying to stretch me (Rick) with writing these articles for the Love Letter! First, He answered my question about what to write on with the topic Intimacy, and now He said write about dwelling in His presence. Well, I don't consider myself to have traveled down either one of these paths very far, but my heart's desire is to go deeper into both of them. The two topics do go together and are already impacting me in a lot of good ways. I'm sure Sue will agree with me!

Probably for a lot of us, the first scripture that comes to mind when we hear "in His presence" is Psalms 16:11 "*You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*" Staying in His presence is the path to real life and brings us the fullness of joy and pleasures that He desires for us to enjoy. There is no need to dread or fear drawing near to our heavenly Father or living in His presence all the time. Our sins were taken care of through the finished work of the cross, and as we repent and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, they are blotted out forever in our life. (**Acts 3:19**) Guilt, shame, and condemnation from our past, and even our present, go out the window. Father always sees us through Jesus Christ and

the cross, having nothing but His love and good things for us. He accepts us "as is!" When we buy something used, we usually buy it "as is" and at a lower price than new. However, Father bought us "as is," but He paid full price for us! So we should not allow shame, fear, guilt, or the memory of things from our past hinder us from coming into His presence and staying there because Father only sees us as part of the family.

Living in His Love

In preparing to write this article, I read a book entitled, *The Practice of the Presence of God*, about the life of Brother Lawrence who lived in the 1600's. After receiving a deeper revelation of the finished work of the cross, Brother Lawrence set his heart to experience the Father's presence all the time. He began talking with the Father throughout the day sharing his every thought, concern, problem, feeling, situation, joy, and struggle. Brother Lawrence asked the Father for grace to help with everything he did and every job he was assigned to accomplish. Every task he did, no matter how small, how difficult, how boring, or how menial, he did it with joy and a desire to please the Father. He instructed others to "lose yourself in His

love no matter what happens." Brother Lawrence said that faith in Father God's love was the open door for God to answer his prayers and shower him with His blessings. He found constant pleasure in Father's divine company. This continual awareness of the Father's presence and love allowed Brother Lawrence to live the last 40 years of his life in perfect peace and joy.

In order to love someone, we must first get to know them and their character. A lot of young people get married thinking that they really know each other only to find out that they knew very little about their spouse. It's only after spending a lot of time together and experiencing a variety of situations, trials, and tests that we begin to see that real person behind the false self that they may have been portraying during courtship. To really get to know someone, you have to spend large amounts of time with them in conversation and experiencing life's challenges and adventures together. The same is true with our heavenly Father. Brother Lawrence got to know the Father by spending lots of time alone observing His creation. In it he saw the creativity, love, wisdom, goodness, and power of God. Whether it is through prayer, reading your Bible, conversation, or spending time in His crea-

tion, we all need to take enough time in His presence to get to know the Father on an intimate level.

A Consuming Fire!

You may have read in **Ezekiel 8:2** that the Lord is a fire from His waist up and a fire from His waist down. In His presence the hills melt like wax (**Ps. 97:5**), the earth trembles (**Ps. 114:7**), and the nations shake (**Is. 64:2**). No flesh can exalt itself in His presence (**1 Cor. 1:29**). All the works of the flesh shall be burnt up in the Day of Judgment and only the works of Father shall be rewarded (**1 Cr. 3:12-15**). Moses had to hide in the cleft of the rock while God's goodness passed before him (**Ex. 33:17-23**). So how can we safely dwell in His presence and experience His love? It is only through His grace, mercy, and the finished work of the cross that we can come boldly to the throne of grace and have fellowship with Him. Out of our desire to please the Father and always express our love for Him, we should want to remove anything from our life that would hinder our fellowship. But even if we don't, He will remain faithful to us and continue to love us with all His heart.

There is nothing we can do that will ever make Father love us any less, and there is nothing we can do that will make Him love us any more. He loves us because that's the way He is! God is Love (**1 John 4:16**). Yes, Father is Almighty God, strong and powerful, but He is also a tender, loving, nurturing Father that only has love for us. By consciously keeping aware of His presence in our life and His unconditional love all the time, we can experience His love regardless of what is happening around us or what test or trial we might be walking through. His consuming fire just burns up everything that is not of God around us, and we can walk on in victory as His presence goes with us!

There is Healing!

Often when we are ministering to someone in our home, we ask Holy Spirit to come and take the person back to the

time when some hurtful thing happened in their life. As the person opens their spirit to Holy Spirit and the event from the past unfolds before them, they will often see Jesus or the Father there watching, being directly involved, or comforting them in some way. The comforting love of the Father brings a deep healing to the hurts and wounds from that incident and the pain and bitterness of the experience is removed. It is then easy for them to forgive the offending person and give that person to Jesus at the cross. There is always healing as we stay in His presence.

Numerous times throughout the Old Testament and in the life of Jesus and his disciples in the New Testament, the Father is revealed as the one who heals us. In **Ex. 15:26** he actually says, "... *I am the Lord who heals you.*" Furthermore, because of the finished work of the cross, Jesus said that, if we love Him, He and the Father would come and dwell in us (**John 14:23**). As born again believers, the Father of all health and wellness now lives in us! Besides being in us, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah and actually took all of our infirmities and diseases on His own body on the cross so that we might receive healing for whatever is trying to attack our bodies (**Matt. 8:16-17**). Begin to imagine the Father living in you and restoring health and wellness to your whole body. See His love like a shield around you preventing any sickness or diseases from coming into your body. As we become more aware of His indwelling presence, it will become natural to walk in wellness in our spirit, soul, and body all of the time!

Peace and Rest

In **Ex. 33:14** Father reassured Moses that His presence would go with him and it would bring him rest. If Father's presence is with us all the time, we need not worry about where we are going, how we are going to get there, what will happen next, or how He will take care of us. All we need to know is, that with our next step, He will still be there with us. Since Father can see the beginning and ending of everything, He already knows what we will have need of before we get there.

Father knew Abraham needed a ram as a substitute for Isaac's sacrifice; He knew Zacchaeus would need a tree to climb up into in order to see Jesus; and He knew how He was going to take His chosen people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. He knows everything! All we need to do is submit our will to His will and be quick to obey when He reveals to us the next step in His plan for our lives. We can count on Father to come through every



time and in every way we need Him to. Brother Lawrence said, "If we knew how much He loves us, we would always be ready to face life – both its pleasures and its troubles."

Not only can we stop worrying and being anxious about everything, we also can walk free from fear and torment from the devil. Father's perfect love casts out all fear from us (**1 John 4:18**). As we focus our attention on His presence being with us all the time, we can walk free from fear in our lives. As we gain more confidence in His unconditional love for us and grow in our revelation of how much Father loves us, we will no longer allow fear to torment us. Say, "Daddy loves me. Fear be gone in the Name of Jesus!" "I refuse to fear any more!" "Fear has no place in my thoughts and body." In Father's presence His perfect love casts out all fear from us and we are free from its torments! The result will be a life of peace and rest in Him.

The Power of Relationships

Sue had Father speak to her several years ago that what we lost in the Garden of Eden was "the power of relationships." In order to get to know someone and have a relationship with them, we have to spend time with them. Being in the presence of our Father is building that relationship with Him. This is what has been on the Father's heart ever since He cre-



ated Adam and Eve in His own image. Yours and my relationship with the Father began in His heart before we were even conceived in our mother's womb (**Jer. 1:5**). Then Father was there at our conception and later he welcomed us into this world at our birth (**Ps. 22:9, Ps. 139:13**). This Father-son, Father-daughter relationship is built upon His Love for us. This relationship continues throughout our life whether we acknowledge and walk in it or not. The relationship is still there and always will be.

It is this loving relationship that forms the hub from which everything else flows – our faith, healing, wellness, other relationships, prosperity, blessings, protection, etc. Our faith is rooted in this relationship and it is the foundation upon which we build our life. This Father-son/daughter relationship produces in us rest, peace, love, joy, goodness, faithfulness, kindness, gentleness, patience, self-control, confidence, hope, feeling good about our self, etc. By staying in His presence all the time, we are cultivating that relationship and it will grow. As this Father-son/daughter relationship grows, we will begin to experience the fruits of it in our life. It will allow us to walk through all of life's circumstances in victory! All the negative thoughts and feelings about ourselves will flee as we stay in the presence of the Father. Guilt, shame, fear, self-hatred, self-condemnation, depression, heaviness, despair, discouragement, disappointment, rejection, etc. all have to **GO** in Jesus Name!

I have been challenged by Brother Lawrence's book and I want to challenge you to begin to practice His presence continually all day long. It has not been difficult for me in the mornings when I have my devotional time and pray with Sue or in the evening before bed when we again join in prayer before we fall asleep. Where I am still struggling is during the day with all the demands and busyness of the world that take my attention away from Him. I have to allow Holy Spirit permission to gently remind me and pull me back into His awareness and presence. I also have a ways to go

in asking Him for help in everything I do and keeping the conversation going all day long. I, like all of us, has to work on our relationship with Father every day. But every journey starts with a single step, and I am on my way toward a better, stronger, and deeper relationship with Him!

Cultivating His Presence

Brother Lawrence gives some practical steps that can help us stay in the Father's presence all of the time. **First**, it takes faith to believe that Father loves us just the way we are, that the finished work of the cross covers everything (our sins, infirmities, diseases, redemption, and deliverance from evil), that salvation comes through Jesus Christ alone, and that He will never leave us or forsake us. Even when we do not sense anything is happening, we don't feel anything, and even when things may not be going the way we think they should, we still have to believe in His intimate presence and love for us.

Second, we must always be aware of His presence by talking with Him throughout the day. We cannot stop just because we have to deal with something in this world. We should tell Father everything that is happening and ask for His grace with everything we do. At any moment we can ask Father for help, guidance, or what He wants us to do in this situation. We have to set our heart to think of nothing but the Father and His infinite love for us. Our only goal in everything is to please Him. All we do should be a sacrifice of love to Father. With the assurance of His love and presence, we can never be afraid of anything. Complete surrender to the Father is the only safe place to be.

Third, we should continually remember Father, praise Him, ask for His grace, offer Him our troubles, and thank Him for what He has done in everything we do and everywhere we go. We need to rest in His grace and love for us. In the midst of troubles or trials, we need to encourage our self with His love and know that He will come through and

deliver us. Humbly and lovingly go to Father as a child goes to a loving father and asks for help. Live as if there is no one but Father and you in this world. Hold your spirit in His presence until it becomes a natural way of living.

Fourth, practice is necessary to acquire this higher spiritual life in the presence of the Father. We must find constant pleasure in His divine company. It becomes a "delightful discipline" of our body and soul that develops into a habit pattern for the rest of our lives. In our times of weakness, temptation and struggles, we must run to His arms and receive Father's comforting love. Embrace Him with tenderness and joy. The more we practice His presence, the more it will become a sweet communion with the Father that is effortless, restful, and peaceful. Practicing His presence becomes a continuous, quiet, familiar conversation with our Father. As the soul familiarizes itself with Him, it will cause continual acts of love, praises, confidence, thanksgiving, offerings, and petitions.

Time to Rejoice!

With the knowledge of who the Father is and what He has already done for us, it's no wonder that we should come into His presence with singing (**Ps. 100:2**) and with thankful hearts making a joyful noise unto the Lord (**Ps. 95:2**)!!! You may not see all of your problems and difficulties go away, but you can have a calm assurance that Father is here with you and able to take care of your every need. We can remain at peace and rest knowing that He is right there with us all the time as we practice His presence. The only way we can become separated from Him is if we leave first, and even then He is right there whenever we choose to turn back to Him. As we stay in His presence, we won't be deceived by the lies of the enemy, and our hearts will not be discouraged or pulled down by the problems of this world. We can be alive with hope, love, peace, and joy in His presence all the time!

 **Rejoice!** 

Father's Blessing:

I bless you with a greater understanding and awareness of the Father's presence in your life. As you meditate and focus your attention on His love for you, your heart will be filled with His comforting love and overwhelmed by peace and joy. In His presence all your needs are met, your infirmities are removed, sickness and diseases are healed; you are under the wing of His protection, and no weapon formed against you shall prosper. Father will provide a way where there seems to be no way, and the impossible will become possible in your life. I bless you with the overwhelming love of the Father that passes all your understanding. His love will fill you with joy and cause your storehouses to overflow with His abundance and provision. His love will lift you up in times of oppression or heaviness, comfort you in times of grief or loss, and give you the courage and confidence to press on in times of difficulty and trials. Your job, the task set before you, the mission He has sent you on, the work He has given you to do, will become opportunities to express your love to the Father. Everything you set your hand to will prosper and you will have good success in all that you do. In His presence you will have fullness of joy and pleasures for evermore!!



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