

# Children Beloved of the Father!

It was a Sunday afternoon. I had just finished visiting with some friends. They dropped by over at my house briefly to take care of some business. We visited a short time standing outside. They took a moment to share a few things with me. Once our business matters were taken care of, they abruptly left. I felt disappointed, standing there alone.

At the time, I was single, lived alone in an apartment by myself, had no roommate. Somehow I really needed a true friend that day. But it didn't happen. The visit with friends cut painfully short.

Even before the visitors arrived, I had already been feeling empty. The abrupt departure left me feeling emotionally wounded inside. It wasn't like my friends had done or said anything to hurt me. It was simply because such a short visit (like other situations lately) seemed too surfacy, like just one more disappointing encounter with others. Sometimes we can be around people but the interaction does not address our emotional needs.

Today the conversation felt a bit empty and didn't really connect. Too hurried and not really bringing companionship. It's common when people don't know how to express warmth or love. Or can't be there when you need them. Maybe there had been too much of this lately.

That day, I concluded I was simply needing a few kind words or somebody to act in some small, simple way like I meant something to somebody. I want to know people like spending time with me. Or want to be my friend. Or are happy to make time to be with me. It's encouraging if someone is genuinely glad to see me or conveys warmly that I have some value or worth. I want to experience real friendship.

Part of the problem is on my end. I feebly try to show love or kind words and gestures (to express friendly acceptance to others), but sometimes it falls flat. Or I myself am running on empty so I really don't have much to give. Attempts may come across as hollow.

Without abiding in Jesus (John 15), our best intentions may fall flat.

My friends today, like me, also didn't seem filled, or having God's love or Presence freshly overflowing in their hearts. Romans 5:5, Ephesians 5:18 People may be empty or busy, preoccupied with things, or in a hurry to go.

After the time together was over. I was left alone, hurting. Some real emotional pain surfaced inside. My loneliness was looking for comfort, companionship – instead - once again – I was left sitting there alone, wondering if people were really my friends? Or if anyone really loved me? I didn't know if I could handle another shallow, disappointing relationship.

Despite the pain I felt that day, I have had friendships over the years which have been truly & blessedly a part of my life. I have actually experienced a lot of good relationships in my lifetime, especially during my Christian years. There have been many signs that God's people care. Disappointments & hurts, yes. But some really good times.

Over the years, since I became a Christian, there have been many times God unquestionably blesses my life with friends, fellowship and connections of grace, especially within the family of God. These are all lifelines of encouragement & strength. And provide brotherhood, encouragement & love. We all need those. When we truly become part of the body of Christ, we can begin to know there are people who love us. I have had friends God has given me over the years with whom I have enjoyed sweet fellowship & experienced the grace of Psalm 133 & John 13:34-35.

Today, most of those seemed really far away.

Today's visit, instead, was one more incident that didn't "hit the spot." In fact, a couple of small things were done that actually hurt me. Mostly a lack of *expressed* love or *demonstrated* friendship from my friends when I needed it most. My heart needed a real cure.

In times like this, I have to admit a difficult reality. There has been an undeniable lack of companionship lately. I long for deeper friendships which really connect with the Spirit of God's Presence and genuine sharing of His love (with interactions which comfort, taste of the Lord's goodness and bask in prayer & worship that experiences the warmth of His presence). Encounters where family or Christian friends go "swimming" together in rivers of living water. John 7:37-39

Today, good things like those were missed. Instead, I walked back into the house with, my head hanging rather low, and an all too familiar disappointment. I felt a hollow, painful emptiness, deep down on the inside, a lonely heart, very aware I was needing to be loved. Somehow, the love my heart needed ached inside, nowhere to be found.

After my friends left, I went back to my room and lay down to rest.

**In very real pain, I began crying out to the Lord.** Inside I felt very insecure, hurting, anxious. Deep pain began to well up on the inside....

From earlier experience and the instructions of scripture, I had learned the only answer for pain is to *cry out to the Lord*. Jesus is the loving Healer of the brokenhearted. A father to the fatherless. And defender of widows. A Friend that sticks closer than a brother. Luke 4:18, Isaiah 61

I resolved to pray (as Psalm 61 & 62 describe):

**"When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the Rock that is higher than I."**

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**In pain, I talked to God, alone & hurting. I began to encounter a startling experience. Revealing the love of the Father (1 John 3:1) vividly & clearly. God's Presence touched me in a very deep and *personal way*. I won't ever forget it.**

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As I lay there, I began to cry and call out the Lord's Name: "Jesus. Father. Help me. Lord, please comfort me. Show me your love. Reveal your Presence to me. Heal my heart. Give me grace. Help me."

I knew that God could do all these things I was asking & needing (having experienced His faithfulness many times before). But today, though I prayed earnestly, *I didn't feel a thing*. No relief came in response.

[I need to explain something, for those who think that "men don't cry," or even worse, that "strong Christians" don't have problems or admit negative feelings. I gave up a long time ago on these *lies* of being strong or tough (male or Christian "macho"). It's all a pretense, pregnant with the *lie*: "I don't need God. I am sufficient to handle things myself." Really that's what our "Christian" pseudo-strong poses say. See: Rev. 3:17, 2 Cor. 12:9-10

The truth is: we all *need God!* And we're like children inside. 1 Jn. 3:1, Matt. 18:3-4 And God gives grace to *the humble*. And strength to the weak. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Just read the book of Psalms. You'll get a clearer and undistorted picture of how an emotional healthy and realistic person relates to God and finds wholeness amidst life's pains and troubles.]

As I lay there praying, tears in my eyes, the pain inside my heart came rushing to the surface. Earlier I had felt very empty inside. Now I was deeply hurting. I continued to pray. Yet for some time, no relief came. Then, as I kept sinking in some *very real* despair, it happened...

**In the Spirit, I was there.**

**It was like a vision, but *with feelings*.**

**I felt I was nestled and secure, a preborn baby being fashioned in that holy place.**

## ***The Father's love***

Then all of a sudden, I began to sense the Lord's presence come over me. There as I prayed, Jesus began to touch and comfort my heart.

Then **I heard a voice say:**

**"I created you in your mother's womb because I wanted you to be my son."**

As soon as I realized this, I burst into tears.

And amazingly, all that the Spirit revealed, I was *suddenly feeling!* Just as the Lord began speaking to my heart, **I suddenly began to feel (*literally*) like I was in my mother's womb!** It was like time (over 30 years) had suddenly rolled back. I felt exactly as a baby would feel inside his mother's womb! In a vision, I was there! I felt the very moment. In the Spirit, each nuance touched my heart as I somehow, by revelation, reentered my earliest days. It was like a vision, but with feelings too. I felt I was nestled and secure, a baby being fashioned in that holy place.

All the while I was re-experiencing the sensations of that blessed time before my own birth, I could still hear and understand, think and pray as an adult (like eavesdropping on the moment years later and being able to think objectively about it while still feeling and experiencing it).

It was all so incredibly real. Like it was happening all over again.

Somehow I could feel and sense *deeply* in my heart the identical feelings and sensations which transpired so many years before, as I was on the receiving end of the intimate creative work of God, set apart in the womb so many years ago, in communion with the Creator. The Lord brought me to this place to reveal His loving heart. 1 Jn. 3:1

I knew (by revelation) those early moments of my life and was suddenly aware of the Lord and *surrounded* by the acceptance and love of God. I felt His heart toward me as it actually, literally was in the months before I was born! Full of love toward me. And I was there, being tenderly fashioned, lovingly formed by the hand of the Lord, there in my mother's womb. Beloved to His heart.

And the Lord revealed *His heart* to me. He said He *wanted* me. That I was the object of His desire. That He longed to hold me close and be my Father. The love was incredible!

*And then the voice came again (echoing through my mind) saying ...*

**"I created you in your mother's womb because I wanted you to be My son."**

I wept and wept, pouring out the pain and hurt of the day to the Lord, receiving His comfort, believing His word. Rom. 5:5

It took quite a few minutes to finish pouring out my hurt to the Lord. All the while, drinking in the blessing of the Lord's comfort and peace. Deep rivers of peace, acceptance and love. I was like a thirsty man gulping down a glass of water after coming in from hours in the heat.

Within a short time, my heart began to feel secure. Comforted. Loved.

**A time when I'm made freshly aware of my need for the Father's love.**

I kept basking in the Lord's presence there, fully aware of how *much* I needed Him. And in a moment I knew that all I was experiencing was true. A revelation of love from the Lord. It was all so incredibly vivid. Very real. His heart made manifest.

In a moment. In a vision. By the Spirit. I was there. The days of my creation. A baby in the

mother's womb. I felt exactly as I actually did during the warm security of those blessed months when I was first being formed in the secret place. Revealed by the Holy Spirit.

Then I began to recall the words of Psalm 139. Now somehow those verses seemed so incredibly real. Meant so much more.

Jesus' love. The Father's love. His heart toward me. "I created you in your mother's womb because I *wanted* you to be My son." I was not forsaken, unwanted. Hurt, yes. Broken today. Yes. But unbefriended, *no*. **Deep down within, I knew I was loved.** Known. Created of God. Wanted. Beloved of the Father. What a difference from the forsaken way I had been feeling!

## I was like a thirsty man gulping down a glass of water after coming in from hours in the heat.

Subsequent to that experience, I did a Bible study (and refresher course) in the scriptures on related verses and passages. I felt a need to confirm my own heart in the *scriptural revelation* of the truth which the Spirit had begun to open up to my experience. (The Spirit seeks to confirm, enliven and *personalize* the truth of God's Word to us, to reveal it in living experience to our hearts, unveiling the Father, always pointing to Jesus. Who is Love.) Some of the verses I discovered include: Rom. 8:15-19, 23; 1 Jn. 3:1, Ps. 139, Ps. 16:3, Zeph. 3:17, Ps. 17:8, Gal. 4:4-7. The Bible is brim full of such blessed good news. It's my favorite reading!

So today, I take heart to remember that I am the apple of His eye. That the Lord *delights* in me. I am His child! And He's a loving Father. And good news! He feels the same way toward you. He loves us. Be encouraged. His love will carry you. He'll never let you go.

In Jesus,  
brother Jeff

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**"The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. ' "**  
*Jeremiah 31:3*

**"How great is the love the Father has lavished upon us that we be called children of God! And that is what we are!"**  
*1 John 3:1*

**" When you're a child of the Father, Jesus Christ becomes your life."**  
*- a contemporary Christian song*

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