

Drawing from the Well

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Did You Know You're Someone Special?

By Elfrieda Nikkel

Inside this issue:

Look Inward 2

*Author's Corner-Spotlight
Book Review* 3

Community Corner 4



Marjorie grew up with a sense of worthlessness. Again and again her father said she would never accomplish anything in life. He told her she was a loser and that anything she did try was sure to end in failure. With these words ringing in her ears she grew up looking for someone who would love her and see her as a person of worth. This led her into relationships that were disappointing to her, ending in pain and devasta-

tion with yet another proof that she was worthless and unlovable. Maybe you can identify with Marjorie and your story is much like hers. Where does our sense of self worth come from?

It is true that the foundation for a person's self-worth is laid in the home. Words that we hear in our home can build or tear down our worth as a person. The Bible speaks of words of life and death in Prov.18:21 where it says, "Death and life are in the power of the

tongue,..." As we hear words of affirmation and encouragement they are words of life to us while words of criticism and belittling are words of death. Other people like teachers, friends, employers and spouses add to the collection of life-giving or death words in a person's heart. Over time a person begins to see themselves in the light of these words. Is this the final word or is there hope that one can develop a sense of worth as a person?

Continued on page 2

I Know He Cares

In sibling ranking, I'm the fourth of five children (the knee-baby).

I suppose one could speculate that it was in my genetic make-up to have compassion and love for mankind regardless of their station in life. It's a strong character trait that I inherited from my parents, especially my father; to love unconditionally and to help where needed. I readily embraced this mantra and became a "soldier on the battlefield" to assist God's plan for helping others.

A few years ago, I noticed mom's health begin to decline. It was on April 15, 1999 when her beloved husband transitioned from earth to glory. It is common knowledge that most couples who lose their spouses, having shared love, families, ups and downs, tend to become despondent, lose interests in everyday activities and give up; thereby, allowing death to rid them of any longevity that God has promised. According to 1 Corinthians 12: 12-25, all members of the body must work together for the common good; to care one member for the other, thereby creating an entire being to serve God's people. God has no

Continued on page 3

If we look in the Scriptures we see that God never meant it to be this way. He speaks words of life into the heart of every person. We read in Genesis that when God completed the creation of the world he made man in his likeness or image. This likeness gave man and later also the woman he made the capacity to think, to make decisions, to know right from wrong, to be creative and to have the ability to communicate and have a personal relationship. Not only did God put this potential in the heart of man and woman he also gave them an assignment to use these abilities. They were told to rule over the things he had created and give to each a name. Herein lies the potential to organize, care, and to be in charge.

Although the assignment to be fruitful is linked to increasing in number it could also indicate creativity in other areas. Fruitfulness can also speak of the outcome of our labour, of putting our God given creativity to work in a job, a home based business, our homes or in areas where God has given us a creative interest which every person possesses who is created in the image of God. Fruit speaks of a beautiful outcome of our labors.

One of the most beautiful

Continued from page 1-*"Did you Know that you are Someone Special?"*

aspects of the creation of man is God seeing the need for man to be in a relationship, to have a companion. God places this need and capacity into the heart of each person. Each has the potential to be a friend, a companion, a helper or a person of influence.

This is what God had in mind when he created you. He created you in his image so that you could think, make choices, use your creativity, build relationships, faithfully work at the tasks in your hand and be a person of influence in the lives of others.

But that's not all. This was only the beginning. In Psalms 139 he says we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" and describes the creation of each person with words like "knit together" and "woven together" and "ordaining our days" all of which require a plan by a great creator. God had a plan for each of our lives and put together each person with abilities, personality and potential.

But the greatest evidence of our worth is that he loved us so much that he sent his son to die for us when we were sinners and totally unlovable. We were worth it to him. But there's more to that as

well. When we believe that Jesus died for us and we accept his forgiveness we become his child. A son and daughter of the King of Kings. As we live in that relationship with him we begin to reflect his godly character and we produce the fruit of the Spirit named in Galatians 5:22-23 as: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The beauty of this fruit in our lives makes each of us a person of impact and influence.

No matter what "words of death" others have spoken about you God's view of you rises above those words and he speaks "words of life" into your heart today. He says, "I created you in my image, I gave you abilities to rule, organize, manage your area of life, I gave you a creativity that if followed will bring you joy, I made you to be a companion or friend to someone, to be a person of influence, you are precious to me, I loved you so much that I gave my son to die for you and now I want you to be my representative to share this love with others on earth. "

God made you a person of worth. He decided when he planned your life what abilities he would give to you.

We all have varying amounts of ability to organize, lead, create or influence but we have the choice as to what we want to do with that which God has entrusted to us. God also gives us opportunities where we can use these abilities. The fruitfulness depends on how we care for, cultivate and use each of these abilities which in turn results in the fruitfulness of influencing the lives of the people God has placed in our world whether they be children, spouses, employees, friends or neighbors. You are special to God and he wants to use you to speak "words of life" into the lives of those around you.

Look Inward

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast upon her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Mom, why are some of your hairs white?" "Well", her mother replied, "every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."

Author's Corner-Spotlight Book Review

***Ask Me Anything Lord:
Opening our lives to
God's Questions***

By Heather C King

In this book Mrs. King relates questions God asked biblical characters to her life. And hence it had me to respond to the questions in my life. She begins with a question God asked of Adam and Eve. From there she writes about a question of Hagar and another to Sarah. She then elaborates on a question of Jacob and then one to Moses. Next she went from a question to Elijah followed by another to the disciples. She concluded the book with a question asked of Peter.

Each of these questions points us to determine our level of intimacy with God and trust of Him. My personal response to the questions had me desiring to grow closer to Him. As I reached the conclusion I was reminded that everything I do should bring God glory. And if anything is done for any other reason, I should exam my motives.

This book would serve well for a small group study to encourage a closer relationship with Christ. Mrs. King not only uses biblical characters but she also sites specific scriptures to support her premise as to why God asked the questions and

what might be the best response to each of God's questions. She also suggests that scripture be committed to memory for the purpose of walking closer to God.

I recommend that anyone who is searching for a self-examining, motivational time of reading, read this book. It will no doubt be one that you will want to reread, as I know I will.

Submitted by Amelia Dewberry



Continued from page 1-*"I Know He Cares"*

hands but our hands to carry out His great compassion for our spiritual, physical and emotional well-being. In order to accept these challenges we must put on whole armor of God

Through prayer and supplication, God will equip us to make good decisions, and grant us the stamina to endure criticism from our loved ones, who remind us that they are still in charge. We, who stay up late, spend long hours at hospitals and keep a constant vigil at the bedside of our loved ones, are no longer daughters or sons but..... caretakers!

Later, mom experienced diabetes, hypertension, arthritis and poor exercise habits. Regular doctor visits, changes in diet, medications, physical and occupational therapy, enabled her to reside at home for many years with my assistance. Despite many efforts to increase her mobility, engaging in social activities, showering her with love, mom's condition worsened. She developed neuropathy in her feet. Diabetes began to take its toll in the use of her legs and feet. Eventually, mom could no longer enjoy the comforts of her home without the additional health care. She

Continued from page 2- *"Look Inward"*

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Momma, how come all of Grandma's hairs are white?"

A funny story, yes — but isn't it true that we're always looking for someone to blame for our imperfections? The Lord warned us about the danger of pointing out the faults of others. He said that people with planks in their eyes should not attempt to remove

specks out of other people's eyes. Somehow, we lose sight of this so quickly! We are all still growing. None of us has arrived! We need to be aware of how the enemy tries to ensnare us in this way.

I don't know about you but I tend to agree with the person who said "The only person I want removing splinters out of my eyes is someone with a clear vision and a gentle touch!"

Let's ask the Lord to help us to see the ways we've been judgmental and become people with clear vision and a gentle touch! We should be building up one another and encouraging each other so that the work of the Lord may go forward and we may rejoice together in the blessing!

by George Whitten, Editor of *Worthy Devotions*

Continued on page 4

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Wake Missionary Baptist's Woman's Auxiliary

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly
above all that we ask or think, according to the power
that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ
Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen
Ephesians 3:20-21*

Continued from page 3- "I Know He Cares"

entered a neighboring rest home with many objections. Because of her great faith, she accepted her new surroundings. She also suffered the loss of both legs. It was hard for her family to accept her loss of limbs. God gave mom the ability to endure this great challenge and to appreciate he life even more. She learned to lean and depend on God.

During her stay at the rest home, mom developed friendships with her roommates. Their families did nice things for mom and I responded in kind. Mom received the care I could no longer provide. Each day for a year, I tried to let mom know she was still God's child and my mother. on the goodness of God. Her faith in God soared despite the difficulties she faced. Mom fought a courageous battle until God called her home.

Even though my role as a caretaker ended, my faith in God remained the same. Being a caretaker requires patience, love, perseverance, energy, compassion, faithfulness and concern for humanity. There were times when I questioned God's judgment. There were times when I felt alone. There were times when I lamented, "Is there a balm in Gilead?" God revealed His great love and compassion for me when He promised, "I'll never leave you nor forsake you. Behold, I'll be with you to the end of the Earth". God said it! I believe it! That's it! Keep your head in the sky!!

Gloria Peoples

If you would like to have an electronic subscription to the Wake Missionary Baptist Association's Woman's Auxiliary quarterly newsletter, then feel free to contact us at cparker3@bellsouth.net to be added to our subscription email list.

If you have information, whether, inspirational or informational that you would like to share with the women of the Association, contact the above email and we will include your timely submission.

We thank you in advance for your support and continued prayers.

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Wake Missionary Baptist Association

Community News

Zebulon First Baptist's Annual Women's Conference

Hosted by Zebulon Baptist Church

Saturday, April 11, 2015

8:00am-5:00pm

Event is FREE

Pastor James R. Barnes 14th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration

Stokes Chapel Missionary

Baptist Church

Sunday, December 14, 2014

3:00pm

Eastern Ministerial Alliance's Annual Christmas Program

Now Faith Baptist Church

8933 Buffalo Road

Knightdale, NC

December 20, 2014

5:00 pm

We invite you to join us as we celebrate, "Good Times"