

I AM A PRINCE – PART II

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In part one I believe it was established, quite clearly, that we have been chosen to be one of the ruling family members in the Kingdom of God. It is my tendency, possibly yours as well, to have a certain mental image when I consider the title, ‘Prince’. My picture is of a young boy, dressed in royal blue, with frills and lace. He has been taught that he is above those around him. He has an imperious manner and expects those around him to defer to him and do whatever he commands. I see him as spoiled and having little notion of how his ‘subjects’ either feel or live. Why is this image in my mind? Because in the Kingdoms of this world it is commonly a true and valid image. This ‘World’ works in certain ways and those ‘at the top

Come to see themselves as DESERVING special privileges. This is true whether those rulers are Kings or congressmen. They assume rights and privileges because of their position, which usually has nothing to do with their abilities or accomplishments. How does this come about? There is an evil spirit whom Jesus called the ‘prince of this present age’. His nature trickles down into and through all those societies that allow him to influence. This is also true of the Kingdom of God. His entire Kingdom is influenced by and reflects His nature and His character. If this is true of the citizens of the Kingdom of God, how much more true it should be of the royal family – us!

God’s perfect will is that His many sons will show forth His nature and rule in their micro-management as the King rules the Universe. He tells us what His character is like. In Galatians 5: 22-23 He tells us: “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control”.

Authors note: *I have written earlier at some length about Father’s character using this verse. It is called, “The Personality of God”. It is linked to this writing on the web page or will be provided upon request.*

I am a true Prince in the Kingdom of God. I do not say that one day I shall be a Prince. No! I am now a true Prince. My Father, the King, loves me but he loves His other subjects as well. Love, Agape, is the foundational principle of His Kingdom. This requires that I be trained in the ways of the King. I believe this is what it means in Hebrews when we read that God disciplines those He loves. If there is no discipline then, I fear, we are not true sons.

I AM A PRINCE! In this world's eyes I am very ordinary. If there is any acclaim in this world it is because I have done things the world understands and approves. They have no ideas that I am a Prince. There is no point in me telling them. They will no more believe me than they believed Jesus when He said He was King. Jesus did not look the way they thought a King should look. He did not act the way they thought a King should act. So it will be with you and with me. We are here as royal ambassadors from our Kingdom to this present age. We are indeed strangers and in a strange land. Too often, I fear, we are encouraged by religious leaders to be good citizens in this land with too little emphasis on being active Princes in the land of our Father. Please do not misunderstand me here. I believe Jesus encouraged us to 'render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar'. I do believe that we should honor those in authority in the earthly realms. Scripture clearly states that all authorities, even worldly ones, were ordained by our heavenly Father. Yet, we are indeed aliens. I get strange looks when I mention to people that, once I was human but I got better. I took a psychology course many years ago. I loved the study of 'abnormal mentalities', especially those above normal. I discovered, to my surprise, that people of high intelligence adapt better than others. They have fewer divorces, fewer crises of almost every kind. And so it should be with Christians who have been drawn out of the human condition into the divine family. We are NEW. Old things have passed away. Peter Lord, a pastor in Florida, once wrote a splendid article called 'Turkeys or Eagles'. It is a terrible thing to watch an Eagle trying to act like a turkey. For a turkey to live like a turkey is normal. Not so with an Eagle. In the same way for a human to live like a human is normal. Not so with a Prince. Our lives and our authority should reflect the power and authority of our Father – the King.

It is at this point I greatly fear to be misunderstood. We have been so corrupted in our thinking by the teachings of 'the world' that we easily convert spiritual principals into worldly ones. Let me present what I mean by stating that we should live like the Prince we are. I do not mean that we should have wealth, earthly power, and a life of ease. The life of our Lord here on Earth puts the lie to that notion. Yet, our Lord lived like a King of His own Kingdom. His Kingdom is love, Agape love. Love like a straight arrow from His heart to that individual on which He was focused. Even when He was rather harsh with some, I strongly believed it was solely because He loved THEM. When He was tender, it was because He loved THEM. When He taught about the Kingdom it was because He was wooing them to come and be part of His Kingdom for THEIR sake. And when He

died, it was for me and for you. Even more I strongly believe that Jesus had peace. He had the very peace of God, a peace that passes ALL human understanding. Is there any reason that each of us, every Prince in the Kingdom of God, should not have this peace? I can not think of any reason except unbelief. If we fully believed that we are who Father says we are then we would be saturated in His peace. Another characteristic, perhaps even more desirable than peace which every Prince of the Kingdom can enjoy is – JOY. What is joy? I have tried to define it and have failed, for years. But I sure know what it is when I experience it! Scripture speaks of joy unspeakable and full of glory. I am not exactly sure what glory means either but that does not stop me from accepting and enjoying it. One writer described joy as ‘God in your blood’. That is good although still rather abstract to me. All I know is that there is not a single person I know who does not want joy. You do, so do I. Even humans want joy though seldom if ever experience it. They confuse joy with happiness. Jack Taylor (whom I love) has said that happiness happens when things happen to happen happily. I think he is correct. Joy, I believe, should not be a victim of whether things happen to suit us or not. Joy comes from knowing that I have a heavenly Father who really loves ME. I know He loves the world and I am glad. Perhaps it is my own character flaw but it means so much more to me that Jesus loves ME. I have had the personal good fortune to spend a lot of time having an intimacy with Father. Feeling His presence, even at times hearing His voice (with my Spirit not my ears), this creates JOY.

Do you begin to see how I feel about the nature of a Prince of the Kingdom? It has nothing to do with our circumstances nor our occupation. It has everything to do with how we are INSIDE. When you have developed an intimate relationship with your heavenly Father you are different. Some years ago there was a Christian writer and pastor named Jamie Buckingham whom I did not know but greatly loved through his writings. (Some of my favorite friends whom I have never met are C.S. Lewis, George MacDonald, Oswald Chambers, Derek Prince, and Watchman Nee {Nee To Sheng}). Jamie wrote a story once about tomatoes. He did not like tomatoes. Actually he detested tomatoes and would not eat them. He went to McDonald’s with his wife and mother-in-law and ordered a burger, hold the tomatoes. When he sat down to eat he discovered TOMATOES. His wife and her mother scolded him, told him to go ahead and eat, stop making such a fuss but Jamie paid not attention. He took the burger back and made them fix one he would accept. They offered to ‘scrape the tomato off’ but he informed them that they might miss some of those slimy seeds or mucous.

He would just take a new one please. I believe he was polite, but firm. What was his point? Jamie was secure, not defensive. He knew what he wanted. His larger point in his article and the one I want to make also is that when we are secure in who we are and what we believe we can be opposed without feeling defensive. Some of the worst arguments among believers are over stupid points about which neither side is really secure in what they believe so they must defend every little point or, they are afraid, the whole house of cards may fall down.

I AM A PRINCE. YOU, ALSO, ARE A PRINCE (If you are a believer in Jesus Christ as Lord). We should not be defensive about this. No need to apologize. That is just what you are. If someone chides you because you don't 'act like a Prince' you should just tell them that you are not acting, you are the real thing. Yet, I do believe that Christ in us will mold us, form us, make us into His likeness and we will begin to have Kingdom character, Kingdom personality, Kingdom behavior. This can not come from law. It can ONLY come from relationship. What relationship? Oh, it is your relationship with your Father, your Brother, and the Holy Spirit. This is made so much easier if you also have horizontal relationships with other brothers (and sisters). Koinonea here on earth is so important where like minded brethren gather to reinforce Kingdom truths and worship together. It also helps if you work to believe the truth.

YOU ARE A PRINCE!

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