

# I AM A PRINCE – PART III

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First, a very brief review. In part one it was presented that I am a Prince of a Kingdom, not of this world but an unseen Kingdom. This Kingdom is far larger and far more powerful than this 'seen' world could possibly know. I do not feel like a Prince and there are certainly times I do not act like one (by my own standards). I am a Prince because the King, my Father, says so. Nothing more, nothing less. By His (Father's) power and grace and through Jesus, I have been born into this station in life eternal.

In part two we explored the personality and character of the King and how the Kingdom should reflect Him. We considered how our instinctive notions about Kingship, notions drawn from growing up in a fallen world, are dramatically different from the Kingdom of our Lord. Our God never 'Lords over us' but instead is a creator, constructive, and works in us and through us for our own good. He works in us to bring forth all the fruit of the Spirit.

This part, part three, will be the most challenging for me. I think that is because I have too many thoughts, not too few, and it will be easy for me to confuse us both.

## FATHER HAS MANY DWELLING PLACES

Jesus said, 'In my Father's house are many dwelling places (mansions). I go to prepare your place (my paraphrase). When I was young, I assumed He was referring to a place for me in heaven. I still believe that but have also come to believe He was telling me something about here and now. There are lots of things going on in this unseen and un-seeable Kingdom of God. Things going on here on earth and it requires lots of people doing lots of things. He called you before the foundation of the world. I can not wrap my mind around that so I just believe it. He knew me before I knew Him. He knew me before there was a me to know. Wow! He not only knew me, He had a plan for me, a destiny. With all my heart I believe this destiny, my eternal history, has already begun and will continue on into eternity.

I am a teacher. I have been equipped with the tools I need to explain things. I have an ability and desire to work and study until I can explain

things which help others understand. These attributes spilled over from the spiritual into the natural. This allowed me to be a pretty good teacher of Mechanical Engineering. God even saw fit to use me to draw many into His Kingdom through my contact with students. But that is only one task out of many, many jobs the Kingdom requires. Please, please let us not think 'Professional Christian' here. Very few of us make our living through the gospel. I personally hold the view that both the world and the Church would be better off if there were fewer professionals and many more plain old workers in the field.

Nevertheless, there are many dwelling places and our Father desires that we be safe, secure, joyful, and content wherever He leads us, doing whatever He places in our hands. My wife, Lavon, is so different from me. She is outgoing, energetic, and constantly doing nice things for others (and me). She volunteers for Hospice, writes notes and letters to many people. She is gracious and I am madly in love with her. We will celebrate our golden wedding anniversary in 2008. We dwell quite nicely together but our spiritual dwelling places are very different. She is always active, performance oriented, and busy. I am a bit of a slug. I love to sit in a park or some other beautiful place (the Black Hills of South Dakota are just full of beautiful places). I sit, I listen, I think, and I write. Lavon envies me – a little. I envy her – a little. Neither of us want to change nor do we want the other to change. I believe our Father is very pleased with this and is working, in us, to spread this kind of mutual admiration society throughout His 'many dwelling places', His Kingdom.

You have been given a dwelling place here on earth. You are neither Fatherless nor homeless. Sanctify your dwelling place to the Kingdom of God's dear Son, Jesus, and allow His Kingdom to spread from there like ripples on a lake.

## **CHILDISH AND CHILD-LIKE**

So, I am a Prince. You are a Prince. Every one of God's children IS A PRINCE! If you have been a Christian very long and if you have spiritual eyes that see, spiritual ears that hear, you must be screaming out, "What has gone so terribly wrong"! It has been 2000 years since Jesus came, taught, died, rose again, and gave us His Holy Spirit to teach, guide, and empower His Church. Why have we not gotten the job done? Here – just here – is where I might confuse you because I do not fully understand it either. BUT, perhaps I can help a little.

[Author's Note: I can be totally honest about this because I am not selling anything. I have never accepted money for the spiritual work I do. I have no desire for either earthly fame nor power. I am, truly, just trying to please my Abba and do what I was created to do – teach].

A lot of our spiritual problems relate to maturity, or rather, our lack of maturity. The apostle Paul says that he longs to give his readers meat but they can only digest milk of the Word. In another scripture Paul says that though a small child is a true heir of everything his father owns, authority and responsibility must be withheld until he is mature enough to handle it. At the right time he will be adopted. Now the word adopted can confuse because the meaning of the word has changed since the time the King James translation was made. In our time the word adopted means a change in families. You were a full fledged member of family A but, for whatever reason you change and become a member of family B.

***Galatians 4:5 to redeem them that were under the law that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts crying Abba Father (Daddy, Daddy). Wherefore, you are no longer a servant but a Son, and if a Son, then an heir of God, through Christ. (See also Romans 9:14-17).***

The meaning of the word adoption in scripture is different, totally different. There is no change of family. To get into the family of God you must be born into it. Period! End of statement. A very young child, in every family, has very little responsibility AND very little authority. He (She) is in a learning phase, an apprenticeship. Everything he does is given oversight. He learns, he grows, he is guided until, one day, his Master (Father) makes an announcement. “He is ready”. With proper ceremony he is ‘set in place’, he is ‘adopted’. He has NOT changed families. He is recognized as being trained and developed so he can handle responsibility and administer authority.

There is a proper time to be childish. There is a proper time to put away childish things. ***1 Cor. 13:11 When I was a child I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child but when I became a man I put away childish things.*** Jesus calls us to be child-like. He never encouraged us to be childish. George MacDonald has written more eloquently about God as the loving Father and Jesus as His obedient Son than anyone I know. We are called to be full of faith and security knowing that this is our Father's world and we can walk through it in peace – just as Jesus did. Childishness is selfishness. This is not a Kingdom virtue. We are called to deny self, reckon self dead, know that we are new creatures, old things have passed away.

I could go negative right here and explore why so many Christians are immature, stunted, and even still born – but I will not. It is far better to explore a solution than to dissect the problem. Remember, I AM A PRINCE, YOU ARE A PRINCE. This is God's truth. Every one of these I have just described as immature, stunted, and stillborn are, every one of them, a PRINCE IN THE KINGDOM if they have been born into the Kingdom. It is also true that God called us into His family because He wants something from us. The secret of growing toward maturity lies right here. What does he want from me? What does He want from you? I know the answer! During the summer of 1992 I was praying along the bank of Claybank Creek just outside Ft. Rucker in southern Alabama when God spoke to me. My ears heard nothing but my spirit heard and with all my heart I believe it was God who said, "This is your message. Tell My children that I want to be intimate with them". This is what He wants from you. Intimacy.

I recommend to you, urge you, beg you, focus on this as your goal. You ARE a beloved Son, His heart and arms are wide open to you. Seek this intimacy with Father FIRST and everything else will fall into place. I believe that becoming intimate with Him is the ONLY way you can become like Him. As you are with Him – you begin to see Him As you begin to see Him you begin to become like Him. You come to know Him.

In my personal religious culture Bible study is very strongly emphasized. I approve of that, have studied the Bible and related literature a lot. It is good. It is not a good substitute for spending real quality time conversing with God. Conversing – that means talking AND listening. It means breaking through the busy bees in your brain until you are ATTILL and know that He is God. From this intimacy all the good things of God flow. You still read scripture but it will now flood you with meaning. You still pray but it will be oh so different. You will grow in praying God's heart more than your own. You are being apprenticed by the Holy Spirit. You are learning the trade of being a Prince of God. God alone knows when you will be adopted. I fear that some will read this and think I am proposing a new sacrament. I am not. I think of the adoption as a gradual thing. At least that has been my perceived experience. As I have matured Father has trusted me with more. In the beginning I could not handle being personally involved with 'miracles'. I would have grown proud. It would not have been 'good'. At a later time I did experience some miracles but God was the one glorified, not me. This was safe for me. I will not go further into my personal experiences since, while they are very important to me they are not any kind of good guide for you. I just believe we should seek the Kingdom of God first. We should seek the face of Father, first. All else will be added. A you

grow you become a larger and larger conduit for the love and mercy of God to flow through to others. As you read the following try to not judge me harshly. As a Prince of the Kingdom it is my work to do what my Boss says. David DuPlessis was a wonderful old saint of God. He was talking with a Catholic nun who asked what he 'did with Mary', the Mother of Jesus. David's response was that he always did what Mary said. She then asked, "What did Mary say?" He responded with reminding her of Mary and Jesus at the marriage feast in Cana. Mary told the workers there when the wine had run out, "Go, do what He says". What did Jesus do? Well quite a lot. His ministry as He walked the dusty roads mostly involved three things:

1. He healed the sick.
2. He cast out demons.
3. He preached and taught about the Kingdom of God.

Let us talk about healing. I am not a healer. Yet, from time to time people will ask me to pray for them to be healed of something or other. My practice is to consult Abba. I fully expect an answer. I expect to hear yes or no or not now. If I hear nothing I do nothing. If I hear no I pray for encouragement but not healing. If I hear yes, I pray with a lot of faith (confidence) – for healing. Using this practice quite a large number of people have been healed. I do not put a notice in the paper nor pitch a tent and announce a healing service. I have other work to do. I really enjoy being used this way and think it is pretty normal for a Prince of the Kingdom of God to be used like this. Power may flow through you quite differently but that is okay, our Father's house has many dwelling places. The Holy Spirit expresses His power through us in many different ways. Many of us have been led into sharing the gospel with another and experienced the thrill of knowing that our sharing was above and beyond our own ability. God had inspired us and we were only vaguely aware of it. At other times we have been given a 'gift' of wisdom either from another or for another. Words have come that were just perfect and we, when we think about it, know the source was from above. I could go on and on. God's love is expressed in many different ways and He loves to use those He loves to bless those He loves.

I was raised Baptist and was nearly thirty years old before being confronted with the possibility that demons were real, by another Baptist friend. I have written a pretty long document I call the "Work of the Church" in which I describe my education along this line. Jesus obviously 'believed' in demons and had authority over them. Scripture tells us that we should submit ourselves to God, resist the enemy and he

will flee from us. Scripture also tells us that we have been given authority over all the power of the enemy. I am fully convinced that Satan is at work oppressing and deceiving people in this world, including the people of God. This is a shame. Jesus spent a good bit of time and effort battering the 'gates of Hell'. We should too. This is not a simple topic and I will not pursue it here further but it is quite important. We are here, in part, to engage the enemy in active warfare. Do not let some of the silly notions of the entertainment industry dissuade you from getting in your licks.

The most fundamental aspect of the work of Jesus, I believe, involves revealing the nature of God and the Kingdom of God. We have let the world speak for us and produce bizarre and stupid ideas about the Kingdom. As one example, Hell is depicted as a place where an obnoxious horned creature wanders around with a pitchfork, comfortable, persecuting people. Stupid, stupid, stupid. Hell is Satan's place of torment and punishment. The only place Satan has any authority, and that is authority based on lies and deception is here on earth and during this present 'age'. Satan is called a liar and the father of lies. Let us not let him have any influence over us.

Jesus was not the least bit rich nor famous during His time on earth. He did not call us to be rich nor famous. Some of us will be. I believe God told me to stay in school and earn a Doctorate in Engineering because He planned to use me in that capacity. Being a rich or famous Christian is not a sign of special favor. Hopefully it is a sign that these people are sufficiently mature to handle the burden of riches or fame. Most of us are spared that burden though each of us have enough burdens in our own dwelling place. This man Jesus had neither fame nor fortune but boy did He leave an ever widening wake behind His boat.

I truly hope I am communicating. Out of your intimate times talking and listening to Father will come faith, instruction, a knowledge of Him. Most of all there will come to you great encouragement that you really and truly are what He says you are. Spend enough time with Him and you will FEEL like a Prince. Even better you will surely act more like the Prince you are.

You are His Son, a true Prince in His eternal Kingdom.

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