

Wellspring

October – November 2008 Isaiah 58.6

All things are possible with God

[A publication of Broken Yoke Ministries, Inc.]



Is That All There Is?

By Bob Van Domelen

24And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. (Luke 22.24)

These words found in Luke's gospel come right on the heels of the final meal with Jesus. He had washed their feet, spoken of the need for them to do likewise, broken the bread and shared it with the disciples, and told them that one among their number would betray Him.

The initial response to what Jesus had just shared was to raise the question of who among them could be a betrayer. This is a pretty understandable reaction and I think most of us would have asked the same question. With no clear answer, their conversation turned, however, in a direction that was unusual. "*And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest.*"

If such a conversation took place today, someone would be sure to offer "Why don't you guys get a life?" or "It's all about you, isn't it?"

I have been known on more than one occasion to think to myself, "If I had been one of those disciples, my concern would have been for Jesus alone, not some silly argument about who was the greatest." But that's the self-righteous, idealistic me talking and not the Bob who can be very self-centered in the midst of any situation or crisis.

But some questions have to be asked. Why wasn't Jesus enough for them? Why could they not have set aside their own egos and focused on what was really important?

I recently heard a man who struggles with homosexuality say that when he is all alone, God is just not enough. He has friends and support, he loves God and truly tries to serve Him, but there is still a void.

Some people reading what he shared might dismiss his comment by saying he just doesn't have a right relationship with God. Others might offer that he hasn't surrendered himself completely enough. And still another group might offer that he isn't really saved, because if he were, there would be no void.

I believe with all my being that God IS enough, yet I know there are times that my own brokenness surfaces with a vengeance. When that happens, I feel like shouting as the psalmist David did, "How long O, Lord?" Or I become like Job, sitting in the ashes wondering "What's the use?" Fortunately, those moments are momentary and my spiritual balance usually reasserts itself.

Having those negative moments does, however, remind me that a hearty "Come on, man, buck up" or "Pull yourself up by your bootstraps and get on with it," or even "Stop

wallowing in your own pity party" doesn't really change anything for my friend or others who feel as he does. The words would only make ME feel better. So how *do* things change?

First, God is a relationship and it takes time to develop relationships. For God's part, He is our creator, a heavenly dad or abba with all the love that can be assigned that kind of relationship. He has restored us in our relationship by giving His Son as atonement for all the times we have abused or will abuse that relationship. And He has sent the Holy Spirit as a constant reminder of His desire to be in our every thought, word, or deed.

Second, only passing into eternity will free us from our dark places completely. My friend's moments of separation are going to happen if not in his struggle with same-gender attraction then in some other broken area of his life. We ALL have these dents in our armor. It is one thing to know they are there, however, and another to believe that the dent in the armor is more important than the person inside the armor.

Third, times of feeling a void can either be seen as proof that God doesn't want to do anything to make it better or they can be seen as times of invitation for intimate communion with God. "*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" (Matt.28.20) Always means not only in the good times, the times of spiritual highs, but also during the times when we might want to say "God, you just aren't enough for me at this very moment."

God doesn't run from us; He wants to draw us near. We want to run from Him, though, because our human heart sometimes aches for what it thinks is good but certainly is not good from God's point of view. And sometimes in that kind of moment, God is at one end of our decision-making teeter-totter and our human desires are at the other end.

Two years ago the book "Come Be My Light" by Mother Teresa of Calcutta made international news—not for sharing a listing of her ministry to the sick, poor, and otherwise abandoned, but because of her admission that for over 50 years she did not feel the presence of God.

Critics took the opportunity to use her words as proof that God didn't really exist or worse, that her life was a deliberate fraud. Supporters, like me, struggled with the notion that one who served so completely in the name of God would not feel His presence. But I did come to the conclusion that despite the void she felt, God remained enough for her, enough to her to continue serving as she served.

When searching for some information on Mother Teresa, I came across one of her quotes that certainly rang true for me and maybe it would for some of you as well. She said, "I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much."

Maybe there are questions that lie beneath the surface, questions we are afraid to ask.

"Can God really do something about these same-gender attractions or am I the one who is wrong by denying my attractions as who I am?"

"If God really wants me to reject homosexuality, how come He doesn't simply take the feelings away?"

"Why is it so easy to put my desires ahead of God's will for my life if God is so good?"

"Will God turn His back on me just because I ask questions and doubt Him sometimes?"

These are questions I have heard over the years. I won't say that I haven't asked them myself at one time or another, but they are not issues for me at this time in my life. What is important, I think, is that when we consider questions like these we don't miss the opportunity to be stretched in our relationship with God.

If I suggest that God is enough, that doesn't mean that the struggles I have in my life all disappear. It means that I take God at His word.

²⁸ *We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.* ²⁹ *For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.* ³⁰ *And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.* ³¹ *What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?* (Romans 8.28-31)

Not long ago, someone shared that just because all things work for good does not necessarily mean that we will be comfortable or like how God works them. These verses also point to a process of growth and change for which we must be active participants.

Please don't misunderstand. I am not suggesting that life in the Lord is cheerless or filled with somber thinking, walking around with heads bowed and hands folded. I am suggesting, however, that for one who seeks God in all things, the answer to the question "Is that all there is?" will be a resounding yes. Be blessed, my friends, for you will be. □

BY Changes Frequency of Wellspring Mailings

One of the recent board decisions directly affecting the publication of this newsletter was to change the number of annual mailings from six to three as of 2009. Future editions will be available in February, June, and October.

Earlier this year, we asked readers to indicate whether or not they wanted to remain on the mailing list. Almost two thirds of that list did not respond, a factor that, combined with the growing cost of producing the newsletter, led to the decision the board has reached.



Exodus International North Central Regional Ministries – Regional 2008 –

“Embracing the Process”

Dr. Kathy Koch

keynote speaker

Green Lake Conference Center
Green Lake, WI
October 24-26, 2008

About our Speaker

Dr. Koch speaks to influence parents, students, and missionaries nationally and internationally. Dr. Kathy's first book, ***Finding Authentic Hope and Wholeness: 5 Questions That Will Change Your Life***, was published by Moody in 2005.

She has loved Jesus for years and her faith and desire to serve and glorify God is the foundation of her 16-year-old ministry.

Dr. Kathy has been a professor, teacher, coach, and school board member. She is a longtime friend of Exodus and has spoken at many Exodus Conferences. She will be speaking on "Overcoming the Challenges of Change".

Registration Information

Standard Registration @ \$175 per person or \$300 per couple. Cost includes meals, lodging and registration fees. Standard Registration includes registration, meals, and lodging fees from October 24th through the 26th.

Saturday Only @ \$110. Cost includes meals and registration fees only.

No minors will be permitted at this conference.

You may register online at <http://register.exodus.to> and pay by credit card, or contact the Exodus offices, request an application, complete it and send the form with payment to:

**Exodus International
North Central Regional
PO Box 540119
Orlando, FL 32854**

For more information, contact the office at 888-264-0877 or email conference@exodus.to



Join us. . . You'll be glad you did!

Broken Yoke Ministries is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) corporation and operates solely on the contributions of people such as you. All donations to this ministry are tax deductible and will be recognized. While there is no charge for this newsletter, it can only be published if there are funds available to make that possible.

**Send your donations to:
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De Pere, WI 54115-5824**

Wisconsin Ministry Locations

Broken Yoke

P.O. Box 5824
De Pere, WI 54115-5824
262-751-1128
Bob@brokenyoke.org

Meetings in Pewaukee:

Support Group (weekly)
Tuesday, 7:00PM

Website:

<http://www.brokenyoke.org>

Newsletter:

Wellspring (published bimonthly)

Note: This newsletter and some back issues are available in pdf format on our website. If you don't have Adobe Acrobat Reader, there are links that allow you to download that program free.



Redeemed Ministries

A support system for women
Support Group (bi-weekly)
Call 414-607-1935 for info

Reclamation Resources

P.O. Box 1062
Oshkosh, WI 54902
920-303-1041
<http://www.reclamationrc.org>

Our Prayer Corner



*Because we care about one another,
we pray . . .*

- For all those who struggle with same-gender attractions, that they accept the identity God had in mind for them from the beginning.
- For all who are considering the Regional Conference in October, that they hear God's invitation for them to step out of their busy lives and into a place where they will be encouraged and refreshed.
- For the leaders of the North Central Tier ministries, that preparations for our Regional Conference (October 24-26) will be productive
- For church leaders, that the message they offer those they shepherd is one that reflects God's word.

- For ministries reaching out to those with same-gender attraction, that they never tire nor grow weary of the ministry they do.
- For growth in our ministry outreach, that those who feel called to help will know that their service will be truly appreciated.
- For families and friends of those who struggle, that they recognize that change comes slowly.
- For families and friends of those who have adopted a gay life with no desire to change, that they never stop loving or showing the witness they are called to give.
- For the facilitators of our support group meetings, that they feel God's blessings for their efforts.
- For our sister ministry, Redeemed, that women seeking help continue to find this ministry a place of refuge and hope.
- For Bob as he and Cathie walk in the springtime of retirement, that they find God's love and call in whatever they do.
- For the ongoing financial support of this ministry, that those who are able will be willing to support us with both finance and prayer.

**For those interested
in the Regional Conference schedule:**

Friday, October 24 2008

4:00 - 7:00 Check-in
7:00 - 8:00 General session / Worship
8:00 - 10:00 Annual Pizza Party & Fellowship

Saturday, October 25 2008

7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast
9:00 - 10:45 General Session / Worship
10:45-11:45 Break-Out Discussions
11:45-1:00 Lunch
1:15 - 3:00 General Session II / Worship
3:15 - 5:00 Fellowship
5:00 - 6:00 Dinner
6:30 - 8:00 General Session III / Worship
8:00 - 8:45 Break-Out Discussions
9:00 - 10:00 Fellowship

Sunday, October 26 2008

7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast
8:45 - 10:00 Closing Session / Worship
10:00 Closing and checking out

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Dated Material

A Little Humor

A royal castle was under siege from an infidel army. The only hope was to send one of the knights to get help, but the problem was that all of the horses had been killed in the battle.

"We must get help," said the king. "I know," replied the leader of his army, "but we have no horses. If a knight goes on foot, he will be slain at once."

"Is there not another animal he can ride?" demanded the king. "What about that mighty wolfhound? It could surely bear the weight of a man."

"No, no," pleaded the army leader. "The wolfhound is too dangerous. Look at its snarling teeth. I wouldn't send a knight out on a dog like this." (Hey, did I hear a groan?)

