

# Wellspring

February 2010 – May 2010    Isaiah 58.6

*All things are possible with God*

[A publication of Broken Yoke Ministries, Inc.]



## The Need to be Loved

By Bob Van Domelen

<sup>3</sup> *Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, O Lord Almighty, my King and my God. (Psalm 84.3)*

It was a difficult conversation—hard for the one who called and for me as well. But the call was not all that unusual from others that have come to the ministry over the years. In the first moments, however, I reminded myself that I could change nothing. But I could listen. I could also make sure that God was central to the conversation and I could trust that there would be something I could share that might help a little.

After we both said “Goodbye and God bless you,” the situation had not been resolved but it had been shared. And that, my friends, is really important.

There is nothing simple about same-gender attraction, no simple formula that can be applied to all who struggle with those attractions. The seemingly endless variations people bring might fall into categories and sub-categories but from where I sit, these variations remind me that only God knows *exactly* what each individual needs. And sitting on top of that list is the need to be loved.

We come by that need naturally, being children of God, called to be one with God for eternity, loved to the point of Jesus dying on a cross so that an eternity of God’s incredible love might be ours.

Along our journey of living, love becomes translated in ways we cannot understand. As babies, most feel unrestricted love. Then love becomes something to be earned, withheld when we fail, and sparingly given when we succeed. The rules are not the same and the prize (love) gets redefined depending on who is bestowing it. Only God’s love is constant.

### Confusing the Issue

Perhaps you’ll have noticed that I have avoided any mention of sexual intimacy. My reasoning is simple. For a child, the purest forms of love were those experienced before love got complicated by things like earning it or adding a biological component.

For some time now I have been arguing that the body often works independently of the mind. Pleasure to the body is neither right nor wrong. It is just pleasure. In the best context, pleasure between a man and a woman flows out of love and relationship. Aha, some might be saying. Gotcha! If a man loves a man or a woman loves a woman, isn’t sexual pleasure a fruit of that relationship?

God’s word calls us to love one another in the same manner we are loved by God. But not all love is meant to be sexualized. If it were, there would be no boundaries set because all sexual contact coming as a result of perceived love would be appropriate. Unfortunately, many consider sexual attraction to be love.

### Even the sparrow

It doesn’t take long for all of this to be really complicated, so I won’t even attempt to satisfy everyone’s viewpoint. What I think, however, is rather than to do that, I want to head in a different direction—simplicity.

The sparrow has found a home; the swallow a nest. It is a place near the altar of God. The apostles, the early Christians, and those who have achieved eternal happiness found it, I believe, by seeking God and resting near the altar of His love.

When I am in God’s will, when I listen for His voice, I act as I am meant to act. I serve as Christ taught me to serve. And I love without complication, without the definition of love so much as with the evidence of love.

Such love is both appropriate and holy. It doesn’t demand anything nor does it need to meet my expectations. Such love exceeds those expectations and as C.S. Lewis would suggest, it surprises me with its resulting joy.

We all hunger for love and a need to be loved but I fear we are destined for disappointment when we seek it in one another *before* seeking it in God. Like one offered water or food when thirsty or hungry, accepting what *feels* like love only produces temporary relief.

“This is the one who understands me, who loves without reservation. It *must* be good. It must be of God!” This is the human argument. “We loved because He first loved us” are far better words for all who are seeking. (1 John 4.19)

### A Note on Childlikeness

Jeff

I find that I must become like a child in Christ. Some people might find this humiliating or ridiculous. I find it essential to all my relationships. It is essential to my relationship with God, to people, and to me. There is a huge difference between an adult and the childlike mature person. It is only in my childlikeness that I am willing to receive. I can always tell when I start acting like an adult because I feel strong resentment grow in me. It is only when I am like a child that I am willing for that resentment to melt or bend.

My ability to receive love from God only comes from childlikeness. When I am calm, gentle, slow, shy, meek, unassuming, and

## A Note on Childlikeness (cont'd)

tender, I find that I can relate to the gentleness of God. It is only at this point that I am then willing to receive something so personal and vulnerable as warm loving affection from God. It is only at the place where I am able to imagine sitting on Jesus' lap that I find he is big enough, strong enough, and loving enough to handle my situation in this fallen world. It is only when I am childlike and imaging Christ camping out next to me at night, that I can reach over and tenderly hold his cross-scarred wrists and ponder them with childlike tears of sorrow, as he gently falls asleep.

I find that when I experience these moments and mornings of calm childlike love with Jesus that I begin to be able to love others with a new fresh love that I simply could not give as an adult. I find excitement in the small and simple things of life. I find that I don't need to purchase as much because I am interested in what I have. I find that my palette for life expands to new depths and breaths. I find that I have the ability to run and jump next to someone on the couch and just sit next to them because they too are a created being. I find that I say less with my mouth and wait longer with my eyes when I see someone new or someone known.

Childlikeness has a quick ability to receive correction and forgiveness and this leads me to be very gentle with myself. I no longer need to harshly rebuke my thoughts or actions. Instead, all things are brought before God for inspection, questioning, and approval. I no longer have the desire in childlike love with Christ to so absorb myself with something that it gets in the way of love or becomes addictive. If something does move toward addiction it is gently moved aside for a time or simply reset to its proper place. It is in this, that I find as a man that I can truly become what Christ is looking for. It is in the childlike love that my appreciation of robust strength is formed and my desire for gentleness continued. The knowledge that Christ would gently correct me as I begin to grow in masculine love and action, allows me to explore all the mysterious and secret places of my personhood without fear.

## 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 those looking for help in southeastern Wisconsin, that they will consider contacting this ministry and its support groups.
- For Jill Rennick as she steps out in faith to serve, that her ministry be blessed with the needed financial support to sustain the basics.
- For pastors and church leaders, that they seek always to point to God and not human wisdom.
- For the youth of our society, that they look closely at relationships they see in movies or on TV.
- For parents wanting change for their child, that they trust God to bring them into healthy relationships.

- For those seeking a supportive church to help them in their struggle, that they are able to speak clearly of this desire and that pastors will listen with a shepherd's heart.
- For the facilitators of our support group meetings, that they feel God's blessings for their efforts.
- For Reclamation Resources, that they be blessed in their efforts in the Fox Valley.
- For the ongoing financial support of this ministry, that those who are able will be willing to support us with both finance and prayer.

**The next *Wellspring* will be published  
in June, 2010.**

## The Breath of Life

*By Jill Rennick*



The invitation has been sent, the table is set, the meal is ready, and the host is waiting with anticipation. It doesn't get any better than this. The One who is above all and over all has invited us to come be in His presence and experience all He has to offer.

And yet we delay. Maybe we are not convinced the invitation is for us. We are not worthy, not ready. Maybe we have come before and were disappointed because of unmet expectations or too many doubts. Maybe we are too busy, don't think we need it, or feel we are fine on our own. Maybe we're waiting for a "better offer" -- something more immediate or more tangible. Ultimately the delay speaks *for* us. Our hesitation reveals our hearts.

This is not new. It's been the human struggle since the garden. Will we really believe that our Creator is the One in Whom we will find life? Or will we look elsewhere?

Unlike God, we are not self-sustaining. We were created with need. And so, as creatures of need, we *will* look somewhere, to something or someone outside of ourselves to get our needs met. Certainly God set things up so that some of our needs can be met in the context of His creation by other people or provisions. But we need more. We need something that goes deeper; we need someone who breaths life into us. The word used to describe our choice or "bent" in looking outside of God to find life is **idolatry**.

Idolatry is the tendency to look elsewhere for love, elsewhere for wisdom, elsewhere for comfort, elsewhere for affirmation, and elsewhere for hope. We look to depend on ourselves and other people. We look to rest in our knowledge, abilities, and resources as the foundation of our happiness and peace. It is the opposite of the command given in scripture for us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength."

Here's the irony. We end up worshipping created things instead of the Creator (Romans 1:25). And we settle for so much less. In Jeremiah 2:13 our Father says, "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water." The picture is clear, God offers us Himself as the living water that is alive, moving, fresh, clean, and life giving. We often settle for well

### *The Breath of Life (cont'd)*

water that is stagnant, dirty, or non-sustaining and our broken wells can't even hold it. Sure it's water but not what we were made for and not what we need.

The challenge has been extended. God tells us to tear down our idols, to turn from them and return to Him. I don't believe this is a "once for all" command but rather a daily choice, to come to Him believing He is the one I need.

Allowing Him to be who He says He is—the way, the truth, the life. He is our daily bread, our living water, the God of all comfort, the great physician, and my shepherd. He is love. We must be humble enough to change our point of view and allow Him to develop a growing, underlying foundational belief that ALL we are, have and do depends completely on the God who knows, loves and provides for us.

It's not always easy. To reach this place means sitting daily in His presence even when He refuses to give us the "rush" or instant gratification we sometimes get elsewhere. God wants us to have deep roots which take time to grow. To reach this place means staying in His presence and listening for His voice even when He does not answer us in the way we would have chosen. His ways are higher and His plan is better. To reach this place means taking the time to seek His guidance when we already think we know what should be done. Our competence is no substitute for His wisdom. To reach this place means waiting on Him and His comfort, peace and love rather than pursuing the things that distract us or numb our pain. His presence meets us in our pain and brings real healing.

Recently, God has been pointing out a number of my idols--my broken cisterns--and inviting me to lay them aside so that I might come to Him. As I've responded, I'm finding that my time with Him is rich, deep and soul sustaining. He is the breath of life.

## **Exodus Freedom Conference**

**Irvine, CA  
June 23-26**

Because *Wellspring* is only published three times a year, it seemed appropriate to remind readers to check the Exodus website often ([www.exodusinternational.org](http://www.exodusinternational.org)) for updates and further information.

## **A Freedom Conference Experience**

*By Will*

I am so grateful to have gone to the 2009 Exodus Conference. It was one of the best experiences I have ever had in my life.

My story isn't so different from many who have same-sex attraction (SSA). I have experienced many of the same feelings, relationship ills, and life events that are so common to those who develop SSA. However, it's not the dominating factor of my life. It's one aspect.

I love how we can call it SSA, because much like other acronyms, like ADD, it really is just a condition of the body, maybe a weakness. You can't necessarily always control the attraction. Sometimes, it just happens. Involuntary is a word that comes to mind. It doesn't bother me to call it SSA at all.

Homosexuality, for me, is an unclear word. Same-sex attraction is very concrete. It says: Sometimes I feel romantically, physically, sexually, or emotionally attracted to members of the same sex. I just think of it like a condition or weakness that I fight to overcome everyday.

I cannot have surgery that will, like an overnight stay in the hospital, cure my same-sex attraction. But I do see healing partly because in the past five years I have been part of a local Exodus community and that has allowed me to experience growth.

My attractions are less frequent and less intense than they were when I was 18 years old. Did God create a friend of mine to be blind? I don't know. I don't think so. Did God create me to be homosexually attracted? I don't think so. But he did allow this part of me to be weakened, for reasons that I believe give him greater glory and keep me humble and my pride ALWAYS in check!

I've been blessed in other ways by God that no one else is blessed like. Thank you, my blind brother, for showing me this. You see more than I do at times.

I love never worrying about what I look like around you. I wish I could feel that way around all of my Christian brothers. I will get there someday. With SSA, sometimes I am attracted to the very guys I am friends with. I may not be able to help feeling drawn but I can choose to talk to them and get to know them better in healthy ways.

In time, my feelings change. I no longer feel emotionally or sexually drawn. I see them as brothers, loving brothers in Christ.

*The above is an excerpt from Will's testimony found on our website – [www.brokenyoke.org](http://www.brokenyoke.org) [click on Resources]. The Freedom Conference is an experience filled with God's presence and one not to be missed.*

## **Wisconsin Ministry Locations**

### **Broken Yoke**

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

### **Meetings in Wauwatosa:**

**Support Group** (weekly)

Tuesday, 7:00PM

**Website:**

<http://www.brokenyoke.org>

**Newsletter:** *Wellspring*



*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 414-218-3940 for info

### **Reclamation Resources**

P.O. Box 1062  
Oshkosh, WI 54902  
920-303-1041

<http://www.reclamationrc.org>

**Remember, this ministry depends on your donations to produce this newsletter and other ministry-related expenses. All donations are tax deductible.**

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### ***A Little Humor. . .***

Several men are in the locker room of a golf club. A cell phone on a bench rings and a man engages the hands free speaker-function and begins to talk. Everyone else in the room stops to listen. MAN: "Hello" WOMAN: "Honey, it's me. Are you at the club?"

MAN: "Yes" WOMAN: "I am at the mall now and found this beautiful leather coat. It's only \$1,000. Is it OK if I buy it?" MAN: "Sure, go ahead if you like it that much."

WOMAN: "I also stopped by the Mercedes dealership and saw the new 2010 models. I saw one I really liked."

MAN: "How much?" WOMAN: "\$65,700" MAN: "OK, but for that price I want it with all the options."

WOMAN: "Great! Oh, and one more thing....the house we wanted last year is back on the market. They're asking \$950,000." MAN: "Well, then go ahead and give them an offer, but just offer \$900,000."

WOMAN: "OK. I'll see you later! I love you!" MAN: "Bye, I love you, too."

The man hangs up. The other men in the locker room are looking at him in astonishment. Then he asks: "Anyone know who this phone belongs to?"

