

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

(Monday – 02/09/09 – Pastor Pete Norris)

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. **(Ephesians 1:6)**

The fact that God accepted me in the Beloved transformed my prayer life. Once I realized that I already had a pass directly into the throne room of God and He wanted to be there, I no longer tried to talk God into hearing me. I could come boldly before Him at 2:00 a.m. in the morning, and I wasn't going to awaken Him, disturb Him, or interrupt Him. I could call on Him and know immediately that I was received with love and heard with concern. I realized that God was hearing me whether I screamed or whispered, regardless of the time or day, and no matter where I was or what I was doing. God was going to hear me and answer me just as He heard Jesus and answered Him, because I was graced to be in Christ. I was accepted in the Beloved.

When you grasp the fact that you are accepted in the Beloved and that you have the full acceptance of God, all of your low self-esteem is going to be healed. All of your reluctance to come to God with your sins and your needs is going to vanish. All of your shyness toward Him is going to disappear. You are in His Beloved. Nothing and nobody can ever change that fact.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them, which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. **(Romans 8:1)**

We cannot shut off, stop, or in any way diminish God's flow of love toward us. No matter what we do, we cannot cause God to stop loving us. Nothing can move us from the position of being loved by God. Nothing can change the way God feels about us. Nothing can alter the fact that God is going to continue to love me no matter what I do or say. Receiving God's love heals us on the inside. It causes a person's self-esteem to be built up and emotional hurts to be soothed. Receiving God's love allows us to feel value, worth, and dignity. Receiving God's love allows us to respect ourselves.

Receiving God's love motivates us to discipline ourselves. Receiving God's love gives us the capacity to return His love, love ourselves, and love others. God does not only choose us, but we are eternally, tenderly, unconditionally, and infinitely loved by God. There is no greater blessing, no greater assurance.

You are loved
Pastor Pete