

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Our prayer and God's mercy are like two buckets in a well; while one ascends, the other descends. ~ Hopkins

“GOD DON'T MAKE NO JUNK!”

Rearranging my office one day, I spied my old printer tucked away on a top shelf. It had been there for months. I was going to throw it away and just hadn't got around to doing it. Taking it down, I opened the lid and saw that a piece of paper had been left in it. Curious, I turned it over and to my surprise I saw it was the picture I had been looking for and thought lost. I had used this picture often in counseling and group studies. It was the picture of a sad looking little boy and read; *I know I'm Somebody because God don't make no Junk!* And so I share again God's truth as to the worth of His children.

What is your worth? This is a question that we may ask or hear asked over and over in our daily walk. You could probably answer me, “*that depends on with whom you talk.*”

Many of us were treated like junk when we were growing up and we have felt like junk all our lives. Our sense of worth is greatly influenced by what we see of ourselves reflected in the faces of others. We often live in a vicious cycle that the enemy doesn't want broken. Here is how the cycle works. If I'm treated like junk, I feel like junk. If I feel like junk, I act like junk. If I act like junk, I'm treated like junk...and the cycle continues.

Remember the picture of the sad looking little boy with this saying written above his head, *I know I'm somebody because God don't make no junk!* I carried that picture with me wherever I would go, as I was working through the painful wounds of my childhood abuse. I desperately needed the reminder of God's love and His truth; I was *not junk*, but precious in His eyes—I had worth! So often the world says we are junk, but God says that we are His treasured possessions. We need to understand who we are in Christ and to be able to respond appropriately. Our identity is “*fixed*”, “*locked*”, “*grounded*” in Jesus.

What a person values, that is where his heart is. We serve a God that does not seek for sinless perfection from us, but continual cleansing. He gives us hourly victory in the strength and power of the risen Christ. We are *not junk*, as the enemy would tell us; rather we are the sons and daughters of the Most High King. We need to run to the throne of God in prayer, confess our sins in the loving ears of our Savior and hear ***and receive*** His forgiveness. We need to experience His cleansing, and know the joy of a new start.

What are those sins you ask? It is the sin that comes in the form of fear and takes the place of trust. It is the sin of pain and anguish that sneak in, taking the place of peace. Sin brings defeat in place of victory. Sin robs us of our God given inheritance. Sin is the thief who steals away our happiness—our joy. When we yield to it, sin holds us tightly in bondage to the sins of isolation, guilt, self-condemnation, and self-

rejection. We then become defensive, critical and emotionally crippled. Sin doesn't promote happy, well adjusted people, but the opposite. Positive goes out the door and negative rushes in to take up resident.

Our eyes are often blinded by sin to the true value in ourselves or in others because of the self-centeredness that has crippled our perception of true value. I believe that every detail concerning our success as Christians was all worked out from the very beginning, and we need to turn those negative lies into positive truths as we pray and receive God's truth of who we are in Christ.

Christ is set forth in God's Word as our Savior, our Life, our Peace, our Goal, our soon Coming King, our All in all. He is the One who abides within our hearts and He fills the whole horizon of our Christian life. Therefore, *our worth is in Him and none other*. What a glorious transformation of Christian life, if every child of God would keep Jesus first, others second and self last. He is the balance and hope in our lives.

We can trust His reputation, and allow His hand to guide us on the path of life. We can abide safely in His presence, hear His voice as He speaks to us, and come to Him for all things. We don't need to look at the bigness of our needs; rather, we need to look to the bigness of our God to supply all our needs.

“REMEMBER, GOD DON'T MAKE NO JUNK!”

That you would walk worthy of God who called you into his own kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:12

In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you.

Colossians 3:10 (NLT)

PRAYER

Thank You Father, that my worth is forever settled in You. As I turn to You for all things and yield to Your wisdom and divine guidance, You will keep me in all my ways. May I always remember that You love me with all my imperfections and seek to bring godly balance into every area of my life. I will remember that Your Word says, “I shall be like a tree planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season without fail. My leaves will never wither, and in all I do, I will prosper.” Amen.

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no partiality and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.

James 3:17-18 (NLT)