

Heaven Scent

"The Fragrances of worship from the Living God to you."

THE EMPTY CROSS

By Andrew Thomas

MAY 2009



It is very easy to get off track and lose focus when you are being pulled in many different directions. You start to feel slack in your prayer time and forget not only why you are here, but how much God loves and favors you.

When I find myself in a state of distress, the second verse in Psalms 23 comes to mind: "He lets me rest in the meadow grass and leads me beside the still waters." God has helped me to find comfort in His stillness. I begin to see His sovereignty (Psalms 8). When I get frustrated He whispers tender words of encouragement.

Sometimes, all I can do is hang my head down and cry. He holds me in His arms. When I am burdened down with all my failures, He lifts my head to the empty cross. It is here, where He reminds me that He doesn't want me to carry my burdens on my own. (Peter 5v7) He took them from me at the cross for my eyes are lifted to the outstanding blood stains. I understand I am cleansed and made whole. He says in a gentle but powerful voice, that sets me free, "It is FINISHED."

Think about it: Do I apply the victory of the cross in my day to day living?

Prayer: I thank you Father, that you have placed all my worries, fears, and sickness at the cross, when you said, "It is FINISHED." Help me to remember, on a daily basis, the nails of Jesus, so that I may walk in victory. AMEN.

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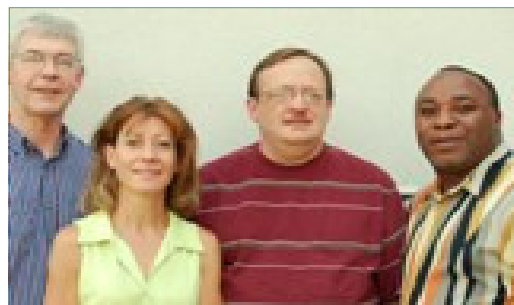
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HOMEWORK! (Yes, I wrote the word Homework!) Make each day a praise day! Let me explain; Thank God for at least one item. It may be simple, like breathing. Spend the day thinking and thanking Him for it. The next thing you know you have "An attitude of Gratitude", which in turn, will change your outlook on everyday situations.

Editorial Team: Charles Boettinger,
Michelle Burkhardt-editor, Keith Snow,
and Andrew Thomas.

Embracing Your Wilderness Experience

By Victoria Scott

"A wilderness is often thought of as a barren wasteland, uninhabited, and perhaps even uninhabitable. The two original words of The Bible that have been translated as wilderness are the Hebrew word of the Old Testament pronounced 'mid-bawr,' and the Greek word of the New Testament pronounced 'er-ay-mos.' While both words are sometimes used to mean a desolate wasteland, they are also used to describe a very good place to pasture sheep - whether actual sheep, or God's "sheep." <http://www.keyway.ca/htm2000/20000821.htm> by Wayne Blank."

When God places a dream, vision, and calling in us, He is faithful and just to bring it to pass for His word never returns to Him without completing its mission. He takes us through these following stages: the call, the preparation, the wilderness, and the promotion. I want to focus on the wilderness because it is the place that is not really acknowledged during this process. I am so grateful to the Holy Spirit for taking the time to teach me about the wilderness. I'll focus on the Jesus' 40 day and 40 night experience in Luke 4 and the exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt as wilderness examples.

It is inevitable that we go through the wilderness. Our **ATTITUDE** about it is extremely important. It. The first thing to understand is it will not be an easy walk through tulips, while sipping Kool-aid, nor a time to cry, 'Woe is me.' God is not picking on you. Our thought should be, *"this is hard, but God is allowing me to go through this for His glory and for my good. I will be joyful and love Him all the more."*

The wilderness is a great place for God to pasture His sheep. It can be a dry, uncomfortable place where convenience is non-existent and utter dependence on Him required. It is a place where **CHARACTER** is tested. My daddy always said, "Ability takes you to the top, but character keeps you there." God does not want the challenges of the vision, dream, or calling to break or destroy us, so the character is developed through testing. Jesus standing up to the enemy in the wilderness was important to show that he would not crumble under the pressure of dying on the cross. Something to think about, we take around 4 years to prepare for a 30 year career or ministry; yet Jesus took 30 years to prepare for a 3 ½ year ministry. His time in the wilderness was not a route He personally chose, but was orchestrated by the Holy Spirit. Embrace your wilderness experience. It is the test before the promotion into your destiny.

Ten wilderness principles:

God wants to give you a personal testimony of who He is to show that He is the miracle worker for others and for you. Do you know what it means to have God as your personal Jehovah-Jireh? Have you seen God do some mind boggling miracles? As they prepared to leave Egypt the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob also became I AM, cloud by day, fire by night and water from the rock. He became their personal God.

God wants to test what is in your heart (Deut 8) before he takes you into the land of overflowing. Are you the bride that loves the ring more than the bridegroom? Are you motivated by love or your own agenda?

He wants to test that we have surrendered ourselves completely and acknowledged Him as Lord over all areas of lives. He gave Israelites commandments (Ex 20-23) concerning their diet, their relationships, and their money. Does he truly reign over every area or just the places you want Him to be?

He wants to remove the Egyptian in you. The Israelites were physically, but not mentally delivered out of Egypt. Some old bad habits had crossed the Red Sea. Complaining and murmuring stem from the spirit of rebellion that Pharaoh displayed. The hand of God was seen over and over again; still they refused to surrender. The complaining spirit is horrible because no matter how good things get, fault will always be found.

It is the land of "just enough." Before 'overflowing' is enjoyed 'just enough' must be appreciated. What are you doing with what God has given you right now? Want a bigger house – is your current home being used to serve the Lord? Want a better car----how are you using the one you have now to glorify God? Want \$100,000-are you tithing on the money God faithfully gave you? My mommy always said, "If you wait to give when you have enough you'll never give."

Lessons must be learned. Ask the question, "Lord what is it that I have to learn, and help me learn it quickly." He wants you there for a specific period of time, no longer or no less.

God wants us moving effectively in the power of the Spirit. Luke 4 reads that Jesus went into the wilderness full of the Spirit and came out in the power of the Spirit. The power/virtue of the Spirit is what healed the sick, opened blind eyes, and broke bondages. Jesus said we would have the authority to do the same and more.

We have to understand that we don't wrestle against flesh and blood. Our true enemy is the devil (Eph 6). He has studied you very closely and formulated schemes to deter you from your destiny.

A time to clearly hear His voice. Jesus was able to differentiate the voice of the tester and the tempter. He could have said "My father knows I'm hungry so he is nudging me to eat."

Know how to use our weapons of warfare. "For the weapons of our warfare are not of this world but mighty through God for the pulling down of strongholds 2 Cor. 10:4. Praise, worship, and prayer are our weapons. Jesus used the word of God skillfully to fight off the enemy. It's one thing to say, 'we don't live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' When we've just had a Texas Roadhouse meal, and another thing when you haven't eaten for days. Do we really believe and live the things the word is telling us? Do the songs we sing on Sunday really mean anything or is it to sound good in church? Is our prayer time only before meals and at church services?

Redemptive Thoughts

By Charles Boettinger

Some have lost their thoughts
And forgotten whom they are.
Had total loss of memory
Their brain's not up to par.

Those strange and scary feelings
May take you by surprise.
The enemy's just workin' hard
To keep truth from your eyes.

The truth he wants the most to steal
Is remembrance of redemption.
Just fuss and fret about your sins
From judgment there's no exemption.

Along with that he steals your joy
And then works on your purpose.
His goal to stop the works of God
Predestined for your service.

Paul's refrain keeps coming through
God's word has mighty power.
Reflect on all He's done for you
Redeem each day and hour.

A re-write of Timothy Barrett's [Spiritual Amnesia](#)

REAL WORLD

By Greg Snow-age 9

This is the real world.
This ain't the honey world.
This ain't the unpeaceful world.
This is the high gas prices world.
This is the peaceful world.
This is the real world.

IT IS SUMMER

By Andrew Burkhardt-age 8

It is summer
The trees have leaves
And there is a breeze.

It is cool
The sky is blue
We are playing. Where are you?

Kids are playing in the sun
And some are having lots of fun.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WORSHIP VOCAL SEMINAR: MAY 16.

WORSHIP TEAM PRACTICE : THURS.

Division of [WCAT](#)



REVEREND STEVE BOWERSOX– *More Than a Song*

Via phone interview with Pastor Andrew Thomas

Education:

Grad Schools: University of North Texas 86
Ph.D.; Christian Philosophy and Technical Arts
Masters of Music Education, Logos Christian University 07
Graduated with a triple major: Music, Business, and Voice

College: Heidelberg 79; Music Education and Business

Employer: Christ the Redeemer Church-Executive Pastor of Worship
Integrity Media-Instructor, Producer, and Musician
Bowersox Institute of Music– Executive Director

Personal:

Married to Kathy Corbett Bowersox
3 children: Rachael 12 years-old, 2 year-old twins, Benjamin and Brook.
Lives in Jacksonville, FL
JAMM– Jacksonville Alliance of Music Ministers which brings together music directors from all over
City for fellowship and training in areas of music, worship, and technology.
Author: The Worship Musicians Theory Coarse
**Private Pilots License: Member of Christian Pilot's Association and recently asked to be
Chaplin of Civil Air Patrol.

Favorite Fun Tid-bits:

Music: Mozart, Nat King Cole, Yellow Jackets, Chris Tomlin, The Message, Baloché, Hillsong,
Chicago, Journey, Eagles, Sting, Steve Krentz, and even enjoys some good rap.
Movie: Count of Monte Cristo, Braveheart, Passion and Star Wars
Books: The Message, One Minute Manager, In Search of Excellence
Quotations: "Do, or do not. There is no try." by Yoda, Jedi Master
"Act on what you hear..." James 1:22 (MSG)

Saturday, May 16, 2009, at 8:00am, Steve Bowersox will be conducting a Worship Vocal Seminar at
Living Water. Recently, our ace reporter, Pastor Andrew Thomas, had a inspiring phone interview with
Steve. Here are some of the highlights from that conversation.

Growing up with hard-working parents, Steve attributes his father, a sergeant in the Army, as a very
strong influence in his life. He was adopted into a loving family and raised in farmland-Clyde, Ohio. His
mother was a stay-at-home mom who raised him and his sister, also adopted. Steve's family attended
an Evangelical Lutheran Church. Music was his passion early on, and with his parents guidance, Steve
found the strength to avoid the typical, teenage temptations and was able to avoid drugs, drinking, and
smoking. One of Steve's passions is flying; therefore, following in his dad's footsteps, he obtained his
private pilot's license. He currently uses this ability to glorify God by flying himself to and from
conferences. (He jokes: "This way I never lose my luggage!")

Family, faith, and church fellowship are what motivates Steve. He has developed strong friendships over the last 14 years at his church. His social activities all springs from what happens at the church. For example, the night of the phone interview, Steve and his wife, Kathy, were headed for an evening out to enjoy Earth Quake, a church musical. Having special moments with his family are very important because the last 2 years have been a difficult time for the them. Kathy was diagnosed with stage 4 Metastatic Melanoma Cancer. She was given 6 to 9 months to live, but (Praise God!) she is cancer free.

Memories:

Steve is proficient in wind instruments, guitar, bass, electronic keyboards and MIDI. During high school he was the drum major of his local marching band. He traveled with bands such as “Truth and Sammy Hall.” and had the privilege to play in the bands of some famous people like Dolly Parton, Barbara Mandrel, Jimmy Swaggart, and Glen Campbell. Whilst working with Integrity Music he has directed bands for many notable Christian artists: Alvin slaughter, Paul Baloche, Ron Kenoly and Paul Wilbur just to name a few.

On a tour of South Africa, Steve found himself in a “reverse zoo” moment as his group was put into a cage surrounding a mobile home. He realized that the man-eating savages were on the outside of the cage while he and his group were being protected inside the cage. His next trip is with Paul Wilbur as they head to Kuwait for underground ministry to the Arabs and Muslims.

What can those who attend take away from this seminar?

Steve plans to cover practical things to improve musical skills. He wants to stir up the gift in each individual for the ministry that God has called for them. The climate will be a real impartation verses the typical lecturing style with a focus on the motivational techniques that will efficiently impact our worship teams, church, and families that will spill over into our community. Ministering to one’s spirit through humor, passion, and encouragement are what Steve calls instilling, “Fruit that remains.”

A talented worship leader’s job is to lead the people to the presence of the Lord. Steve has a clear understanding that there are leaders, worshipers, and worship leaders; while each one has a unique distinction, he believes this ministry will guide believers into a deeper, more intimate form of worship.

By following his calling, Steve lives out his motto, “The right thing, the right way, at the right time, for the right reasons.” Hence, come to the RIGHT place and join this talented musician, teacher, and family man as he guides us to make a “joyful noise” together.

Date: May 16, 2009.

Time: Doors Open 8:00am; Conference 8:45am– 1:30pm

Place: Living Water Community Church



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