

For a Worm Such As I

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction 5

Chapter 1 6

RAISED OUT OF THE DIRT

Chapter 2 10

ESTABLISH STRONG ROOTS

Chapter 3 15

POSSESS THE PROMISES

CONCLUSION 18

INTRODUCTION

In Scripture, the depiction of people as worms is so clear. God formed the first man, Adam, out of the dust of the earth. Worms spend most of their time in the dust and dirt, slithering through the debris the world drops on them—such an accurate of picture of what we are apart from God.

In Psalm 103, God is addressing all of us when He says, “Do not fear. I know everything about you. I know your frame; I know that you came from the dust. I understand this. And I love you.”

All men are worms, and Jesus identified with all of us when He referred to Himself as a worm, in Psalm 22:6. This booklet reveals that even as worms, we are precious in God’s sight. He chose to redeem us and to make us become like Him. So now, by His righteousness, we can produce fruit that others may partake of and enjoy.

Chapter One

RAISED OUT OF THE DIRT

“I have said to corruption, Thou art my father; to the worm, Thou art my mother, and my sister” (Job 17:14).

“Behold, even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in God’s sight.

“How much less man, that is a worm? and the son of man, which is a worm? (Job 25:5-6).

“But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people” (Psalm 22:6).

“Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

“For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust” (Psalm 103:13-14).

“Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 41:14).

Was it kind for our precious, compassionate Savior to address His people as worms? I mean, if someone were to come up to you and say,

“You worm!” would you be offended?

“Fear not, thou worm, Jacob—I will help thee!” says the Lord. This is a favorite passage for some people, and it is easy to see why. There are few seasoned Christians who would not embrace these words. And though God was making reference to Israel here, the sentiment extends to all of His people.

Really, it is quite a statement for God to make, since worms are considered by most as worthless at best.

The only individual God directly referred to as a worm was Jacob. He stole his brother’s birthright. Then, after spending twenty years backslidden and in fear, the Lord called Jacob a worm. Why? Because he was very much like a worm.

The truth of the matter is that God addressed Jacob as a worm because worms spend all of their time in the dirt and they eat garbage. They also spread disease. Jacob ate garbage in the sense that he focused his life on fulfilling his flesh. Unsatisfied with his wife Leah, Jacob desired to have her sister Rachel instead. He spent fourteen years of hard labor to win her, and then she died while giving birth.

Any time people try to satisfy their flesh,

they take on the “worm” nature, to the point that they start to thrive on the dirt and the darkness. The garbage of pornography, of drugs, and of an inordinate desire for wealth have driven good people to unimaginable depravity. But do you know that, as God sees it, Christians who eat the garbage of bitterness, self-righteousness, slothfulness, or envy are just as depraved as those who eat the dust of the world?

In the end, Jacob became the father of twelve sons who became the leaders of the twelve tribes of Israel. That is a perfect example of the promotion of a worm. Jacob wound up being a very precious son of God.

God Knows Our Frame

“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” (Numbers 23:19).

God takes curses and turns them into blessings, and these blessings cannot be reversed. What a precious thing it is to realize that Jesus Christ said He was a worm because He was identifying with us. He numbered Himself with the transgressors. That was a part of the plan—

the plan that would find us numbered with the saints in glory, for all of eternity.

Chapter Two

ESTABLISH STRONG ROOTS

There can be no fruit in a Christian's life unless he has established roots in each category of the Word of God. Every fruit has to have a root. If I have the fruit of love, the fruit of kindness, the fruit of compassion, the fruit of forgiveness, these only come because the roots of God's love have been established in my life. We establish the roots, and the fruit will follow. What's more, every place we go we can make into a place of blessing.

A lady walked into her home one day and watched her brother gun down her father. It was such a shock to her that she ended up in a mental institution for a season. There, a pastor led her to the Lord Jesus Christ. After so much torment, at last she was able to embrace the distinct, expressed personality of God, and she was set free.

Personality is the distinct outward expres-

sion of what is on the inside. For example, if you have a caustic personality, which characteristically finds fault with others, you will play the blame game and never take responsibility for yourself.

In Genesis 3, Adam blamed Eve for his fall. “I would have never done that if it wasn’t for the woman that you gave me. *She* gave the fruit to me.” Eve blamed everything on the serpent. But, she didn’t have to cooperate. Today, many Christians enter into the blame game, because they have personalities that are disordered, personalities that have flaws, and they choose to express the essence of those flaws.

How do we deal with the flaws in our personality? We say unto the mountain, “Be removed and cast into the sea.” If we do not doubt in our hearts, God absolutely begins to work in our lives, taking care of those flaws. For example, the problem of personality clashes is one area where God can work. Maybe you have a personality that continually clashes with others—someone is always “rubbing you the wrong way.” God desires to use situations like that to take away this personality flaw through Calvary.

A Personality Filled with Love

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

“Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

“Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

“Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be

knowledge, it shall vanish away.

“For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

“But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity” (1 Corinthians 13).

D.L. Moody, one of Christianity’s great evangelists, became very discouraged at one point, and it seemed as though he had lost his anointing. A younger pastor recognized what was happening and said to him, “You are discouraged and complaining because your anointing is gone. Try reading First Corinthians 13 every morning and night.”

Moody did more than that. He read the chapter five times a day and by the thirteenth day the big man was on his knees. The Holy Spirit refreshed his soul and he began to weep

and weep. Once again, he was able to sense the presence of God in his preaching.

Expressing love is a distinct characteristic of a Blood-bought believer who is filled with the Holy Spirit and with the Word of God. A personality filled with God needs to have roots that are deep in doctrine, then it will produce fruit. This personality needs to have a place to go where it can always get blessed and be a blessing. This personality receives life through fellowship in the assembly, where the Word of God is preached. Then, together they go into all the world, pouring out the abundance they have received.

Chapter Three

POSSESS THE PROMISES

“Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses” (Joshua 1:3).

“Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly” (Isaiah 6:2).

God loves to give us promises, but even more, He loves to give us the things that He promises! He gave to Israel the Promised Land, but it didn't do the people any good until they possessed it. They had to take possession; they had to put their foot down on the soil to possess that land that God had promised to give them.

In Isaiah 6:2, God wouldn't let the prophet see the faces of the angels about the throne of God. The seraphim had wings that covered their faces, because He wanted the focus to be on Christ. The wings here represent the abundance

of eternal life and having an attitude that says “not I, but Christ” (Galatians 2:20).

I know so many men whose faces are covered with eternal life. I consider their lives and all I can think of is the fruit of God they reveal: meekness, gentleness, quietness, and purity. The ushers who serve during our services, the teachers in our day school and Bible college, the pastors, the receptionists, and so many others—I think, “Oh, how faithful they are.” Each name we consider reflects something distinct about the person.

When we start to go down a wrong way, the Holy Spirit is available to deal with our personalities, which can become manipulative and aggressive. He stands ready to control our impulses.

Manipulation and aggression can be dangerous to one’s health. Consider Herod. God sent worms to consume Herod. God allowed the worms to feed on his flesh, and he was destroyed after he mocked God (see Acts 12:23).

The Thread of Redemption

The text of Exodus 28:5 speaks of the colors and the fabric used to make Aaron’s robe. The scarlet color was made from the dried body of a

female worm (*towleah* in the Hebrew) that was squeezed and crushed to produce the dye. It was also used to color the linen that covered the table of shewbread. This is a beautiful picture of Christ, who was broken and who shed His blood so that we could be robed with His righteousness.

What an amazing truth this is! The scarlet threads come from a worm, but the full value of the worm was not revealed until after its death. The sacrifice, the thoughtfulness, and the victory of love—the scent of Redemption comes out of “worms” who are willing to be crushed for God’s purpose.

CONCLUSION

We are no longer worm-like when God is allowed to give us a personality from heaven. The Holy Spirit equips us to reproduce the fruit of our roots in love, peace, joy, longsuffering, gentleness, faithfulness, meekness, and temperance.

Once worms, we are transformed into saints in His sight. Every believer is a member in particular of the royal family of God. He has made us holy, and He has given us His righteousness.

Perhaps you are thinking, “I am not worthy.” Your worthiness depends only upon the integrity of the Finished Work and the integrity of God’s imputed righteousness. If you have been washed in the Blood of the Lamb of God, you are a saint.

The fact that you stand before God as a saint and that He calls you holy—this is the evaluation you need, in terms of your self-image. It doesn’t matter what your flaws are or what you think your problems are. In Christ, you are a

saint.

Where you are going, friend, is not determined by where you are now. You are headed for perfection in the Finished Work. Your premise for growth is the fact that you are a saint. It was all made possible by Calvary and by the promise of eternal life that you have believed and received.

The moment you are saved, you become perfect positionally, a child of the King. You may not always feel like it, and a lot of the time, you may not act like it. But ultimately, your perfection will be experiential when you go home to be with Jesus Christ, in heaven, forever.