By piercegrace

Written on Friday, April 27, 2012

Time: 7:45 a.m. Location: Florida

(Names have been changed for privacy)

Focus Holy Bible Scripture:

1 John 2:15-17

Amplified Bible (AMP)

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As I was sitting inside my home reading my Holy Bible devotional, I heard a person shouting out a name, "Riley! Riley! Then I looked out the window to see a very unusual event unfolding. A small, white, poodle looking dog was incessantly barking and running after a duck, which caused this man to shout incessantly, "Riley! Come back here!" With the leash flapping in the wind, the little legs of the small white poodle ran as fast as he could after the duck.

The master owner of the dog, casually walking his other two dogs, he continued to call out to the dog, "Riley, get back here! Riley! Riley! Riley, get back here! The dog ignored his master owner's calls, and continued running afterward the duck in a wild pursuit. With a new lease, or should I say, leash, on life the dog continued to run after the duck closely on his tail.

We have wildlife nearby flying above or walking on the sidewalk of our home. In particular, very often, we have two ducks that loves to walk on our sidewalk of our home in the mornings or afternoons.

Being larger than the dog, the duck would run as fast as he could away from the dog, and at times stop to jab his bill at the dog in attempts to stop the chase. The duck's bill poking did not stop the leash-free dog that ran like lighting, and they both ran completely to the fence of a large beautiful partially fenced pond we have across from our home. At the fenced portion of the pond, the duck and dog stopped to have a bout of bodily wits. It looked like a boxing match as the duck did a type of Rope-A-Dope on the fence, and the dog swishing from side to side after the duck. At the fence, the duck continued to jab his bill and twist and turn his body away from the dog, and the dog uncontrollably kept up his barking, turning, shifting, and chasing at the fence of the pond. This pond has various animals and insects that frequent it for a cool dip from the heat of the day or a leisurely swim.

The leash-free dog was free from the master owner to do as he desired, and was not about to stop now. "I am having too much fun chasing this duck", I am sure the dog was thinking. Not all the shouting from the owner of the dog's name slowed down the duck-dog race match.

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The duck tried his best to fight off the dog with its beak; the duck was no match for the persistent leash-free dog. Therefore, as a life-saving defense from the chasing dog, the duck quickly turned around the pond's corner and jumped into the pond. The master owner of the dog shouting became louder and louder as he saw the dog running around the open portion of the pond after the duck, "Riley!!! Riley!!! Come back here!" This action did not stop the dog barking and chasing and he quickly followed the duck and jump into the pond after the duck.

He continued to walk behind both the duck and dog dash to the pond; the master owner was calmly walking and yet frantically calling out to the dog, "Riley! Riley! Come back here!

Walking around the pond with his other two dogs on a leash, the master owner continue to call out the name of the now dog-in-the-pond. Hoping the dog would respond to the calling out of his name, with no avail the dog continued swimming in the pond after the duck. Many minutes of shouting out the dog's name at the edge of the pond ended without success of the dog obeying the master owner. Hitting the surface of the water a few times from the master owner did not even prompt the dog to swim out of the pond toward his owner. By this time, the dog's barking had stopped and the duck had safely retreated to a haven from the leash-free-duck-chasing dog. Nevertheless, another condition had developed from this first incident for the master owner: How do I get my leash-free dog out of this pond?

Suddenly, the name shouting of the dog had ceased and the master owner stood quietly on the pond's edge. Next, I saw the master owner of the dog rolling up each pant leg toward his knees. Slowly, he began to walk into the water of the pond to retrieve the leash-free dog. After gathering the dog out of the pond, he placed the leash back on him and all three dogs walked back together toward their home.

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Spiritual Lessons Learned

The master owner represents our heavenly Father LORD GOD.

The **pond** represents worldly filth sins, what we fall into when chasing something or someone we should not go after.

The duck represents our lustful desires, passion, and pursuits against God and His will in our lives.

The dog represents each individual human being person whether born-again believer or not born-again believer.

Living in a disobedient will toward the LORD, we chase many items of all shapes and sizes hoping by obtaining it would bring happiness. The leash-free dog thought he was free to chase the duck. He thought it was fun to be free chasing his dream in catching a duck.

We chase after many dreams that turn into nightmares because our heart motive is amiss. We repent and ask the LORD forgiveness of sins, and ask the Holy Spirit for instructions and comfort to teach us God's way of living a life pleasing to Him. Believers in the LORD sometimes feel they are on a "leash" and cannot have fun in our lives.

Controlled Freedom to becoming a Living Sacrifice unto the LORD GOD

The LORD GOD ALMIGHTY is in control of everything, He releases the "leash" because of our desires in our heart, whether good or bad. As the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY controls the entire situation, He allows the person to frantically chases after his passion. This "controlled freedom" from the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY is a teaching test of our faith toward Him to trust Him in all matters. The master owner of the leash-free dog was slowly walking behind the dog as he ran after the duck. Our heavenly Father LORD GOD is lovingly walking and watching our actions as we run after fleshly lustful quests.

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The person falls into an insatiable rush of his passion so that it leads him falling or jumping into the pond of dirt, filth, and sin. In the beginning of the chase, it looked like fun, it looked like a great job/career, it looked like a great place to live, it looked like a great church or place of worship, he or she looked like a wonderful spouse, etc. As the person joyfully thinking I am swimming in a pond of freedom, in reality he is swimming in a pond of sinful wickedness. The duck has left the dog in the pond swimming around alone, but the desire he once had of getting the duck is now gone; he is stuck in the watery pond of immorality.

The master owner of the dog kept calling out, shouting loudly, his name, but the dog refused to stop and turn around coming back to his master owner. We too have the Master Owner calling out, shouting loudly at times, our name, but we refuse to stop and turn away from sinning. Due to the lustful passion sin in our lives, we cannot hear or choose not to hear Him calling out or shouting our name for redemption salvation.

The Master Owner standing at the edge of our watery pond of lustful desires is waiting for us to come toward Him. Falling into the watery pond splashed a wake –up call of our ears to hear our heavenly Father LORD GOD calling our name. You might say, "I have been "swimming" in this watery pond of sinfulness for a long time, will or could the LORD GOD ever forgive me?" You may ask, "Is He going to forgive me for all the horrible things I have said, done, or even think in my mind?" The dog seems hesitant or even afraid to go toward the master owner because of his chasing the duck. Are we afraid to ask the heavenly Father GOD for His forgiveness because believers, and non-believers, have chased some evil passion or desire?

We thought, "I will go after the goal, job, career, and passion in my heart!" Even though this was not what the LORD GOD desires for us, He allowed us to purse it, and sometimes acquires it, then takes it away, to show us that we truly need Him in our lives and He wants His best for us.

The affectionately heavenly Father LORD GOD walks slowly behind us as we pursue our fleshly lustful desires, as we think they will make us happy. The LORD GOD allows us to rush in after our fleshly hunts to show and teach us a

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Spiritual lesson. While running after the "duck", the LORD GOD is walking behind us still in love with us calling our name to get our attention to turn away from our hurtful sins and turn toward Him. The heavenly Father LORD GOD allows us to "jump in the pond" after our fleshly passions and even allow us to obtains the passion pursuit to teach us a Spiritual lesson. We "swim" around in the pond of fleshly passion and worldly desires because of fear and unfaithfulness. The LORD GOD ALMIGHTY allows us to think we have gain a great possession from the world to show us it is only fleeting and the true great gain is to possess Him.

All this time the heavenly Father LORD GOD is mercifully and graciously standing at the edge of the pond of our worldly ways and thinking as we sin against Him. Knowingly or unknowingly because of the fearful lustful greedy desire to become rich, famous, or popular we fall into our "pond" of sinful practices against God's laws. Heavenly Father LORD GOD calls out our name and we ignore or do not hear Him because we are hotly "running" after the things of the world. The heavenly Father LORD GOD loves and wants us to have salvation and live in His Kingdom, rolls up His pants legs (same as the master owner of the dog) and walk toward us. Even though we are swimming in our "pond" of denying and defiling the LORD GOD and His commands, he lovingly wade in the water to pick us up and out from our stinky, slimy, filthy, degenerate, debased and sinful state and place us in His arms of love and forgiveness. Heavenly Father LORD GOD takes us away in His arms, in His bosom of love, protection, peace, mercy, grace, and forgiveness of our sins into a new place of intimate relationship of feasting upon Spiritual "food" and "drink" in the Messiah and Holy Spirit. The heavenly Father LORD GOD cleans us up from the worldly sins, takes away the works of the flesh, and gives us a replacement of the Fruit of the Spirit.

Lovingly, our heavenly Father GOD is waiting to pull us out of our pond of unfaithfulness, pond of sins. The master owner waded in the water lovingly pulling out his dog from the pond. The LORD GOD will forgive us as we humbly ask Him and seek His desires in our lives.

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The LORD GOD patiently waits for us to repent of all sins, and turn toward Him in a righteous life of joy in the LORD. The LORD will pull you out of the miry clay to clean you up with the Blood of Jesus / Yeshua Messiah by the Holy Spirit.

As the master owner of the dog sympathetically places his arms around the dog, walks back toward a warm, dry, and safe place, our heavenly Father LORD GOD, Master Owner, does the same for us as we repent, ask forgiveness for all our sins, and begin to seek, obey, and serve and love Him with all our heart.

Holy Bible Scriptures from Amplified Bible (www.biblegateway.com)

Ephesians 5:8-10

Amplified Bible (AMP)

8For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light [lead the lives of those native-born to the Light].

9For the fruit (the effect, the product) of the Light or [a]the Spirit [consists] in every form of kindly goodness, uprightness of heart, and trueness of life.

10And try to learn [in your experience] what is pleasing to the Lord [let your lives be constant proofs of what is most acceptable to Him].

Colossians 2:12-14

Amplified Bible (AMP)

12[Thus [a]you were circumcised when] you were buried with Him in [your] baptism, in which you were also raised with Him [[b]to a new life] through [your] faith in the working of God [[c]as displayed] when He raised Him up from the dead.

13And you who were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh (your sensuality, your sinful carnal nature), [God] brought to life together with [Christ], having [freely] forgiven us all our transgressions,

Butterfly Journey Ministries; http://ButteflyJourney.tripod.com; (678) 523-2634

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14Having cancelled and blotted out and wiped away the handwriting of the note (bond) with its legal decrees and demands which was in force and stood against us (hostile to us). This [note with its regulations, decrees, and demands] He set aside and cleared [d]completely out of our way by nailing it to [His] cross.

Galatians 5:19-21

Amplified Bible (AMP)

19Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are immorality, impurity, indecency,

20Idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies),

21Envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Psalm 51

Amplified Bible (AMP)

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David; when Nathan the prophet came to him after he had sinned with Bathsheba.

1HAVE MERCY upon me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to the multitude of Your tender mercy and loving-kindness blot out my transgressions.

2Wash me thoroughly [and repeatedly] from my iniquity and guilt and cleanse me and make me wholly pure from my sin! 3For I am conscious of my transgressions and I acknowledge them; my sin is ever before me.

4Against You, You only, have I sinned and done that which is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and faultless in Your judgment.

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Although Manasseh started out as an evil king, he turned around from his wicked ways to come to know the LORD GOD.

2 Chronicles 33

Amplified Bible (AMP)

1MANASSEH WAS twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem.

2But he did evil in the Lord's sight, like the abominations of the heathen whom the Lord drove out before the Israelites.

3For he built again the [idolatrous] high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared altars for the Baals and made the Asherim and worshiped all the hosts of the heavens and served them.

4Also he built [heathen] altars in the Lord's house, of which the Lord had said, In Jerusalem shall My Name be forever.

9So Manasseh led Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the heathen whom the Lord had destroyed before the Israelites.

10The Lord spoke to Manasseh and to his people, but they would not hearken.

11So the Lord brought against them the commanders of the host of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks and in fetters and brought him to Babylon.

12When he was in affliction, he besought the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.

13He prayed to Him, and God, entreated by him, heard his supplication and brought him again to Jerusalem to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God.

14And he built an outer wall to the City of David west of Gihon in the valley, to the entrance of the Fish Gate, and ran it around Ophel, raising it to a very great height; and he put commanders of the army in all the fortified cities of Judah.

15And he took away the foreign gods and the idol out of the house of the Lord and all the altars that he had built on the mount of the house of the Lord and in Jerusalem; and he cast them out of the city.

16And he restored the Lord's altar and sacrificed on it offerings of peace and of thanksgiving; and he commanded Judah to serve the Lord, the God of Israel.