

# THE NAKED TRUTH

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**I**t is funny how God will choose to speak to us in the most interesting of places. I recently was speaking to a friend about my experiences in the bathroom, yes, the bathroom. The bathroom has been a place of many confrontations, breakthroughs, and deliverances. Maybe it is because it is the one place where we are most comfortable getting and being naked. I am reminded of the initial state of Adam and Eve ... naked, innocent and without shame. God wants us to get back to that place where we are willing and able to get naked before him; there is nothing in our lives that He does not want us to willingly give Him.

**T**he Word of God tells us that unless we become like little children then we will not enter into the kingdom of heaven. I have always found this to be an interesting choice of analogy. However, it makes a great deal of sense. Little children will prance around naked if you allow them; they will stand in the midst of adults at the most inopportune time naked. God wants the same thing from us, as his children – nakedness. He wants us to be able to come before His presence and bring Him truth. God doesn't want our faults, concerns, fears, successes, desires, needs (perceived and actual) to be masked by anything. He wants us ... all of us. Contrary to our belief, God is concerned about every aspect of our lives; he wants us to cast all (not some) of our cares upon Him because He truly does care for us. He wants us to stand before His presence in "truth"... the truth of where we are at; the truth of our shortcomings; the truth of our fears. It is ironic that when we are struggling with temptation and sin that we run from God rather than run to the only person who is able to deliver us and sustain us in our deliverance.

**P**aul exhorts the church at Ephesus to "put off concerning the former conversation of the old man". In other words, we need to take off everything that reminds us of our former lives which were displeasing to God. This is the first step in what I like to call the cycle of sanctification found in Ephesians 4:22-24. Although many of us struggle with this level of honesty with God, 1 John 1:9 tells us that if we confess our faults that God is just and faithful to forgive us and Psalm 86:5 tells us that God is ready to forgive us and plenteous in mercy if we simply call upon Him. Oh what reassurance this brings to us as we approach God with the "naked" truth!

**I**t is when we decide to take off everything and expose the "naked" truth that God shows Himself mighty in our lives. It is during these moments of intimacy that He desires to cleanse us from our sin; purge us with hyssop; wash us; blot out our transgressions; create in us a clean heart; and restore to us the joy of his salvation. I challenge you to look at your life and find those areas where you have not been truthful with yourself and with God. Give it to God – plainly and honestly. He will in no way deny you. †