

The Forgotten Way – Ted Dekker & Bill Vanderbush

The Truth:

First Declaration - God, who is infinitely good and far more loving and kind to his children than any earthly mother or father imaginable, glorified His identity on Earth by making mankind in His likeness, complete and in union with Him. But the first Adam embraced the knowledge of good and evil, so we were born into darkness, blinded to and separated from fellowship with our Father, who does not condemn us.

Second Declaration - We, as sons and daughters of the Father, are remade in the likeness of God. Jesus, the second Adam, came as Light into all darkness and undid what the first Adam did, that we might experience the Father's life right now. This we call eternal life. Even so, we put our identity in and so are mastered by one of two perceptions of reality each day. One is seen in flesh – the passing system of the world, darkened by the knowledge of good and evil, deceiving and enslaving us as we put our faith in it. The other realm is seen in the light through the power of the Holy Spirit – the eternal kingdom of the Father flowing with light and love without grievance.

Meditations:

- 1 Look How Magnificent is your Father.
 - God is fully complete and perfect in Love. Nothing can be added or taken away from Him and I am His son whom He loves unconditionally.
- 2 There is no Fear in Love.
 - God is my Father (Abba) and His perfect love eliminates all fear.
- 3 The story of your Father
 - The Father judges no one and constantly invites me to share His goodness.
- 4 The story of you.
 - Adam's disobedience cursed every human soul, but Jesus' perfect obedience to the Father's will (the cross) redeemed humanity and brought us back into full fellowship with God.
- 5 Seeing who you are.
 - When I gave my life to Christ, the 'old me' died on the cross with Jesus. I am a new creation, risen with Christ and seated in heaven. Christ lives in me and I live in Him.
- 6 The great mystery.
 - God is fully present within me now. I am restored in harmony with Eden's Tree of Life and blessed with access to the Trinity; Father, Son & Holy Spirit.
- 7 Sons and Daughters of the Father.
 - Whenever I struggle in this world, it means I have fallen out of alignment with my true identity as a son/daughter of my Father in heaven.

The Way:

Third Declaration – Our journey now is to believe who we truly are, having been raised from the dark grave as new creatures into that realm of light with and in Jesus. Belief in Jesus is this: identifying with Him in His death, resurrection, and glory even now, He in us and we in Him. Our true identity is this: we are the sons and daughters of our Father, already made complete and whole; already at peace and full of power thought we often forget, each day, whenever we are blinded to our true identity.

Fourth Declaration – We will only see who we are and thus be who we are, as we surrender our attachment to all other identities, which are like gods of a lesser power that block our vision of our true identity and so keep us in darkness. Our surrender is to deny our false selves, to take up the cross, to let go of all that holds us captive in this world, because we are in the world but not of it.

Meditations:

- 8 The tale of two kingdoms.
 - I live in two worlds, a temporary physical one seen with earthly eyes and an eternal one (kingdom of God) seen with the spiritual eyes of my heart.
- 9 What defies earthly eyes
 - My spiritual being and physical being are at war with each other. It is impossible to serve both God and Mammon. Seek first the kingdom of God (Heaven), and all else will be added.
- 10 Seeing in the dark.
 - To see with the eye of Christ, surrender every attachment/fear in the physical world and fix your eye on Jesus. You will have peace in any crisis.
- 11 Seeing is believing.
 - Judging others or myself blocks my vision of who I truly am and the world I live in. God does not judge. We should do likewise.
- 12 See like a child and be free.
 - To see the kingdom of God with the eye of my heart, imagine yourself as a young child longing to sit on the Father's (Abba) lap and be loved by Him.
- 13 Beautiful Brother and Savior.
 - Jesus was obedient to the Father's will by going to the cross. When I surrender the will of my flesh to HIM and align myself with HIS will, I find my true identity in Him.
- 14 Step out of your Prison
 - I am already complete and at peace as a son/daughter of God. Fear blinds me to this truth and separates (sin) me from God. In each moment, I choose to pick up my cross by surrendering the ways of my old self and follow Christ.

The Life:

Fifth Declaration - To the extent we place our identity in His, we will be known for our extravagant love, which is the evidence of our true nature, risen with Christ. Walking in the realm of the Father's presence here on Earth – abiding in the vine, who is Jesus, we will find peace in the storms; we will walk on the troubled seas of our lives: we will not be poisoned by the lies of snakes; we will move mountains that appear insurmountable; we will heal all manner of sickness that twist minds and bodies.

The fruit of the Spirit will flow from us as living waters, because the manifestation of the kingdom of heaven on Earth is love. And when we love, all will know: there goes one who walks in the Spirit and flies on the wings of an eagle.

Meditations:

- 15 The evidence of you is Love
 - The greatest evidence of our union with Christ is love, and only by being in Christ can we love the world as God loves us. Our purpose on Earth is to share the love of God with others. Begin by loving yourself as God loves you.
- 16 Being love in the darkness.
 - Love is the expression of the Kingdom of God on earth. We are called to minister to our neighbors by loving them as ourselves.
- 17 Let all your troubles fall away.
 - Forgiveness is “letting go” of the plank of judgment in my eye so I can see that I am not a victim and already complete in the Father's eye. Forgive myself and others of any offense and peace will abound in me.
- 18 Giving is Receiving.
 - Give today, expect nothing in return, and feel joy & peace. Giving aligns me with the kingdom of heaven. Let go of the self's desire to hold onto possessions.
- 19 Enemies & Friends.
 - The flesh defines a “friend” as one you expect to love you, and an “enemy” as one from whom you fear harm. Both enslave you by “holding you to account”. Break these chains by loving both with no expectation of receiving anything in return.
- 20 Finding Superman
 - The glory that God gave to Jesus He also gave to me because Jesus is in me and I am in Him. If I believe in His identity/name within me, I will do the works of Jesus and even greater.
- 21 A New Declaration
 - The Forgotten Way of Jesus is letting go of all attachments to this physical world to see and experience heaven on earth now flowing with love, joy, peace, and power in and through Christ. As the apostle Paul says, “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind”.