

READING REPORT FORM PMN 346 – Personal Spiritual Formation

Student Name: Widler Pierre

Book Name: Abba's child

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one): Thoroughly but NOT Entirely— 22%

Signed: Widler Pierre

1). Where did this book “take you apart?” How did God use it in “spiritual surgery?” (please use quotes & page numbers)?

I am thankful I get to read this book for many reasons. One of the most important reasons I am thankful for this book is the following: though this book was written years ago, I can relate to so many things written in it and it is almost like the book is talking to my life on a deep and personal level. Because of my insecurities and my superpower of not being honest with myself and my surrounding, I have always acted as I knew more, I could do more than I could, and that I was more than I actually was. It was almost like. It was almost like I was practicing some type of career because I was so good at it. However, God has put my mother on my path for many reasons and one of them was the fact I was never successful at fooling her. I could not lie to her and I could not basically be dishonest with her on any level. She was able to see all my flaws, vices and anything else I did not want people to know about me. Though her mothering heart allowed her to treat me as God treats me, it is also important to signal that she was at times tired of my lies and acts of dishonesty. Brennan says: “Though God does not condone or sanction evil, He does not withhold His love because there is evil in us.” What a beautiful way of portraying God's love for a sinner like who is not willing to come to Jesus like I am.

The second thing that stood out to me through my reading is the following quote: “we cannot accept love from God when we do not love ourselves.” After reading this quote, I was challenged

to go to God and be who I am. Pray like He does not know anything about me, so that I could pour my heart out to Him. While I was crying out to God in my prayer for Him to show up, I was not honest with Him, and not even with myself. I was craving His presence but I was not willing to be in His presence. Today, I am thankful for the fact I can go to Him and talk to Him just like I am while I do not have to be anybody else.

2). Where did you agree most with the author? Disagree most?

I can definitely say that I agree with almost the entire part of the book that I read. However, while I think highly of Brennan as an author, I think he can be a little be more careful when making certain statements. For example, Brennan says that self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life... On the other hand, I think doubt, not believing in Him can be fatal to the spiritual life. I think it would be a good idea for him to be a bit more specific, or to instead say things one of the greatest instead of saying the greatest.

3). What was the key spiritual truth you gleaned from this book? How are you integrating it into your personal spiritual formation process?

Well, to answer this question, I have to say that I am an impostor, and I still have a lot of work to do in order to come out of hiding and feel alive and loved by the true mighty God. Ultimately, my reading from this book comes down the following quote: there can only be two basic loves, the love of God unto the forgetfulness of self, or the love of self unto the forgetfulness and denial of God.” I think it is time that I realize that nobody else will love more than I love myself besides God on this earth. Loving myself starts with being honest with myself so that I do not have to be anybody else. It is important that I am reminded that in order to love anybody else on this earth, I have to learn how to love myself. Therefore, I think God is calling me to come as I am, be honest with who I am. Brennan says this: “we even refuse to be our true selves with God and wonder

why we lack intimacy with Him.” This quote resonated with me because it reminds me that I do not have to carry my mask in front of God as well and that God is calling to remove my mask in my surroundings.