

Into Abba's Arms

Into Abba's Arms by Sandra Wilson

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In this book, when human beings like the prodigal son are embraced in the arms of God, that is, when their relationship with God is restored from the 'father' to the 'Abba' level, we can fully enjoy the feeling of rest as if living in our Abba's land.

Sandra Wilson, the author of this book, a psychology and a family therapist, was unable to heal the signs of suffering from sexual abuse from her stepfather, an alcoholic, without the help of God. She described her childhood situation as "I am that child. A child born into a legacy of abandonment and shame."¹ However, God meets her more intimately when she is lonely and isolated. When she longs for God without giving up, she meets God Immanuel. In this book, she says, God knows our fear of forsaken. And the fear of being abandoned can be healed by meeting God, the Immanuel. God speak to our fear of abandonment by telling us to call Jesus "Immanuel"—God with us.² As I read this sentence, I thought deeply about the Immanuel once again. God is with us means that He is with all of my hurts, pains, and fears, apart from the basic notion of just being with me. It was a word of great comfort and peace to me that God knows and heals all my wounds, pain, and fear.

Wilson also realizes what true happiness is through God, looking back on how her soul knelt in emptiness and helplessness, and when she wanted to give up everything before she met God. True happiness comes from love. When we feel that we are loved by God, God will transform our lives from misery to happiness. She refers to Brennan Manning's words and says of love: "I am only loved by Christ. This is the foundation of the true self."³

Through the healing and counseling ministry, she returned to Abba's arms and brought many souls with similar wounds to rest, and she continues to rejoice and boast of the thrill of calling "God as Abba!" in this book. There will be no greater pain than forsaken heart and despair that I am not loved. And there will be nothing more painful than living an unhappy life. But Wilson knows God, discovers her true self, and worships God's presence, so her soul is now full of peace and joy. I began spending time with him in order to get closer to him. . . . We

¹ Sandra Wilson, *Into Abba's Arms* (Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 1998), 4.

² Wilson, 11.

³ Wilson, 87.

don't have to spend two hours in solitude every day to do this. Perhaps the changes we need to make are more about depth of time than length. For example, listening to God as well as talking. She now knows how to enjoy peace and dwell in God's presence. She says: "I began spending time with him in order to get closer to him. We don't have to spend two hours in solitude every day to do this. Perhaps the changes we need to make are more about depth of time than length. For example, listening to God as well as talking." ⁴

I could see how joyful it is to dwell in God's presence by seeing the author who came to possess faith that overcomes the world with the joy of becoming a child of God. And the all-knowing God still loves us, and those who dwell in that love know that God is always with us in our lives. Reading this book gave me deep personal grace.

Bibliography

⁴ Wilson, 194.

Wilson, Sandra. *Into Abba's Arms*. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1998.

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one):

Thoroughly and Entirely _____%

Quickly but Completely _____%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely 100 %

Quickly and NOT Completely _____%

Not at all

Signed: Youn Dong Choi