

RANSOMED
HEART
ministries

April 2009

Dearest Friends,

First, I need to thank so much for your encouraging notes you've been sending back to me in response to my newsletters. Your words mean so much to me and I am so utterly delighted that God has been at work, timing my letters in such a way as to be right on time for you and your walk with God. How awesome is that?!

I also want to thank you for your generosity. I know times are hard, and uncertain; to receive a check with a note that says, "things are tough right now, wish we could send more" is simply humbling and beautiful. Thank you.

Okay, let me share with you now about our upcoming Tour!

Back in 2001 I wrote a book called *Wild at Heart* which turned out to be a pretty big help to a lot of men *and* women. But the book was just an introduction, really; I had so much more to say. So five years after *Wild at Heart* I released a second book for men, in many ways a much deeper and fuller book, with more guidance for men and for those raising boys. But the title – *The Way of the Wild Heart* – proved to be confusing. Many people mistook it for *Wild at Heart* and missed out on some really fantastic stuff. It plagued me for several years, because in my heart I want so badly to help men toward the healing and the holiness that God has for us. (And I know full well that as a man comes into deeper restoration, the women in his life rejoice!)

God has established these essential stages which every boy and man must pass through in order to become a whole and holy man. The longer we work with men, the more deeply convinced we are that every boy and man needs fathering to help him through these stages, which I've called the Beloved Son, Cowboy, Warrior, Lover, King, Sage. Much of the heartache on earth now comes from the fact that we have a world of uninitiated men; boys, really, walking around in men's bodies. It is a source of shame for many men, and a deep cry of the heart – to find someone to show them the way, to initiate them through the stages into a genuine masculinity.

The other crisis is our fatherlessness – both as men and as a society. Really good fathers are hard to come by. But this is where Christianity comes shining through (again). God is our Father. It is such a simple truth we stumble over it. But it is perhaps the most beautiful truth we will ever come to know. Man or woman, our destiny is to come home to the heart of the Father, and find in him the life that Jesus knew. And I can assure you – finding God as Father and receiving *initiation* from him *as* a man is one of the greatest revolutions that ever happens for any guy. It is life-changing. And it is a deep blessing for the women in his world.

So, my publisher suggested we trim the book (*The Way of the Wild Heart*) down a bit and release it in paperback as *Fathered by God* in hopes that the nine out of ten men who loved *Wild at Heart* but missed out on this message will discover it now, and discover *in* it all that they need to carry on the journey.

Which brings me back to the Tour.

We are hitting the road this month! Coming soon to a theater (okay, actually, a church) near you! Last year you might recall we did a tour around the message of Walking with God. It turned out to be an amazing time in two ways. First, God really came at those evenings, and many people reported hearing from him in intimate ways. (Some for the first time ever!) And, it was such a rich time getting to meet many of you; the most powerful part of the tour for me was hearing *your* stories!

So, we're going to take to the road again, on a 15 city tour this April and May.

We're calling it "Fathered by God, an Evening for Men and the Women Who Love Them." This time I'll be speaking about the stages of a man's journey, and how to find in God the fathering we need. Though the evening is aimed at men, I think you ladies will find all sorts of parallels to your life as a woman. Certainly you'll better understand the men in your life, which I know will be a blessing (and a relief!).

For more information on the Tour, come to www.fatheredbygod.com. There you'll find the cities we are heading to, and how to get tickets. It would be a joy to see you there, and I think the evening will prove to be really powerful for men and women! Tell your family and friends about the Tour, invite them into an experience with God I know you long for them.

Now, one last thought. In thinking about my own need to be fathered by God, and frankly how little I know about him as Father, even after all these years, I found myself intrigued by Paul's prayer in Ephesians chapter three. (You can assume that when you run across a prayer in the New Testament, it's in there to help us in our own prayers and probably has quite a bit of power and insight to it.) I found myself praying this in recent weeks, and it has proven to be a great blessing. So much so that I've copied it into my journal so that I can turn to it quickly, often. I wanted to encourage you to pray it as well:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom all fatherhood in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

We all want the fullness of God, right? It comes, Paul says, from knowing his love. To be rooted and grounded in his love. This from Jesus really filling our hearts and being at home there. And all this comes as a result of the Father strengthening us with power by his Spirit in our inner being.

Very, very cool.

May it be ever more true for you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'John' in a cursive, flowing style.

John