

~~Abominable~~ **Worthy**

I entered my son's midterm parent/teacher conference, feeling only a slight hesitation this time. After all, he is in 4th grade now and we have been around the IEP block for over 2 years, following its twists and turns, ups and downs, forks and splits. And, last year was a good year, he, being switched to the classroom that I, his non-educationally trained mother, felt best for his learning style. And. I was right. I stuck my neck out, asking for a change of classroom assignment in a place where my professional expertise is lacking, but my ability to know my child far exceeds any book knowledge.

Taking a springboard hop from the fact that last year he developed from a "1" on his BOG test in reading to a "4" by the EOG, I walked in to meet with his new teacher. I had seen the homework come home, wondering if the IEP had been assessed for the allotted time agreed upon (40 minutes – PLENTY – for a 9-year-old). I had seen my son, focusing on that homework, far improved from years in the past, his confidence growing, ever so incrementally. I requested a beginning of the year meeting 3 times, only to be told that we would let the first couple weeks get underway before doing so. And. Never heard back.

I had seen his handwriting. Still not his best attribute. We had attempted keyboarding at home, which was worse than writing as his low frustration tolerance trumped all we were trying to accomplish. There was mentioning of a cursive coach at school in his last IEP meeting and I never heard another word about it. We recently increased his medication, with the help of a God-send of a psychiatrist, and he was actually aware enough of his own need for focus that he began determining when to ask for that small extra dose in the evenings to get him through his homework. I saw his handwriting improve immediately with this extra dose, and when I say improve...I mean, improvement to one who knows the past, the struggles with this component of education. I did not say that it looked like a type writer.

I walked in, sat down, and heard these words, "Your son is average, he is doing ok." What parent really wants to have a conference start that way? I swallowed hard and got my game face on and it just got worse. The absolute worst part being when she told me, "His handwriting is abominable". To say that I was upset, angry, furious...all of the mad words one can imagine...is an understatement. Then that anger turned into a welling of water in my eyes, pain, hurt and disappointment and the teacher stopped. She looked at me and said, "Well, we just look at the fact that he is progressing and he is, do you have anything else?" Cold. Apathetic. Hard. I felt absolutely ill. Get me out of here.

Abominable is defined by all of the following more recognizable words: offensive; loathsome; detestable; very bad, unpleasant, inferior. No explanation can allow me to accept this word as a description of my son...in anything. I reject it.

I sought wise-counsel from a fellow mama of a child who struggles in school and she told me this, "You need to write your own progress note for your son. You need to tell him who he is in God. You need to tell him all the ways you see his growth in the Lord and awareness of the Spirit. Reject those words. They are not of the Lord and His opinion of your son." Thank you, Lord for my Christian brothers and sisters in this life!

And so, I found some antonyms of this word, abominable: delightful, good, pleasant, loveable, wonderful, honorable and **worthy**. Just WHO describes us in these words? Our Heavenly Father. I accept these.

And so, in my bible study this week, it “just so happened” that I was encouraged to reflect on the inheritance we have in the Lord and the author of the bible study (Proverbs 31 Ministries) listed out the following spiritual blessings we have been given by the Lord. She reflected, pointing out from Scripture that we are loved, forgiven, redeemed, a new creation, holy, set apart, created with a purpose, God’s masterpiece, A temple of the Holy Spirit. In my words...we are worthy. We are the arch nemesis of the word abominable.

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Philippians 4:8

And let these things, fill our children’s minds...for it is true that we are worthy of the love of the greatest King ever to live on this earth. And, he put abominable things to death for us, so that we could live redeemed. And worthy.

Within this next month, I encourage you to use the words that God uses to describe us and write a letter to your child. Write your own progress report for who they each are in the Lord, using the spiritual blessings that we have inherited: we are loved, forgiven, redeemed, a new creation, holy, set apart, created with a purpose, God’s masterpiece. The most important thing we can do for our children is teach them about God and His unfailing love for each person, as an individual. When the world disappoints, fails, says we are things like “abominable”, we want our children to have God’s truth woven in their hearts, so that they too...will reject abominable and accept and believe that they indeed, are worthy.