

GOD IS OUR FATHER

GROWING UP SPIRITUALLY

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- **GOD IS OUR FATHER**

Matthew 6:25-34

25 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet **your heavenly Father** feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

28 So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;

29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 Now if God so cloths the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

31 Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘what shall we wear?’

32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For **your heavenly Father** knows that you need all these things.

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

- **“YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER.”**
- Getting this revelation will be the greatest you will ever have.

As we’ve been born again - Yes we become **the CHILDREN OF GOD.**

- That is the first step of salvation - we are officially part of the family of God.
- We become His Son and Daughter.
- But so many times we have never really become **acquainted with our FATHER.**
- **Personally.**
- Not just in our knowledge of God, what He can do, what He had done....
- But in our **RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM....PERSONALLY.**

GROWING UP SPIRITUALLY

- Getting mature, getting deeper in our relationship with God.
- We must grow up by becoming acquainted with our Father God.
- God is interested in us - each one of us **individually.**
- Not just as a group, as a corporate, or as a church / body.

- But He is interested in each of His children and He loves every single one of us with the same love.
- Jesus was preaching here in Matthew to the Jews --- they had the most expansive knowledge and history about God,
- Yet they didn't understand when Jesus talked about **God as being His Father**..... the concept of a kind, loving, Heavenly Father.
- They couldn't understand that kind of God
- *"For God so loved the world that He gave...."* They could not comprehend it.

In the **Old Covenant** -- the covenant of the **LAW OF SIN AND DEATH**.

- It was the law of eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.
- You knock my eye out and I'll knock your eye out.
- Every time you sin, the blood of animals need to be shed in order to cover their sins so they could be counted righteous again in God's sight and so He could bless them.

In the **OLD TESTAMENT**.....

- After they built the tabernacle first and the temple secondly,
- They didn't know Him as Father God.
- The Old Testament know Him as Elohim (Creator), El Shaddai (Almighty God), Jehovah (The Lord), Raphe (Healer), Jirah (Provider), Nisei (Banner) Tsidkenu (Righteousness), Raah (Shepherd), Shalom (Peace), Shamma (Present) but they never knew him as Father God.

They had **NO personal acquaintance / relationship** with God.

- His Presence was kept shut up in the Holy of Holies.
- No one could enter His Presence except for the High Priest - under great precaution.
- For you intruded into that place in the wrong way, and some did....they fell down dead instantly.
- The High Priest, after offering sacrifice by the blood of animals for his own sins and the sins of the people....
- Could enter into the Holy of the Holies to receive atonement for their sins.

I thank God that **JESUS had come to change the game!**

- No more 3rd party, no more sacrifice for atonement.
- You can pray to God yourself.
- No need to ask High Priest / Prayer warrior / Intercessor to pray on your behalf.
- Anytime, anywhere.....
- No need to come all the way to the temple, no need to wait / make an appointment first.
- No more eye for eye, no more tooth for tooth.... otherwise some of us would probably be left with nothing! Lol.

Jesus came to this world to give us DIRECT LINE.

Jesus came to replace RELIGION with RELATIONSHIP.

When its **Religion**, it's "GOD"
but when its **Relationship**, it's "FATHER."

He may be GOD to the sinner, but He's a Father to me.
We need to understand that we are in the family of God.

John 16:27

"The Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God."

HOW DO WE GROW IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

HOW DO WE GROW / DEVELOP OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD - AS OUR FATHER ??

BY HEARING HIS VOICE / THROUGH THE WORD

I want to become better related / know my Father better.
We can. Through His Word.

Romans 10:17 "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

- Faith comes in an area that we hear God's Word.
- We hear the voice of God through His Word and His Spirit.

Smith Wigglesworth wrote:

- "I cannot understand God by feelings. I understand God the Father by what the Word says about Him. He is everything the Word says He is. "
- It is in the Word that we find out about Him, about His love, about His nature, about how He cares of us, about how He loves us.
- Jesus himself said: "Man shall not live by bread alone - but by every word that precedes out of the mouth of God."

As we get to know our Father through learning and listening to His Word.....

WE MUST GROW IN THE AREA OF:

• TRUSTING GOD TO TAKE CARE OF US

John 16:27 "For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God."

- Nothing can be stronger or more comforting than this fact:
- The Father Himself knows you, and He loves you, and He longs to bless you.

Matthew 7:11 "You then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"

- How much more? – If we do the best for our kids how much more Him?

If we are a parent.....

- Would you have it as your plan, purpose and will that your children go through life poor, sick, down, defeated?
- Parents will sacrifice and do anything..... because they love their children.
- They work and sacrifice so the kids get the education, have better life than what they had.
- They want to protect them, love them, from any bumps and hard times they have.

Matthew 6:33 "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

- They won't be taken from you – they'll be added to you!

Matthew 6:34

"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

God says.... **DON'T WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW!!**

- God doesn't want His children full of worry.
- Why? Because He loves us.

Your Heavenly Father knows that you have need of these things.

- "Im your Father.
- You can be assured I will take a father's place and will perform a father's role. "

You may be certain that if He is your Father, He loves you, and He will care for you.

• **GIVING GOD YOUR CARES AND WORRIES**

John 17:23 "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."

1 Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon him; for He cares for you."

He wants us to end worry, fear and doubt.

HOW?

AMP – "Casting the whole of your care – all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all – on Him; for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully."

Philippians 4:6 "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

- AMP - "Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything...."

- Our Father wants us to walk with us just as He walked with Jesus when He was here on the earth.

Paul says: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil 4:13)

- Not because he was so good, and he was an Apostle.
- But through Christ. It was Christ who strengthened him.

He’s saying: **YOU CAN DO ANYTHING.**

- You can rise to the place where you’re unafraid in the most unpleasant circumstances because you know that your Gether is on your side.
- You can go through this.
- You can conquer this giant.
- You can overcome this storm.
- You will win this battle.

“If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)

Hebrews 13:5-6

“He said, I will never leave you, or forsake you. So that we can boldly say The Lord is my helper, I will not fear what man shall do to me.”

He’s your Helper. And He will meet our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:19)

• ACCEPTING & EXPERIENCING HIS FATHER’S LOVE.

REJECTED BY HIS EARTHLY FATHER BUT ACCEPTED BY THE HEAVENLY FATHER.

1 Samuel 16:10-11, 12b (MSG)

Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel. Samuel was blunt with Jesse, “God hasn’t chosen any of these.” Then he asked Jesse, “Is this it? Are there no more sons?” “Well, yes, there’s the runt. But he’s out tending the sheep.” Samuel ordered Jesse, “Go get him. We’re not moving from this spot until he’s here.” ... God said, “Up on your feet! Anoint him! This is the one.”

Psalms 68:5-6

“Father to the fatherless, defender of widows - this is God whose dwelling.

John 14:18

“No, I will not abandon you as orphans – I will come to you”

Psalm 27:10

“When father and mother abandon me the Lord holds me close.”

HE IS YOUR FATHER.

A FATHER THAT WILL NEVER FAIL YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU.

EVEN WHEN YOU FELT LIKE YOU'RE ABANDONED, ALONE AND ISOLATED.
GOD SAYS....I WILL NOT ABANDON YOU.
I WILL COME TO YOU.
DRAW CLOSE TO ME....AND I WILL DRAW CLOSE TO YOU.

Unfortunately, far too many of us pull back when we hear him called our Father. We think of all the pain that our earthly father has caused in our life, and we run from God instead of to him. We fail to realize that God is not only a Father but the perfect Father, that he is what our earthly father should have been. He is faithful and true. He is love. He is slow to anger and abundant in mercy.

For many of us, our biggest scars and deepest wounds have come from our fathers, their absence, their thoughtlessness, or their cruelty. The last thing we want is another father—another source of heartache.

But though our natural instincts may tell us to run from our heavenly Father, we must learn instead to run to him. Only here, in the arms of our true Father, will we find healing from all of our pain.

Romans 8:15 says, "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Abba is an intimate word. It is like saying "Daddy". God has given us the Spirit of adoption and he invites us to call him Abba. He is not distant or distracted. He desires to know us personally and deeply. He longs for a relationship with us. He wants to be our Father.

So no matter what your relationship with your earthly father has been, run to God. Cry Father, Abba, Daddy. He is always there.

GET CLOSER, GO DEEPER WITH GOD.

BY HEARING HIS VOICE / THROUGH THE WORD

As your FATHER.....

- TRUST GOD TO TAKE CARE OF YOU
- GIVE HIM YOUR CARES AND WORRIES
- TRUST HOW MUCH GOD LOVES YOU - AS A FATHER.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

TALK THROUGH YOUR EXPERIENCE OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER'S LOVE IN YOUR LIFE.

HOW DOES THE FATHER'S LOVE FILL IN YOUR LIFE, WHERE YOUR EARTHLY FATHER LACKED?