

Father’s Day 2022 Happy Fathers Day to all the Dads, Grandfathers and Great Grand Fathers...has them stand and pray for them. Today I want to talk with you today about God our Father...and how special each one of you are to Him. But to understand God, we need to know him, being born again, born into his family is not the same as knowing him...Just as being born into your biological family is not the same as knowing your father.

To know your father, he must reveal himself to you, so this morning I want you to know him perhaps better and his relationship to you perhaps more intimately as He reveals himself through His Word...The Bible.

**And that you may know...with felt Knowledge...Felt knowledge is knowledge you feel!! That you would feel thru this knowledge the Love of God**

First we need to know who God The Father is...He is a member of the Triune God... **What we notice is that The God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit In Their essence and nature are Passionately Relational, they are one in union and unity. They intimately are one.**

*NLT1 John 4:8 ..... for God is love.*

**And yet they are separate and distinctive persons. Each carrying out purpose with will. Union yet plurality.**

**There are many scriptures that speak of their unity and distinctiveness...I will share a few...**

*NIV DT 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

all upper-case letters (LORD), the Hebrew behind this word is **the singular name of God**, יהוה (YHWH). **The word Elohiym is the plural Hebrew word for “God.”**

NLT GE 1:26 <sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us.....

NLT LK 3: <sup>21</sup> One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.

NLT John 10:30 <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one.”

Eph 2:17 **He** came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

NLT JN 15:26 “But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me.

**\*\*\*\*In the New Testament the word God refers to The Father...**

NLT John 20: <sup>17</sup> “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Romans 15:30 Dear brothers **and** sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to join in **my** struggle by praying to God for me. Do this because of **your** love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit.

**\*\*\*God the Father chose us to be his children, Meeting the fundamental need of our souls to belong and be loved..by our Father!!**

Eph 1: <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. **In love** <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to

sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

## How am I brought into this family? We come through Jesus

John 6: <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day.”

NIV Eph 1:13 And *you also were included* in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. **and because we are INCLUDED ...we are family**

NLT Galatians 4:6 And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>7</sup> Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

- **We are no longer afraid of God...but are dearly loved children**
- **Healthy families are built on the right balance of affection and discipline**
- **low affection, low discipline teaches irresponsibility, no relationship, no rules creates a deep sense of rejection**
- **low affection, high discipline = rules without relationship creates rebellion...the opposite of self discipline**

- high affection, low discipline = relationship without rules and ends in ruin
- high affection, high discipline = Love with healthy limits on behavior creates emotional stability and healthy self discipline
- bottom line the intensity of his affection is greater than the intensity of his discipline. But both are needed

*Hebrews 4<sup>16</sup> Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Father God!)*

*Hebrews 12:10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.*

**But there is more... you are as Unique Person...there is no one else Like You!**

*NLT Psalm 139 A psalm of David. <sup>1</sup> O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. <sup>3</sup> You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. <sup>4</sup> You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. <sup>5</sup> You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.*

**If I asked you...If you could be someone else who would it be?I hope the answer would be ... No One Else... Because if you said some one else ...You do not realize how special you are...**

- You are a unique gift of God to **Creation**
- You are made in **his Image and Likeness**
- You are wonderfully made...full of **amazement, superb, magnificent, astonishing your very**

- Existence, temperament, personal history, uniqueness, your flaws and idiosyncrasies and bad habits, your identity and appearance.
- You are one of the never to be repeated ways God has chosen to express Himself, His creativity and **love** in Time and Space and Eternity. **And Know that your uniqueness is just the way he made you and Loves you and that your life will be different in really neat ways than anyone else's and that gives God great Joy.. And is specifically designed to bless your life and this creation....**

How Life changing to know we are loved, Not only head knowledge but *felt knowledge*

**The Height of spirituality is to know you're loved...RIGHT NOW**

**Not later not before, not when you get it together RIGHT NOW!!**

**Happy Father's Day is to Know your heavenly Father Loves You NOW and FOR ALL ETERNITY.**

***But there is more...* God's Home is in Heaven but he is with us in our home. This Father is always Home with us...Jesus is always home with us...the Holy Spirit is always home with us**

*NLT 1JN 4: 15 All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. 16 We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.*

The Father lives in our home...and we live in his home! We have a home!! ***He is in our home bringing us into The Passionate relationship God wants between us and himself and why he created us.***

**God is the father to the Fatherless AND THE HEALER OF FATHER WOUNDS... who can liberate us from our bondage, heal our**

**brokenness, cleanse us from our uncleanness and bring life out of our deadness. the experience of being shaped by God toward wholeness becomes our reality...**

**Our Abba Father is the initiator of our transformation toward wholeness and we are to be pliable clay in God's hand. even now for those of us with children at home...or grandchildren we are raising...as our Father forms us ...we get to help form our children... we become part of the solution for our broken families, communities and nation!!**

- We can truly say Like David...
- *Psalm 139: 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!* **Thank YOU Papa**

End

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*and we will be in His Home*

*NLT 2 Peter 3:13 But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. (Our new home with Him)*

- Not only does the Father live within us but he has promised to love us forever...we will be with him forever!

- ***SO HERE IS THE DEAL...YOU AND I ARE ALWAYS CHILDREN TO GOD...***
- **WHO IS PARENTING YOU? SO Who is speaking INTO your life? AND KNOW THIS...YOU WILL NEVER BE A GOOD PARENT TO YOURSELF...**
- **BECAUSE ONLY God sees what he created you to be.**
- **AND ONLY GOD CAN TRANSFORM YOU INTO THAT PERSON...**

**Our Abba Father is the initiator of our transformation toward wholeness and we are to be pliable clay in God's hand. even now for those of us with children at home...or grandchildren we are raising...as our Father forms us ...we get to help form our children... we become part of the solution for our broken families, communities and nation!!**

**the intensity of his affection is greater than the intensity of his discipline.**

- **Howard Hendricks – “if you don't play with your children, you don't have the right to discipline your children”**

**Catherine Wallace - “Listen earnestly to anything your children want to tell you, no matter what. If you don't listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little, they won't tell you the big stuff when they are big, because to them all of it has always been big stuff.”**

**And When we are in trouble He will help us....**



*So lets recap...recap these truths*

- *he has made our home His home, his home our home ...we are safe and secure with him...and he helps us in our weakness*
- *He is assessable always, and is always thinking of us, concerned with us, working in us, and present in us*
- Sharing His Love for us and with us
- we can embrace new and exciting adventures our Father wants for us...be not afraid
- Trust God and move Forward...
- Bless your father today by being willing to move forward in something you want to succeed in...but being fearful that God who created you wonderfully doesn't want to give you a stream of living Water...but because you're unworthy just a drop to sustain you!!
- **Know God loves you and you have union and acceptance with Him...so much so that the Triune God lives in you.**
- **And Know that your uniqueness is just the way he made you and Loves you and that your life will be different in really neat ways than anyone else's and that gives God great Joy.. And is specifically designed to bless your life and this creation....**
- **Thank YOU Papa**

end

- *NLT 2 Cor. 3: 17 For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.*

*NLT Psalm 136* <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. <sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the God of gods. His faithful love endures forever. <sup>3</sup> Give thanks to the Lord of lords. His faithful love endures forever. <sup>4</sup> Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles. His faithful love endures forever.

**What this means is...**

*NLT Philippians 1:6* And I am certain **that God**, who began **the good work** within you, will continue **his work** until it is finally finished on **the** day when Christ Jesus returns. **(God our Father)**

END

Not only does the Triune God live within us but he has promised to have Streams of living water flow from each one of us

<sup>7</sup> I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! <sup>8</sup> If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave,<sup>[a]</sup> you are there. <sup>9</sup> If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, <sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. <sup>11</sup> I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night—<sup>12</sup> but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you. <sup>13</sup> You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. <sup>15</sup> You

*watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. <sup>16</sup> You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed <sup>17</sup> How precious are your thoughts about me,<sup>[b]</sup> O God. They cannot be numbered! <sup>18</sup> I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!*

John 7:38 **Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, *streams of living water* will flow from within him."** <sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Streams = torrents, river, multiple flows    A life that is full and overflowing

ISA 57:15 For this is what the high and lofty One says-- (His heavenly home)

he who lives forever, whose name is holy:

"I live in a high and holy place,

**But also with him** who is contrite and lowly in spirit,

To revive the spirit of the lowly

and to revive the heart of the contrite.

JN 14:23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and **make our home with him**.<sup>24</sup> He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. (The Father and Son live in us, Our Body our earthly Home)

Ephesians 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,<sup>14</sup> who is a **deposit guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

(The Holy Spirit lives in Us)

Ephesians 2:4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,<sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.<sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, (His home our home)

Revelation 3:13 But in keeping with his **promise** we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, **the home of righteousness**. (Our new home with Him)

REV 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "**Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them.** They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

*We have The Trinity living inside us...bringing us into The Passionate relationship God wants between us and himself and why he created us.*

### **What this means is...**

*We don't have to clean our messes up to experience Him,*

- *he has made his home in us...*
- *He is assessable always, and*
- *is always thinking of us, concerned with us,*
- *working in us, and*
- *present in us*
- *Sharing His Love for us and with us*
- *Making our home His home and*
- *His home our home, in unity and*

- Not only does the Triune God live within us but he has promised to love us forever
- *NLT Psalm 136* <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. <sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the God of gods. His faithful love endures forever. <sup>3</sup> Give thanks to the Lord of lords. His faithful love endures forever. <sup>4</sup> Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles. His faithful love endures forever.
- 
- And on and on
- The Father Son and Holy Spirit want to move through us in streams of living ways, refreshing, invigorating, life giving, creative, with great Joy.
- And that can only happen as we embrace new and exciting adventures our Father wants for us...be not afraid
- Trust God and move Forward...
- Bless your father today by being willing to move forward in something you want to succeed in...but being fearful that God who created you wonderfully doesn't want to give you a stream of living Water....but because you're unworthy just a drop to sustain you!!
- **Know God loves you and you have union and acceptance with Him...so much so that the Triune God lives in you.**
- **And Know that your uniqueness is just the way he made you and Loves you and that your life will be different in really neat ways than anyone else's and that gives God great Joy.. And is specifically designed to bless your life and this creation....**
- **Thank YOU Papa**
- *NLT 2 Cor. 3: 17* For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

end

to have Streams of living water flow from each one of us

John 7:38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, **streams of living water** will flow from within him." <sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Streams = torrents, river, multiple flows    A life that is full and overflowing

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have **life**, and have it to the **full**.

Are you experiencing this...Is life an adventure?

Is the Triune God who lives inside you flowing out of your being?

Do you know how special you are to Have God make his home in you?



Are you secure in Papas Love Our Abba Daddy?

Or is God a boss to you?

A father you're never able to please?

A kill Joy?

You live by Duty? Doing my Christian duty?

Do you relate to God as someone out there?

That all he cares about is how good you have been?

Constantly grading you on your rule keeping ability?

Have you lost sight, that he loves you period. That no matter how holy you become your still closer to your flesh than his holiness, and that gulf is only bridged by His Love for you...not your works.

end

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## *Distinctiveness*

NLT GE 1:26 <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make human beings<sup>♁</sup> in our image, to be like us...."

NLT LK 3:21 <sup>21</sup> One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.!"

*NIV DT 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

NLT JN 15:26 "But I will send you the Advocate<sup>♁</sup>—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me.

*NLT 1 Cor 2:10* But<sup>♁</sup> it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. <sup>11</sup> No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. <sup>12</sup> And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

### **We received him as children and He will never leave us...**

Eph 1:14 The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

*Psalms 139:7* <sup>7</sup> I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!

<sup>8</sup> If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there.

JN 3:16 "For **God** so loved the world that he gave **his one and only Son**, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

- <sup>John 8:28</sup> So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my **own** but **speak** just what the Father has **taught** me. <sup>29</sup> The one who sent me is with me; **he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.**"

2. Luke 24:49 **I am going to send you** what my **Father** has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."
3. GE 1:26 Then God said, "Let **us** make man in **our** image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."
4. DT 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The **LORD** our God, the **LORD** is **one**.
5. John 10:30 I and the **Father** are **one**."
6. Eph 2:17 **He** came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> **For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.**

7. *Psalms 139:7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.*

*1 Corinthians 2:10-11*, these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

<sup>1</sup>JN 4:<sup>13</sup> **we know that we live in him and he in us**, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is way bigger than you think....

**NLT Matt 6:5** "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

- **Healthy families are built on the right balance of affection and discipline**
  - **low affection, low discipline teaches irresponsibility, no rules and ends in deep sense of rejection**
- **low affection, high discipline = rules without relationship and ends in rebellion**
  - **high affection, low discipline = relationship without rules and ends in ruin**
  - **high affection, high discipline = limits with love; gives time and heart**

- [the absence of self-discipline leads to self-destruction later in life](#)

These two fundamental natures correspond to the two great hungers of our souls...

1. **We want to belong to be in union**

- <sup>GE 2:18</sup> The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."
- <sup>JN 17:20</sup> "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,<sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

We take Matt 7:13 out of context... Jesus is the Gate and Road or Way instead of Jesus we make it our ability to keep law.

<sup>MT 7:13</sup> "Enter through the **narrow** gate. For **wide** is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

<sup>(1john 5:3</sup> This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God)

Jesus is the Gate and Road or Way instead of Jesus we make it our ability to keep law.

Some of us even take it to a new level and make it a tight rope. Any second were apt to fall out of God's will.

The Father Son and Holy Spirit want to move through us in streams of living ways, refreshing, invigorating, life giving, creative, with great Joy.

And that can only happen as we embrace new and exciting adventures our Father wants for us...be not afraid

<sup>1JN 4:13</sup> we know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

**God is love.** Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. <sup>17</sup> In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Trust God and move Forward...

Bless your father today by being willing to move forward in something you want to succeed in...but being fearful that God who created you wonderfully doesn't want to give you a stream of living Water....but because you're unworthy just a drop to sustain you!!

**Know God loves you and you have union and acceptance with Him...so much so that the Triune God lives in you.**

**And Know that your uniqueness is just the way he made you and Loves you and that your life will be different in really neat ways than anyone else's and that gives God great Joy.. And is specifically designed to bless your life and this creation....**

**Thank YOU Papa**

2 Cor. 3: 17

<sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Your father

<sup>7</sup> “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>9</sup> “You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? <sup>10</sup> Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! <sup>11</sup> So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

## **He Invites Us to Pray**

**Three times he invites us to pray—or, you could say, three times he commands us to pray—to ask him for what we need. It’s the number of times that he invites us that gets our attention.**

Verses 7-8: “<sup>7</sup> *“Keep on asking, and you will receive **what you ask for**. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> **For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.***

**Jesus wants us to do this: 1. Ask your Father for what you need. 2. Seek your Father for the help you need. 3. Knock on the door of your Father’s house so he will open and give you what you need.**

a. **Ask, seek, knock. I invite you three times because I really want you to have your Father’s help.**

## **2. He Makes Promises to Us if We Pray**

**Even better and more amazing than the three invitations are the seven promises.**

Verses 7-8: “Ask, and [#1] it will be given to you; seek, and [#2] you will find; knock, and [#3] it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks [#4] receives, and the one who seeks [#5] finds, and to the one who knocks [#6] it will be opened.”

Then at the end of verse 11b (#7): “*how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.*

**The promises.** The asker receives. The seeker finds. The knocker gets an open door. The result: Your Father will give you good things.



- Surely the point of this lavish array of promises is to say to us: Be encouraged to come. Pray to him.
- **It is not in vain that you pray. God is not toying with you. He answers. He gives good things when you pray. Be encouraged. Pray often, pray regularly, pray confidently**

**3. Jesus encourages us not only by the number of invitations and promises, but by the threefold variety of invitations.** In other words, God stands ready to respond positively when you find him at different levels of accessibility.

- **Ask.** ...If a child's father is present, he asks him for what he needs.
- **Seek.**...If a child's father is somewhere in the house but not seen, he seeks his father for what he needs.
- **Knock...** If the child seeks and finds the father behind the closed door of his study, he knocks to get what he needs.
- **The point seems to be that it doesn't matter whether you find God immediately close at hand, almost touchable with his nearness, or hard to see and even with barriers between, he will hear, and he will give good things to you because you looked to him and not another.**

**4. Everyone Who Asks Receives if they are in a father and child relationship, he is talking about the children of God here, not all human beings.**

- If we will not have Jesus as our Savior and God as our Father, then these promises don't apply to us.

*John 1:12 says, <sup>12</sup> But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.*

- **To become the child of God, we must receive the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who gives us the authority of adoption.**
- **That is who these promises are for. For those who receive Jesus, everyone of them who asks receives good things from his Father. The point is that none of his children is excluded. All are welcome and urged to come. Martin Luther saw the way Jesus is motivating here:**

- He knows that we are timid and shy, that we can feel unworthy and unfit to present our needs to God. . . . We think that God is so great and we are so tiny that we do not dare to pray. . . .
- That is why Christ wants to remove our doubts, and to have us go ahead confidently and boldly.”

### **5. Our Heavenly Father Is Better than Our Earthly Father.**

Verse 11: ! <sup>11</sup> *So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.*

- **Father was not a throw away label for Jesus. It is one of the greatest of all truths. God is our Father.**
- The implications is that he will never, never give us what is ultimately destructive to us. Never. He is our Father.
- Then the Jesus encourages us to pray by showing us that our heavenly Father is better than our earthly father and will far more certainly give good things to us than they did.
- There is no sinfulness in our heavenly Father like there is in our earthly father.
- I am aware, and Jesus was even more aware, that our earthly fathers are sinful.

**This is why the Bible repeatedly draws attention not only to the similarity between earthly fathers and the heavenly Father, but also to the differences**

*Hebrews 12:<sup>9</sup> Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? <sup>10</sup> For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way..*

- **So Jesus goes beyond the encouragement of saying that God is your Father, and says that God is always better than your earthly father, because all earthly fathers sin and God does not.**
- *Don't ever limit your understanding of the Fatherhood of God to your experience of your own father. Rather, take heart that God has none of the sins or limitations or weaknesses or hang-ups of your father.*

- **And the point Jesus makes is: Even fallen, sinful fathers usually have a desire to give some good things to their children.**
- **There are terribly abusive fathers. But a majority of fathers are desiring to do good for their children, even when they are unclear about what is good for them.**
- **But God is always better. In him there is no sin.** Therefore, the argument is strong: **If your earthly father gave you good things (or even if he didn't!), how much more will your heavenly Father give good things—always good things to those who ask.**
- **And there is something beautiful here that underlines encouragement #4 above—the word everyone—“Everyone who asks receives.”**
- **If Jesus says to his disciples, “You are sinful,” then the only people that can come to God in prayer are sinful children of God.**
- **You are children of God. And you are sinful. In other words, even after you are adopted by God into his family, sin remains in you. But Jesus says, everyone will receive—everyone of God's evil children! We will see why in a moment.**

## **6. We Can Trust God's Goodness Because He Has Already Made Us His Children**

- **Here is another implicit encouragement to pray: God will give us good things as his children because he has already given us the gift to become his children.**
- **So if God has freely made us children, how much more will he give us what we need?**

## **7. The Cross Is the Foundation of Prayer**

**The reason I say this is because he calls us sinful and yet he says we are children of God. How can it be that evil people are adopted by an all holy God?**

**The death of Jesus is the foundation for all the promises of God and all the answers to prayer that we ever get. we have been bought...and given new life...new relationship... The Resurrection makes it official...we are born again into the family of God!.**

**This is why we say “in Jesus' name” at the end of our prayers. Everything depends on him.**

**Does this mean that everything a child of God asks for he gets? No, we do not get everything we ask for and we should not and we would not want to. But the reason I say that we do not get all we ask is because the text implies this.**

*Jesus says in verses <sup>9</sup> “You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? <sup>10</sup> Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not!*

**This illustration prompts us to ask a flip side question, “What if what the child thinks they are asking for is not really what they need....**

- asking for a loaf of bread...but the father see it is a stone...asking for what they think is fish...but is really a serpent...
- if human parents can distinguish between good and bad with their limited knowledge and power...how much more will your Father give good things to those who ask him, as he has infinite wisdom and power and knowledge....

**He gives good things. Only good things.**

- When we ask and seek and knock—we pray as children with needs ... to our trustworthy heavenly Father—he will hear and he will give us good things.
- **Sometimes just what we asked. Sometimes just when we ask it. Sometimes just the way we desire. And other times he gives us something better, or at a time he knows is better, or in a way he knows is better.**
- **And of course, this tests our faith. Because if we thought that something different were better, we would have asked for it in the first place.** But we are not God. We are not infinitely strong, or infinitely righteous, or infinitely good, or infinitely wise, or infinitely loving. And therefore, it is a great mercy to us and to the world that we do not get all we ask.

**Listen you would answer every prayer the way god does...if you had his wisdom power and goodness...so trust his promises when you pray**

*7“Keep on asking, and you will receive **what you ask for**. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> **For everyone** who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*

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