

I. GOD IS OUR FATHER

- A. Jesus reveals God as our Father in heaven (Mt 5:16, 45, 48, 6:1, 9, 11, 18:14, 23:9). The Fatherhood of God is unique to the revelation of Jesus Christ.

John 14:7 " If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

- B. We are sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. When we put out faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we become children of God.

Gal 3:26-4:4-7 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus... 4 God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

- C. We have been adopted as God's children (Rom 8:15-18).

Rom 8:15-18 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

1. We can have the confidence of God's love that Jesus enjoyed because we are now God's sons and daughters.

John 17:24, 26...You have loved them as You have loved Me...26...that the love with which You loved Me may be in them and I in them.

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

2. Because of the brokenness of this world through sin, the lack of true repentance, and bad examples with natural fathers this it's not always easy to relate to God as our Father. We need revelation to know that God is full of mercy, compassion, truth, power, affection and desires for our relationship with Him to be healthy and whole.

II. WE HAVE A FATHER WHO IS GLAD

Ps 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Isa 62:4 But you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the LORD delights in you

Zeph 3:17 The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.

- A. Our Father delights, enjoys, and takes pleasure in us. The Father's capacity for gladness is infinite in measure and eternal in duration.
- B. As we become students of God's emotions, we grow in revelation of His tender mercy, His gladness, and His affection. In this understanding of our Father, when we stumble in sin will run to Him with confidence and sincere repentance instead of running from Him in condemnation and shame.
- C. How does your Father feel when He looks at you? This question is one of the most important questions in our spiritual journey. When stressful situations arise, close your eyes and picture your Father in heaven.

III. WE HAVE A FATHER WHO THINKS OF US

Jer 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

- A. "I think of you"...The truth that God thinks of us is a powerful reality.
- B. "If God had a fridge, your picture would be on it."

Luke 12:7 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

- C. David had firsthand knowledge with the thoughts of God over him.

Psalms 139:17-18 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand...

- D. God enjoys us even in our immaturity (1 Sam. 27-30; Psa. 18:19).
Psa. 18:19 He delivered me because He delighted in me...

IV. WE NEED A REVELATION OF GOD AS OUR FATHER

2 Cor. 3:18 beholding...the glory of the Lord...being transformed into the same image from glory to glory

- A. As we change our mind (understanding) about God then He changes our emotions and unlocks our hearts to love more.
- B. Wrong understanding about God damages our hearts and causes disability in our walk.
- C. God wants to empower us to be lovers of God, thus He reveals Himself as a lover to us.
1John 4:19 We love (enjoy, pursue) Him because He first loved (enjoyed, pursued) us.