

MINISTERIO LA FUENTE



RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

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FATHER (PART TWO)

In the first part of this message, we began to talk about Father.

We looked at how God created each and every one of us with a deep and crucial need in our lives: the need for a loving, strong, affectionate, faithful father.

Perhaps we do not know our earthly father. God is able to meet our need because He is our father.

Perhaps we know our earthly father but he has failed us. God is able to meet our need because He is our father.

Perhaps we are blessed to have a loving and faithful earthly father. Thank God that he reflects something of the love of God to us. But he is not perfect and cannot fully meet our need. God is able to meet our need because He is our father.

When we open our hearts to Jesus, and receive Him as our Lord and Savior, we become sons of God and He becomes our Father.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹²But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:11-13 KJV)

We were all born physically, through the will of a man, our earthly father. We were born of man.

When we receive Jesus we are born again, this time spiritually, not through the will of a man, but through the will of God, our heavenly father. We are born of God. We become sons of God and He becomes our Father.

This is why Jesus said, *And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.* (Matthew 23:9) Jesus is not here speaking about our earthly fathers, it is quite right for us to call them "father". He is saying that we should not call any spiritual leader, "Father", because as Jesus says, we only have one Father, which is in heaven.

Have you received Jesus into your heart and life? If you have, then you are a son of God. You have a Father.

No matter how much your earthly father has failed you, God is your Father and he can and will meet your deepest need. *When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.* (Psalm 27:10 KJV)

So let's get to know our Father better.

A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. (Psalm 68:5 KJV) God lives in his holy habitation. Where is his holy habitation? It is in your heart and soul. If you have received Jesus, He has made you holy and your Father lives in the holy habitation of your heart. This means he is with you constantly. Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. He will never leave you nor forsake you. *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* (Hebrews 13:5 KJV) This means that he is faithful. He is with you constantly. He will never leave you or forsake you.

So we have a heavenly father who lives in our hearts, and is with us constantly and faithfully. But what is He like?

Have you received Jesus into your heart and life? If you have, then you are a son of God. You have a Father.

Last week we looked at this verse which tells us a lot about our heavenly father in our lives. *The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.* (Zephaniah 3:17 KJV) He lives in the midst of us, in our hearts. He is powerful. He saves us. He takes great joy and delight in us: in who we are and in the things we do. That is encouraging, is it not?

**God is love. God's nature is love.
God's character is love. The
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Now let's look further at who our heavenly Father is.

God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. (1 John 4:16b KJV) God is love. God's nature is love. God's character is love. The things God does are all motivated by love.

So, if God is love, what is love?

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, ⁶does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8 NASB)

This is a description of what love is. God is our Father, and God is love, so we can substitute the word, "love", for "my Father God", to help us get to know our heavenly Father better.

My Father God is patient

My Father God is kind

My Father God is not jealous

My Father God does not brag and is not arrogant

My Father God does not act unbecomingly

My Father God does not seek His own

My Father God is not provoked

My Father God does not take into account a wrong suffered

My Father God does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth

My Father God bears all things

My Father God believes all things

My Father God hopes all things

My Father God endures all things

My Father God never fails

This is who your Father is to you. He is patient. He is kind. He seeks your good before His own. He is not provoked. He does not hold grudges against you for your failures. He believes in you because you are His child. This is what His word says.

Do you believe that He really is like this? Maybe it sounds too good to be true. Maybe you have had different ideas about your Father God, that He is harsh, angry with you, unapproachable. But this is His very word, telling you what He is like. You must trust His word. He loves you, and this description that we have just read tells you exactly what He is like and exactly what it means that He loves you.

Let's look more closely at a few of the things that this passage tells us about our Father.

My Father God is patient He is very patient with you. He is more patient with you than you are with yourself. He doesn't get mad at you when you find it difficult to learn the lessons that he is teaching you. He wants to lift you to new heights in Himself. Therefore, day by day, moment by moment, year by year, He continues to teach you with all patience.

Even though he wants you to grow, He is not in a hurry. We are so impatient at times. But He is patient with us. *Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.* (Psalm 103:13 NASB)

My Father God is kind: Deep down, many of us believe our Father God is harsh, just waiting for us to fail so that he can enjoy punishing us. But our Father God is love, and love is kind. He is gentle with us, and looks for ways to bless us and encourage us. Yes, he can be firm at times and appear to be hard, but truly He is kind, and so when He makes demands on us, we must understand that they also are motivated by His kindness to us.

My Father God does not seek His own: God is not a selfish God. He proved this by sending His own Son to die in our place. He did that for us, so that we could be free to love Him and be loved by Him. Yes, He does demand things of us and He does want us to do His will. But the reason for this is that He knows what is best for us and in fact even in the demands He makes on us, He has our best interests at heart.

My Father God is not provoked: God does not get irritated with us. He may become angry at our rebellion from time to time, but even that anger is motivated by His love, because He wants us to be free, and rebellion makes us a slave. And when He disciplines us as His children, it is always done in love and never in irritation.

My Father God does not take into account a wrong suffered: God does not store up resentment towards us in His heart. He will correct us for our own good, but He does not keep a record of our wrongs. Jesus already paid for them. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he separated our sins from us.

My Father God does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth: Your father delights in truth. Jesus said that we would know the truth, and the truth would set us free. So our Father is constantly wanting to show us His truth. When we accept and learn to rejoice in the truth with our Father, we become free.

My Father God bears all things; My Father God believes all things; My Father God hopes all things; My Father God endures all things; My Father God never fails: Your father believes in you. Even when others are despairing of you or think you are a failure, your father believes in you. Even when you don't believe in yourself, your Father believes in you. And patiently, ever so patiently, He will continue to teach and instruct you so that you can walk in His good plans for your life. He never fails, so as you walk hand in hand with Him, no matter what it looks like, His love will work in your life. You are already a success if you are His child, and He will lead you to walk in the fullness of His good plans for you.

As we said at the start of this message, we all have a deep and crucial need for a loving, strong, affectionate, faithful Father in our lives. And if you have received Jesus, you now have that kind of Father in your life. He wants you to get to know Him better. You can trust what His word says about Him. During this week, I would like you to take the verses from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, and read them again and again. Think about what they are telling you about your Father. Open your heart and believe what they tell you. This will help you get to know Him more and to begin to know and experience more His love and Fatherhood in your life.

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**We want to serve you in your
walk with Christ. Contact us with
any questions you may have.**

"IF ANYONE THIRST, LET THEM COME
TO ME AND DRINK" - JESUS (JOHN 7:37)