

Fathered By God

“and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

2 Corinthians 6:18 ESV

“Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”

Matthew 6:9 ESV

“Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

Matthew 6:8 ESV

I. Living By The Voice of God

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”

John 10:27-30 ESV

“Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.”

Genesis 3:22-24 ESV

a. Man began to live their life based on their perspective of good and evil and no longer the voice of the Father.

b. “But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” [Matthew 4:4 ESV](#)

c. When we live from the tree of knowledge of good and evil rather than the voice of the Father we become the judge of what is right and wrong, and soul leads us.

“For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.”

[1 John 2:16 NKJV](#)

d. “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.” [Genesis 3:6 ESV](#)

II. Living In The Love and Security of The Father

a. “No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us.” [1 John 4:12-13, 16, 18-19 ESV](#)

b. Fear keeps us in hiding rather than abiding. Fear’s voice says you will be punished if you go to God.

c. Fear is the driving force behind an orphan spirit.

d. Love is the antidote for fear!

e. “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.” [1 Peter 5:6-7 ESV](#)

f. Abiding in Love releases you from the torment of fear and performance.

g. We all were created for love and intimacy.

h. “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

[1 Corinthians 13:4-8a ESV](#)

III. Embracing The Loving Correction of The Father

a. "And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." [Hebrews 12:5-11 ESV](#)

b. The Father never punishes our immaturity but rather corrects it for our good.

c. Rebellion is different in the fact that we are willfully making a choice to be disobedient.

d. "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him." [Proverbs 22:15 ESV](#)

e. Many times we mistaken the discipline of The Father for the enemies hand in our life because we are ignorant of the severity of our sin.

f. “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 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!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.” **Romans 8:1-2, 5-8, 13-19 ESV**

IV. The Pursuit of Love

“Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one

who prophesies builds up the church. Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up. But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you. What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. **1 Corinthians 14:1-5, 24-33a ESV**

a. In order for us to become love we first have to pursue it!

“Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.” **1 Corinthians 14:1 ESV**

b. Love is a verb!

“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.” **1 John 4:9 ESV**

c. If we say that we love and are not givers then we are simply deceived!

“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” [Romans 5:8 ESV](#)

d. Loving your enemy is the higher call of Love!

“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.” [Luke 6:32 ESV](#)

e. Genuine brotherly love only comes from a pure heart.

“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;” [1 Peter 1:22-23 ESV](#)

f. Love is greater than faith!

“So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” [1 Corinthians 13:13 ESV](#)

V. Desire Spiritual Gifts

a. In 1 Corinthians 12:1 Paul tells the church at Corinth that he does not want them to be uninformed or ignorant concerning the spiritual gifts. I am afraid at large much of the church today is ignorant of the spiritual gifts.

b. There are nine gifts mentioned in chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians.

- Gift of Word of Wisdom
- Gift of Word of Knowledge
- Gift of Faith
- Gift of Healing
- Gift of Working of Miracles
- Gift of Prophecy
- Gift of Distinguishing (Discerning) of Spirits
- Gift of Tongues
- Gift of Interpretation of Tongues

c. The Greek word for desire is: ZE LOO which means to covet (earnestly) - (have) desire (move with) envy; be jealous over (be) zealous.

d. So we might say that we are to zealously lust or covet after the things of the Spirit. But rather that we prophesy; meaning to a greater degree God gives us hunger for the gifts!!

e. Remember God is love (1 John 4:7-13)

f. The Corinthian Letter - inspired by God in 1 Cor. 12,13, & 14 brings definition to the intent of Scripture. Paul was writing by inspiration - in the flow of the Spirit:

Chapter 12 - About the gifts

Chapter 13 - Love - is the power to activate the gifts

Chapter 14 - The application that releases the power

1 Cor. 14:39,40 (about prophesying)

VI. Love in Motion

- a. It's in Prophecy that the Heart of The Father is revealed to the heart of man!

- b. In Prophecy man experiences God's love toward them when the secrets of their heart are revealed and the purpose of their life is unveiled!

- c. The heartbeat of Prophecy is a loving Father drawing His children into a Father and son / daughter relationship where the Father begins the maturation process of conforming us into the image of His Son who is the exact image of The Father.

“The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.”

1 Corinthians 15:47-49 ESV

“until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

Ephesians 4:13-16 ESV