

June 15, 2014

Dear Child –

First and foremost I want to thank you for taking time to worship me today on Father's Day! My greatest desire is for you to know how deeply I am in love with you! (*Romans 8:14-17*) To say that you are the "apple of my eye" is a vast understatement. You are my everything! With that being said, please try to grasp that you are an heir to the Creator of the universe, the King of kings and Lord of lords, the beginning and the end, the Master of everything. People often ask what I do with my time and the answer is simple, I create for you, my child, to enjoy a great temporary life on planet earth. A life that is full of peace and prosperity, of moving forward and seeing great success, and a life that is anchored in the hope and the future that I have intrinsically planned for you. (*Jeremiah 29:11*)

One of your siblings was recently having a conversation with me and asked a great question: How do I step into the future you, my Dad, have prepared for me? How do I live an **e3:20** life?

The answer: It starts with mimicking me. (*John 5:19*) I love it when I see you act the way I've taught you. There is nothing that gives me greater joy than when I see you living a life of honor, (*Ephesians 3:20*) confident that as you do so, I will create things that are far greater than you could ever think or imagine. What is remarkable is how you, my child, simply doing that unleashes hope all around you. (*Colossians 1:27*) You get it! That when you surrender to me, trust me, put your hope in me, it's contagious to everyone around you, even the people that you don't think are watching you. Thank you.

Please understand that I, your Dad, really do get what a battle daily life is on planet earth. It's a grind and it always will be in some ways when you live in an imperfect world. Don't let that get you down or discourage you. Make sure you wake up every morning and win the mental game. (*Romans 8:5-6*) When you've done that, you've conquered 90% of the battle. After that, make sure you invest in yourself (*Mark 12:30-31*). You will never be able to live into my expectation of loving without lines if you don't first understand the love I have for you! Now that I've mentioned that, I want to ask you to do something today, on Father's Day, as a gift for me that will bring great joy to my life. Will you do it? Okay then, dump the guilt (*Romans 8:1-2*) that you are carrying for the messes you've made! Don't you get it? I knew you were going to make some messes in life and that is the reason I sent my Son to take care of them. (*John 3:16*) Don't let His death be in vain. If you keep carrying your guilt, He died in vain! I asked Him to die so that you could be emotionally healthy. (3 *John 1:2*) And not just satisfied, but moving forward because of the way you think. In the end, the best thinkers, those who simply trust me, will win!

Well, I could write all day because you are my fave, but in wrapping things up, I want to ask you to do a few more things for me. It is Father's Day. I know this will sound weird,

but will you take advantage of my wealth? (*Ephesians 1:3*) Seriously, I have everything (*Psalms 24:1*), and my only purpose in having it is to share it with you! So, I want you to know that when you do things my way, no matter where you are, whether in the country or in the city, that you'll have my approval, my favor, my authority, working on your behalf. (*Deuteronomy 28*) Knowing that you have the most powerful Dad in existence, you should chase the unreasonable (*Genesis 17:17*) and you should share lavishly (*Proverbs 11:25*). As you use the wealth I've shared with you to refresh others, I will refresh you, too. Guaranteed! So do it! Live big (*John 10:10*) and take advantage of my abundance.

Lastly, seriously, I can tell by watching you that you seem to be hurting some. Please know that you don't have to be strong for me. I actually want just the opposite. I want you to embrace your brokenness (*Psalms 57:10-12*) with the knowledge that when you do so it will release the brilliancy of me, God the Father. Don't feel bad about responding to my invitation (*Matthew 11:28*). I never get tired of you coming to me. I actually love it! I adore you more and more when you include me in your messiness!

And as you do, remember, love without lines (*Acts 1:8*) the way I love you! When you trust me, take my name and live as my child. It disrupts the darkness all around you (*Matthew 5:14*) and you beam like a radiant light that folks can see for miles around!

Thank you for allowing me to share some thoughts with you today! Thank you for allowing me to be your Dad. I will do anything and everything within my power to see you live a great life. All you have to do is give me a call. (*Romans 10:13*) Anytime, day or night. You are never a burden to me. You are never a disappointment to me. So don't believe the folks around you that heap that garbage on you!

As a present to me today, will you take the next few minutes to honor me? Will you pour out your heart, your thoughts, and your emotions to me? I love having conversations with you! Your voice never gets old!

I love you! I am proud of you! You are my fave!

Dad (God the Father)