

# The Fatherhood of God - Part Two

## LECTURE 7

*You are what your clearest mental picture of yourself is – not just to do with the power of positive thinking – but to do with imagination and God-given images*

### Session Topics:

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The need for Fathers. The example of the Word. The need for balance. Receive from fathers. Fathering others.

### Outcomes:

**After completing this session you should be able to -**

Know more about the Fathers heart and purposes, and trust more in His Goodness and Kindness.

### Objectives:

- **Choose to be more like the Father**  
Sharing His Character with others Doing His purposes on the earth.
- **Extend the Fathers Healing**  
Practising this in your own life Forgiving and blessing others.
- **Modify peoples concepts about the Father**  
Introducing Him as Abba Father. Dealing with wrong understanding. Modelling earthly Fatherhood on Him.

**John 17:6, 12, 26** *I have **manifested your name** to the men whom You have given me out of the world ... while I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your NAME ... I have **declared to them your name**, and will declare it, that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and I in them.*

Jesus did three things with the **name of the Father**; He **manifested** the Name of the Father, He **kept** His disciples in the Name of the Father and He **declared** the Name of the Father.

Jesus Christ **demonstrated the Fatherhood of God**; He proclaimed and spoke of the Fatherhood of God and He kept His followers **immersed** in the Fatherhood of God.

We have looked at the **nature, endurance** and **character** of the Father. We have seen that our real Father is God. He is the **source of all Fatherhood**. Let us now get a further understanding of our Heavenly Father. **Our** Father wants us to **know Him intimately**.

Understanding the Fatherhood of God keeps us walking with God which leads to Christian maturity

## 1. The True Picture of the Father

One thing we must realise is that the God that most unbelievers reject is not the Father of our Lord Jesus, the God of the Bible. Most unbelievers walk in deception about Who God really is. They have had the wrong kind of input concerning the Father which was pictured to them through their own earthly fathers, through traditional religion and through hypocritical Christians.

One man had lost his wife through death, his job through alcoholism and his home and children to the social welfare through carelessness. He was living in a world of despair and discouragement. He did not want to turn to God because he had a wrong concept of God.

He thought God was a cruel monster

No one had helped him see the real Heavenly Father. No one had shown him that God **feels for His hurting children**. God weeps for His lost children. His heart breaks for them. He is a caring Father. We see this clearly when;

- ◆ Jesus **wept** over Jerusalem over the multitudes;
- ◆ Jesus **wept** over Mary and Martha at Lazarus' grave; and
- ◆ the Holy Spirit **groans** in us.

**Romans 8:26** *... the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

### 1.1 The cause of the degeneration

The question that many ask is: "Why did God create something good and then allow it to become fallen and marred? How can He allow such misery and suffering? Why are there so many wars, so much violence?" Then they blame God for the state of the world.

Some deny God out of hurt and not rebellion

#### ■ Why do the Innocent Suffer?

**Romans 3:10, 12, 23**

*... There is none righteous, no, not one, ... there is none who does good, no, not one ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...*

Are the innocent really innocent? According to the Scripture **none are innocent**.

♦ **The World is a Slave Camp**

Adam sold mankind into slavery by disobeying God and obeying Lucifer. He gave his God-given domain to the devil. He changed allegiance.

♦ **The World is Enemy Territory**

Satan is a tyrant – a cruel dictator. He rules by selfish ambition and bitter jealousy. His nature is to steal, kill and destroy.

♦ **Slavery to Decay**

**Romans 8:20, 21** *Yet there was the hope that creation would one day be set free from its SLAVERY to DECAY ...*

This will only come to pass when Jesus returns, but at the moment, the world is in **bondage**. The bondage of His creation breaks the heart of God since it is not in His will, just as it was not the will of the father for the prodigal to leave home and waste his inheritance.

## 1.2 God's Reaction to the Degeneration

How does God feel about the suffering and evil in the creation? How does it affect the Father?

**Genesis 6:5, 6** *Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was **sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.***

♦ **Man Had the Choice**

The Lord wants us to love Him with all our beings. He wants us to do so by choice and not by force. God wants us to **choose to love Him**. This is why He gave man the choice **to obey or to disobey**.

The consequences would be death and decay

♦ **The Warning**

Man was warned of the consequences of the wrong choice.

Man placed himself in this miserable position. Yet it **grieves the Lord. Sin grieves the heart of God.**

We must see sin and disobedience to God for what it is and what it causes

**2 Corinthians 7:9, 10**

*Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For **godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation, not to be regretted**; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*

The question now is: **"how do we feel about the sin and suffering around us?"**. Our sin moves God to sorrow. We must experience the same sorrow and abhorrence of sin that God does. This sorrow must so move us that our **whole outlook changes**.

We were created to walk in love

♦ **Created for Love**

We were not created for selfishness, hatred, anger, bitterness, resentment, pride, fear, turmoil, etc.. If we walk in these things, **we will be destroyed** because our bodies were not designed to cope with all this negative emotion.

Our love walk starts with us **loving the Lord our God**. Obedience flows naturally from a **love relationship**.

When we walk in love toward God and people, we will share the broken heart of God. We will be moved with compassion. We will hate what God hates, and love what He loves.

We were created to walk in fellowship with God

## 1.3 The God that People Reject

The God that people reject is the God that religious hypocrites present. They present a false image of the living God. They present a god of **indifference, favouritism** and **injustice**.

This is not the God of the Bible. The God of the Bible was revealed in Jesus Christ. **He hates complacency, hypocrisy** and **injustice**.

Sin breaks God's heart – allow your heart to be broken in repentance that you may experience, God as a Father

## 2. The Love of the Father

**John 14:8, 9** *Philip said to Him; Lord show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us. Jesus said to him; Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, show us the Father.*

Jesus Christ is the One Who lived with the Father in the **eternal past**. He knows the Father **intimately**. The Father and the Son are **One** in thought, word and deed.

**He is the only One qualified to introduce us to His Father. He demonstrated what His Father is like.**

When Jesus healed the sick, the Father would have done the same. The Father would have -

- ◆ Cast out demons;
- ◆ Raised the dead;
- ◆ Received little children;
- ◆ Washed the disciples' feet;
- ◆ Wept over Jerusalem and at Lazarus' grave;
- ◆ Gone to tax collectors, harlots and sinners;
- ◆ Been known as a winebibber and a glutton;
- ◆ Gone to the Cross;
- ◆ Taken on the responsibility of sinners;
- ◆ Confronted the people who had no faith or love;
- ◆ Harshly rebuked the hypocritical Pharisees; and
- ◆ Selected twelve apostles to train them.

Jesus Christ is what the Father would think, speak and do if He came personally

Everything about Jesus Christ **truly does reflect the Father heart of God**. We see Jesus Christ moved by compassion for the people who were scattered and without a shepherd.

## 2.1 The Father is Tenderhearted

**Matthew 9:36** *But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered like sheep having no shepherd.*

Anything we read about Jesus applies to the Father as well.

### ◆ Moved with Compassion

This literally means "**moved in the inward parts**". When the Father sees mankind in its present condition with all the misery and heartache, **He is moved with compassion. His heart becomes tender** to the point of action.



## 2.2 The Father is Tough

When Jesus threw the money changers out of the temple, and when He confronted the hypocritical Pharisees and the **faithless** disciples, **He was tough, but He was motivated by love**.

All sin is **destructive** and leads to the **death** of the sinner and those around him. That is why the Father deals **radically with sin**.

♦ **The Father is Righteous**

This is the act of being **right** and doing **the right things**.

♦ **The Father is Holy**

This does not mean that the Father is **stern, unsmiling** and **intimidating**. Holiness in the Father means that the Father is set apart to keep and fulfil His Word. The Father is dedicated to His own **integrity**.

The Father's toughness has the good of mankind at heart

## 2.4 The Father is Daddy

**Romans 8:15** *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**.*

♦ **Abba, Father**

The word 'ABBA' here is Aramaic for '**father**'. It expresses an especially close relationship with the father. It is a term of familiarity and intimacy.

Only in stiff aristocratic homes is father called **father**. Where there is intimacy, father is called **daddy**. Although He is Daddy to us, we must remember that there are times when He is Father. This is when we have to **obey His Word**, but the Father also wants us to **enjoy His presence**.

## 3. The Purpose of the Father

**Isaiah 61:1, 2** *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor **He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted**, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.*

The question is: "**why does the Father heal wounded hearts?**". Mankind was created by God! He is the product of God's dreams. He came out of the heart of God.

**Isaiah 53:3-5** *He is despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief ... surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; ... He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*

**Psalm 34:18** *The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.*

**Psalm 147:3** *He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds.*

God loves the world so much that He cannot stand to see man in his fallen condition

The purpose of the Father is to heal the broken heart through the process of the new birth

### 3.1 That the Kingdom be Established

**It is Important to Realise that:**

- ♦ The Spirit is **reborn**;
- ♦ The Soul is **renewed**; and
- ♦ The Body is **resurrected**.

We are **reborn** when we repent of our dead works and **make Jesus our Lord**. Our souls are **renewed when we meditate** on the Word of God day and night. Our bodies are **resurrected when Jesus returns**, but we have a foretaste of this when we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

♦ **Under New Management**

When the Lord takes over, **he brings order** out of chaos and changes things. He brings the atmosphere of heaven into our lives.

This is a life long process of establishing the Kingdom of God in our lives

## 3.2 That we might be Reconciled

2 Corinthians  
5:17-21

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us – we implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*

A severed friendship is **restored!** God hates the enmity that exists between Him and mankind. **He has done all He can to restore this friendship.**

## 3.3 That we might be Family

Not only does the Father want friendship restored, He wants us to be His sons and His daughters.

## 3.4 That we might be Whole

The Father wants to restore us to the original position that we had with Him in the beginning.

**Romans 8:29** *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren.*

# 4. The Healing of the Father

We now come to the way in which the Father heals our wounds. An important thing to understand here is that



the Father **does not gatecrash into our lives**. He will move in us and **make us whole only when we cooperate**.

## 4.1 Acknowledge your Need

If we are wounded and hurting and then act as though nothing is wrong, **we will not be healed**. In so doing, we declare that we have **no need** for healing.

### ♦ It takes Humility

Pride will stop us acknowledging that we have needs.

**1 John 1:8, 9** *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

All that is required is honesty and openness with God.

Don't feel that you are an exception

## 4.2 Confess Negative Emotions

We live in a time where emotions such as anger, disappointment, fear, bitterness and guilt are bottled up, and this can produce anything from ulcers to suicide.

### ♦ Begin with Prayer

Tell the Father about it



### 4.3 Forgive those who Hurt you

Forgiveness is not just forgetting a wrong done to us. Neither is it some mystical, spiritual feeling.

Forgiveness is pardoning someone for the hurt they have done; it is showing love and acceptance despite being hurt

### 4.4 Receive Forgiveness

When you forgive, you can expect **forgiveness from the Father**. We need to receive **forgiveness** from the Father. We also need to **accept** the fact that we are forgiven and acceptable to the Father.

When others hurt us, we tend to put ourselves in judgement – as if we were sinless. We must remember that we are also guilty of hurting others in some way. **Therefore we are obligated to forgive and then receive forgiveness.**

### 4.5 Receive the Father's Love

We must come into a position of worship and praise where there is an exchange of love and intimacy. Allow the Father to love you by coming into His presence and love the Father with your words and your life.



### 4.6 Think God's Thoughts

What are God's thoughts? God's thoughts are expressed in His Word. Meditate on the Word day and night. Allow His Word to wash you, cleanse you and heal you.

We ourselves must have a revelation of God as a Father

### 4.7 Endure All Things

When God's love is flowing through us and we are flowing in **God's love, we are able to endure all things to the end**. We can be like the patient farmer awaiting the harvest.

## 5. The Duplication of the Father

**1 Thess 2:11** *As you know how we exhorted, and comforted and charged everyone of you, as a **Father** does his own children.*

### 5.1 The Need for Fathers

Paul demonstrated the Father heart of God by being a role model to those whom he served. The only way some people will understand God as a loving Father is if we **manifest fatherhood to them**.

### 5.2 The Example of the Word

#### ♦ Peter's Exhortation

**1 Peter 5:2** *... tend the flock of God that is in your charge.*

#### ♦ Paul's Exhortation

**1 Corinth 4:15-17** *Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I urge you to imitate me. For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.*

**1 Thess 2:7,11,12** *As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her children. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a*

*Father deals with his children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.*

♦ **Ezekiel's Exhortation**

Ezekiel 34

♦ **John's Exhortation**

1 John 2:14 ... fathers, you know him who is from the beginning ...

## 5.3 The Need for Balance

### Some Characteristics of Fathers in the Lord are:

- ♦ They believe that the Father is their Source;
- ♦ They lead others to Him as their Source as well;
- ♦ They emphasise a leader's responsibility;
- ♦ They emphasise **servanthood** in the Body of Christ;
- ♦ They encourage dependence on the Father;
- ♦ They see the importance of equipping the saints;
- ♦ They provide an atmosphere of trust and grace;
- ♦ They confront sin at the root;
- ♦ They stress the importance of unity and humility; and
- ♦ They stress the right heart attitude to the Father and not just doctrinal conformity.

Dominating fathers do just the opposite.

At the same time, remember that God the Father is the only One worthy of our total allegiance

## 5.4 Receive from Fathers

We need to realise that God has raised up men around us to be fathers to us in the Lord. We need to see that they express God's Father heart to us.

When David's mighty men brought him water from the well beyond enemy lines and placed their own lives in extreme danger, David poured that drink onto the ground saying:



1 Chronicles  
11:17-19

*Devotion such as this, said David, Belongs only to the Lord.  
(Unknown Paraphrase)*

## 5.5 Fathering Others

When we experience fellowship with our heavenly Father, **we will become a father to others.**

This is what produces Christian character!