

Our Father– 1/09/2019

“For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him..”Rom.8:14-17

Beloved in the Lord,

An airplane took off from Sydney airport and quickly reached its cruising altitude. The Captain switched off the seatbelt sign and the stewards began the food and beverage service. About an hour into the flight the captain suddenly turned on the seat belt sign. He made an announcement for all passengers to fasten their seat belts and for the crew to be seated. The plane began to be tossed about as there was a large thunderstorm outside. One moment the plane would be ascending and next moment it was suddenly dropping. Through the windows the passengers could see lightning. Some passengers began to feel ill, but most sat with a worried look on their faces. On a couple of occasions, the plane dipped so suddenly that some of the passengers let out a scream. One of the passengers sitting in an aisle seat looked across and noticed a young girl sitting calmly reading a book. He estimated that she was around 10 years old. As the plane was being tossed about, she seemed to be totally oblivious, engrossed in her book. After about 20 minutes the sky became clear and the rest of the trip was very calm. Once the plane had landed at its destination everybody was happy to get off. Just inside the terminal the man noticed the girl who had been reading the book. He walked up to her and said:” I noticed but you didn't seem to be scared during the storm. “She smiled and answered him: “I wasn't worried because my daddy is the pilot.”

This story is a beautiful illustration of childlike faith. The little girl had complete confidence in her daddy. She wasn't scared because her daddy was in control of the plane. Life is very often like this flight. One moment you are cruising along, and everything is going well, next moment a storm breaks out and you are being tossed about. If we are children of God, then we should be confident during the storm, knowing that our Heavenly Father is the Captain, and that all will be well.

We do not have to live in fear, and we don't have to get too stressed, because we have a Father who is in complete control of our lives. God our Heavenly Father want us to trust in Him and to live with a childlike faith. He is our Father and He loves us. Jesus taught us that nothing ever happens to us that God doesn't know about. He knows exactly what He is doing, and He knows the outcome of all things. King David used the Shepherd as an illustration of this point. We read in Psalm 23:

***The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.***

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside quiet waters.

³ He restores my soul;

He guides me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil, for You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You have anointed my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

The fourth verse is so powerful: ***Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.***

“You are with me.” If God is with us, and for us, then all will be well. We need to sink this truth deep into our hearts. We seem to know this, but when the storms of life start to toss our airplane around, we quickly forget. These are the times that we need that childlike faith, that simple trust – “My daddy is the pilot.”

How can we develop this type of faith? The answer is very simple: we need to draw near to God. We need to develop a relationship with him had to come to know him as a loving father.

When I was a young boy, I didn't see my father very much. He was working several jobs in order to keep the family afloat. In my teenage years I wanted to get to know my father better. Dad loved to walk and to swim. I decided to join him on his walks and his swimming. During these times we spent together walking to the beach and swimming together we became a lot closer. Like any relationship, it required effort and time.

We have a Father in Heaven who loves us very much and who desires a close relationship with us. That is why he sent Jesus into this world. Jesus shows us the Father, and He is the Way to the Father. God is calling us into something far more than just having an idea about Him. He is much more than just a higher power that guides our lives, He is calling us into a Father – son; Father – daughter relationship. We read in John's Gospel:

There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:9-14

Jesus not only revealed the father to us, He reflected the Father. Jesus showed us that God is both grace and truth. Our Father in heaven loves us very much and invites us to trust in Him. He has given us His Word - the Holy Bible, which we can read repeatedly. As we do, we

find out about His faithfulness; His love, His generosity; His mercy. The more we read the Bible, the more we get to know God, and the more we get to know Him, the more we see the truth that God is Love.

He loves you. He loves me. His desire is that we would spend eternity with Him in His Kingdom. There is room in His family for you and for me, and for all who would come. Jesus taught us that His Father's House has many rooms.

"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way where I am going." ⁵Thomas *said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" ⁶Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." Jn.14:1-6.

The will of both The Father and The Son, is that we would spend eternity with them, have a place in the Father's House, and live forever in paradise. There is only one Way into the Father's House and that way is Jesus Himself. We can only become members of God's family by believing in Jesus Christ. Only His Blood can cleanse us from sin. Nothing sinful can enter the Father's House, nor stand in His presence. When we believe in Jesus, when we confess and repent of our sin, then His Blood cleanses us from all sin and in God's eyes we are Holy and pure.

When we are born again, we become children of God forever. Our eternal life is secure. Our name is written in the Lamb's Book of life and nothing can erase it.

Being a child of God brings many blessings in this life as well as eternity. We can and should live every day in the knowledge that our Father loves us, and is in control. Our Father is all knowing; ever present; all powerful. Let me say it again: Our Father loves us, and He is always watching over us. King David remind us of this truth in some 121:

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;

From where shall my help come?

² My help comes from the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

³ He will not allow your foot to slip;

He who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ Behold, He who keeps Israel

Will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The Lord is your keeper;

The Lord is your shade on your right hand.

⁶ The sun will not smite you by day,

Nor the moon by night.

⁷ The Lord will protect you from all evil;

He will keep your soul.

⁸ The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in

From this time forth and forever.

Our Father never sleeps. He loves us and He protects and guides us. Trust in Him and be blessed. Amen.

Amen

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