

The Father Heart of God

As a father who doesn't have a biological father to turn to for guidance on how to raise my sons, I can either read some books; ask a fellow brother in Christ or mine God's Word for myself to get a better understanding of the Father Heart of God. In this way I can emulate what I see and what I read. Of course, as a child of God I also have the benefit of experiencing God the Father for myself in a very real and practical way. When we pray, we pray Our Father who art in heaven.

Now from the very beginning I can tell you that these eight points that I will cover this morning probably only serve as a very brief introduction to this deeply profound topic of the Father Heart of God. This is one of those topics that you could build quite an in-depth series around. So please don't think of this as the Main course, but rather as a starter at the start of 2025.

As is often the case, when you are looking for a starting point – it's really difficult to go wrong if you start by looking at the life of Jesus. We know that Jesus was and still is the Son of God, and so it is always important to understand how Jesus' ministry here on earth pointed towards and glorified Father God.

1. Jesus' ministry was always aimed at glorifying the Father.

John 4:34 (NKJV)

Jesus said to them, “**My food** is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

When Jesus says: “**my food**” is to do the will of my Father who sent me; what he means here is; doing the will of the Father and bringing it to completion is what sustains him; it's what nourishes him; it's what keeps Jesus going. Food nourishes and sustains our mortal bodies.

Imagine if that was your and my position this morning. In a world that is so self-centred and so ego-centric, imagine how powerful it would be if we as the church of Jesus Christ stood up in unity and said – fulfilling the will of the Father is the thing that keeps us going, nourishes us and sustains us. What a juxtaposition to a selfie fuelled; selfish; ego-centric; self-centred; self-gratifying world. It's always good to remind ourselves that we are in this world but not of this world. We can't walk and talk like we don't serve the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. People should see Jesus in us and Jesus would always do whatever he did to glorify Father God.

John 14:13 (NKJV)

And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, **that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

I have a question for you this morning - If you were Jesus, performing miracles; healing the sick; raising the dead; opening blind eyes; crowds swarming all around you, would you still have directed all of the glory to the Father?

By the way we don't have to be Jesus to live a life that directs the glory and the honour to Father God.

In everything you and I do; great and small; we can make sure that God the Father gets the glory.

When God has sustained a marriage for 22 years, we give Father God the glory.

When our matriculants pass and pass well, we give Father God the glory.

When we celebrate our birthdays, we glorify Father God for He is the one who keeps and sustains us and causes us to see another year. To God be the glory, for the things He has done. Amen.

2. In the same way, Jesus calls us as to glorify Our Father, as He did

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

Let your light **so** shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

This passage of scripture says – let your light **SO** shine! This tells me that there is a way that I can let my light shine that will either bring glory to me, myself and I; or bring glory to Father God. The one who is in control of how I let my light shine is **ME**. This scripture also speaks against me being a secret Christian agent, where nobody knows that I am a Christian and I am an undercover secret agent for the Lord. No, my light needs to shine otherwise there is no chance of Father God receiving the glory. Even though we are not driven and motivated by works, I do love this connection between my good works here on earth, bringing glory to Father God in heaven, and not being done so that I can get the praise and accolades.

John 15:8 (NKJV)

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

We glorify the Father most when we do His will, bear His fruit, and do what is right. As Christians we are always becoming more Christ like, and by bearing fruit, we are producing evidence that we are become more Christ Like, that we are His disciples, and this brings glory to the Father. Amen.

3. If you want to know the heart of Our Father, you have to know Jesus.

Jesus reveals the Father's heart and His will. The more Christ-like we are, the more the Father is glorified in and through us.

Abba Father

Jesus changed our understanding of God by referring to Him intimately as "Abba", "Father", a practice unprecedented among the Jews who revered God's name as too sacred to even pronounce.

Abba Father is an Aramaic term for father that Jesus used to express his intimate relationship with God. Abba Father expresses affection and trust between a father and his child. It is one of the most significant names of God in the Bible, indicating that only born-again Christians can call Him Father and inherit His kingdom. This demonstrated a radical closeness and personal access to God, shifting religious perspective from fear to love.

This portrayal of God as a loving father is central to Jesus' teachings.

Mark 14:36 (a) (NKJV) And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You..."

Romans 8:15-16 (NKJV)

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." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

What a beautiful name to call **the Holy Spirit – (the Spirit of Adoption)** That's referring to the Holy Spirit.

Other translations say:

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery ...

... the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.

You and I are sons and daughters; adopted by the Holy Spirit of God. There is an intimacy there, a closeness there between child and parent, rights of inheritance are triggered when you are adopted. You receive more as a son than a slave. You receive more as a daughter than a slave does.

Galatians 4:6 (NKJV)

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

I love words because words paint pictures – can you see that picture of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, living in our hearts and crying out Abba Father.

Jesus' favourite way of addressing God was by calling him Father. In the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew; Mark and Luke), He says this 65 times and in John more than 100 times.

If I think about my own interactions with my sons, if they want to wrap me around their fingers, then they call me dad or dada.

When Mathew is feeling cheeky, which is almost every day, he calls me Stewart just to tease me, but he knows that's not the way to unlock my Father Heart that will do anything for him. The way to do that is to call me dada or dad and he knows it too. If intimacy and closeness is the objective for us then we have to be comfortable to call Him Abba Father.

When you talk to God you can refer to him as Dad, you can call him dada, or daddy God or Baba Wami or Abba Father. Not only does He not mind But see how it gives you more intimate access to God.

Sometimes we can be very formal and transactional with God. I want money, I call on Jehovah Jireh, I want my healing I call on Jehovah Rapha. As if we are accessing different apps on our cell phones. I am not saying it's not correct to call on Jehovah Rapha in a time when you need healing or Jehovah Jireh when you need cash but first and foremost before you go into transaction mode, he is your dad. This is why we teach people to start times of prayer with thankfulness. We know what it does to the heart of a parent when a child's first words to them are "Thank you".

4. God Our Father Answers Our Prayers

If your child asks for something, you as a parent would immediately help. Jesus therefore draws us in as family members, to be able to ask now with confidence.

Matthew 7:11 (NKJV)

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give **good things** to those who ask Him!

Unless you are trying to teach your child some type of lesson around, not also getting every single thing you want, generally, parents want to give good things to our children. Father God is our Father and its exactly the same with him. His heart towards you is to bless you. His heart towards you is to cause you to prosper. His heart towards you is that good things should come your way. Don't feel guilty to ask your Father for good things, He wants you to ask because He wants to give them to you.

John 14:13-14 (NKJV)

And **whatever you ask in My name**, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

Because when you asked, you asked in the name of Jesus, when God blesses you, the Father is glorified in the son. So please ask in Jesus' name.

John 15:16 (NKJV)

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that **whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you**.

Now we see the culmination of the two previous scriptures - whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

John 16:23-24 (NKJV)

"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, **whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you**. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

If I have to summarise these passages of scripture I would say the following:

He is my dad, and He wants to give good things to me, therefore If I ask in Jesus' name, for that which is good, whatever I ask for, will be given to me so that my joy may be fulfilled and so that God the Father may be glorified in the son.

5. We Have Direct Access to Our Father

Hebrews 10:19-23 (NKJV)

Therefore, brethren, having **boldness to enter** the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 **let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

We are so blessed that we live in a time where we have direct access to Father God.

You don't just access Father God but according to this passage of scripture you **boldly** access Him. The boldness comes from knowing that you have been washed in the blood of Jesus. The boldness comes from knowing that you have been consecrated, set apart for God's purposes. If you are here today and you are born again then when you approach Father God, approach Him with "a true heart in full assurance of faith".

6. We are Co-Heirs with Jesus

We are co-heirs with Christ, of the glory and grace of God

Galatians 4:4-7 (NKJV)

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, **that we might receive the adoption** as sons.

6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore **you are no longer a slave but a son**, and if a son, **then an heir of God** through Christ.

Galatians 4:4-7 Amplified Bible

4 But when [in God's plan] the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the [regulations of the] Law, 5 so that He might redeem and liberate those who were under the Law, that we [who believe] might be adopted as sons [as God's children with all rights as fully grown members of a family]. 6 And because you really are [His] sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba! Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave (bond-servant), but a son; and if a son, then also an heir through [the gracious act of] God [through Christ].

Being a slave or a servant comes with certain protections and a sense of belonging; I am God's servant; I belong to Him. But being a son means I have the rights of an heir. That means ownership. That means a real shift from me belonging to God, to God's kingdom belonging to me. I appropriate it. I am a son, I am an heir, I have an inheritance, I have the right to name it and claim it and call it my own. I am part of a family. I am family. I am not an acquaintance, I am not even a friend, I am family.

7. The Giving Nature of the Father Heart of God

We emulate the generosity of the Father, understanding the joy and responsibility of giving.

Matthew 7:11 (NKJV)

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Luke 11:13 (NKJV)

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

John 3:16 (NKJV)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The first realization of the Father's heart is His penetrating, incomprehensible love.

The thing about love is love always calls one to action – for God so loved us that he did something, he gave.

Psalm 100:5 (NLT)

For the Lord is good.

His unfailing love continues forever,

and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

It is always good to be on the receiving end of the giving, but God calls us to do what we see the Father do, to be generous the way that He is generous, to love like He loves. His love is unfailing, His love continues forever and the way it continues forever is through you and I. This is what it means to be a living epistle read of men. People should see and experience the unfailing love of God when they interact with you.

8. The Father Heart of God desires only the very best for us

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11 Amplified Bible

11 For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you,' says the Lord, 'plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

As we start this year off, I want you to really appropriate God's heart for you in this year.

God's heart for you is prosperity.

God's heart for you is a future filled with hope.

God's heart for you is to bless you so that you can emulate his generosity and be a blessing to others.

God's heart for you is for His unfailing love to be demonstrated in everything you do and with everyone you meet.

God's heart for you is to glorify the Father the same way that Jesus does.

God's heart for you is that you approach him with boldness and ask him for good things.

God's heart for you is that you realise that Jesus Christ is source and that everything you ask for should always be asked for in Jesus' name so that God the Father may be glorified in the Son.

God's heart for you is to transition from slavery to sonship.