

**Our Perfect Father**  
**2024-06-16**

**Romans 8:14-16**

*For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

*15 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!”*

*16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God*

**No Old Testament saint addressed God as Father, but in the New Testament at least 275 times, Christians are instructed to address God as Father.**

- **God is not our Father through creation but through adoption.** *Galatians 4:4-7, John 1:12-13, Ephesians 1:5*

**Adoption through Jesus Christ’s atonement is not earned by behavior, but through the gospel.**

- **All your sinfulness does not nullify your adoption.** *Romans 8:35, 38-39*
  - **Nothing can sever your sacred tie or separate the Christian from God’s love.**

**Father title explains the type of intimate relationship He desires with his children.** *2 Corinthians 6:18, Matthew 7:11*

- This title **intended** to bring **comfort** and **joy** can be a **stumbling block**.
  - **Studies** show that we **unconsciously attach** feelings and **impressions** of our **earthly** dad to **determine** what we **believe** the **Heavenly Father is like**.

**If you have suffered physical or emotional hurt, rejection, or even abandonment by earthly father or stepfather, you may struggle relating to God as your Father.**

- **You must forgive or bitterness will consume and hinder your fellowship with God.** *Ephesians 4:32*
  - **Forgive as forgiven, you’re not perfect either.**
    - **Scars** remind you where you’ve **been**, but they **don’t have** to **dictate** where you **go**.
      - **Believe** who God **really is**: your **perfect Father** who

**ALWAYS was, is, and will be present through all the highs and lows of your life, even when nobody else was, or is. Your Father is omnipresent.** *Psalms 23:4a, Hebrews 13:5*

- **It’s not possible** for Him to **abandon you**.
  - The **issue** is **not** the **Heavenly Father’s** availability, but **our awareness** of the Father’s **presence**.
    - **Not only** is He **present** but He is also **there** emotionally.

**Not just present but supremely attentive and affectionate** *Isaiah 49:15, Psalm 121:3*

- **You always** have his **FULL attention**; He is **never too busy** to listen when we pray and is never **preoccupied** with **other problems**. You **can't "bother"** Him!
  - **Don't worry** about **taking His time**. It's **already yours**.
    - He **desires** and longs to **spend time with you**.

**Your Heavenly Father** is always **present, attentive** and unconditionally, constantly **loves YOU**.

- **He will never hurt** or **abandon** or **withdraw promises** but will **undeservedly bless YOU**.
- **When you sin, He will not** reject you or **hold** you at **arm's length**.
  - If a **child** is **muddy (sinning)**: **reject the mud (sin)** and **not the child**.
    - **The Father** will not reject but will **pursue YOU** with **love and patience**.
  - **He always disciplines** in **love, not frustration** or **anger**. Hebrews 12:7-11
    - **Dads**: ask God for **grace** and **power** to be **like Him** in this way.

**His** compassion, **understanding** and forgiveness is **measureless**, so whatever you **do** or **not do**, you will **never cease** to be a **child** in your **Heavenly Father's arms**. Romans 8:14-16, Zephaniah 3:17

- **Stop striving** for something you **already have**: the **Father's love** and **favor**.
  - **Stop wrestling, start nestling**. Example: Jon's dedication.

**Fathers** have the **privilege** of **helping** our **children** have a **positive view** of **God**.

- **All fathers** are **imperfect but strive** through the **Holy Spirit's empowerment** to **live** in way that **children see** what the **Heavenly Father** really **like**.
  - **When you fail**, humbly **seek** kid's **forgiveness!** Forgive yourself!