

GOD IS A GOOD ABBA June 19TH, 2022

Of all father relationships in our life the first and most important for us should be the one we have with the Heavenly Father.

This relationship has nothing to do with our physical birth although, as the creator of all things we are a product of His creation. Sadly, when Adam and Eve fell in the garden the entire human race became infected and impure with sin and as a result lost the spiritual relationship with God.

Isaiah 64:6-8 (NLT) We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind. ⁷ Yet no one calls on your name or pleads with you for mercy. Therefore, you have turned away from us and turned us over to our sins. ⁸ And yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand.

Notice that Isaiah writes that we are works of the Father's hand. We were created by Him but, He has turned mankind over to their sins because they refuse to turn to Him.

Although God is the Father of all creation He is not in a relationship with everyone He created.

John 1:10-13 (NLT) He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

The story of Jesus is the Father's love not only seen in His pursuit of man but in His providing a means by which man can once again relate to Him as Father God.

He even went to the extreme measure of taking on the form of man, Jesus, to rescue and bring mankind into relationship with Himself.

John referred to this as an act of the Heavenly Father's love.

1 John 4:9-10 (NLT) God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Our relationship with God as Father has to do with His sweet goodness and mercy extended to us through the preaching of the gospel. The good news awakened us to the reality of our lost spiritual state, and the vastness of His love in sending His one and only Son to give His life to pay the penalty for our sins.

When we responded to the gospel, placing our faith in Christ, our hearts were changed and were brought into relationship with God as Father.

God is mentioned as father over 160 times in the Gospels alone.

Most of the references of God as Father were from Jesus himself as it was His favorite term in addressing God.

It is generally agreed that the language Jesus and his followers primarily spoke was Aramaic so the word He would have used was “Abba”.

“Abba” was Jesus’ favorite term for God.

The prayer that he taught his followers addresses God as “Our Abba”

Matthew 6:9-13 (NLT) Pray along these lines, ‘Our Father in heaven, we honor your holy name. ¹⁰ We ask that your kingdom will come now. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us our food again today, as usual, ¹² and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. ¹³ Don’t bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One. Amen

To the religious leaders referring to God as “Abba” would have sounded disrespectful, as it was a common everyday term. The term describes intimacy, as children addressing their father.

When adults used this word in reference to their fathers it carried a deep sense of love, respect and relationship.

Unlike the religious leaders who lived in fear viewing God as a distant deity to be obeyed out of fear and reverence, Jesus taught that he had come so that people could have a relationship with “Abba God”.

John 14:6 (AMP) Jesus said to him, “I am the [only] Way [to God] and the [real] Truth and the [real] Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Jesus wanted us to know that He had come to be the bridge between us and Abba God. What he would do through His work on Calvary would result in reconciliation between sinners and God.

This is the message of reconciliation we are called to preach.

2 Corinthians 5:19-21 (NLT) And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for

Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

We don't have to run from Abba God. We are called to run to Him. We don't have to hide from him, we are told to come to Him in prayer.

Like any natural good father or parent, we want our children to know that we love them because they are our children. We want to never doubt that we are approachable, accessible and care about their needs. We want them free bondage and victorious in life.

Abba God is no different. This is what Jesus teaches us in the prayer model. He made it possible for us to have access to His Abba.

Abba God is approachable... When you pray...

Matthew 6:5-6 (NLT) “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

We are encouraged to pray not to impress God with vain repetitions nor to be seen of men but simply to approach Him.

God is not a distant deity who refuses to listen to and engage with those whom He loves. We are encouraged by Jesus to pray and approach the Father. Jesus made this possible.

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT) So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe.¹⁵ This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.¹⁶ So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

He is Our Abba

Matthew 6:9a (NLT) ‘Our Father in heaven...

Our Father makes clear that we as believers are in a relationship with him through faith in Christ.

In heaven doesn't mean that he is distant it implies that He is Sovereign and above all.

“Abba God” is not a human father who is limited when it comes to power,

resources and abilities. He is the Sovereign Lord who rules and reigns with all power and might holding the world in palm of His hands.

This is “Abba” for those who have come to faith in Christ His Son.

Abba God cares about our life...

Matthew 6:10-13 (NLT) We ask that your kingdom will come now. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us our food again today, as usual, ¹² and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. ¹³ Don't bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One. Amen

In this model pray Jesus teaches his followers that certain things are important to the Abba Father's heart for us.

- *He desires to rule and reign in our lives and those around us*
- *He desires to provide us with our daily bread or sustenance*
- *He wants unbroken fellowship with us and us to have unbroken fellowship with others*
- *He desires to lead us away from temptation to a place of freedom from evil*

Abba God is approachable and cares about the lives of His children.

Matthew 6:8b (NLT) ...your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

Of all father relationships the first and most important to be set in place is God as my Abba. The question is do you have a relationship with Abba God? If you don't have a relationship with Abba God you can have one today by surrendering your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, His son.

John 1:12-13 (AMP) But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name...