



Experiencing the Father's Love

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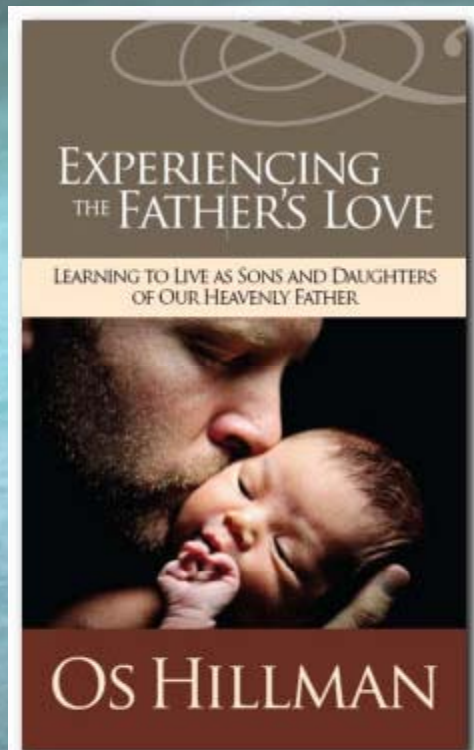
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Experiencing the Father's Love

Learning to live as sons and daughters





**When God thinks of you,
love swells in His heart.**



Zeph 3:17

“The Lord your God in your midst,
The Mighty One, will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
He will quiet you with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing.”



Why God created man?

- To worship God.
- To evangelize the whole world.
- To work on His behalf.
- To have relationship



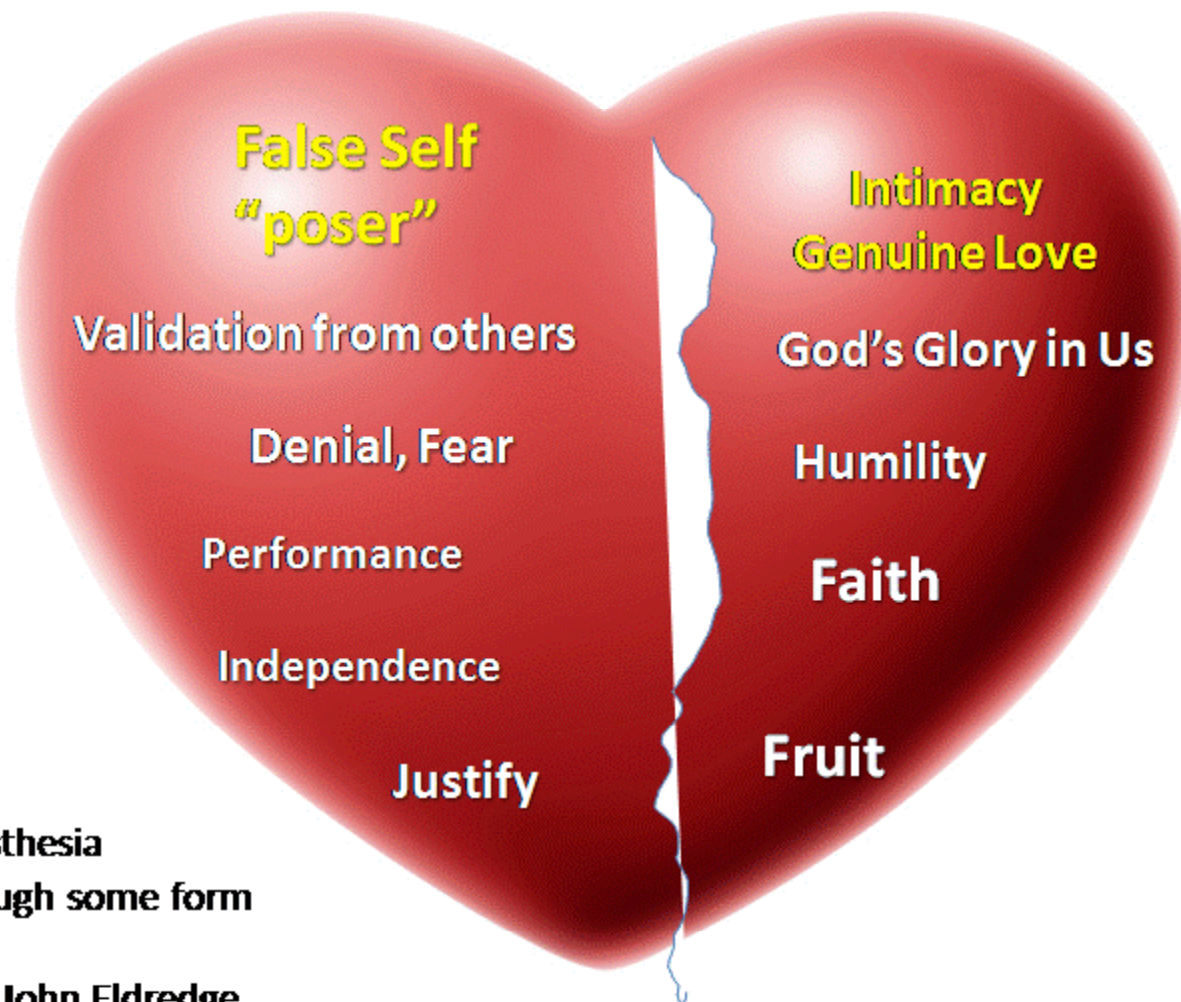
God created us foremost for
relationship,
and second for mission



Experience with earthly fathers

- . Our earthly fathers may have taught us that a Heavenly Father could be a dictator, a rejecter of his own offspring, a sexual abuser, a boot camp sergeant, or a traffic cop.
- Abandonment
- Lack of affection
- Performance
- Guilt “I did something bad” vs Shame “I am bad”

A Wounded Heart is a divided heart



**"We choose anesthesia
of the heart through some form
of competence."**

**John Eldredge,
*Sacred Romance***



Father to the Fatherless

When my father and my mother forsake me,
then the Lord will take care of me.

Ps 27:10

You are the helper of the fatherless. Ps 10:14



Jesus modeled the nature of the Father

For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

1 Cor 4:15,16

**Jesus represented a personal
and up close encounter with the Father**



My father experience



Rejection, Cain and Abel

And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the Lord said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.

Gen 4:4-7



Many of us believe
we are simply unlovable



Believing we are not loved can lead to addictions

All addictions represent a counterfeit desire for genuine intimacy. Every human being has a desire to be loved. When we do not feel loved we seek to reconcile this emotional pain through various forms of addictions.

At the core of all addictions is a need to be loved.



So many of us use the excuse that we cannot love or feel loved by God because of disappointments we have experienced related to God and even our earthly fathers.

If we cannot reconcile tragedy and disappointment we hold God responsible, thereby concluding He is not a God of love, which leaves us in a state of unbelief



“I love you?”

How many of you heard these words
from your earthly father growing up?



God has a heart

...And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and *He was grieved in His heart* (Gen 6:5-7).

God offered a long, extended time of visibly seeing, touching and experiencing the heart of God in Jesus. For the first time we could see what God the Father was like by seeing Him manifested as a human being.



“You are My Son”

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Gal 4:6,7



3 Audible Voices

“...this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.”



Lonesome Dove

validating sonship





Without this validation we will seek to validate our own being through performance, drugs, sex – you name it – all imposters.

We live as a poser, performing for others what we believe will be acceptable



My personal encounter with the Father's love



Satan's strategy has been to shut down your heart

- 1 Peter 5:8-9, Peter tells us to *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*



Satan's strategy

Satan literally wanted to kill you at birth. If he couldn't do that he would try to kill your destiny in your childhood. Satan knew that if He could hurt you at the deepest level—at your heart level early in life—he would effectively destroy anything good coming from your life.

i.e., Jesus, Moses



Satan's strategy is to kill

Jesus

“And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.” Rev 12:4-5



Satan's strategy

Moses - tried to kill him because he knew Moses was a chosen leader to bring freedom to an entire people and nation.

Jesus - King Herod tried to kill Him.

America - Satan has killed unborn babies through abortion since 1973 - 49 million abortions since 1973.

source: <http://www.nrlc.org/ABORTION/facts/abortionstats.html>



Living as sons and daughters

*“I will be a Father to you, and you shall be
My sons and daughters,” says the Lord
Almighty. 2 Cor. 6:18*



Sons vs Slaves

- *And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ (Gal 4:6-7).*
- *Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows; For so He gives His beloved sleep (Ps 127:1-2)*



Sons vs Slaves

- Believes and experiences the unconditional love of the father.
- Believes he must perform to gain the father's love.



Sons vs Slaves

- Experiences sonship as an heir based on his position to the father.
- Believes becoming an heir is tied to performance, not his position as a son.



Sons vs Slaves

- Rest in the security of his father's provision.
- Believes provision is only through performance.



Sons vs Slaves

- When I fail I am still loved.
- When I fail I believe I deserve judgment



Sons vs Slaves

- I'm a steward of what my father entrust to me.
- I am entitled to a share of anything I do.



Sons vs Slaves

- I love my dad's character.
(unconditional love)
- I resent my dad's character.(wants conditions)



Sons vs Slaves

- Value is totally based on position as a son.
- Value is only based on what I do and how well I do it.



Sons vs Slaves

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| • Love is experienced. | • Love is earned. |
| • Recognizes sins, repentant | • Self-righteous, prideful |
| | • |
| • Lives from the heart | • Lives from legalism |
| | • |
| • Believes he/she is loved | • Believes he/she is defective (shame) |



Sons vs Slaves

- Godly Kingdom lifestyle defined by grace and redemption
- Lives under God's authority
- Worldly kingdom perspective defined by performance and posturing
- Rejects God's authority



Understanding the Father relationship

Jesus

- Savior, payment for sin
– Jn 3:16
- Our Friend – Jn 15:15
- Intercessor/High priest
– Heb 4:14-16
- Worshipped – Mt 2:11
- Will Judge – Jn 5:22
Father judges no one
- Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do – John 5:19-20
- Only way to the Father
– Jn 14:6



Father

Petitioned for our needs

“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!**” -Mt 7:11

“**Give us this day** our daily bread. . .” – Mt 6:9



Father

Provision/Forgiveness of sin

Matt 6:9-13

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



Holy Spirit

- **Teacher**

For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." - Luke 12:12

- **Helper** – “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name...”- John 14:26

- **Power** -“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. . .”Acts 1:8



Holy Spirit

- **Comfort** - Acts 9:31 “And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.”
- **Gifts** - Heb 2:4 “God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”
- **Conviction of Sin** - John 16:8 “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin ...”
- **Testifies about Jesus** - John 15:26-27 the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.



Joseph, father to Pharaoh

*And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a **father to Pharaoh**, and **lord of all his house**, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt*

Gen 45:7-8



Joseph, father to Pharaoh

- Joseph lived as a son, not a slave or orphan
- Went from the dungeon to ruler of entire nation
- Refused bitterness and retaliation
- Could be trusted to steward the resources of Egypt and saving of a nation



Nelson Mandela

27 years in prison

From prison to President of South Africa

Father to a nation

Nobel Peace prize



Why Restoring the Father-child Relationship is Key to Our Future

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

Mal 4:5-6



Separated from His Love?

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;** that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Eph 3:14-19



1John 3:1

How great is the love the Father has
lavished on us, that we should be called
children of God! And that is what we are!



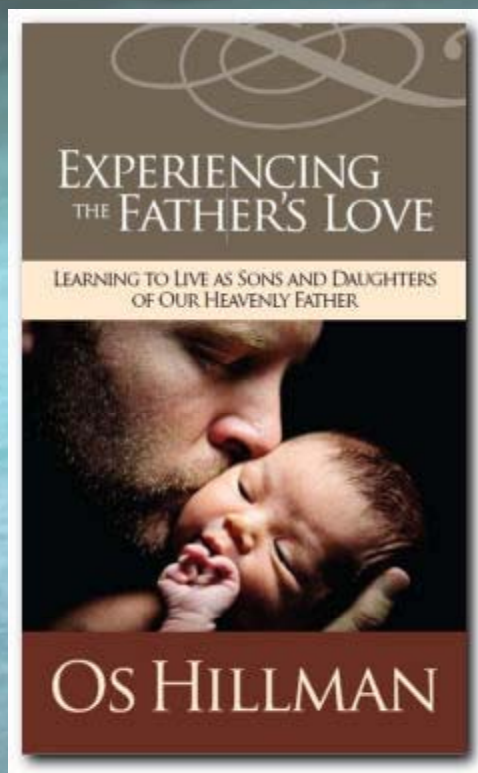
2 Cor 6:18

“I will be a Father to you,
and you shall be My sons and daughters,”
says the Lord Almighty.



**When God thinks of you,
love swells in His heart.**

Choose to believe it!





Prayer