

Introduction

This week we want to look at our concept of the Father.

Most people just see God as God, but not as a loving heavenly Father. Jesus said when you pray, pray “Our Father.”

Through our filter systems our concept of ‘Father’ can be very warped because of past experiences. But they should not dictate to the way we see our heavenly Father.

Question

- 1) How was your relationship with your earthly father?
- 2) Have you allowed this to affect your relationship with your heavenly Father?
- 3) If so, forgive him and ask the Holy Spirit to fill that void.

Scripture

- **John 14:8 (Amplified Bible)**

⁸Philip said to Him, Lord, show us the Father [cause us to see the Father--that is all we ask]; then we shall be satisfied.

We need a revelation of the heart of the Father.

Out of all that Jesus did, Phillip could still not see the heart of the Father. I think for too long we major on “God said, God said”, when the Father is not telling us what to do but is leading and guiding us through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said in John 14:10:

Scripture

- **John 14:10 (Amplified Bible)**

¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? What I am telling you I do not say on My own authority and of My own accord; but the Father Who lives continually in does the (^[a]His) works (His own miracles, deeds of power).

Jesus said that He and the Father are one:

- 1) He doesn't work on His own authority.
- 2) He works out of relationship.
- 3) He reveals the Father.

Signs and wonders don't always turn people to the Father.

We live in a society where people are looking for handouts, quick fixes, someone to feel sorry for them.

They believe the world owes them something.

Even people in the church don't fellowship because they are offended. (Christians need to stop playing the “I'll leave the church” card every time something or someone offends them. The leader can't because he is the leader)

They do not come under authority because they are independent.

They won't take correction, because they have a religious spirit.

These people do not know the Father as 'Father,' they have never gazed into His face. They only know Him for His handouts and as someone to meet their wants. They only know the deeds and not the ways of God.

They do not live out of relationship, they do not know Him personally, they chase signs, shopping bag Christians.....gimme, gimme, gimme.....

Don't forget God loves His church, and Jesus is the head. You cannot have a head without a body.

Question

When all seems to be falling apart around you, do you find it hard to stand? (Don't forget God is faithful, Jesus endured the cross for you, because of the Father's love for you)

Our concept of the Father has to be one of revelation out of His Word and backed up by our actions.

Question

- 1) Do you find it hard to stand by people when they have hurt you and done you wrong?
- 2) Do you still stay committed to that relationship?

Let us have a look at Father God with the Hebrews

Scripture

- **Psalm 78:15-20 (New International Version, ©2011)**

¹⁵ He split the rocks in the wilderness and gave them water as abundant as the seas;

¹⁶ he brought streams out of a rocky crag and made water flow down like rivers.

¹⁷ But they continued to sin against him, rebelling in the wilderness against the Most High. ¹⁸ They wilfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved.

¹⁹ They spoke against God; they said, "Can God really spread a table in the wilderness?"

²⁰ True, he struck the rock, and water gushed out, streams flowed abundantly, but can he also give us bread? Can he supply meat for his people?"

Let's look at what Father God has done for these Hebrews:

Delivered them from slavery

Healed their bodies

Blessed them with the spoils from Egypt

Opened the red sea

Split rocks in the desert

Let us have a look at what Father God has done for us through Jesus:

(We also are delivered and no longer slaves to sin)

(By His stripes we are healed)

(The wealth of the unrighteous is laid up for us)

(He will make a way for us where there is no way)

(Nothing is too hard for our God)

Gave them water to drink

(Gives us living water)

Led them with a pillar of fire by night

(He fills us with the Holy Spirit and fire)

Led them with a cloud in the day

(We are covered)

But still they had no revelation of God out of the miracles. God had done so much for these Hebrews but they still wanted more. He was only someone to meet their wants not their needs.

- 1) I wonder how many people look at that scripture “For God so loved the world” and don’t really see the Father giving up His beloved Son for us?
- 2) Do you pray to Jesus?

If we seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness we do not have any wants because He meets our needs.

Question

Do you sometimes get caught up with signs and wonders?

Scripture

- **Psalm 103:7 (New International Version, ©2011)**

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:

Notice here it says God showed His ways to Moses, and the people only saw His deeds. This whole Psalm is a challenge to all of us. To get to know God as Father and not just someone that meets a want.

The deeds of God come out of His ways. Miracles come out of relationship and the revelation of who the Father is. Jesus said “I only do what I see my Father do.”

That is why Jesus said you have not, because you ask not. Ask the Father in my name.

So this week we want to look at His ways.

Scripture

- **Psalm 103:8-18 (New International Version, ©2011)**

⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

⁹ He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵ The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field;

¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD’s love is with those who fear him, and

His righteousness, with their children's children—
¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

- 1) He is compassionate
- 2) He is gracious
- 3) He is slow to anger
- 4) He is abounding in love
- 5) He does not accuse
- 6) He does not harbour anger forever
- 7) He does not treat us as our sins deserve
- 8) He does not repay us according to our iniquities
- 9) His love is great for us
- 10) He has removed our transgressions from us
- 11) He acts as a father
- 12) He knows our frame
- 13) He remembers that we are fragile
- 14) He is a covenant God
- 15) His throne is established forever

Moses met with God. The Hebrews met with the miracle or power of God.
Even Jesus said don't be excited about the demons being subject to you. But be excited about your name being in the book of life.

Question

Which attributes of the above 15 do you have to work on?