

OUR FATHERS

God loves fathers and sees Himself as a Father. Let's appreciate the fathers in our lives.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ There are many references to fatherhood in the Bible. God often likens/compares Himself to earthly fathers to illustrate His great love for and care of us.
- ❖ God sees fathers as men who are compassionate toward their children. Psalm 103:13 (ESV) says, "As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those that fear him."
- ❖ In slightly different ways, both Matthew 7:9-11 and Luke 11:11-13 record Jesus saying that a father doesn't deceive his children by giving them harmful things when they have asked for something good.
- ❖ Jesus says human fathers (although born with "evil" in their nature) give good gifts to their children. And He uses this example to show that God, even more, will give good gifts to His children when we ask Him.
- ❖ In the prayer that Jesus taught the disciples, He instructs them to begin by acknowledging God as a Father – "Our Father in heaven" (Matthew 6:9). And in 1 Corinthians 6:17-18, God promises that He "will be a father unto [us]" if we avoid intimate connections with unbelievers (see full context beginning at verse 14).
- ❖ In 2 Timothy 1 and the chapters following, Paul's words to Timothy serve as an example of godly fatherhood that is evidenced by many fathers everywhere. Here is how Paul relates to Timothy. He:
- ❖ **Acknowledges/claims him as a beloved child:** "To Timothy, my beloved child."
- ❖ **Pronounces a blessing on him (1:2):** "Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."
- ❖ **Prays for him constantly (1:3):** "...as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day."
- ❖ **Expresses a desire to be with him (1:4):** "As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy."
- ❖ **Affirms his faith in God (1:5):** "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well."
- ❖ **Encourages him in his giftings (1:6):** "...I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands."
- ❖ **Reminds him of the nature of the Spirit that is within him (1:7):** "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."
- ❖ **Instructs him to be courageous in godly living (1:8):** "Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God."

KEY SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 2:1-10, 13-14

- ❖ **Reminds him of the work of Jesus Christ and the essential gospel message (1:9-10):** Who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.
- ❖ **Teaches him sound doctrine and sets an example that he can follow (1:13, see also 1 Corinthians 11:1):** "Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."
- ❖ **Encourages him to be faithful (1:14):** "By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you."
- ❖ Paul's fatherly counsel continues throughout this letter to Timothy.
- ❖ Just as mothers may fall short of Proverbs 31 perfection, our fathers might not exemplify the way God speaks of fatherhood.
- ❖ For many, the role of fatherhood – which God speaks so positively of – has slipped down on the scale of positive opinion.
- ❖ But let's acknowledge and appreciate all that fathers do *for* and *with* their children, helping to lead them to a relationship with God and in service to Him and others.
- ❖ Take courage, fathers, as you use God, Paul and other biblical fathers and father figures as examples in effective, godly parenting.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. In our present church and social cultures, how much encouragement do you think fathers get, on a scale from 1 to 10? Explain your rating.
2. In what way(s) were you disappointed/encouraged by your father (or main father figure)? If you are a father, how has this affected your parenting?
3. Have you thanked your father (figure) for the positive influence(s) they had on your life? (If not and if you can, take time to do it soon.)
4. Fathers, choose one or more of the messages Paul gave to Timothy, above. Speak them to your child/children this week and continually.




PRAYER TIME




My Father in heaven, thank You for allowing me to become Your beloved child, in Jesus' name.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

 (Reminds me/Confirms)
  (New idea)
  (Think about)

 (Do this)
  (Speaks to my heart)
  (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: Who besides your biological father was a notable father figure in your life? How did that relationship develop?



ANNOUNCEMENTS

To register for in-person Sunday services:

Go to www.faithsanctuary.com > click the "Eventbrite" link in the top menu and follow prompts

Time: Church doors open at 10:15 a.m. & close at 11:00 a.m.

Public Health protocols to be observed

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give

For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

HEY, FATHER

Hey, father! Like Jesus, lead your children well.

Hey, father! Protect them from the mouth of hell.

Hey, father! Don't give up now – there's victory in the end.

Lean into *your* Father and on His hand depend.

It's not always easy – no reason to give in.
It's not always thanked – but remember, look to Him!

The One who will tell you
"Well done, you've led my lambs"
Still rejoices over fathers who serve the great I Am.

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m. – Sunday Bible Study

SUNDAY @ 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service LIVE

SUNDAY @ 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. – Worship Service Rebroadcast

MONDAY @ 6:30 p.m. – Berean Bible Study on Zoom, Facebook, YouTube

WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service Rebroadcast

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JUNE 20, 2021



2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children...."
Luke 1:17 NKJV*

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