



Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love with those in corrections since 1982

"I was in prison and you came to me" Matt.25:36cESV

Happy Father's Day!

Do the Words "Our Father" bring to mind a prayer you have learned to say by rote, or do they bring the Awe and Wonder of Who and What Our Father really is? Father's Day gives us a chance to honor those who begat and or raised us. Do we celebrate God as our Father in Heaven?!!!!

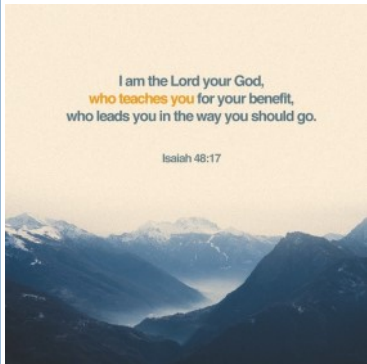
There is much in the Bible about God being our Father. When we receive this, we receive so much, including provision, wholeness and love.

Jesus asks us to see God as our Father

Matthew 23:9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.

The Hebrew Word for Father includes both biological fatherhood and authority. There are five important views of Father which are reflected in the Bible.

Begetting Israel and us shows us the beginning of the relationship. Being head of a household is a part of the definition and includes grandfather, ancestor and persons of class. Five concepts are reflected in the way the Bible reflects God as a Father. **God Begets Us.** We are born of God. Knowing, loving and obeying God who watches over and protects us are part of this relationship. **The Father teaches us,** gives us wisdom, instruction, doctrine and His law. (My note: Another word for these is His precepts. We perceive things His way, we see truth). **He disciplines** and disciplines us in order to bring us back to Him and to what is right. Our Father **provides** for us and **He gives us a name** (Paraphrased Word of the Day, Old Testament J.D. Watson pg.29).



Jews saw God's Fatherhood in His begetting (of Israel and of His children), His nearness as closer than any relative or friend, His loving grace which was forgiving, tenderhearted, merciful and gracious, His guidance to walk in a straight way without stumbling, and as one to obey. Acting corruptly was rebellion and a poor way to repaying His love. (Word of the Day, New Testament J.D. Watson pg.3).

- How Does God help us to be born again?

Father God cont. pg. 3

JUNE 2022 MEC Newsletter

MEC Spotlight JoAnne Crosby

After a childhood of chronic asthma, at age 14 I started dating Wayne, who was 15 years old. We married at 17 with a baby on the way. Both of our fathers were alcoholics. We started drinking in our early teens. Our relationship was tumultuous and we were desperately poor in the late 1950's. My husband wasn't able to find a job that could support a family, nonetheless, we had two more children before I was 24 years old.



During those years, money and jobs started to come our way and we partied and drank with a group of friends every weekend. My husband became an alcoholic and he started spending money and staying out all night. He had at least one bad fight in a bar. I became very depressed and began to encourage attention from other men. We separated several times, deciding repeatedly to try it one more time. He would promise to quit drinking and smoking, but these habits had a hold on him.

In the early 1960's, we began to watch Billy Graham on television. Wayne went to some AA meetings, and I went to some AL anon meetings. Neither of us had any knowledge of the Bible and extraordinarily little church attendance. In June of 1967, during a separation, I was at my parents' cabin and watching Billy Graham's program. I had said the prayer to be born again and give my life to Christ many times before then.



That day, in 1967. Graham read "Broken Dreams, a poem about letting our lives go and turning everything over to God, and my mother gave me his book "World Aflame". I realized that--although I believed in God--I had not surrendered to give up my own way

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and allow Him to be my life. I repented and asked for forgiveness by Jesus' blood, shed for me. I got on my face before God, and I said to Him, "God, I ask you to forgive my sins and I give it all to you. I am not fully convinced that you exist or that you will come into my life and change me, but I am sincerely ready for you to do that. Please show me, lead me, and teach me. Most of all, empower me and I will no longer run my own life as I choose. I will live by your leading. My life, as it is now, is worthless and miserable."

After praying this way, I packed up my kids, my dog and myself, and headed to our house in St. Paul. I told Wayne what I had done. He had prayed a similar prayer on that same day. We vowed to walk with God from then on. We did not change immediately but the vow remained the same and God began to change our lives. It took Wayne three years to stop smoking and drinking and then it was only by prayer for deliverance. We got baptized, filled with the Holy Spirit, and joined a Bible-believing Church. We argued less and less. Now, all these years later, we have a wonderful, loving relationship.

Since then, I have been blessed to serve the Lord in many ways—Vacation Bible School, The ProLife movement with MN Citizens Concerned for Life, politics, leading Bible Studies, Christian AA meetings called Overcomers, and groups for women in abusive relationships under the ministry of Hiding Hurting Healing. I was called to ministry through the verse in Isaiah where God asked, "Who will go?" and the response was "Lord, send me", and was licensed as a minister in the early 2000's. Hiding Hurting Healing has been an active ministry for 22 years and continues today. It has been hosted by many Christian churches and counseling centers and there have been meetings all the way north from Cambridge and Harris and south to Hastings and Hudson, WI, and west to Elk River and east to Bloomer, WI. We also just finished a series in Fountain Hills, Arizona, where we now spend our winters. Before Covid, I was privileged by God to lead and facilitate Women's Bible Study at Ramsey County Correctional for three years.

God has been so good to me. I am blessed to know the Bible quite well. I highly recommend that to every Christian as God speaks through his Word. We were able to attend church throughout all of the Covid issues and I am grateful for that.

In her application JoAnne shared her favorite verses in **Ephesians 1** where Paul prays that "the eyes of our understanding be opened, we know the hope of His calling, the richness of our inheritance as saints and the greatness of His power which He shows through the resurrection and is above all principalities"; the fruits of the Spirit in **Galatians 5** and **Ephesians 2:8-9** "**By grace are we saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.**"

Broken Dreams

As children bring their broken toys
With tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to God
Because He was my friend.

But then instead of leaving Him
In peace to work alone,
I hung around and tried to help
With ways that were my own.

At last, I snatched them back and cried,
"How could you be so slow?"
"My child," He said, "What could I do?
You never did let go."

written by Robert J. Burdette



Father God from pg. 1

Becoming His Children Through Faith

John 1:12-13 “But to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God— children born not of blood, nor of the desire or will of man, but born of God.”

Galatians 3:26 “For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.”

1 John 3:1-2 “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so, we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is.”

- Faith must be place in someone or something. How does your concept of God affect the faith you put in Him?
- Will you ask Him to show you more and more of who and what He is?

He adopts Us

Romans 8:15 “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!”

Galatians 4:6 “And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

Abba: Abba is an Aramaic word. Slaves were forbidden to address the head of the family by this title. It approximates to a personal name, in contrast to "Father," with which it is always joined in the NT. ...Greek-speaking Jews added the Greek word *pater*, "father," from the language they used. "Abba" is the word framed by the lips of infants, and betokens unreasoning trust; "father" expresses an intelligent apprehension of the relationship. The two together express the love and intelligent confidence of the child. (Strong's Concordance) It is a term expressing warm affection and filial or family and parental confidence. (Easton's Dictionary)

Abba is the term used by children both small and grown with their father. It means, “My Father”, “Father, my Father” or “Dear Father” which shows the necessity of reverence. It shows an intimate or close relationship and a high respect and reverence. (Word of the Day, New Testament J.D. Watson pg.4).

The Greek term for adoption literally means son-placing. When a child became a teen, a public ceremony was held and they became an official member of the family and gained a responsible position. When adopted a person became a new person legally, all debts were canceled and the person had the rights that birth children had (Word of the Day, New Testament J.D. Watson pg.2).

- Does understanding more of what adoption means by the way the Bible and the Jews understood it, help you to see some of the ways you can receive more from and honor our Father who adopts us?

The Way to the Father is through Jesus

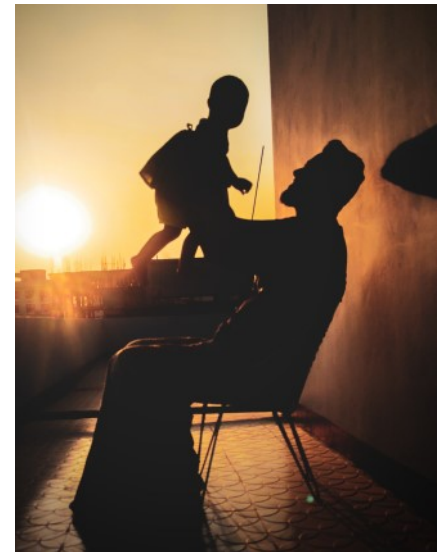
John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Isaiah 9:6 “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Father God cont. pg. 4

NO DISCIPLINE SEEMS PLEASANT AT THE TIME, BUT PAINFUL. LATER ON, HOWEVER, IT PRODUCES A HARVEST OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY IT.

HEBREWS 12:11



Picture by pexels



Ministry Shout Out Fathers in the Field

We know we are not alone in ministry so each month we lift up another ministry.

Father in the Field is a Colorado-based mentoring program that strives to

“rekindle and establish the spirit of boys who have been abandoned by their fathers; mentoring them one-on-one in life skills through outdoor activities, and by sharing a Christian understanding of our Heavenly Father’s love and sacrifice for His children.”

If you would like to learn more about this wonderful ministry,

visit their website:

www.fathersinthefield.com

Father God from pg. 3

Hebrews 1:2 “But in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world.”

1 Corinthians 8:6 “Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”

Conclude this study by talking to Our Father in Heaven with the Lord’s Prayer from Matthew 6. If you pray this prayer with the attitudes He asks, it will truly revolutionize your thinking, your heart and your life.

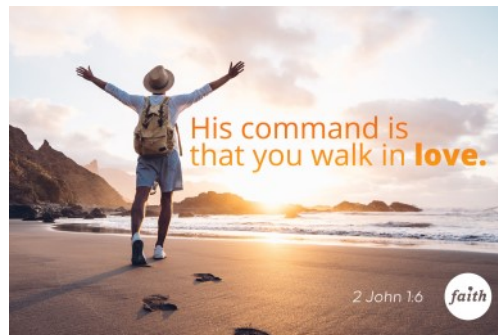
- What is one way you can see and love the Father more clearly by praying this sincerely?

May you see and receive more and more love from Him and become a more loving child.

In Christ, *Karen Selby*

For a complete study with more verses and questions which some of the inmates will receive click here:

<http://www.mecjailministry.com/HappyFathersDay.pdf>



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