

AN INTRODUCTION TO *GOD*,

THE CREATOR OF THE WHOLE UNIVERSE :

WHAT *GOD* SAYS ABOUT HIMSELF !

This will **NOT BE WHAT 'MAN' SAYS** about God,
but, **what *GOD, HIMSELF, SAYS ABOUT HIMSELF, in His Own Word, the Bible!***
This is a basic introduction to **GOD – WHO HE IS,** and **WHAT HE IS LIKE !**
It is just a beginning for what, hopefully, will be for you, **an amazing life-long adventure**
of getting to know God, personally and intimately, more and more and more!

First, we are briefly going to look at the awesome '**external**' features of God, namely:

- A. God's Person
- B. God's Position
- C. God's Power.

(I use the term '**external**' attributes to differentiate them from God's '**internal**' attributes, namely: His nature, His character, His disposition, and His 'Heart'.)

Secondly, we will look at the awesome '**internal**' character, nature and 'Heart' of God:

- A. God is Love (mercy, grace, patience, goodness and forgiveness, etc.)
- B. God is 'Light' (truth, faithfulness, righteousness and justice, etc.)

Thirdly, we will see this great and awesome God as **our great, loving Heavenly Father!**

- A. This close, personal, loving relationship is available to each one of us!

ALL of God's "external" and "internal" attributes, COMBINED together, are essential to His completeness, His totality, His perfection, and **His GOODNESS!**

Example: Suppose for a moment, you had a father who had all power, knowledge, wisdom and limitless resources, but he had no love, kindness, compassion, generosity, nor any desire to benefit you! You would **not be cared for, nurtured, protected, nor helped!**

But, suppose you had a father who was full of love, grace, kindness and generosity, and who greatly desired to benefit you, but he had **no power** to act on it, no resources, and had **no knowledge, nor wisdom** to know how to help you beneficially. In spite of his inner loving character and good intentions, he would be **unable to help you** when you needed him!

So, we will see that **God has infinite ability, power and wisdom to always, adequately express His loving nature and character to us** in a multitude of beneficial ways. And nothing can stop Him, – **except our own refusal to receive Him,** and His great love! He won't force us!

PART ONE -

THE GOD – FAR, FAR ABOVE ALL

A. GOD’S PERSON – Who In Heaven Is God?

1. God is a Person.

He is not a ‘force’, a cosmic power or just an influence for good, etc. **He has all the characteristics of a person:** self-consciousness, intelligence, free-will, individual personality, emotions, feelings and personal relationships, etc. He is always referred to in Scripture as a person. He has personal names, and does personal acts.

He has personal feelings. He can be pleased and delighted, - or disappointed, hurt and even angered. **He must be treated as a person** - accepted, respected, loved, talked to, listened to, responded to, praised, obeyed and trusted.

“God said, ‘Let Us make mankind in **Our image**, according to **Our likeness**,’So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created them ...male and female” (Gen. 1:26-27).

He created us “in His own image, in His own likeness” - so, like Him, we turned out to be persons: **His own beloved little children! He is a warm, loving Person that we can know and lovingly relate to.** He is not some cold, distant, impersonal force!

“The LORD is the true God; He is **the living God** and the everlasting King” (Jer. 10:10).

2. God is Eternal.

“Even from **everlasting to everlasting**, You are God” (Psa. 90:2).

“**The everlasting God**, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth ...” (Isa. 40:28).

“**The eternal God** is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deut. 33:27).

He has always existed, and always will! He has no beginning and no ending. He has infinite existence. This is beyond our tiny comprehension! He is not limited, or confined, to time and space. **He will always be here for us.** We can ‘count on’ Him! **We can trust Him, and be secure.**

3. God is Unchanging.

“I am the LORD, **I do not change**” (Mal. 3:6).

“**He is the same** yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8).

“The Father of Lights, with Whom there is **no variation** or shadow (hint) of turning”
(James. 1:17)

He does not, and cannot change! He always remains the same. He is not fickle, unstable, erratic or temperamental. ‘All-of-Who-He-is’ remains **eternally constant**, whole and perfect! He is true and faithful! We can always be confident that He remains steady, and **we can put our unwavering trust in Him!**

4. God is Self-existent.

“God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, **as though He needed anything**, since **He gives to all life, breath, and all things**”
(Acts 17:24-25).

He is always self-sufficient and self-sustaining. He doesn’t need to depend or rely on anyone or anything else. He has all sufficiency in all things. He has more than we shall ever need! He will never run short of anything! **We can always trust that He can, and will, provide for us.**

5. God is a Tri-unity.

“Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, **the LORD is one!**” (Deut. 6: 4) (Mark 12:29).

“There are **three** who bear witness in heaven: **the Father, the Word (Son), and the Holy Spirit**; and **these three are one**” (1 John 5:7).

“Jesus (**The Son**)... was baptized... the heaven was opened. And **the Holy Spirit** descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice (**The Father**) came from heaven which said, ‘You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased’”(Luke 3:21-22).

“Great is the mystery of godliness: God (**The Father**) was manifest in the flesh (**The Son**), justified in the (**Holy**) **Spirit**...” (1 Tim. 3:16).

Although God is One, He manifests Himself in three separate, distinctly different, **personal relationships**. Each is a **love relationship**, each is a **family relationship**, and each is a **close relationship**:

God the Father, as our Heavenly **Father**,

God the Son, as our **Brother** (“was made flesh [man] and dwelt among us”), and

God the Holy Spirit, by Whom Jesus, our spiritual **Husband**, unites with our spirits, and we become the “Bride of Christ” (2 Cor. 11:2; Hos. 2:19-20; 1 Cor. 6:17; Rev. 19:7).

It’s a **wonderful mystery!** How can God reveal Himself so differently and still be One? Well, He made us in “His image” (Gen. 1:27-28): male and female, husband and wife, father and mother, and brothers and sisters. In other words, God created ‘family’ - as a ‘mirror-image’ of how He wanted to **lovingly relate** with us **on three different family levels**.

For example, a man, in a family gathering, can simultaneously interact as a father, a son, and a husband. In these three relationships, he will be relating very differently and sometimes oppositely, but he is still the one man, with the same nature and character. I believe God has **so much love for us** that He created three very different family/love relationships, in order to **more fully express** His love to us. **God really does want us to be in a close, family/love relationship with Him!**

And God made each one of us, “in His image and His likeness”, a triune being: body, soul and spirit, and yet, we are just one person!

6. God is Glorious.

“Be **exalted**, O God above the heavens; let **Your glory** be above all the earth”(Psa. 57:5).

“The heavens declare **the glory of God**, the expanse of sky shows His works”(Psa. 19:1).

“His invisible attributes are **clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even **His eternal power and divine nature**” (Rom. 1:20).

“O LORD, You are **very great**: You are clothed with **honor and majesty**” (Psa. 104:1).

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Hosts; the whole earth is **full of His glory**” (Isa. 6:3).

“I will meditate on **the glorious splendour of Your majesty**, and on Your **wondrous works**” (Psa. 145:5).

He is **full of magnificence**, splendor, majesty and awesome beauty! He created all the wonderful grandeur and exquisite beauty in the whole universe, out of His own nature, and to show us His glory! He is **altogether marvelous** in His resplendent brilliance and glorious excellence! **He is more than worthy of all our awe, love, adoration, praise and worship!**

B. GOD’S POSITION – Who On Earth Is God?

1. God is Supreme.

“The LORD your God is “**God of gods**” and “**Lord of lords**”, the great God, mighty and awesome” (Deut. 10:17).

“Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and **the majesty**; for **all** that is in heaven and in earth is Yours;... and **You are exalted as head over all**” (1 Chron. 29:11).

He is far above all else, always and absolutely incomparable. There is none higher or greater. He alone is the absolute, unsurpassable ruler of the whole universe. Rightfully to Him, and **to Him alone, belongs all our worship, love, submission and obedience!**

2. God is Sovereign.

“The LORD Himself is **God in heaven above and on the earth beneath**; there is no other” (Deut. 4:39).

“The LORD is the great God, and **the great King above all gods**” (Psa. 95:3).

“Our God is in heaven; **He does whatever He pleases**” (Psa. 115:3).

He is always the ultimate authority. He is answerable to no one else. He is transcendent over all others. He has absolute reign over heaven and earth. He is the only One with the right to rule over all He has created. **It is only right that we completely submit to Him, and that His will be done in our lives!** Anything less is a serious violation of His sovereignty.

3. God is The Only God.

“The LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; **there is no other**” (Deut. 4:39).

“For I am God, and **there is no other**: I am God, and there is **none like Me**” (Isa. 46:9).

“Know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is **none besides Me**. I am the LORD, and **there is no other**” (Isa. 45:6).

“You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is **no other but He**” (Mk. 12:32).

He, and He alone, is **the only God**. There is **no other God** in existence. He is **far above all** other so-called “gods”. All other “gods” are false imitators and evil impostors. The LORD, who created the heavens and the earth, is absolutely unequalled and unsurpassed! He, and **He alone, must be our God, our highest priority, and our only and supreme Lord.**

4. God is The Creator.

“In the beginning, God **created** the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1).

“**All** things were **made** through Him, and without Him, **nothing** was made that was made” (John 1:3).

“By Him **all** things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible,.... **All things** were **created** through Him and **for Him**” (Col. 1:16).

“By faith we understand that **the worlds were framed** by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not **made** of things which are visible” (Heb. 11:3).

“You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for **You created all things**, and by Your will they **exist** and were created” (Rev. 4:11).

He created all of the vast universe and the earth, and everything that is in them. He created everything visible and invisible. There is nothing that exists that was not made by Him! From the tiniest sub-atomic particles to the greatest and farthest galaxies, He designed it all, and brought it into being! He created us, and gives us life and breath. **It is only right to acknowledge His complete ownership, and joyfully embrace His absolute rule over us!**

C. GOD’S POWER – Can There Actually Be “Nothing Impossible”?

1. God is Present Every Where.

“Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens **cannot contain You**” (1 Kings 8:27).

“‘Can anyone hide in secret places, so I shall not see him?’ says the LORD; ‘Do I not **fill heaven and earth?**’” (Jer. 23:24).

“Where can I flee from **Your presence**? If I ascend into heaven, **You are there**; if I make my bed in hell, **You are there**. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, **even there** Your hand shall lead me” (Psa. 139:7-10).

His presence constantly fills the entire universe. He is always present everywhere at the same time! There is nowhere that we can go, where He is not present. This is beyond human comprehension. God is not limited in any way by time and space. **He is there with us at all times and in all places!**

2. God is All Powerful.

“The LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘**I am Almighty God**’” (Gen. 17:1).

“**The Lord God Omnipotent** (all-powerful) reigns!” (Rev. 19:6).

“**With God all things are possible**” (Matt. 19:26).

“For **with God, nothing will be impossible**” (Luke 1:37).

“God...is able to do **exceedingly abundantly above all** that we ask or think” (Eph. 3:20).

God is always, and in every way, **all-powerful!** He has unlimited and universal power. He created, and still retains, all the power and energy in the whole universe. He created all the ‘laws of nature’, and **He can overrule them** any time He wants to! He is The God of miracles! There is no task or person too difficult or impossible for Him! **We can rejoice that nothing in us, or in our lives, is ever impossible to God!** But, because of His love, He will not violate our basic free-will.

3. God Has All Knowledge and Wisdom.

“Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; **His understanding is infinite**” (Psa. 147:5).

“Oh, the **depth of the riches**, both of the **wisdom and knowledge**, of God! How **unsearchable** are His judgments and His ways past finding out!” (Rom. 11:33).

“‘My thoughts are **not** your thoughts, **nor** are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. ‘For as the heavens are **higher** than the earth, so are **My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts**’” (Isa. 55:8-9).

“... in Christ are hidden **all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**” (Col. 2:3).

God always knows everything about all things. He has **infinite knowledge**. He perfectly knows all the past, the present and the future. Nothing can take Him by surprise! He also has **infinite wisdom** - the perfect ability to always use all His knowledge in the best, the right and the most beneficial ways. He always knows every detail of our lives, and exactly what is best for us. **We can utterly trust His knowledge and His wisdom in every circumstance** - beyond our own limited reasoning! He knows our every thought, action, attitude and motive!

What an awesome God! **He is the ultimate of extreme awesomeness!** The eternal, unchangeable, supreme, sovereign, all-powerful, all-wise and always-present Creator is **awesome far beyond the limits of our human comprehension!** He is far beyond the very limited extent of our tiny intellects, and the puny scope of our human logic.

If He was only as great as what we can comprehend, He sure wouldn't be much of a God! But wonderfully and **abundantly, He has all the capabilities, power and authority to always fully express to us**, His wonderful compassionate nature, and **His great, loving ‘Heart’!**

Let's Ask Him:

“Oh, God! You are more than I can comprehend! **But, please give me the faith to really** believe what You say in Your Word, about Yourself. **Fill me with true awe** and wonder of all that You really are.

Help me to have the right attitude of submission to Your absolute, supreme sovereignty as my Creator and my Maker. **Enable me** to confidently trust in Your power, Your wisdom and Your love. I ask this in Jesus' name.”

PART TWO -

GOD'S REAL INNER 'HEART' AND NATURE

A. The Big 'Burning' Question: God is Powerful, But, - IS HE REALLY LOVING?

As wonderful and awesome as these 'external' attributes of God are, **they tell us nothing of His 'inner' nature**, His character or His temperament. He is all-powerful and all-wise, but **what kind of a person is He really like inside?** He is sovereign and supreme, but what is His **real 'Heart' and personality**? He is eternal and unchanging, but what are His **'inner' qualities**, and what is His **real personal disposition**?

Is God kind, **OR** cruel? Is He tender-hearted, **OR** hard-hearted? Is He forgiving and full of grace, **OR** is He unforgiving and full of revenge? **Is He kind and compassionate, OR** stern and harsh? Is He longsuffering, **OR** quick-tempered and irritable? Will He always tell us the truth and be good to us, **OR** will He sometimes trick us, manipulate us, or violate us? Will He be kind and generous, **OR** stingy and miserly?

It is of **the utmost importance that we find out what our Creator**, our God, is **really like!** It will mean the difference between: trusting Him, **OR** being afraid of Him; between believing Him, **OR** doubting Him; wanting Him, **OR** rejecting Him; loving Him, **OR** resenting Him.

B. GOD ACTUALLY SEEMS TO HAVE TWO 'SIDES'!

The very first time that God recorded, in the Scriptures, **His inner character and nature (His 'Heart')** was to Moses on Mt. Sinai. The Israelites, whom Moses was leading, had just very, very badly broken the Ten Commandments that God had recently spoken to them.

But, in spite of the terrible sins they had committed; God did not leave them nor forsake them! His Presence (pillar of cloud and fire) remained! He still provided food and water! **He was still in their midst!** (see: Exodus Chapters 32 and 33). Moses must have been astonished! I am sure he expected this Holy God to leave in anger. But, **this great grace** that he saw was an aspect of God he had not yet known. So he prayed, "Please **show me Your glory.**" (Ex. 33:18).

But instead, God answered, "**I will show you all My GOODNESS.**" (Ex. 33:19). This is very, very significant! God is saying, by this, that **His greatest GLORY IS HIS GOODNESS!** - even more than His Power, Splendor and Majesty, etc!

So God told Moses to go up on Mt. Sinai, and He would proclaim to Moses **all His GOODNESS.** (Ex. 33:19-23)!

“The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, ‘The LORD, the LORD God, full of **mercy** and full of **grace, longsuffering** (patience), and abounding in **goodness** and **truth, keeping mercy** for thousands, **forgiving** iniquity and transgression and sin, and **by no means clearing the guilty, ...**” (Ex.34:6-7).

Yes, there does seem to be **two ‘sides’ to God’s goodness** – but, both ‘sides’ are woven together & interlocked! Notice that on the one ‘side’, there is:

- 1. LOVE:** He is full of mercy (this includes tenderness and compassion), full of grace (this is undeserved favor), **patience, goodness and forgiveness for every kind of sin!**

And also, on the other ‘side’, there is:

- 2. LIGHT:** (a metaphor for:) **truth, faithfulness** (keeping covenants), **righteousness and justice.**

But did you notice the seeming contradiction in verse 7? God forgives every kind of sin, but, then says that He will not clear the guilty. If God offers total forgiveness to everyone, for every sin, then who remains guilty??? The only answer is: those who **neglect** or **reject** His loving offer of free forgiveness! He won’t force this on anyone who does not choose it with their own free-will.

At times, these two different aspects of God’s nature **seem to be contrary** to each other, **but** they are **VERY DEFINITELY NOT IN CONFLICT!** They are marvelously and **inextricably harmonized together.** These two facets of God’s character are **always fully expressed and blended together,** to make a beautiful and amazingly **whole, perfect, loving God and Heavenly Father!** Let me **illustrate:**

C. TWO BAD ‘SCENARIOS’!

- 1.** Suppose you had somebody treat you with **wonderful, abundant tender love,** but in the end, it proved to be false, unrighteous and unjust! The person was so sweet, and promised lovely things to you, but it was all a lie. You were deceived, ‘used’, violated and terribly disappointed. It was all a ‘con job’! You would be deeply hurt! No matter how nice it seemed, it would be a **very bad ‘scene’.** Because it was **LOVE WITHOUT TRUTH!**

- 2.** On the other hand, suppose someone dealt with you in **only hard, cold truth,** without any love, tenderness, mercy, grace or forgiveness! They gave you the whole, cutting, searing, truth with no softness or kindness. With no patience, tolerance or compassion, they fully gave you everything you deserved, for all you did wrong! You only got cold unloving justice. Everything was harsh and strict, with no leniency. Wouldn’t you be hurt again and again? This too would be a **very bad ‘scene’.** Because it was **TRUTH WITHOUT LOVE!** **But**

D. THE VERY BEST ‘SCENARIO’ POSSIBLE!

But, suppose someone poured out **extravagant love** upon you! And with utmost kindness, grace and generosity, they treated you very patiently. They extended total forgiveness every time you did something wrong. Their patience, mercy and forgiveness covered all your wrongs! They always strived for your highest good. **And**, they did all this in **absolute truth, faithfulness, integrity and righteousness**. It was all sincere and without any ulterior motive. It was **all true!** This is the very best ‘scene’ possible! You can’t get a better ‘scene’!

This is **what God is: TOTAL LOVE COMBINED WITH TOTAL TRUTH!**
or in other words: **“ABSOLUTELY TRUE AND FAITHFUL LOVE”!**

This is **GOD’S GOODNESS!** – **HIS GREATEST GLORY!** Do you see how these two aspects of God’s *real* nature (**LOVE** and **TRUTH**) **must always be perfectly united and blended together?** He is not just one or the other. He is **both** at the same time, **all the time!** God is perfect, complete and whole! He does not swing back and forth from one to the other, for that is a mark of an unstable person. God is not a split-personality! He is **always** perfect Love and perfect Light, totally integrated!

E. GOD IS GOOD! – **Infinitely** good – **eternally** good – **amazingly** good!!!

“Give thanks to the LORD for **He is good!** For His mercy endures **forever**” (Psa.136:1).

“Oh, how **great is Your goodness**, which You have laid up for those who reverence You” (Psa. 31:19).

“**The goodness of God endures continually**” (Psa. 52:1).

“The LORD is **full of grace** and **full of compassion**; slow to anger, and great in mercy. The LORD is **good to all**, and His **tender mercies** are over all His works” (Psa. 145:8-9).

“O taste and see that **the LORD is good**. Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!”
(Psa. 34:8).

F. THE BIG BLAZING ANSWER: GOD’S GOODNESS! **He is “Light” and “Love”!**

In many ways, throughout Scripture, these two aspects of God are seen together in perfect integration and harmony. They **both are succinctly expressed** in the book of 1st John. These two simple statements in Scripture are very profound, revealing **who God is, and what His ‘Heart’ is like!**

1. LIGHT:

“This is the message which we have heard from Him (Jesus) and declare to you, that **GOD IS LIGHT**, and in Him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5).

“**LIGHT**”, as used here, is a metaphor for: **truth, faithfulness, righteousness and justice: (total integrity!)** Here’s some more of what God says about Himself being “**Light**”:

“He is the Rock. His work is **perfect**; for all His ways are **justice**. A **God of truth** and without injustice; **righteous** and upright is He (Deut.32:4).

“The **judgments** of the LORD are **true and righteous** altogether (Psa.19:9).

“Your righteousness is an **everlasting righteousness** (Psa.119:142).

“I will not allow My **faithfulness** to fail. My **covenant** I will not break, nor alter **the word** that has gone out of My lips (Psa.89:33-34).

2. LOVE:

“**GOD IS LOVE**.... We have **known and believed the love that God has for us. GOD IS LOVE...**” (1 John 4:8 and 16).

“**LOVE**”, in these verses is translated from the Greek word *agape*, which is a special kind of love meaning “**the love of God**”. It is not human love, but **divine love**. It is **far above and beyond human love**, and beyond every human effort to achieve it. It is a gift from God to us; and comes only through His Holy Spirit. Here’s some more of what God says about Himself being love:

“For **God so loved** the world that He gave His only begotten Son, (Jesus), that **whoever believes** in Him should not perish but **have everlasting life**.” (John 3:16)

“In this the **love of God was manifested** toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son (Jesus) into the World, that we might live through Him” (1 John 4:9).

“**God demonstrates His own love** toward us, in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.... **When we were enemies**, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son” (Rom. 5:8, 10).

“This is love, **not** that we loved God, but that **He loved us** and sent His Son to be the propitiation (payment) for our sins.... We love Him because **He first loved us**” (1 John 3:10 and 19).

“**LIGHT**” and “**LOVE**”! This is **what God IS** - not just what He has, nor what He does, nor what He gives, but **WHAT HE IS - in the *real* core and essence of his Being!** This is His nature and ***real*** ‘Heart’! He is **always both** “**Light**” and “**Love**” **perfectly combined!** Both are

perfectly balanced, and they supplement and complement each other, making God a beautiful, complete, perfect, **GOOD, GOD AND FATHER!** – **“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”!** (Isa.6:3).

Let's Ask Him:

“God, **I want to ‘see’ deep** into Your ***real*** **‘Heart’** and nature. Please, **show me what You are** at the very core of Your Being.

Enable me to trust You and love You more and more. **Give me understanding** of how Your “Love” and “Light” work together.

Jesus, **‘open the eyes’ of my spirit**, and **reveal to me The Father’s great love**. I ask this in Your name.”

PART THREE -

THE FATHER – FAR, FAR ABOVE ALL OTHERS !

A. GOD HAS COVENANTED TO BE OUR HEAVENLY FATHER!

This supreme, great, all-powerful, all-wise, always-present, always-righteous, always-loving God **has pledged Himself to be a FATHER to us!** And the ‘Father-Child’ relationship is **immeasurably more deep, loving and intimate** than just the ‘Creator-creature’ or the ‘Lord-servant’ relationships!!!

1. God chose us and planned us.

“**He chose us** in Christ before the foundation of the world... having **predestined us** to the adoption of sons by Jesus Christ to Himself...” (Eph. 1:4-5).

“**Chosen** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father” (1 Pet. 1:2).

We were in His mind and in His ‘heart’, even before He created the world; **because He is Love, and He wanted children to love, and children to love Him in return!**

2. God then created us.

“God said, ‘Let us make man **in Our image**, according to **Our likeness**’... So God **created** man in **His Own image**; in **the image of God** He created him; male and female He created them” (Gen. 1:26-27).

“In the day that God created man, He made him **in the likeness of God**” (Gen. 5:1).

God made us in His Own image and in His Own likeness, when He created the world. In other words: **He made us His ‘children’!** And He became our ‘Papa’!

3. God promises to be a Father to us!

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

“You shall call Me, ‘My Father’, and not turn away from Me. (Jer. 3:19).

He has written it in His Word, and He has preserved His Word through thousands of years, right down to this generation. You can count on it! He will be our loving Father!

4. God is surely our Father !

“**Doubtless You are our Father.** ... You, O LORD, are our Father” (Isa. 63:16).

“One God and **Father of all**, Who is above all, and through all, and in you all”
(Eph. 4:6)

Don't doubt it! He has made it very clear. He said it! He wrote it! **We can fasten Our faith on Him** being, for us, a great, true and loving Father!

5. God is eternally our Father!

“Blessed are You, LORD God, **our Father, for ever and ever**” (1 Chron. 29:10)

“But as many as **received Him**, to them He gave the right to **become children of God**, only to those who **believe** on His name” (John 1:12).

He always has been, and always will be our Father! But we need to **receive Him as Our Father**. He will never force Himself upon us against our free-will! God, and His Love, must always be voluntarily received.

6. God is eagerly our Father!

“**God sent His Son**, born of a woman, ... to redeem us ... that we might **receive the adoption as sons**” (Gal. 4: 4-5).

“And because you are sons, **God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son** into your hearts, crying out, ‘**Abba (Daddy), Father!**’ (Gal. 4:6)

He is not at all reluctant, like some earthly fathers might be. **He went to amazing lengths** to create us, and then to redeem us, and win us back into His loving arms!

7. God is passionately our Father!

Jesus told a parable to illustrate this: A certain son had rejected his father, went far away from him, and grossly sinned against him. Finally, the son repented and decided to return to his father.

“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was a great way off, his father saw him and had **compassion**, and **ran** and **hugged** him and **kissed** him!” (Luke 15:20).

What a **passionate and extravagant welcome** he received! Papa was **full of joy**, and celebrated by throwing a great party! (Read the whole story: Luke 15:11-24. It is really wonderful!) I call it “The Parable of the Passionate Papa”!

8. God is the only perfect Father!

“I come to You, **Holy Father**” (John 17:11).

“**Holy, holy, holy** is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!”
(Isa. 6:3)

All earthly fathers are imperfect - some more than others! Many people have fathers who hurt them, failed them, or abused them, thus giving the word ‘father’ an ugly connotation in their minds. **But Jesus called God “Holy Father”**. ‘*Holy*’ means: “whole, complete, total, perfect” **Our heavenly Father is: total perfection**, and perfect totality! **He has faithful, perfect, true-love** for every human that He has brought into this world!

But many of us have memories or wounds from our earthly fathers that keep us from trusting and receiving our Heavenly Father. **Jesus can heal us** of these hurts, and **He will help us to receive and experience our Heavenly Father, and His Love, IF** we ask Him!

B. GOD EXPRESSES HIS GREAT, PERFECT FATHER-HEART TO US BY:

1. Perfect Father-Love:

“Behold **what manner of love** the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” (1 John 3:1).

“**The Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ ... grant you ...to be able to comprehend ... what is **the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ (God) which passes knowledge**; that you may be **filled with all the fullness of God**” (Eph. 3:14-19).

God’s love is far, far beyond any human love – **beyond human comprehension!** And He always works for our highest good! God’s love for us, as our Creator and as our Lord, is great and wonderful, but **His Father-love for us, His children, is SO MUCH MORE intense and personal!!**

2. Perfect Father-Mercy: (grace, kindness, tenderness, pity, patience, and forgiveness).

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of Mercies**” (2Cor.1:3).

“The LORD is full of grace and full of compassion, slow to anger and **great in mercy**. The LORD is **good to all**” (Psa. 145:8-9).

3. Perfect Father-Compassion: (understanding, sympathy, empathy, tender-comfort).

“As a father pities his children, so **the LORD pities** those who reverence Him” (Psa. 103: 13).

“As one whom his mother comforts, so **I will comfort you**” (Isa. 66:13).

4. Perfect Father-Provision: It is all by His great grace! We can never deserve it!

“If you then, being evil, know how to **give good gifts** to you children, **how much more** will your Father who is in heaven **give good things** to those who ask Him!” (Matt. 7:11).

“My **God shall supply all your need** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever” (Phil. 4:19-20).

5. Perfect Father-Protection: He watches over us, and surrounds us! We are precious to Him! He has promised to defend us!

“The eternal **God is your refuge**, and underneath are **the everlasting arms**” (Deut. 33:27).

“The LORD is **my strength and my shield**; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped” (Psa. 28:7).

6. Perfect Father-Instruction: This includes teaching, training, correcting, purifying and maturing us, into what He has destined us to become: - like Jesus!

“Whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers & sisters” (Rom. 8:29)

“**All** Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction** in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16).

“The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you** all things” (John 14:26).

“My son/daughter do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest His correction; for **whom the LORD loves He corrects**, just as a father corrects the son/daughter in whom **he delights**” (Prov. 3:11-12).

7. Perfect Father-Delight: Delight is extreme joy and satisfaction!!

“The LORD **delights in you**, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your **God rejoice over you**” (Isa. 62:4-5).

“He will **rejoice over you** with gladness. He will quiet you in His love. He will **rejoice over you** with singing” (Zeph. 3:17).

C. JESUS IS THE TOTAL REVELATION OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER!

“Great is the mystery of godlikeness: **God was manifested in the flesh ...**” (1 Tim. 3:16).

“**God was in Christ**, reconciling the world unto Himself” (2 Cor. 5:19).

“He (Jesus) is the (visible) **image of the invisible God**” (Col. 1:15).

“Jesus is **the brightness of His glory** and the express (**exact**) **image of His person**” (Heb. 1:3).

“**The Word** (God, communicating Himself to us as a Son) **became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, **full of grace and truth**” (John 1:14).

“In Him (Jesus) dwells **all the fullness of the Godhead bodily**” (Col. 2:9).

Jesus said, “**I am the way** (to the Father), **the truth** (about the Father), and **the life** (of the Father), no one comes to the Father except **through Me**” (John 14:6).

Jesus said, “He who has seen Me, has **seen the Father**” (John 14:9).

Jesus said, “If you had known Me, you would have **known the Father** also” (John 8:19).

Jesus said, “He who receives Me, **receives Him who sent Me**” (John 13:20).

Jesus said, “**I and My Father are one**” (John 10:30).

Thus, **JESUS is the *ultimate expression, communication and living demonstration of the ‘Heart’ of our Heavenly Father!*** He is the God who speaks, expresses, communicates, reveals, and demonstrates Himself and His immeasurable love to us, His children!

“**Neither** death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God** which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom. 8:38-39).

But, only our own refusal to receive God, His Son, and His forgiveness, **can keep us separated from His great Love!** He loves us too much, to force us. **He passionately urges us to receive Him;** and **passionately welcomes,** and responds to our whole-hearted acceptance of Him!!

D. HOW CAN WE RECEIVE GOD AS OUR FATHER?

-- **AS A CHILD!** See Mark 10:15.

1. Come to Him through Jesus.

Jesus paid for all our sins by His death on the cross, so that He could reconcile us to the Father! That is why Jesus said,

“No one comes to the Father except **through Me**” (John 14:6).

“He (Jesus) is the **propitiation** (payment) **for our sins**, and not for ours only, but also **for the whole world**” (1 John 2:2).

2. Receive Jesus, and thus You receive The Father also.

Jesus said, “He who **receives Me, receives Him** who sent Me” (John 13:20).

“As many as **received Him (Jesus)**, to them He gave the right to **become children of God**, even (only) to those **who believe in His name.**” (John 1:12).

3. Receive Him by faith. – “as a little child.”

“Assuredly, I say unto you, whoever does not **receive** the kingdom of God **as a little child** will by no means enter it” (Mark 10:15).

“**By grace** you have been **saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is **the gift of God**, not of (our) works, lest anyone should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9).

“**God so loved** the world that **He gave His only begotten Son**, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but **have everlasting life**” (John 3:16).

“**Behold**, I stand at the door and knock. **If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him** and dine with him, and he with Me” (Rev. 3:20).

Let’s ask Him:

God, my Creator, Lord of the whole universe, and my great loving Heavenly Father, I *really* do want to **receive You and know You**. And I want to **receive Your love and really experience it**. **Please heal and remove everything that is keeping me back** from You. Help me to **really receive You, and Your Love!**

I do want to **believe in You**, but I need You to help me. And please **give me** the faith and the **strength** to turn away from: ‘living my own way’, and to turn to: ‘**living Your way**’.

Please **give me the faith** to *really* believe in You and trust You. **Help me to open my ‘heart’ to Jesus**, Your Son, and to **receive Him** and **all** that He did for me by dying on the cross for my sins!

I also want to **receive Your Spirit into my spirit** to make me a new person! And God, I not only **receive You as my Father**, but I also **give myself back to You**, and I want **You to receive me as your child!**

Fill the emptiness in my ‘heart’ and in my life, and **lead me on from here** to a life that **keeps growing** in You, and in Your love. I ask all this in Jesus’ name.

Now go on to study the next course which is called: **“God’s Solid Foundations”**, which is available at: www.uchurch.ca .