

ADVANCED BIBLICAL COURSE



A | D | V | A | N | C | E | D
B | I | B | L | I | C | A | L C | O | U | R | S | E
The Fatherhood of God

INTRODUCTION

MATTHEW 7:7-11

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 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!”

LUKE 11:1-8

“Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught His disciples.’ And He said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil one.’ And He said to them, ‘Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him”; and he will answer from within and say, “Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you”?. I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.’”

Because of sin man is born an enemy of God. Before our conversion experience we were all enemies of God; estranged. God is our Judge. But through Jesus Christ that estrangement turns to reconciliation whereby God no longer is seen as the ‘awesome’ Judge but as our loving and caring Father. Jesus taught His disciples to address the living God as their “Father” – “Our Father” (Luke 11:12ff). Jesus also sought to show men what God is like so that they may enjoy an intimate relationship with Him. Sometimes people have had bad experiences with their own (earthly)

fathers. They may not have had a father. Because of these unfortunate experiences many people have a distorted view of God, the Father. There may be a fear within that God will somehow also neglect or abuse or desert or hurt or fail us, just as our earthly fathers may have done. God promises in His Word that He wants the best for us. (Matthew 7:7-11 & Luke 11:5-3)

I HUMAN FATHERHOOD

A. AS HUMAN PARENTS, WE HAVE DESIRES FOR OUR CHILDREN

For our families we all desire the best that God can give. We want them to be happy, healthy, secure, etc. *“How much more your Heavenly Father.”* (Matthew 7:11)

B. BUT WE HAVE A DISTORTED VIEW OF GOD AS OUR FATHER

Very often this is because of our earthly parents or loved ones. They have “let us down”: -

- ◆ maybe deserted us
- ◆ misused us
- ◆ promised something, then broken their word, etc
- ◆ rewarded us only if we ‘performed’ well

C. WE TRANSFER THESE CONCEPTS TO GOD

We often fear, even if it is only deep down in our subconscious, that God will or might do the same.

D. WHY DID OUR PARENTS DO THESE THINGS?

Normally because of their own inabilities and inadequacies: -

- ◆ they were trying to cope with and handle life’s hurts in their own strength.
- ◆ like the couple at the wedding at Cana, (John 2) they did not have the resources to be what they knew they should be.

Forgive them!

II THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD

THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD, A HUMAN CORRELATION

God is far greater than the example of an earthly father, He is the source of everything: -

- ◆ power
- ◆ health

- ◆ love
- ◆ wealth
- ◆ strength
- ◆ stability
- ◆ security, etc

GOD IS OUR FATHER

Jesus taught us to pray “*Our Father...*”

A. GOD IS AN ADOPTING FATHER (Roman 8:15; Galatians 4:5 & Ephesians 1:5)

In Roman households the father had absolute power (*Patria Potestas*). Father could do with his family whatever he desired. If he wanted to sell his son (to be adopted by another man) he was free to do so.

The adoption procedure consisted of a symbolic sale using copper and scales (3x). After this symbolic sale the adopting father would go to the magistrate to legalise the process in the presence of seven witnesses; as a result, the adopted son: -

- ◆ Lost all rights in his old household and gained new rights and privileges.
- ◆ Became heir in the new home even if there were others.
- ◆ In law, his old life was cleared (e.g. debts were cancelled).

B. GOD IS A FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS (Psalms 68:5-6 & 27:10)

- ◆ He is committed to us.
- ◆ He will be to us all that we ever needed or desired a human father to be and more.
- ◆ He will “*set us in families.*” (Psalms 68:6)
- ◆ He will “*lead forth the prisoners with singing.*” Release us from all the bondage and deprivation of not having a human father.
- ◆ Stop looking at your problems, circumstances, sin and needs. Look to Him, He wants to be your Father. He will take you in His arms and speak healing into your emotions, insecurities, rejections, fear. (2 Timothy 1:7)
- ◆ He is like a Father to those that have lost loved ones, taking up their cause.
- ◆ He not only ‘fights’ for them, but supplies all their needs (Philippians 4:19) and heals all their hurts.

C. GOD IS A COVENANT-KEEPING FATHER (Luke 15:11-24 & Chronicles 6:14-15)

- ◆ He is always committed to us.
- ◆ Even when the “*prodigal son*” was “*doing his own thing*” the Father was committed to him and longing for his return. (2 Timothy 1:12 & Jude 24)
- ◆ He is committed to “*keeping*” you, in weakness, trial, temptations etc. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

D. GOD IS A REWARDING FATHER (Matthew 6:3-4)

- ◆ On earth. (Matthew 6:3-4 & 10:41-42)
- ◆ In heaven. (Matthew 5:12)

E. GOD IS A PRAYER-ANSWERING FATHER (Luke 11:9-13)

- ◆ Healing
- ◆ Needs
 - Financial (Philippians 4:19)
 - Material
 - Emotional
 - He wants us to “*make our needs known*” to Him (James 4:2 & Luke 11:9-10, 14:13-14, 15:16 & 16:23-24)
- ◆ Deliverance
 - He wants us to be “*free indeed.*” (John 8:32)

F. GOD IS A GIVING FATHER (James 1:17 & Matthew 7:11)

- ◆ He gives us all we need.
- ◆ He will never withhold anything from us that is for our good. (Psalms 34:11, 34:10 & 37:4)

G. GOD IS A FORGIVING FATHER (Matthew 6:8-15)

There is not a sin that you have committed that God cannot forgive, except the sin against the Holy Spirit, Matthew 12:31 and if you fear that you have committed that sin, then you haven't!

God has made adequate provision for all your sins. (John 1:9)

II GOD HAS RECORDED HOW HE FEELS TOWARD US

- ◆ The Psalmist gives us a list of some of the benefits and blessings of being part of God's family (Psalms 103): -
 - Forgives sin – doesn't punish us for them (Psalms 103:3 & 10)
 - Heals (Psalms 103:3)
 - Redeems (Psalms 103:4) – no matter how you 'blew' it, God is redemptive.
 - Satisfies (Psalms 103:5)
 - Renews (Psalms 103:5)
 - Releases oppressed (Psalms 103:6)
 - Reveals Himself to us (Psalms 103:7)
 - Pours out mercy (Psalms 103:8 & 17)
 - Has compassion upon us (Psalms 103:14)
- ◆ He is understanding and gentle. (Isaiah 42:3)
- ◆ He knows all about our struggles and problems.