

ANSWERS TO BASIC QUESTIONS: WHY DO WE CALL GOD: OUR FATHER?

(Learning to Respond to the Father's Love)

Houses of Light Church • October 2-3, 2021 • Pastor Netz Gómez

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Another fundamental issue for us as believers is how we relate to our Father who is in heaven. Many of us have repeated or prayed the 'The Lord's Prayer' but in reality we do not live as beloved children, rather we experience a sense of unworthiness and helplessness that makes it even more difficult for us to overcome the challenges, struggles and trials that arise.
- B. On the other hand, within each one of us there is a cry for the father; It is like a void that is there and that earthly parents have to fill it to the best of their ability, opening the way for Heavenly Father to fill it completely (Eph. 1:23).
- C. The revelation of our place as children creates security in the face of problems and in the face of the future, even in the midst of our failures, we have the confidence that gives us resolution to move forward with all our heart to run to the Father instead of fleeing from Him.

II. IN CHRIST WE ARE BELOVED CHILDREN

- A. When we received Christ as Lord and Savior we became part of the God's Family.
Jn. 1:12-13 "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right [power] to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."
- B. Scripture also shows us that our origin is in God; long before our parents even met, God had planned us carefully; That is why we can call Him our eternal Father (Is. 9:6), because He has been, is and will be.
Sal. 139:13 y 16 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.... 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."
- C. Since before creation, Heavenly Father wanted a family that would receive and respond to His love not because they had to but because they want to. One of the main purposes of Jesus when he was on this earth was to show us the character of Heavenly Father.
Jn. 14:6-9 "Jesus answered [to Thomas], "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." 8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." 9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"
- D. Jesus was telling them: when you have seen my personality during these three and a half years; They saw me as accessible and wanted to be with me; so full of enthusiasm and kindness, so compassionate, strong and confident, tender, with such a pure spirit; so is the Father.

Heb. 1:3a "The Son [Jesus] is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being..."

- E. The Jews knew the Creator, Transcendent and Powerful God. A unique but distant God; to which the only way to respond was to tremble before Him. But Jesus brought us clarity. Yes, God is transcendent but He has affections like those of a father who desires a personal relationship with his children.
- F. In the A.T. There are about 300 different names for God and each one reveals a different facet of his personality. But of all those names, the one that Jesus used the most was "**Father**" to emphasize what the heart of God is like, the Father is deeply interested in you, He wants to be close to you, He feels your pain; He wants you to know that His heart beats for you and His eyes are on you.
- G. When the Holy Spirit came, we see that He has the same focus as Jesus and continues what Jesus started. The Holy Spirit wants to reveal the Father's heart because He wants our hearts to be kindled to fill us with power because there is nothing that empowers the human spirit like when the Holy Spirit reveals the Father to us and creates a sense of trust. This is something that many of us know but have not experienced..

Rom. 8:15 "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father!"

- H. '**Abba**' is a term that speaks of intimacy and closeness; it is like the little boy who sits on his father's lap and feels safe in his arms; he knows that everything is fine because the Father's eyes are on him. There we can relax and if we do we will have a broader vision of who God is. You must believe more of God than just power and forgiveness, enter the dimension of God's tender heart and receive it so that it also softens your heart.
- I. **The Holy Spirit convinces us of our position as sons and daughters of God and of the benefits that come from it.** As children we are heirs to the name and resources of the family of God, all their possessions and resources are ours..

Col. 1:12-13 "and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves."

III. UNDERSTANDING THE FATHER'S HEART

1 Jn. 3:1 "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!..."

- A. **The Father embraces us with affection.** One of our greatest human needs is to have the assurance that Heavenly Father enjoys us even in our weakness. The Father wants to break the spirit of shame and abandonment in us. Father is our biggest cheerleader. David understood this in the place of intimacy with God.
Psal. 27:10 "Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me"
- B. Unfortunately the vast majority have had deeply negative experiences with their earthly father. Most have not experienced the caress or blessing of a loving

parent. The devil tries to use the pain of unfulfilled longing to confuse and deceive us into trying to seek to fill this need in the wrong ways.

- C. We are going to consider how our Father is to receive what He has and impart it in our family.
1. The Father knows our weaknesses: Psal. 103:13-14 *"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."*
 2. The Father is patient with us: Rom. 2:4 *"Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?"*
 3. The Father corrects us for our good: Heb. 12:6 y 10 *"because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son...¹⁰ ...but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness."*
 4. The Father plans everything we need: Matt 6:32 *"...your heavenly Father knows that you need them."*
 5. The Father wants to partner with His children: Rev. 3:21 *"To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne."*
 6. The Father knows our potential and has glorious plans for us: Rev. 5:10 *"You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign[b] on the earth."*
 7. The Father has a calling for us: 1 Cor. 1:9 *"God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."*

IV. UNDERSTANDING THE WAYS OF THE FATHER

- A. There are too many people to whom the mistakes of their parents left them in a state of abandonment and deep rejection, coming to think that God is cruel or indifferent to what has happened to them, even blaming him for the bad that has happened to them; leading them to live offended with Him. We are going to see a passage that describes the reality of how God operates as Father in the midst of our own brokenness and the things that happen to us:

Hos. 11:1-10 *"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and I called my son out of Egypt. ² But the more I called to him, the farther he moved from me, offering sacrifices to the images of Baal and burning incense to idols ³ I myself taught Israel how to walk, leading him along by the hand. But he doesn't know or even care that it was I who took care of him. ⁴ I led Israel along with my ropes of kindness and love. I lifted the yoke from his neck, and I myself stooped to feed him. ⁵ "But since my people refuse to return to me, they will return to Egypt and will be forced to serve Assyria. ⁶ War will swirl through their cities; their enemies will crash through their gates. They will destroy them, trapping them in their own evil plans. ⁷ For my people are determined to desert me. They call me the Most High, but they don't truly honor me. ⁸ "Oh, how can I give you up, Israel? How can I let you go? How can I destroy you like Admah or demolish you like Zeboiim? My heart is torn within me, and my compassion overflows. ⁹ ...No I*

will not completely destroy Israel... I am the Holy One living among you... 10 For someday the people will follow me..."

1. **"When Israel was a child, I loved him"**: Since our childhood and even before God has loved us although many of us have not even realized that.
 2. **"the more I called to him, the farther he moved from me, offering sacrifices to the images"**: We were stubborn in our rebellion but God did not give up on us.
 3. **"I myself taught Israel how to walk leading him along by the hand. But he doesn't know or even care that it was I who took care of him"**: Most of us did not realize the tender care of God, teaching us to walk and taking care of us.
 4. **"I led Israel along with my ropes of kindness and love. I lifted the yoke from his neck, and I myself stooped to feed him"** The Father guided us until we received salvation and now we are in His family and He feeds us at His table.
 5. **"But since my people refuse to return to me, they will be forced to serve Assyria"**: Our stubbornness has caused brokenness and pain.
 6. **"For my people are determined to desert me. They call me the Most High, but they don't truly honor me"** God knows our duality and superficiality yet has relentless compassion.
 7. **"Oh, how can I give you up, Israel? How can I let you go? How can I destroy you like Admah or demolish you like Zeboiim? My heart is torn within me, and my compassion overflows"** God's compassion is what has regulated His dealings with us. These two cities were the ones that were destroyed along with Sodom and Gomorrah (**Gen. 10:19**).
 8. **"For someday the people will follow me..."** He has the best attitude and expectation about us despite our faults.
- B. Many hear these truths but have not entered this freedom to receive the convictions that the fact of being sons and daughters of the Father produces. You must ask the Holy Spirit to continue revealing it to you and seek it in prayer to call God in such a close and trusting way; You should no longer live at a distance from God when you can be so close.
- C. Once we receive identity and live in it we can better impart it as fathers and mothers and break the curses of orphanhood and hostility between generations that have so damaged our lives.

Mal. 4:5-6 "Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord arrives. 6 His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse"

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you consider that you live as a child loved by God? Explain
2. Has there been anything that made you doubt the love of the Father? Explain
3. How can you grow in revealing your identity as a child of God?