

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

### (Learning to Respond to the Father's Love) Part II

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#### I. QUICK REVIEW

- A. Last time we talked about how when we receive Christ and believe in Him we become beloved children of Heavenly Father (**Jn. 1:12-13**) and how our origin comes long before our parents even knew each other, God planned us long before we were born (**Ps. 139:13-16**). God is our Eternal Father (**Isa. 9:6**).
- B. Jesus came to show us what Heavenly Father is like and the kind of love He has for us (**Jn. 14:6-9**) and the Holy Spirit came to give continuity to this revelation so that we cry out in confidence and security in our identity as dear children: **'Abba Father'** (**Rom. 8:15**).
- C. We also spoke of the need to understand what the Father's heart really is like in order to live under his true fatherhood and impart it in the natural and spiritual family. Our Heavenly Father knows our weaknesses (**Ps. 103:13-15**), is patient with us, corrects us for our good, plans for everything we need, wants to partner with us, and has glorious and eternal plans. Finally we meditate on the passage of **Hos. 11:1-10** to recognize how behind the story of ours is the great story of God and the intense love of Father for us.

#### II. CLARIFYING OUR VISION OF THE FATHER

- A. Unfortunately most of us have had deeply negative experiences with our earthly parents; many have not experienced the caress or blessing of a loving parent and long for it deep down. **The devil tries to use the pain of this unfulfilled longing to confuse and trick us into trying to fill this need in the wrong ways.**
- B. There are too many people to whom the mistakes of their parents left them in a state of abandonment and deep rejection and unconsciously transfer those feelings towards God, leading them to think that He is cruel or indifferent to what has happened to them, even blaming Him for the misfortunes that have happened to them; leading them to be offended with Him but Jesus came to clarify once and for all what our Heavenly Father is really like.  
**Jn. 17:23b "...Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."**
- C. Jesus is telling us: not only did I come to free you from the condemnation of hell but to make you eternally part of the God family and to relate to the Father as I do. **The fact that the Father loves us in the same way that He loves Jesus is an overwhelming truth and at the same time encouraging.**
- D. God cannot love Christ more than he does, the Father loves him with infinite and eternal love; the Bible calls this **"perfect love"** and this is how God loves us.

**1 Jn. 4:16 y 18** *"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love... 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."*

- E. The Father will not love us more or less than He loves us right now. And He can love everyone equally. Not because he loves one person in this way can He no longer love millions equally (**Jn. 3: 16a**). Something important is that you don't have to wait to get to heaven to live in this dimension.

**Eph. 3:17** *"Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong."*

- F. It is because of this love that we overcome the attractions that this world offers, because it secures our soul in the glorious reality of love that the temporary delight of sin.

**Songs. 1:2** *"... for your love is sweeter than wine.."*

- G. You can say to him: 'Holy Spirit I want you to take me by the hand and escort me to this reality.' We are not saying that all of our needs as human beings are satisfied because there are still many that are supplied in the context of the family and the church. but His love is the foundation and the other relationships complement it. A romantic relationship or a deep friendship, no certain level of prosperity can fill you as deeply as the Father does with his love.
- H. In many of us there is uncertainty due to relationships that are not good, nor our work or ministry; what is happening with the world, the economy, the pandemic, vaccines and so many uncertain things in the future but He tells you: 'my eyes are on you, I have the power, I like you and my hand is on you. I will be with you as the future unfolds' (**Matt. 6: 8 and 32**). **This creates the kind of stability that combats the ups and downs so common among us.** The fact that his eyes are on us gives us security.

**Psal. 101:6a** *"My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, That they may dwell with me..."*

- I. When we receive this truth, not even our failures place us in this state of uncertainty. The devil lies to people saying: God does not love you; if he loved you he would never have allowed this to happen to you or your family. But the truth of the Father's love for us elevates us above all that may happen.

**Rom. 8:38** *"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love."*

**Rom. 8:28** *"And we know that God causes everything to work together[m] for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."*

**Job. 13:15a** *"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him..."*

### III. HOW GOD FEELS ABOUT YOU (Lk. 15)

- A. **In Luke 15 there are three parables that speak of how Heavenly Father feels about us:** the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son basically say the same thing, with some variations. **We each need this passage revealed in our hearts because it speaks of the Father's heart toward you as you are in the process of recovering from your compromises.**
- B. God loves everyone, even non-believers, but he does not delight in them, but believers do enjoy them, and there is a big difference. **Jesus paid the price so that we could stand before God with the confidence of having his favor.**
- C. The Father not only loves us when we mature but the process we go through: we first come to Him through Christ, which is the first condition; but the other condition is that we be sincere in our desire to obey Him. It is not that he loves us until we have victory over all those areas that we struggle with. **The fact that you are fighting is the expression of your sincerity;** if this sincerity gives you the confidence to know that God enjoys you even before being freed from that sin.

**Lk. 15:4-5 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing."**

- D. It is noteworthy that this sheep is one of the ninety-nine, it is speaking of a born again Christian, of someone who is of the flock. **This text speaks of how God intervenes to come to that believer who has deviated and comes to help him when he has repented of the deviation from him.**
- E. This can be a process of days or months; the Father puts us back on the road to recovery and rejoices. In this text he does not say that when he sees her, he begins to scold her for his misconduct. **Jesus says: did you repent? That makes my heart happy and you may say but I still do not overcome this area completely but He answers you: okay, I see the cry of your spirit and that makes my heart happy.**
- F. This truth gives us the confidence to run to God instead of running from Him when we discover our sin and weakness. Many people, when they discover that they are in sin, close their spirit and flee from God as Adam did instead of running to Him. In the parable of the prodigal son we see how the son wanted to return as a servant but we see the reaction of the father.

**Lk. 4:18-20 " I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants. 20...And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him."**

- G. **Jesus is telling us: this is how the Father feels;** We think: 'God, if you want to treat me badly for what I did' but God says: 'I don't want you to come

back in condemnation and shame; I want you close to Me, trust Me.' This son just repented, maybe he was still struggling and still needed to attend the recovery group for a long time; **the struggles are not over yet what you have on your side is that you have decided to declare war on those areas.**

**Lc. 15:22-23 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate."**

- H. This is a position of honor, the ring gave him the authority to be part of the transactions [although he just squandered the Father's fortune]. The Father is happy and when we feel his joy in our hearts, it encourages us. **YOU DON'T NEED TO GO ANYWHERE WHEN YOU SINS OR FAILS. That is where you have to go to receive security because he is the only one who will give you peace to continue fighting.**

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

- A. We cannot love God with all our heart until we know that He loves us with all His heart. **When God wants us to be able to love Him, He reveals Himself as the good Father who loves us intensely.**
- B. The end-time saints will be victorious in the love of the Father amid the opposition of the Antichrist singing about Jesus as they marvel at his love and greatness. Otherwise there would be much offense and condemnation in our hearts.

**Ap. 15:2-3 "And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast [Antichrist]... <sup>3</sup> and sang... saying: "Great and marvelous are your deeds..."**

- C. We must contemplate or be attentive to what the Father feels about us. The main objective or mandate within the will of God is that we grow in love, meekness and revelation (Jn. 15:9).

#### **V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

- A. **Do you feel that you are responding better to the love of the Father? Explain**
- B. **Do you run to the Father when you struggle or stumble? How does He receive you?**
- C. **Do you consider that you are imparting to others the love that you receive from Heavenly Father?**