

GOD IS – 'OUR FATHER' Message by Paul L. Cole

AND, HE LOVES YOU PASSIONATELY!

Hebrews 13:5,6 Amp.

...for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. I will not, I will not, I will not in any degree leave you helpless, nor forsake nor let you down (relax My hold on you)! Assuredly not!

'GOD IS OUR FATHER'

WORDS HAVE GREAT CREATIVE POWER-
GOD CREATED ALL THAT EXISTS BY HIS WORDS –
EXCEPT FOR MAN – WHOM HE CREATED WITH HIS HANDS...
CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIP... FOR INTIMACY...
AND THEN, HE SAID – CALL ME 'ABBA – FATHER'

JESUS SAID – PRAY THIS WAY = 'OUR FATHER...'

WHY WOULD HE USE THAT PICTURE – THAT IMAGE FOR US TO RELATE TO HIM?

'FATHER' – A WORD THAT FOR MANY OF US TAKES US TO IMAGES THAT ARE NOT AT ALL POSITIVE...

FOR MANY – 'FATHER' IS WHY WE FEEL MIXED UP IN LIFE...

'FATHER' A WORD THAT TODAY CREATES SOME CONFUSION -
AND, FOR MOST MEN – 'FATHER' IS A MYSTERIOUSLY IMPOSSIBLE JOB...

'GOD IS – OUR FATHER'

THE CORE OF A MAN IS FORMED IN THE BREATH OF HIS FATHER... AS GOD CREATED ADAM FROM THE DUST OF THE EARTH... THE BIBLE SAYS – HE LEANED IN CLOSE – AND BREATHED LIFE INTO HIM...

JESUS – IN ANOINTING THE DISCIPLES – HIS SONS IN THE FAITH...

BREATHED ONTO THEM "RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT"

THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID – "THE BIBLE IS GOD-BREATHED"

WHEN A MAN IS HELD CLOSE TO HIS FATHER...FEELS THE STUBBLE OF HIS BEARD...

THE STRENGTH OF HIS ARMS...

THE SMELL OF MASCULINITY

THE TOUGH AND THE TENDER...

THAT INTIMACY FORMS THE CENTERING OF HIS LIFE...

MOST MEN ARE LOOKING FOR THAT CENTER –

THEY ARE MEN WITHOUT A TRUE NORTH.

ADAM WAS TOLD BY GOD TO LEAD HIS FAMILY –

TO GUIDE, GUARD AND GOVERN...

TO DIRECT, PROTECT AND CORRECT...

AND, THAT IS THE CHARGE TO FATHERS STILL TODAY...

WINSTON CHURCHILL... Born at Blenheim Palace – 1874

2 hrs. NW London – the beautiful countryside surrounding Oxford 12 yrs old – His father Lord Randolph Churchill – became Chancellor of the Exchequer (high government position)

Winston wrote to him from boarding school, “Father, if you could come by my school when you’re here in the area, I would like that.” His father did not come... they had poor relationship.

38 years later – 24 years after his father died... at age 50 Winston becomes the Chancellor of the Exchequer (the position his father had held) As they brought the robes for the ceremony, he said, “No, I’ve brought my own robes” He produced a box, pulled out the robes his father had worn, put them on and turned to his assistant, and this great man said – “Now, maybe I’ve done something my father would have been proud of.” Still looking at age 50 for the affirmation that had never been his from his father!

BASIC MINISTRY OF PASTOR IS TO DISCIPLE MEN.
MAN, DISCIPLES THE FAMILY.

STRONG MEN make STRONG FAMILIES
STRONG FAMILIES make STRONG CHURCHES,
STRONG CHURCHES WILL TRANSFORM CULTURE!

THERE ARE 7 KEY ATTRIBUTES A FATHER PROVIDES

LOVE (you belong)
ACCEPTANCE (affirmation)
VALUE (self worth)
INTIMACY
DISCIPLINE
SECURITY
A NAME.

“FAMILY” MEANS “FATHER’S HOUSE”

FOR MANY YOUNG MEN, GROUPS/GANGS BECOME A SURROGATE FAMILY... THEY PROVIDE THE SAME ATTRIBUTES A FATHER NEVER DID.. LOVE, ACCEPTANCE, VALUE, INTIMACY, DISCIPLINE, SECURITY... IT IS ALSO WHY A YOUNG LADY WILL HANG WITH ROUGH CROWD... SECURITY, ACCEPTANCE... ETC.

ALSO – IT GIVES THAT YOUNG MAN A NAME... HE EITHER DIDN’T GET FROM HIS DAD – OR DOESN’T WANT HIS DAD’S NAME... A MAN’S NAME IS ONLY AS GOOD AS HIS WORD THAT’S WHY WE TRUST GOD’S NAME – HE KEEPS HIS WORD!

TO LEAD PROPERLY IT MUST BE DONE IN LOVE... DISCIPLINE IS AN ACT OF LOVE – UNLOVING PRODUCES INDIFFERENCE/DICTATORSHIP...

DEFINED...

LOVE, THE DESIRE TO BENEFIT OTHERS, EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF SELF... LOVE DESIRES TO GIVE...

OPPOSITE IS NOT HATE – EMOTIONS - LIKE, HATE...

LOVE IS AN ACT OF THE WILL..

THAT'S WHY THE BIBLE CAN COMMAND US TO BE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST – TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL OUT LIVES...

OPPOSITE OF LOVE IS LUST – THE DESIRE TO BENEFIT SELF EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS BECAUSE LUST DESIRES TO GET. AND – IT CAN NEVER GET ENOUGH...

THE CORE ISSUE OF MOST DIVORCES IS SELFISHNESS...

WHETHER IT'S MARRIAGE, JOB OR CHURCH...

A DIVORCE MOST OFTEN COMES FROM A SELFISH SPIRIT...

FATHERS ARE MEN WHO HAVE ACCEPTED THE RESPONSIBILITY TO LEAD THEIR FAMILIES BEFORE GOD...

DON'T TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT GOD, UNTIL YOU HAVE FIRST TALKED TO GOD ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN...

MOST MEN DON'T LEAD – THEY DICTATE... OR DISAPPEAR...

IT'S A SIGN OF IMMATURITY...

AN AGE OF MEDIOCRITY...

MATURITY DOESN'T COME WITH AGE, IT COMES WITH THE ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY...

MEN CAN BE MATURE AT 19, IMMATURE AT 39

GOD WANTS IN A MAN, WHAT EVERY WOMAN WANTS...

Consistency, decisiveness and strength

1 COR. 13:11...

¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.

MEDIOCRE MAN IS CHILDISH...

WHAT ARE CHILDREN LIKE?

CENTER OF HIS OWN UNIVERSE

WANTS HIS OWN WAY, TEMPER TANTRUMS IF NOT

DOES NOT CARE ABOUT RESULTS OF ACTIONS.

CANNOT MANAGE OWN LIFE, INCONSISTENT.

SUBJECT TO CONCRETE AUTHORITY (LAW)

PAGE 162 MAXIMIZED MANHOOD... "WHEN A MAN ACTS LIKE A CHILD... IT FORCES HIS WIFE TO ACT LIKE HIS MOTHER"

MOTHERS DO FOUR THINGS FOR BABIES...
 FEED THEM
 CORRECT THEM
 MAKE DECISIONS FOR THEM
 CHANGE THEIR DIAPERS

THE IMMATURITY OF MEN HAS LED TO AN ERA OF WIMPY FATHERS,
 WUSSY CHURCHY NICE GUYS WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT... AN
 EMASCULATED/FEMINIZED CHURCH

YOU CAN BUILD SPIRITUALITY FROM WOMEN,
 BUT STRENGTH ALWAYS COMES FROM MEN.

A FATHER FIGHTS FOR HIS CHILDREN...
 THE SPIRIT OF A FATHER FIGHTS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION...
 WE NEED SOME MEN WHO KNOW HOW TO FIGHT...

VICTORY IS ALWAYS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF A FIGHT...

WHEN THE DRUG DEALERS COME TO OUR SCHOOLS –
 WHEN THE ABORTIONISTS – TRY TO RIP OF OUR YOUNG MOMS
 WHEN THE EDUCATORS – TRY TO RIP FAITH OUT OF OUR KIDS
 WHEN RELIGIOUS DECEPTION COMES –

KEY BIBLE PASSAGE FOR MEN...

2 TIM 2:2 And the [instructions] which you have heard from me along
 with many witnesses, transmit and entrust [as a deposit] to reliable and
 faithful men who will be competent and qualified to teach others also.

TALENT CAN TAKE YOU WHERE YOUR CHARACTER CANT SUSTAIN YOU...
 MOST MEN WORK ON THEIR TALENT, BUT DON'T BUILD THEIR
 CHARACTER –
 STRONG MEN, STRONG FAMILIES, STRONG CHURCHES...
 THE TRANSFORMATIONAL AGENT IN CULTURE!

GOD IS OUR FATHER! GOD IS – OUR FATHER!

AS A FATHER... YOU CHILDREN MAY NOT LISTEN TO YOU...
 BUT, THEY WILL ALWAYS IMITATE YOU.

PAUL SAID 1 COR. 4:15 For though you might have ten thousand
 instructors in Christ, yet *you do* not *have* many fathers; for in Christ
 Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Here's the key...

AN INSTRUCTOR WILL TELL YOU WHAT HE KNOWS,
 BUT A FATHER GIVES YOU WHO HE IS.

SPIRIT OF A FATHER REJOICES IN THE SUCCESS OF HIS CHILDREN...
 INSTRUCTORS ARE INDIFFERENT OR JEALOUS

INSTRUCTOR SETS BOUNDARIES -
 THE SPIRIT OF A FATHER RELEASES THE SPIRIT OF A MAN!
 BREATHES LIFE INTO HIS BONES!

'GOD IS - OUR FATHER!'

JER 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

EVERYONE HAS AN OPINION ABOUT GOD>>>
 GOD SAYS - TIME OUT - THEY DON'T KNOW -
 I KNOW... GOD SAYS "I KNOW - THEY DON'T KNOW!"
 GOD SAYS "I KNOW THE DREAMS I HAVE FOR YOU!"
 "THEY DON'T KNOW!"

***WHEN YOU LET OTHERS CREATE YOUR WORLD FOR YOU...
 THEY WILL ALWAYS CREATE IT TOO SMALL.***

*EPH. 2:10 - YOU ARE MY MASTERPIECE - I CREATED YOU FOR GOOD
 WORKS FROM BEFORE YOU WERE EVER BORN!*

THE SPIRIT OF A TRUE FATHER ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY...
 FOR FAMILY, CHURCH, CULTURE...

EDDY LEO - INDONESIA - DISCIPLED 120,000 MEN - NATION THAT
 WAS 95% MUSLIM IS NOW 30% FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

ALEX MITALA - DISCIPLED YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN - GLOVIMO
 15,000 CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS... RATE OF AIDS - 20 YEARS FROM
 33% (50% IN MEN) TO 6.5% (8% IN MEN)

ROBERT BARRIGER IN PERU - BRINGING A NEW PROMISE OF LIFE TO
 MILLIONS OF CHILDREN - AND CHANGING THE COURSE OF A NATION...

WE NEED THE FATHERS TO RISE UP IN OUR NATIONS...
 STRONG MEN IN TOUGH TIMES!

JESUS AT THE CROSS... MATT 27
 DISCIPLES THERE - (JUDAS, PETER)
 PERHAPS THOUSANDS OF FOLLOWERS...

JESUS CRIES OUT... ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a
 loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My
 God, why have You forsaken Me?"^[k]

HERE'S THE RUB - HAS GOD TURNED HIS BACK ON HIS SON?!!

HERE'S THE BACKGROUND...
 JESUS, WHEN HE LAUNCHED HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY READ FROM ISAIAH
 61 - TO DO THIS HE HAD TO BE QUALIFIED READER.

A POSITION ATTAINED... STUDIES, MEMORIZES WORD... THEN,
 BECOMES HELPER AT THE TEMPLE...
 AT AGE 25 CANTOR... LEAD SONGS...
 ALL MEMORIZED PSALMS – SO, CANTOR STARTS VERSE, THEY ALL JOIN
 IN ...

*THIS IS THE DAY, THIS IS THE DAY...
 *ALL HAIL THE POWER OF (JESUS' NAME) , LET...

NOW HE CRIES OUT,
 "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?!"
 GOD – THE FATHER TURNED HIS BACK?

JESUS WAS A SONG LEADER... BY STARTING THE FIRST WORDS OF THE
 SONG, OTHERS WOULD JOIN IN... SO – WE SEE SOMETHING
 REMARKABLE!

READ PSALM 22 VS. 1
¹ My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

IT'S THE SAME – JESUS IS STARTING A SONG!!
 AND THE SONG IS FULL OF PROPHECY AND PROMISE...

READ OTHER SECTIONS... PROPHECY AND PROMISE!!

SO WE KNOW THIS IS TRUE!
 Hebrews 13:5,6
 ...for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give
 you up nor leave you without support. I will not, I will not, I will not in
 any degree leave you helpless, nor forsake nor let you down (relax My
 hold on you)! Assuredly not!

GOD IS – OUR FATHER...
 AND HE LOVES YOU PASSIONATELY...
 AND HE WILL NEVER TURN HIS BACK ON YOU!

SO, NOW – WE PRAY TOGETHER... FROM MATT. CHAP 6
 THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT HIS FOLLOWERS...

"Our Father in heaven, Holy is Your name.
 Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us
 into temptation,
 But deliver us from the evil one.
 For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

CALL TO SALVATION.