



Experiencing The Tangible Benefits Of The Father Heart Of God

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PART ONE - UNDERSTANDING OUR LIFE STORY

To understand the influences in our lives that have shaped what we truly believe about life God & ourselves and ask the Holy Spirit to bring all of our negative beliefs into the light so that we can be free to walk in the glorious freedom of His love.

FIRST 8 YEARS OF LIFE - WE BELIEVE EVERYTHING WE ARE TOLD

We are a blank sheet of paper that is written on by many things

SOME OF THE THINGS THAT INFLUENCE US

*Father *Mother *Grandparents *Siblings *School *Teachers *Friends *Enemies *Our DNA *Opinions of Others
*Religion *Denominations *Spouses *Employers *Media *Divorce *Death *Finances *Good & Bad Experiences
*Authority Figures *Government *Our Nationality *Our Ethnicity *Sickness, etc.

PSALM 139:1-3 - GOD KNOWS YOU & HE UNDERSTANDS YOU

He knows everything about us and yet He loves us!

PSALM 103:13-14

When the Lord sees our life, He sees our weaknesses and compassion rises in His heart.

GOD'S ORIGINAL INTENT IN THE GARDEN

Generational cycle of blessing

WE WERE CREATED TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE

Genesis 1:27 Made in His image; 1 John 4:16 God is love

We have a great capacity to receive love

WE WERE INTENDED TO KNOW WHAT LOVE WAS LIKE FROM OUR PARENTS

As a father has compassion Ps. 103:13-14

As a mother comforts her child, Is. 66:13

WE WERE ALL BORN WITH AN EXPECTATION TO BE LOVED

THE INTENDED ROLE OF OUR MOTHERS

To lovingly carry us in their wombs.

To nurture us, to care for us, to impart warmth, tenderness and kindness.

To tell us we belong in this world.

THE INTENDED ROLE OF OUR FATHERS

They give us their name and Identity.

They affirm our place in this world.

They encourage us, strengthen us, teach us and help shape our future.

They protect us, provide for us & express their delight in our lives.

THE FALL CHANGED EVERYTHING

Hurting people hurt people.

OUR LIFE IS LIKE GROWTH RINGS IN A TREE

We are the culmination of all our life experiences to date

MY LIFE STORY - MY DAD

Life was always changing - Alcoholic, didn't trust, achievement way to his heart

WHAT I LEARNED FROM MY DAD

Things were always changing because of his mood swings

Never felt safe & secure - Achievement only way to receive love - Judo

24-7 Flywheel - Tried to anticipate future so I couldn't get hurt

"You can't trust people"

WHO I BECAME

Type A personality - Citizenship award, President student council

7 different jobs in the newspaper business

Experienced lots of success - but no peace & rest

MANY SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE HAVE FATHER ISSUES

MY LIFE STORY - MY MOM'S SIDE

My mother was taught that worry was a responsible thing

Fear of being rejected

Taught that love = pleasing people

Developed a very active, obsessive thought life

WHAT I LEARNED FROM MY MOM

Value = People pleasing - Very anxious thought life.

Loads of shame & anxiety

WHO I BECAME

Hyper-sensitive people pleaser - Was in a prison of pleasing people

Loads of shame when I disappointed people

A TOXIC MIX

Type A personality + hyper people pleaser!

AN EXHAUSTING WAY TO LIVE LIFE!

MY WIFE ANN'S MOM & DAD

Father lost his mom at 5, his dad taken to a work camp when he was 11

He had to steal food to survive.

Providing for the family his priority

Mother was given up for adoption at 5.

Battled rejection all her life.

WE ALL HAVE A LIFE STORY

All the things that affected our fathers & mothers in their lives have had an impact on what we believe about life, God and ourselves.

MY VIEW OF GOD

I theologically knew that there was a difference between God and my dad
But the only frame of reference that I had was the father I knew
I projected those same attributes on God as Father.

MARTIN LUTHER QUOTE

I have difficulty praying the Lord's prayer because whenever I say "Our Father", I think of my own father who was hard, unyielding & relentless. I cannot help but think of God in that way.

TIME OF REFLECTION

What are the major influences in your life that have shaped how you see life, God as Father, and yourself?
Take a few minutes to ask the Holy Spirit to show you any misconceptions of God's love that you might have.

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PART TWO - JESUS REVEALS THE FATHER

OVER 300 NAMES OF GOD IN OLD TESTAMENT

Names reveal His character

Speak of His might, strength, majesty, goodness, holiness, faithfulness, righteousness, salvation, love & glory.
The name 'Father' was not used often in the O.T. to refer to God.

JEREMIAH 3:19

"I myself said, " 'How gladly would I treat you like sons and give you a desirable land, the most beautiful inheritance of any nation.' I thought you would call me 'Father' and not turn away from following me. NIV

GOD NOW REVEALED THROUGH HIS SON - Hebrews 1:1-2

JESUS DECLARES THE FATHER FROM HIS BOSOM - John 1:18

GOD REFERRED TO AS FATHER OVER 200 TIMES IN NEW TESTAMENT

JESUS' ENTIRE LIFE WAS ABOUT HIS FATHER

John 6:38-40 - Jesus did His Father's will
John 5:43 - Jesus came in His Father's name
John 8:16 - Jesus stood with His Father
John 8:28 - Jesus only said His Father's words
John 8:29 - Jesus lived to please His Father
John 12:27-30 - Jesus glorified His Father
John 14:5-7 - Jesus is the way to His Father
John 14:8-11 - If you see me you've seen the Father
Luke 2:46-49 - About His Father's business

WHAT IS THE FATHER LIKE? ...EXACTLY LIKE JESUS!

Hebrews 1:3 He is the exact representation of His being
Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

EVERYTHING THAT JESUS DID

- *When He forgave the adulterous woman
- *When He healed the sick
- *When He multiplied the food
- *When He hung out with sinners
- *When He washed the disciples feet

WE CAN ASK THE FATHER DIRECTLY - John 16:26-27

As teenagers, sometimes it is safer to ask our mom to ask our dad for the car keys. Sometimes we do the same thing with Jesus!

BOTH FATHER & SON WILL COME & LIVE IN US! - John 14:23

THE FATHER REVEALS THE SON - John 6:44

THE SON REVEALS THE FATHER - Matthew 11:27

JESUS NO LONGER CALL US SERVANTS, BUT FRIENDS - John 15:15

NOT JUST FRIENDS, BUT BROTHERS - John 20:17

NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED OUR BROTHER - Hebrews 2:11

CHRISTIAN LIFE ALL ABOUT FAMILY - Ephesians 3:14-15

JESUS IS THE FIRST BORN AMONG MANY BROTHERS - Romans 8:29

JESUS LIKES TO SHARE HIS INHERITANCE - Romans 8:17

NO LONGER I THAT LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME - Galatians 2:20

UNITED WITH CHRIST IN GOD - John 17:23

JESUS CONTINUES TO REVEAL THE FATHER - John 17:26

TIME OF REFLECTION

Ask Jesus to bring you to His Father. Write down what you experience

PART THREE - RESTORING CHILDLIKE TRUST

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- *It cannot be shaken - Heb. 12:28-29 *It is not of this world - John 18:36
- *It is not talk but power - 1 Cor. 4:20 *It is forcefully advancing - Matt. 11:12
- *It drives out darkness - Luke 11:20 *The poor will inherit it - James 2:5
- *Righteousness, peace & joy- Rom 14:17 *It is very good news - Matt. 24:14
- *The Kingdom is within - Luke 17:20-21 *The Kingdom is near - Matt. 10:5-7
- *It is a Kingdom of Light - Col. 1:9-14
- *Involves healing the sick, raising the dead, casting out devils...
- *Jesus gives us the keys - Matt.16:19 *We know its secrets - Matt.13:11-12
- *Jesus confers it on us - Luke 22:29

Jesus taught us to pray, Father...YOUR KINGDOM COME! - Matthew 6:5-13

MATTHEW 18:1-4 GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM

Disciples arguing about who is greatest in the kingdom. Jesus calls for a little child.

THE KINGDOM BELONGS TO LITTLE CHILDREN - Luke 18:15-17

FROM THE MOUTH OF BABES YOU HAVE ORDAINED PRAISE - Matthew 21:16

WE ARE TAUGHT TO GROW UP

- *Taught independence is good
- *Become self-sufficient & grown up
- *Don't need anyone's help
- *Relating to God as a child is counter to our culture

TO BE A LITTLE BOY/GIRL WITH A REALLY BIG DAD

Important key to receiving His love

THE FEAR OF BEING CHILDISH - Hebrews 5:11-14

- *You need milk not solid food *Still an infant
- *Solid food is for the mature *Trained to discern good & evil

THE MATURE SON OF GOD WAS HELPLESS WITHOUT HIS FATHER

John 5:19-20 - The Son can do nothing by himself
John 8:28 - I only speak what He taught me
Mark 14:36 - Cried "Abba!" in Garden of Gethsemane

THE KINGDOM REVEALED TO BABES - Matthew 11:25-26

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A CHILD

*If Jesus said that the Kingdom belonged to little children and that the only way we can access it is by humbling ourselves and receiving it as a child, the characteristics of a child must be important to the heart of God.

A LITTLE CHILD TRUSTS

Love always trusts - 1 Corinthians 13:7

TRUST IS ROOTED IN RELATIONSHIP

Kids jumping off the stairs into my arms.

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART - Proverbs 3:5-6

STRONG'S DEFINITION OF TRUST

To have confidence, to be bold, to be secure, to feel safe, be careless

TRUST IN GOD, TRUST ALSO IN ME - John 14:1-2

TRUST IS A DAILY DECISION

- *Trust - root word for believe/faith
- *The most precious thing we give God
- *Confidence regardless of circumstances
- *When we can't see the future
- *When we are experiencing hardships
- *Abraham didn't know where he was going

HALFWAY POINT OF THE BIBLE

Better to trust in the Lord - Psalm 118:8-9

TIME OF REFLECTION

Ask yourself what areas in my life am I struggling to trust God with right now?
God wants to restore broken trust.

PART FOUR - THE FRUITFUL LIFE OF A CHILD

A LITTLE CHILD IS CARE-FREE - 1 Peter 5:7

Little children don't worry about mortgage payments.
Their little minds can't comprehend these things

MANY THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT

Up to 80% of illness stress-related
*75% of things we worry about never happen

GOD DOES NOT WANT US TO WORRY

*Can't add an hour to our lives - Matt. 6:27
*Worry chokes good seed - Luke 8:14
*Worry distracted Martha - Luke 10:41-42

LITTLE CHILDREN SHOULDN'T WORRY

*Worry will steal their joy & love for life
*Worry will make them fearful & sick
*Worry will rob them of precious time with their parents

***WE ARE GOD'S KIDS!**

WORRY IS A TRUST ISSUE

We don't believe God will take care of us so we have to take care of ourselves
Matthew 6:25-33 Take NO thought for your life

TIME OF REFLECTION

Do you struggle with worry?
God invites you to call all your cares on Him because He cares for you!
Take a few moments to give him everything you are concerned about.

A LITTLE CHILD IS DEPENDENT

John 5:19-20 - The Son can only do what he sees His Father doing

ABIDING IN THE VINE - John 15:5

Apart from me you can do nothing.
Little children need their parents all the time.
They need to be fed, changed, clothed, played with...

TIME OF REFLECTION

Dependence or independence? Love demands free choice.
Take some time and ask God where you have lived an independent life and surrender control to His loving care.

A LITTLE CHILD IS WEAK

GOD'S STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS - 2 Corinthians 12:9

GOD HAS ALWAYS USED WEAK PEOPLE

David - Jacob - Gideon

GOD CHOSE THE WEAK THINGS OF THE WORLD - 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS - 2 Corinthians 4:7

TIME OF REFLECTION

Are you still trying to live life in your own strength?

Are you willing to boast in your weakness so Christ might be strong?

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the areas where you can embrace weakness.

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A LITTLE CHILD IS HUMBLE - Matthew 18:4

Little children don't try to be something they are not.

They don't try and impress others.

They forgive easy and make up after fights.

GOD GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE - James 4:6

JESUS LIVED A LIFE OF HUMILITY - Philippians 2:5-7

COME & LEARN FROM ME - Matthew 11:28-29

Meek & lowly in heart

Only place where Jesus describes Himself.

To be like Jesus is to be humble in heart.

GOD'S HIGH VALUE OF HUMILITY

Matthew 20:26 The greatest will be the servant

John 14:28 - My Father is greater than I. ...Father is the greatest in the Kingdom.

TIME OF REFLECTION

Do you struggle taking the lowest seat?

Are there issues of pride that you need to lay at the foot of the cross?

The Triune God is lowly in heart with a servant's heart.

Humble yourself & He will lift you up. James 4:10

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LITTLE CHILDREN LOVE TO PLAY - Romans 14:17

Joy is a charter member of the Kingdom of God!

TODDLERS LOVE LIFE!

Most energetic, spontaneous people!

THE FATHER LOVES PARTIES - Luke 15:7

Thousands of people come to Christ every day.

Heaven must be one party after another!

FUN IN THE THRONE ROOM! - Proverbs 8:30-31

THE ELDER BROTHER IN THE PRODIGAL SON STORY FORGOT HOW TO PLAY - Luke 15:29

I have been slaving for you all these years and you never even gave me a goat!

THE FATHER'S RESPONSE

Luke 15:31

Everything I have is yours! You could have had a party anytime!

TIME OF REFLECTION

*Sometimes we take life too seriously.

*Does it offend you to think that there are ongoing parties in heaven?

*That the Father & the Son are playing with each other?

If so, ask the Holy Spirit to release more JOY to you! In His presence there is fullness of joy! Psalm 16:11

That they may have the full measure of my joy! John 17:13

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CHILDREN KNOW HOW TO REST

*They play hard & they rest hard

*They don't suffer from burn-out

*They don't need sabbaticals

*They don't have nervous breakdowns

*When they are tired, they stop & sleep

*They wake refreshed & go 100 mph

I used to sleep on sidewalks as a kid.

Psalm 46:10 - Be Still and know that I am God

ENTERED A SABBATICAL REST

*Stopped all ministry activity *Difficult for me to rest

*Started working at 16 years old *Adult child of an alcoholic

*Come from a long line of people pleasers

*Believed my value came from doing

*Obedience is better than sacrifice

TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN TO SACRIFICE

*I felt that I pleased God by stopping *Had to drop my fig leaves of activity

*Had no value from doing *Began to expose more orphan beliefs

A SEASON OF PRUNING - John 15:1-2

Branches - "Useless shoots" - They take up useless energy.

It is the fruitful branches that get pruned!

FATHER IS CLOSEST TO THE BRANCH WHEN HE IS PRUNING IT

OUR FRUIT BRINGS GLORY TO THE FATHER - John 15:8

What is the fruit that God is looking for in my life?

RE-THINKING THE DEFINITION OF FRUITFULNESS

I thought that the ministry stuff was the fruit that brings glory to the Father.

FRUITFULNESS IN THE BIBLE

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control.

MINISTRY STUFF - THE FRUIT OF THE FRUIT

1 Corinthians 13 - Prophecy, faith, martyrdom, etc.

Waste of time without love

MOSES DESIRE TO SEE GOD'S GLORY - Exodus 34:5-8

- *God's glory was His character *Compassionate & gracious
- *Slow to anger, forgiving sin
- *Abounding in love & faithfulness

OUR FRUIT IS WHATEVER REVEALS HIS NATURE

OUR ORPHAN BELIEF SYSTEMS

- *We have to work for everything we get *Our value comes from what we do
- *I am responsible for everything *God is pleased only when I am working

BENEFITS OF RESTING

- *No illusions about who is doing the work
- *When we rest, we are vulnerable
- *We learn to wait on God in times of rest

THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR YOU!

Exodus 14:14

The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still. NIV

WORKING TO ENTER INTO HIS REST - Hebrews 4:9-11

Let us make every effort to enter that rest...

TIME OF REFLECTION

- *Do you find it easy to enter into rest?
- *Do you feel guilty when you are resting?
- *Resting is not an absence of work, but rather it is a continual state of being.
- *Take a few moments and ask God to bring you deeper into His rest.

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A LITTLE CHILD IS VULNERABLE

- *Little children wear their hearts on their sleeves.
- *They are not afraid to show their emotions.
- *They freely open their hearts to love

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A LITTLE CHILD IS INNOCENT

Matthew 10:16 - wise as serpents, innocent as doves.
God wants to restore childlike innocence to our hearts.

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LITTLE CHILDREN LIVE IN THE MOMENT

They can stare all day counting their fingers. Kristin used to 'boom' on the couch.

**GOD KNOWS THE END FROM THE BEGINNING
BUT HE IS 'I AM'... NOT 'I WAS', OR 'I WILL BE'**

God lives in the moment.
Past is forgiven. Future is in His hands.

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CHILDREN RESEMBLE THEIR PARENTS - Ephesians 5:1

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children.
Children happy to take on their parents identity.
To a child, their parents are everything!

PARENTS ARE EVERYTHING TO CHILDREN

My daddy is the Biggest, strongest daddy.
My mommy is the most beautiful mommy in the world!
If you have seen me, you have seen my Father. John 14:9

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CHILDREN ARE PERSISTENT - Matthew 7:7-8

Keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking.
Kristin's kitten story.

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LITTLE CHILDREN ARE OBEDIENT John 14:30-31

They don't question authority.
They are not rebellious or prideful.
They are willing to be directed.
They are confident that their parents have their best interests at heart.

NOT MY WILL BE DONE FATHER, BUT YOUR WILL BE DONE.

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LITTLE CHILDREN KNOW THEIR LIMITATIONS

Little children know they are needy. They are completely helpless.
They cannot provide for themselves. They cannot protect themselves.
Many times we carry the weight of the world on our shoulders.

Galatians 3:3 Having begun in the Spirit...finish with human effort!
Matthew 11:28 - Come to Me & I will give you rest.

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CHILDREN ARE DEFENCELESS

Psalms 91 You will not be harmed!

I John 5:18 - The one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. NIV

**GOD IS OUR REFUGE!
FEROCITY OF A MOTHER BEAR PROTECTING ITS CUB!**

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A CHILD HAS A GREAT IMAGINATION

Ephesians 3:20; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

They never stop dreaming of damsels in distress, spaceships, dinosaurs & far away lands.
Jesus defied most of the laws of nature. Said we would do greater things!

GOD IS REALLY CREATIVE
He thinks outside of our boxes.

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LITTLE CHILDREN LOVE TO RECEIVE GIFTS! Christmas, birthdays, any time! Matthew 6:9-11

AS ADULTS, WE FIND IT HARD TO RECEIVE FREE GIFTS
We feel we have to earn what we receive.

GRACE IS A FREE GIFT OF GOD THAT TAKES HUMILITY TO RECEIVE.

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LITTLE CHILDREN ARE LOVE SPONGES - 1 John 3:1

They are not afraid to show love and receive love!
They are willing to get all of the affection possible!
They love being tickled, squeezed and cared for!
Romans 8:15 - Cry Abba!

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**GOD DOESN'T WANT US TO BE BIG
...HE WANTS US TO BE LITTLE**

2 Corinthians 6:18 "I will be a Father to YOU!"

OUR AGE DOESN'T MATTER - Isaiah 46:3-4

**AGE IS RELATIVE - MY DAD IN HIS 60s
GRANDFATHER IN HIS 90s** ...My dad was still his boy

GOD IS THE ANCIENT OF DAYS!

IT IS YOUR FATHER'S PLEASURE TO GIVE YOU THE KINGDOM!

Luke 12:32 - He calls us His little flock He delights to give us His Kingdom!

TIME OF REFLECTION

- *The Kingdom belongs to little children.
- *Jesus said we need to humble ourselves to become like a little child.
- *He said the Kingdom is hidden from the wise & prudent & revealed to babes.
- *Ask God to show you how you can embrace a childlike heart.

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PART FIVE - OVERCOMING HINDRANCES

THE RICH YOUNG RULER

Mark 10:17-22 What must I do to inherit eternal life?
Jesus looked at him and loved him...Told him of the one thing he lacked.
Wanted to free this young man from the the things that hindered him.

THROW OFF ALL THAT HINDERS - Hebrews 12:1

God wants to remove everything that would prevent us from coming into the fullness of His love.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR PARENTS AFFECTS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH FATHER GOD

God wants to remove every hindrance that gets in the way of us knowing Him as Father.

GOD'S INTENT WAS THAT WE WOULD RECEIVE LOVE FROM OUR PARENTS

Their love would be a foreshadow of His love
As a father has compassion on his children...
As a mother comforts her child...

BECAUSE OF THE FALL, THEY WERE UNABLE TO LOVE US PERFECTLY

In many cases, we received a distorted view of what love was like.

GOD WANTS TO OPEN OUR HEARTS TO RECEIVE HIS PERFECT LOVE

In order for us to receive, we need to let go of any bitterness judgments that we have made on our parents. When we released them and bless them, our hearts open up to receive love directly from our heavenly Father.

A STORY ABOUT FORGIVENESS - Matthew 18:21-35

FORGIVENESS IS LIKE CANCELING A DEBT

When someone sins against us, they have stolen something.

I WAS TAUGHT TO FORGIVE ONE TIME - BLANKET FORGIVENESS

THE KING WANTED TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS

*To forgive with integrity, we need to take an account of what was stolen from us.

*We don't have to dig up the past, just ask the Holy Spirit to bring back any memory

*If nothing comes to mind, then that is fine.

THE SERVANT WAS UNABLE TO PAY THE DEBT

The king had compassion on the servant and forgave him

Our parents are unable to pay the debt they owe us

Ask God to release compassion for our parents To help us understand their lives

FORGIVENESS IS RELEASING THE DEBT

As long as someone owe me something,

I have an unhealthy connection between me and them.

When we release the hurt, we break all unhealthy ties

WANTING MERCY FOR ME AND DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR OTHERS

Can't have it both ways. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy!

GOD WANTS TO FREE US FROM BITTERNESS

Bitterness is a poison pill that we swallow thinking it will kill someone else.

Forgiveness is for our freedom!

TIME OF REFLECTION

*Ask God to bring back memories

*Pray that His grace would cover them

*Ask Him for the ability to release your parents from anything they owe you.

*Don't try to unearth anything, just ask God to bring any memory to mind.

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THE SPIRIT OF SONSHIP

*Jesus was the greatest example

*Son of God, Son of David, Son of Man and a son to His earthly parents.

*Jesus entire life was about sonship

JESUS HAD THE HEART OF A SON

Luke 2:41-51 - About Father's business John 2:1-11 - Wedding feast at Cana

SON'S HEART ON THE CROSS - John 19:25-27

Son behold your mother. Mother behold your son.

Mary lived with John the rest of her life.

TO BE LIKE JESUS IS TO WALK IN SONSHIP

Romans 8:15 - Spirit of Sonship

Romans 8:29 - Conformed to the Son

Galatians 4:4-7 God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts...

MY STRUGGLE WITH SONSHIP

*Closed my heart off to my dad

*Didn't receive his fathering

*Didn't have a spiritual father

*I wasn't a son to anyone

MY FOCUS ON THE THINGS MY DAD DID WRONG

*Never occurred to me that I had responsibilities to be a son

*Ephesians 6:1-3 Honor mother/father

*Deut. 27:16 Cursed if you dishonor

Romans 13:1-7 Submit to all authorities

I REPENTED FOR MY JUDGEMENTS - ASKED FOR MY FATHER'S FORGIVENESS

*Learned to be a son to him from my heart

LAST PROPHETIC WORD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT - Malachi 4:5-6

LEGAL SON VS. SON FROM HEART

*I was legally my father's son at birth

*But it took 36 years to be a son at heart

*We are legal sons to God at re-birth

*A journey to learn to be sons at heart

*The elder brother was a legal son

HAVE YOU REJECTED THE PARENTS GOD GAVE YOU?

God placed each one of us in the families that we were born in. Acts 17:26

This does not mean that He intended for us to suffer what we did!

THE SPIRIT OF SONSHIP

*Receiving the Father's love opened up my heart to a spirit of sonship

*I have a son's heart toward my dad and to the spiritual fathers in my life.

TIME OF REFLECTION

*Have you rejected the parents God gave you?

*We want to take a few minutes to think about our parents and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us.

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PART SIX - THE WAYS OF AN ORPHAN

THE FATHER OF LIES - John 8:44

THE FALL OF LUCIFER - Isaiah 14:12-14

Prophecy To King Of Babylon - Two Levels ...The 5 "I wills"

HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE LIKE GOD...HE WANTED TO REPLACE GOD!

Ezekiel 28:11-17 Lived in the presence of God

LUCIFER WAS CAST OUT OF THE FATHER'S PRESENCE

- *Lucifer lived in God's loving presence
- *He was banished by Him who is love
- *He became the Great Orphan
- *He is the forever fatherless one

HIS DESIRE IS TO PERVERT THE TRUE IMAGE OF THE FATHER

He can't hurt God directly, so his plan is to hurt those who God loves
Any parent would rather suffer than to see their children suffer.

SATAN'S PLAN... TO QUESTION THE GOODNESS OF GOD

- *Genesis 3:1-7 He set a trap for Adam & Eve
- *God doesn't want you to be as wise as Him
- *They wanted to know the knowledge of good & evil just like God did.

THEY CHOSE INDEPENDENCE OVER DEPENDENCE ON GOD

- *Instead of God telling them who they were through the tree of life (Jesus)
- *They chose a life of separation where they had to discern good from evil.

THE CONSEQUENCES WERE IMMEDIATE

- *They were aware of their nakedness
- *They knew what shame felt like for the first time
- *They opened the door to despair and human suffering

THIS BROKE THE FATHER'S HEART

- *He didn't want them to live forever in this state of sin
- *So He banished them from the Garden for their own protection

AT THAT MOMENT, ORPHAN WAYS ENTERED THEIR HEARTS

When they left the Father's presence, the orphan heart entered the human race.
*It is not a demonic spirit *It is simply a fatherless heart.

THE EMOTIONAL STATE OF ADAM & EVE

- *They had never know sin before *In one moment, they lost everything
- *The most lonely, disappointed people the world has ever known.

THE DEVASTATION WAS PASSED ON TO THEIR CHILDREN

- *Cain was insecure & competitive
- *He killed his brother Abel *He was cursed to wander - Gen. 4:12
- *A true orphan - Hidden from the presence of God the Father

THE ORPHAN HEART HAS BEEN PASSED ON IN EVERY GENERATION

- *Children born with an expectation of love
- *Only to be disappointed & hurt
- *The cycle continues as they pass on what they received to their children

THE ORPHAN WORLD SYSTEM

- *Greed, starvation, wars, violence *Human suffering - Fatherlessness
- *Capitalism based on orphan values
- *Democracy - Best way orphans can manage orphans

A FATHERLESS EPIDEMIC

- *Fathers physically & emotionally absent
- *Fathers dulling pain through addiction
- *Fathers abusive to their children
- *Children who don't have a dad
- *Children who have been hurt by parents
- *Children who are lost & searching for love

THE WAYS OF THIS WORLD - Children of Disobedience Ephesians 2:1-2

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CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ORPHAN

- *An orphan has no name
- *He has lost his identity
- *Try to find identity in what they do
- *Orphans fear other orphans
- *No sense of family/brotherhood
- *No father/mother to oversee their lives
- *Orphans don't need anybody
- *An orphan has no inheritance
- *Nothing comes for free
- *Everything comes from sweat of brow
- *An attitude of continual striving
- *See older brothers as a threat
- *Older orphans misuse their strength
- *Denominationalism - orphan roots
- *Christian life focused on rules/commands
- *See God as master, judge, commander
- *See themselves as God's slaves
- *Always reward oriented - wages
- *Orphans want to be blessed
- *Orphans see this world as a scary place
- *Orphans can't handle failure

SYMPTOMS OF ORPHAN BELIEFS

MISTRUST

The Lie: Because I am not convinced that God is who He says He is, I will have to trust in my own ability to manage every bit of life.

SIN CONSCIOUSNESS

The Lie: Not believing that the blood of Jesus has dealt with ALL my sins, so I will continue to battle with loads of condemnation.

INDEPENDENCE

The Lie: Since I am on my own, I have to figure out how life works, how I can care for myself because there is no one else who will.

FEAR OF MAN

The Lie: My value comes from what other people think of me, so in order to feel good about myself, I have to live a life to please others.

FEAR OF FAILURE

The Lie: Because my self-worth is based on me presenting a strong image, I cannot do anything that I might possibly fail at.

FEAR OF THE FUTURE

The Lie: Because I don't have a Father who has promised to give me a bright future, I will spend a lifetime in worry & anxiety.

FEAR OF POVERTY

The Lie: Because I don't have a Father who has promised to care of all my needs, I have to scratch & claw to make ends meet.

SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Lie: Because I am not accepted just as I am, I have to work really hard at creating a bunch of rules to make me feel acceptable.

SHAME

The Lie: Because I feel so embarrassed for who I am, I need to create fig leaves to cover every area that I am ashamed of.

IDOLATRY

The Lie: Because there is nothing in God that captivates my heart, I need to worship more interesting things in the world.

UNFORGIVENESS

The Lie: Because I am not really convinced that God has completely forgiven all my sin, I won't let anybody else off the hook either.

JUDGEMENTS

The Lie: Because I feel judged by God, I carry within me the need to execute my own judgments on those around me.

ANXIETY

The Lie: Because I am stressed out about many things, I need to continually replay my anxious thoughts to fix all my problems.

PRIDE

The Lie: Because I am a self-made person & am solely responsible for my own success, I need to make myself look good at any cost.

CONTROL

The Lie: Because I can't fully trust God to cause all my circumstances to work for my good, I have to be in control of every situation.

SELF- PROTECTION

The Lie: Because I am completely unsheltered and unprotected, I have to create protection mechanisms around me so I don't get hurt.

SELF-HATRED

The Lie: Because I am not happy with my height, my weight, my looks or my personality, I will spend my life hating what I see in the mirror.

SELF-FOCUS

The Lie: Because life is all about me, I will spend my entire life thinking about me, me, me.

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AN ORPHAN IS SIMPLY SOMEONE WHO IS FATHERLESS

Psalm 68:5 - God is a father to the fatherless

John 14:18 - I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you!

GOD WANTS TO FILL THE FATHER VOID IN ALL OF US

*He sees our pain and all of our disappointments with our parents

*He has promised to be the Father we have been looking for all our lives!

YOU CAN'T CAST THE ORPHAN HEART OUT

*It is not a demonic spirit *It is the heart of humanity without a father

God wants to love the orphan right out of you!

1 John 4:18 - Perfect love casts out fear

TIME OF REFLECTION

*Can you identify with any of orphan characteristics?

*If so, which ones?

*Take a few minutes and ask the Holy Spirit to come and fill your heart with the Father's love.

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PART SEVEN - EMBRACING A NEW IDENTITY

HOW WE RELATE TO EACH OTHER

What is your name? Where do you live?

What do you do?

Other Factors - *Social Status *Financial Status

*Our Culture *Our Achievements

*Our Family *Our Clothes, etc. etc

MY STRUGGLE WITH IDENTITY

*Rooted in what I did - Achievement *Judo *School

*Newspaper Career Age 16

MY IDENTITY - CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMAN

BECAME A PASTOR AT 36 YEARS OLD

A blow to my identity - I was a Christian businessman

*I wasn't trained to be a pastor

*Friends even changed how they related to me

*Felt very insecure

FATHER'S LOVE LETTER PHENOMENON

*Left full time pastoring *Became itinerant speaker

*Plus web, video, audio, writing, etc.

MY IDENTITY WAS REALLY MIXED UP!

AN OFFER TO WORK PART TIME DOING MINISTRY WORK

*My friend asked if I could help him launch 5 businesses for 3 months

*I was defensive about his request

*Had another identity crisis

THE LORD REVEALED THE ROOTS OF MY IDENTITY CRISIS

- *I associated who I was with what I did
- *Every time I changed careers something shifted

JESUS' OWN IDENTITY

- *Born in a manger in Bethlehem *Raised by small town Jewish parents
- *Part of the family business - 30 years
- *His identity was rooted in who He was

JESUS PUBLIC MINISTRY LAUNCH - Matthew 3:16-17

Jesus' 4 Basic Needs Met

- ***Belonging** - This is My Son
- ***Unconditional love** - Whom I love
- ***Praise & affirmation** - In Him I am well pleased
- ***Sense of Purpose** - Immediately went into the desert

SATAN'S ATTACK ON SONSHIP - Matthew 4:3

"If you are the son of God..."

PEOPLE WANTED JESUS TO BE MANY THINGS

- *King *Messiah *Prophet *Teacher *Healer *Political Revolutionary

JESUS REFUSED TO CAVE TO PEOPLE'S EXPECTATIONS

- *His identity wasn't rooted in any one functional role
- John 3:35 - The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. NIV

JESUS WAS SATISFIED TO SIMPLY BE A SON

- *Jesus knew who He was *He was the Son of Almighty God
- *His position in the Kingdom was secure *Jesus had access to everything

CHURCH IDENTITY CRISIS

- *If we are not secure, we will look to find our identity in what we do
- *Pastor, teacher, apostle, worship leader, deacon, etc.

SETTLING FOR AN INFERIOR IDENTITY

When we associate the core of who we are with what we do, we are settling for an inferior identity.
Genesis 1:27 - We are created in God's image!

WE CARRY GOD'S DNA IN US - 1 John 3:9

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; NIV
Greek word for seed is 'sperma'

WE SHARE JESUS' INHERITANCE - Romans 8:17

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. NIV

JESUS COULD HUMBLE HIMSELF BECAUSE HE KNEW WHO HE WAS

John 13:3 - Washed the disciples feet

FARM ANALOGY

My dad owns the whole farm, yet I can become identified with one job on the farm

AN INFERIOR IDENTITY WILL ONLY LIMIT US

- *Jesus moved in and out of ministry functions because he was a son.
- *His accomplishments never defined him *He had full access to everything
- *Being a son is greatest anointing!

GOD GIVES HIS SPIRIT WITHOUT LIMIT - John 3:34-35

SONS EQUAL AT THE FATHER'S TABLE - Ephesians 6:9

NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN SONS

Galatians 3:26-28 Neither Jew nor Greek...

All Creation Is Groaning For The Sons of God To Be Revealed - Romans 8:19-21

WHEN WILL THE SONS BE REVEALED?

- *In Business * In International Commerce *In Political Systems Of Nations
- *In Medicine *In Law *In the Arts... etc.

BACK TO MY STORY

I asked God to help me design my friend's logo
Felt God's presence, heard him speak...Awesome logo!

THE WIND BLOWS WHERE IT PLEASES - John 3:8

Will you open your sail and let the Spirit guide you?

TIME OF REFLECTION

- *What are the things in your life that you have chosen to identify with?
- *Have people spoken negative words that have affected your identity?
- *Are you willing to lay down every inferior identity & take up the identity of a son/daughter?

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PART EIGHT- RECEIVING THE FATHER'S BLESSING

ASKED FOR MY FATHER'S BLESSING - Genesis 49

PRECIOUS TIME WITH MY DAD

- *Received his blessing
- *Told him how much I loved him
- *It was a very emotional moment
- *Put his hand on my head
- *He began to prophesy over me

SIGNIFICANCE OF A FATHER'S BLESSING - Genesis 27:25-29 + 28:3-4

Isaac blesses Jacob & kisses him

BENEFITS OF BLESSING

- *Filled with prosperity *Empowered with authority
- *Covered with protection *Blessed with fruitfulness
- *A family blessing for generations *Fill with a sense of purpose/destiny

THE FATHER'S BLESSING WAS COMPLETE

- *It covered every area of Jacob's life
- *It prophetically spoke into his present and his future
- *It provided a covering of love that would sustain him until his final days
- *It would affect how Jacob would bless his boys years later

SPIRITUAL FATHER'S BLESSINGS

Deuteronomy 34:9 Moses imparts a blessing to Joshua
Joshua goes on to conquer the Promised Land.
2 Kings 2:9-12 Elijah passes his mantle on to Elisha
Elisha receives a double portion of Elijah's spirit

ESAU FELT CHEATED OUT OF HIS BLESSING - Genesis 27:30-38

- *He was broken, wounded & rejected
- *He felt cheated out of what was rightfully his
- *He probably would have killed Jacob right then if he had the chance

ORPHAN HEART SIMILAR TO ESAU'S REACTION

- *Orphans feel cheated out of a blessing
- *They never feel safe & secure
- *Can be angry, devastated *No sense of belonging

SONS BELONG FOREVER - John 8:34-35

LIVING UNDER OUR FATHER'S BLESSING

John 14:2 - In my Father's house are many rooms
*We know we are sons in Dad's house
*We know we feel safe and secure
*We are covered by our father
*We have a sense of purpose/destiny

TO RELEASE THE GENERATIONAL BLESSING, THE FATHER HAD TO DIE

JESUS DIED TO RELEASE THE BLESSING - Galatians 3:13-14

EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING - Ephesians 1:3-5

A DOUBLE PORTION OF OUR INHERITANCE INSTEAD OF SHAME! - Isaiah 61:7

ASK GOD TO BLESS YOU!

- *God has a unique blessing for you
- *Pursue your blessings
- *Elisha wouldn't leave Elijah alone
- *Jacob wouldn't let go until he got it

FLL STORY

Ask for Father's blessing...Went from 3,000 to 30,000 visits per day!

THE FATHER'S BLESSING OVER JESUS AT HIS BAPTISM - Matthew 3:16-17

GOD WANTS TO RESTORE HIS ORIGINAL BLESSING - Genesis 1:28

I WILL BLESS THOSE THAT BLESS YOU - Genesis 12:2-3

YOU WILL BE A BLESSING!

DON'T FORGET THAT THERE ARE TANGIBLE BENEFITS OF BEING GOD'S KIDS - Psalm 103:25

ISAIAH 61 IS GOOD NEWS FOR US!

Good news for the poor...sight for the blind...freedom for prisoners...beauty for ashes...a garment of praise for despair... comfort for those who grieve...restoration of devastated generations...instead of our shame, we receive a double portion of our inheritance!

BLESSINGS OF BEING A CHILD OF GOD...

I have been made alive in Jesus Christ because of the Father's great love for me!
I am a beloved child of my heavenly Father and have been made in His image!
I am a joint-heir to the inheritance that belongs to my older brother, Jesus Christ!
I have been translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light!
I have been forgiven all my sins and I have been made righteous in Jesus!
There is absolutely no room for condemnation in my life because I am in Jesus!
The Father is delighted to give me His kingdom which He has placed within me!
I live under an open heaven in the fullness of every spiritual blessing!
Jesus has given me His authority and the keys of the kingdom of our God!
By inheritance, I have access to the throne room of God 24 hours a day!
I can live a free life because Jesus has set me completely and totally free!
I am the temple of the Triune God... Father, Son & Holy Spirit!
My Father is always thinking of me and continually pours out His love over me!
I have peace that passes understanding because Jesus gave me His peace!
I can rest in my Father's arms because He is looking after everything on my behalf!
I don't have to worry about food, clothing & shelter because my Dad's looking after it all!
My Father is my protector, my provider and the absolute joy of my life!
I can cast all my cares on my God because He cares for me!
Jesus came so that I might have His joy filling to overflowing in my life!
I can live a fruitful life of love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness & self-control!
I have a bright future, filled with hope and I have a unique destiny that only I can fulfill!
God is for me, so who in the world can stand against me?
I am totally convinced that nothing can ever separate me from His love in Jesus!
Jesus will never leave me or forsake me and will be with me to the ends of the earth!
I am a king and a priest who will rule with Jesus for all eternity.
My Father always hears my prayers and answers when I call out to Him!
Healing is the children's bread!
I am a member of God's household and a fellow citizen in heaven!
Almighty God is my Dad, and Jesus Christ who is the King of Kings is my Big Brother!
I am more than a conqueror in through God's love for me!



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