

KNOWING THE ETERNAL FATHER (PART 2) FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER

Galatians 4:6 **SLIDE**

*... Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, **crying out, "Abba, Father!"** (Romans 8:15)*

NB: The trinity here ... the Spirit ... the Son ... the Father ... The Father always being the ultimate object.

THERE ARE TWO PREREQUISITES TO HAVING FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER

1. **YOU MUST BE A SON** (a generic term including both male and female) **WITH THE SAME NATURE AS THE FATHER (BORN AGAIN).**
2. **YOU MUST WANT TO BE WITH HIM.**

SONSHIP LOST

Adam and his descendants lost fellowship with God when Adam fell into sin in the garden of Eden and spiritually died. Everyone after that became a **'son of Adam'** or a **'son of man'** – no longer a son of God the **'Father-Creator'**.

However, we who believe have been born again of the same nature as the Father and now we have the privilege of being able to have fellowship with Him.

Our text tells us we cry **'Abba Father'** **because we are sons**. This gives us the privilege of having fellowship with the Father because the Father only fellowships with His children.

Galatians 4:6 **'Because you are sons [of The Father]'**

Romans 8:15 (Berean Lit) **SLIDE**

*For you have not received a spirit of bondage again to fear, but you have received the Spirit of **divine adoption as sons**, by whom we cry, **'Abba! Father!'***

1 John 3:2

*... **Now** we are the sons of God ...*

So, in order for us to be brought into fellowship with the Father, God has made the way for us to be **'Born Again'** as His sons.

Hebrews 2:10 *NLT*

God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory ...

THERE IS; HOWEVER, ONE MORE REQUIREMENT FOR US TO HAVE THIS ULTIMATE FELLOWSHIP WITH THE ETERNAL FATHER. This is what we are focusing on today ...

THE SECOND REQUIREMENT FOR FELLOWSHIPPING WITH THE ETERNAL FATHER IS ...
YOU MUST HAVE A DESIRE FOR HIM **SLIDE**

Not only did Adam and Eve lose The Life of God when they fell, they also lost their desire for God.

From the sin-tree, Eve's desire became enflamed with the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh as she looked on and tasted the fruit. She desired her own gratification. Look at God's redirection of the woman's desire.

Genesis 3:16

... Your desire shall be toward your husband ...

NB This was mercy for her, which saved her from exceeding lust of the eyes and flesh which came from the forbidden fruit.

Ever since then ... Adamic man has NOT had a desire for fellowship with the True God.

1 Corinthians 2:14

*...The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for **they are foolishness to him**; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

We also spoke about this a couple of weeks ago ...

Romans 8:5 (Berean Lit)

For those being according to flesh (unsaved) mind (or desire) the things of the flesh ...

NOW IN CHRIST, A NEW DESIRE FOR THE FATHER IS BIRTHED.

When we are born again of the Spirit ... we are born to the Father with a new nature.

There is now an inherent new desire to be with our Father.

Galatians 4:6 **SLIDE**

... Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

The Holy Spirit has regenerated our spirit and now we cry out of our spirit with the Holy Spirit to the Father ...

THE DESIRE FOR HIM NOW LIVES IN OUR HEARTS

WHAT IS THIS CRY OF THE SPIRIT?

WHAT THIS CRY IS NOT

THIS CRY IS NOT THE CRY OF A CHILD BEING WEANED. SLIDE

It's not, 'I want my Daddy' like an emotionally dependent child.

'Mum, mum, mummy ... Mum, mum, mummy,' hour after hour after hour.

There are countless amounts of emotional prayers prayed by immature Christians every day. Thumb sucking prayers. Whining cries from the sooky flesh. **SLIDE**

'I want to feed my self-indulgent emotions.'

THAT'S NOT HOW WE CRY ... WE DON'T CRY LIKE A CHILD BEING WEANED.

THIS CRY IS NOT THE CRY OF A SPOILT CHILD ... throwing a tantrum. SLIDE

'I want my train... I want my train ... Please daddy can I have my train?'

Matthew 6:7 NIV

... When you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

The prophets of Baal ... shouted loud and continually and cut themselves. (1 Kings 18:28)

We fall on our face and kick our feet to move God into doing our will.

James 4:3 (Berean Lit)

*... When you do ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may squander it on **your pleasures**.*

ABBA-PATER

ABBA EXPRESSES CHILD-LIKE AFFECTION TO THE FATHER – NOT CHILDISH EMOTION.

Even though we have the tenderness and affection of a child it is not childish emotion.

The word ABBA or Daddy is joined with another word, '**Pater**' (Greek).

The word PATER or Father is a mature name for father.

THIS INDICATES A MATURE SON WITH A TENDER HEART ...

THIS CRY IS NOT A PLEA FOR ACCEPTANCE.

*The Greek word '**krazon**' means 'to cry out loud'.*

It's not a subtle, whimpering cry but a strong and certain cry ...

This cry is not an uncertain **pleading or begging** for acceptance and assurance of the Father's love. It's a certain, strong cry based in assurance that I am a son ... accepted in the beloved. (Ephesians 1:6)

'BECAUSE WE **KNOW** WE ARE SONS WE CRY ABBA FATHER ... We have acceptance.

For many years, I yearned after 'God the Father' because I needed to know I was accepted by Him ... that I was approved by Him; but according to Galatians 4:6, '*We cry Abba Father*' NOT to be approved or accepted by Him, but BECAUSE we've been approved and accepted by Him ... as it clearly states, '*Because we are [already] sons we cry Abba Father*'.

NB: We no longer cry after the Father to become sons ... but **because we already are sons**.

And we want to taste more of this love we have come into.

THE CRY 'ABBA-FATHER' IS NOT YEARNING FOR ACCEPTANCE.

SO WHAT IS THIS CRY?

THIS CRY IS A PROFOUND EXPRESSION OF DEEP ADORATION. SLIDE

LIKE A PERSON WHO IS OVERWHELMED WITH HIS/HER FATHER'S LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE ... WHO cannot express their amazement except to look up and say ... '*Father*' as if that name contained a universe of meaning.

'But the Raven, sitting lonely on the placid bust, spoke only

That one word, as if his soul in that one word he did outpour. ('The Raven' - E A Poe)

This cry is a cry of praise, adoration ... overwhelming awe ... amazement ... wonderment ... Spoken looking heavenward ... to our heavenly Father ... with tears pouring down our cheeks ... 'Abba-Father' ...

THIS CRY IS A YEARNING FOR CLOSE FELLOWSHIP SLIDE

But you say, 'I'm already close ... My life is with Christ IN GOD' (Colossians 3:1-3)

We are positionally brought near, but this is drawing near by experience.

FELLOWSHIP MUST BE A TWO WAY THING SLIDE

James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Ephesians 2:18

*For through Him we both **have access** by one Spirit **to the Father**.*

WE HAVE FREE ACCESS, BUT WE OFTEN DON'T USE IT.

THIS CRY IS THE IMPETUS WE NEED TO ENTER INTO CLOSE FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

Up till now ... God has initiated, instigated and implemented everything for us and in us. Now He has placed the cry from the Holy Spirit in our hearts ...

LOOK AT WHAT THE FATHER HAS DONE FOR US ...

Galatians 4:6

*... God has sent forth **the Spirit of His Son** into your hearts, **crying out, "Abba, Father!"***

HE HAS PLACED THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON IN OUR HEARTS AND THE SON LOVES THE FATHER ...

John 14:31 CEV

*I obey my Father, so everyone in the world might know that **I love Him ...***

THIS CRY IS NOT SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DRUM UP ... NOT SOMETHING WE HAVE TO FAST AND PRAY FOR ... TO BE CLOSE TO GOD ... IT'S THERE IN US BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

I knew a guy that fasted 40 days to get close to God ...

THIS CRY IS ANOTHER AMAZING GIFT OF GRACE

Look at the Grace of God here. Look what God has done for us that we could not do for ourselves.

- Legally - God has given us a legal clearance with Him – Justification.
- Historically - God has taken us out of Adam and re-established our heritage in Christ.
- Socially - God has given us citizenship of His country.
- Relationally – God has made us His sons and daughters.
- **NOW SPIRITUALLY** - GOD HAS PLACED IN US A SUPERNATURAL, SINCERE LOVE AND LONGING FOR THE FATHER ... THE CRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ...

HOWEVER, THERE IS SOMETHING WE MUST DO!!! WE MUST SUBMIT TO THE CRY.

As mentioned at the start, the desire for closeness with God had been lost in the Garden of Eden. BUT THIS IS THE RESTORATION OF A GREATER DESIRE FOR HIM.

THE CRY GIVES US OUR MOTIVATION TO GET CLOSER IN OUR EXPERIENCE ... walking out of our mundane lives into His presence ... causing us to rise early in the morning to seek him. **LET THIS DESIRE LEAD US ... DIRECT OUR LIVES.**

THE CRY GIVES US SPIRITUAL DIRECTION INTO THE SACRED PLACE OF THE MOST HIGH ... We must embrace the cry ... let that cry rise in us ... let that cry lead us ...

THE CRY BRINGS ABOUT THE ACTUALISATION

We start to really see him ... observe him ... hear him ... sense him ...

He is above and beyond all things in heaven, creation and redemption.

He is the most magnificent Father of light ... sovereign ... elevated ... illuminated ... glorious ... We worship him.

THE FATHER IS KNOWN FROM OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM ... SLIDE

Many sons have a biological relationship with their fathers but have never known them. To get to know someone, you have to spend time with them ... listen to them ... open up to them.

AS WE GROW IN FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM ... WE GROW IN KNOWLEDGE OF HIM.

COMPLETELY AND PROFOUNDLY CHANGED ... AWE STRUCK ...

- **YOU COME AWAY KNOWING HE HAS BROUGHT YOU FORTH BY HIS SOVEREIGN WILL ... YOU HAVE BEEN BIRTHED BY HIM**

James 1:17 -18 **SLIDE**

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸ **Of His own will He brought us forth [individually] by the word of truth, that we [one by one] might be a kind of first-fruits of His creatures.***

NB: GOD THE FATHER HIMSELF GAVE BIRTH TO US AS A MOTHER GIVES BIRTH ...

NB: We – our new creation, regenerated spirits – are the perfect gift that has come down from above ... as sons of the Father ... birthed from the Father ... to REFLECT Him upon the earth.

Ephesians 1:3-5

Blessed be the *God and Father* of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as *He chose us in Him* before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame *before Him in love*, ⁵ having *predestined us to adoption as sons* by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.

You have been chosen by Him ... to come to Him ... to worship Him ... to fellowship with Him ... to know that He is above all ... behind all ... superior to all - TO REFLECT HIM.

THIS IS THE GREATEST SECURITY YOU COULD EVER HAVE IN LIFE ... KNOWING THE ETERNAL FATHER IS VAST AND SOVEREIGN ... **THAT WE ARE HIS CHILDREN** ... that He designated me ... assigned me ... so He will empower me ... provide for me ... direct me **HERE I NEVER NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT MY FUTURE ... MY NEEDS.**

THE FATHER IS SUPERIOR, BUT WE ARE ACCEPTED BECAUSE WE ARE HIS SONS.

He is wiser ... He is stronger ... He is OUR FATHER ...

I live now in a state of Humility knowing He is superior – as a child to a loving Father ... going in and hugging Him.

I live now in an attitude of Surrender. I am able to surrender my situation and its solutions to His superior strength and sovereignty.

- **HE WILL ALWAYS PROVIDE FOR YOU**

Matthew 6:31-32 SLIDE

Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² *For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For **your heavenly Father knows** that you need all these things.*

The antidote to worry is to know you belong to a magnificent Father who will provide for your every need.

But what if I've got something demanding on tomorrow?

I had to speak at Vision radio on Tuesday. I was feeling anxious ... live radio ... no edits ... and talk back ... Every insecurity was looming in the background ... until the Holy Spirit reminded me about the Father's care and provision as Jesus had taught.

You see, provision isn't only what we need physically but what we need to minister ... to testify ...