

THE FATHER'S LOVE

“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, 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.”

Ephesians 1:3-4 (NKJV)

The book of Ephesians is a wonderful revelation of the Father's love that has been given to us through Jesus Christ. Through Jesus, the Father has placed us in the Throne room, enthroned with the risen Christ. In the original languages, it is an action that happened one time and has present on-going results. This placing, and its benefits are not future only, but are available today as we come to an understanding of the Father's love.

Because we are blessed in Christ, now, we have been freed from the need to gain the Father's approval in order to receive. Ephesians presents the reality of the ascension of Jesus Christ (in which we have been included). His ascension was not an impartation of deity. Jesus was God before He came to earth, He was God when He walked the earth, He was God when He descended into the lower parts of the earth, He was God when He walked through an open tomb, and He is still God today! This is a reality we need to understand or at least be reminded of.

His ascension means Satan's hold over us is broken because our sin nature is changed into the nature of Jesus. Our bodies come under the provision of this New Covenant, as well as the human environments in which we live. Most importantly, His ascension gives us the opportunity to enter into a personal relationship with the Father. It forever declares that Jesus is always ascending over the issues we face in life.

We are blessed with the Father's love and acceptance regardless of how much we pray, read our Bibles, go to church, or whatever we may do that constitutes godly behavior. It should be our relationship with the Father that motivates us to do these things. Therefore, our relationship is not based upon whether we do good things or not, but upon what He has done for us. We are not His slaves, we are His children. Begin to enjoy the divine provision of belonging to the Father's Family as sons and daughters!!

Paul further reveals a truth about the Father's love that if understood will eliminate the performance trap that many of us fall into. When fathers fully confer upon children that they are loved and valued, totally independent from what they do (they cannot earn our love), it frees them from the many dysfunctional behaviors that indicate a search for significance and personal worth.

Absentee fathers fail to understand what they are failing to form in the hearts of their children when they absent themselves from their emotional growth and development. Loving and communicating love upon our children frees them from the downward spiral of searching for love and value in other people, outside circumstances, and the emptiness of material things.

The Father has fully accepted us in the Person of His Son, Jesus. There is nothing we can do to make the Father love us anymore than He does, and there is nothing that we can do that can make the Father love us any less than He does!! When that revelation is firmly settled in our thinking, it will free us from trying to make the Father love us more and bestow upon our life the wonderful things that we long for and hope to receive through works.

He loves you and me. Receive that truth into your heart and allow it to free you and permeate your life.