



The Father Heart of God



God is first of all, our Father. The greatest desire of God's heart is to have a family. That family is meant to share in the love that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have always shared.



The Apostle Paul understood this when he wrote, "*For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for Whom every family in heaven and on earth is named – that Father from Whom all fatherhood takes its title and deserves its name.*" (Ephesians 3:14,15 Amp.)

Paul presents God as the Father, having only one family – those who are conformed to the image of His Son, so that Jesus could become the first born of many brothers and sisters, who were born of the same Holy Spirit.

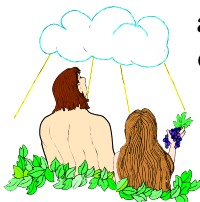
In order for us to become whole and confident in this life, it is vital for us to know God as our Father. This is why Jesus came. Everything He taught and did was to give us a clear picture of the Father. In John 14:9 Jesus said, "*Anyone that has seen Me has seen the Father.*" And in John 10:30 He plainly says, "*I and My Father are one!*"

From that Scripture we know by the tender, loving heart of Jesus that is pictured in the Bible, our heavenly Father's heart is tender and loving also. But, our enemy Satan wants to disfigure and spray paint over our picture of God's loving heart. If he can successfully do this, we become insecure in our thoughts about His love, and we become disobedient and rebellious.

This is what happened to Eve in the Garden of Eden, when God told her not to eat the fruit of the tree of good and evil. At first she obeyed. Then the devil came and convinced her that God was trying to keep something from her. How many here know what happens when you try to keep something from a woman? Since she no longer believed and trusted God, she immediately went to the forbidden fruit and ate of it to her own sorrow, and that of her husband and of every human being ever born since. (Genesis 3:1-6)



How it must have broken the Father's heart to come to them and find them hiding in fear; and their beautiful relationship with Him, which had been completely free of sin, was gone because now they knew evil and had introduced it into God's glorious creation. Their first son murdered his brother because of their sin.



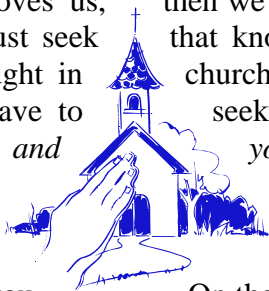
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Because the same devil is using the same tactics against God's people today, he will use an abusive critical earthly father to distort the ability of a child to be able to picture what a loving heavenly Father would be like. Unbelief and insecurity are the result.

Just about every sin can be traced to the root of insecurity. Insecurity is just a modern way to describe unbelief. Most sinners, even the most hardened, don't really want to be that way, they just can't really believe that God loves them and that His promises are true. The feeling that we are not loved leads to depression; which leads to immorality, dishonesty, bitterness, rebellion and the perversion of life through drugs, alcohol, sex, TV and other addictions.

They that sin against God because they don't believe He loves them, don't even realize that He is the very same God who sent His only Son to die on the cross from them, so their sins against Him would be forgiven, there is no greater love! Hosea the prophet spoke true words when he quoted God as saying, "*My people are destroyed, (fail and are brought to silence) for lack of knowledge.*" (Hosea 4:6)

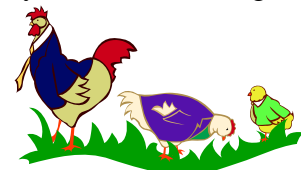
If we do not believe God loves us, and we are the ones who must seek by praying and by being taught in head and drop it in – we have to *it shall be given to you; seek, and opened unto you.*" (Matthew 7:7)



Don't fall for the same lies that Eve did by thinking God is keeping something from you. On the contrary, He wants you to know how much He loves you. He has been trying to gather a family that will receive His love and trust Him as their Father ever since Adam and Eve believed the devil more than they believed God.

All obedience and righteousness begin with trust and security in God. Just like insecurity leads to sin, so trust and security in God lead to obedience and righteousness. Some definitions of security are: safety, certainty, freedom from worry, protection, shelter.

One of the most precious pictures of the Father heart of God is in Psalm 91:4, "*He shall cover you with His feathers, under His wings shall you trust.*" If any of you have lived on a farm you will have seen an example of this. When a storm is coming, it ruffles the feathers on the back of the momma chicken and she knows it's time to gather her little chicks together, so she makes a special clucking noise that is only used when danger threatens – and that cluck means, 'come now!'. So the little chicks come running from all over the barnyard and momma spreads her wings to receive them. They all crowd in there and snuggle down in the downey softness under her wings, and when they are all in, she folds her wings and gently lowers her body to the ground.



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No matter how strong the wind blows, or how hard it rains, nothing can get beneath her strong top feathers and the little chicks just take a little nap until the storm passes, totally safe and secure in momma's ability to protect them. With all due respect, may we say that if a chicken is that wise and loving, how much greater is our loving Father who created that chicken and her feathers!

That is the picture of the trust God wants us to have in Him. Psalm 91:1 says, *"He that dwells (lives) in the secret place of the Most High (God), shall abide (always remain) in the shadow of the Almighty."* His secret place is in His love. He holds you in His loving arms and His love becomes your shelter, your fortress, and your shield. His Name becomes your strong tower.



"The Name of the Lord is a strong tower (place of safety); the righteous run into it and they are safe!" (Proverbs 18:10)



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Since this is the most important issue that you need to deal with since you became a Christian, or even before, it is better to have a discussion about it, rather than questions with answers. These questions are all answered in the text.

1. What is the greatest desire of God's heart?
2. Who does He want His family to be?
3. Why did Jesus come?
4. Who distorts and disfigures the picture of a loving God?
5. Do you believe God is withholding something from you? If so, why?
6. What are the results of having a distorted picture of God?
7. What root can almost every sin be traced to?
8. If we don't believe God loves us, what are we lacking? And how do we find it?
9. How long has God been trying to gather a family that will love and trust Him as their Father?
10. What is the secret place of the Most High? (Proverbs 18:10)

MEMORY VERSE _____
