

# The Whole Church #17 – The Fatherhood of God

AT Snacks- March 17, 2024

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Please keep praying for Buddy and Linny this week, for a spirit of wellness and well-being and health. Lymphoma is just another name that's under the feet of Jesus, so we put it right where it belongs. We believe that the Lord move in such a way that everybody knows He did it.

## Monday (Day 1):

The Kingdom of God is coming, everywhere that people will allow it to happen. God Himself is the orchestrator of this.

So God has the ability, by His Spirit, to wake up your spirit, your soul, your mind and emotions to turn to Him.

It's someone having a longing or a hunger for the things of God. That doesn't just happen, it's God- initiated. All it takes is for us to just pay attention to what's happening in our spirit.

Your destiny is the people, places, events and circumstances you encounter along the way to your destination. That's why your destiny is so important.

## Tuesday (Day 2):

Before we start covering the characteristics of the True Church, let's talk about the characteristics of a false church:

- ❑ Churches that are apostate or have abandoned religious values.
- ❑ Churches and denominations that have forsaken biblical truth and biblical methods in favor of being politically correct
  - Example: Artificial Intelligence is writing a new version of the bible that appeals to all religions.
  - Heads up, you are going to be surprised at how many people buy in to that version of the Bible.
- ❑ A spirit of compromise, which appeals to many.
- ❑ Churches that tend to emphasize the past and the future but leave people stranded in the middle, between the two. Kind of like dangling a carrot on a stick out in front of you, but not showing you how to get a hold of it.
- ❑ Churches that have false teaching, that adhere to worldly values, rather than biblical values.
- ❑ The general public is not having much respect for the church today. It talks about faith, but doesn't walk by faith. The church talks about love, but “*we don't care*”. The church talks about the poor, while “*we could care less about the poor*”. So the public has seen that most people who don't go to church have a pretty good reason for not going. We're trying to change the perception of that around here.
- ❑ They create an atmosphere that makes you feel like you can't make it. It's an atmosphere that makes themselves to be holier than they are.
- ❑ The prodigal son's brother is a great example of the false church. He openly shamed his younger brother by accusing him of blowing his fortune.
- ❑ A lot of people and churches think that salvation is the end of the game. No, it's just the

start of the game.

### **Wednesday (Day 3):**

If you are born again, you never have to doubt your salvation. There are preachers all over the place, throwing stuff out there that will cause people to doubt their salvation.

So let's get on with the program of finding your place and finding your destiny, the things that God has said, and is saying about you. How do you find those things out? You have to spend time with HIM.

That's how you get somewhere in the kingdom, you and the Lord hook up and you start listening for His voice. Jesus said, "*My sheep know My voice*".

For me more than anything, it's what I hear when I'm reading and studying the Word, that still small voice.

In many instances, the trials and hard times you experience are designed by God to get your focus off yourself, because when you realize that it's out of your control, you are prone to turn to Him, because He can "fix it".

Your situation is not that important. When He starts fixing you, you get your eyes off your situation and you get your eyes onto Him.

You will never know who you are until you connect relationally with the Father.

### **Thursday (Day 4):**

The True Church:

- Where a relationship with God is emphasized and the reality that God is Father, leading you to Him.
- The true church is about prioritizing the right things and learning how to live those things out.
- It's moving, it's not stationary or stalled out, but it's governed by what God is saying.
- A church that's focused on the Grace of God, not the legalistic requirement of the law.
- A church that causes a revolutionary thing to start happening in you.
- It's marked by a spiritual life, versus just going through the religious motions of spiritual life.
- It's something authentic, full of the life of God.
- It has leaders who have been desperate to hear what it is that God is saying, and to learn how to communicate those things.
- It walks in step with Jesus and knows who God is.
- If you want to get involved in religion, somewhere along the way, you are going to get really bored with it. But if you make it about the kingdom, you will never, ever, ever get bored.
- We are trying to change people's perception of the church around here. We are striving to be a church that cares, walks by faith and believes in being true to what God has said to us.
- It's hard to misunderstand the simplicity of what we do around here.

There's a vertical relationship with the Father, and also a horizontal right relationships with one

another.

In the final analysis, it's going to be the relationships that you have that cause your life to be rich, so pay attention to them as you go along.

You have to be desperate to hear God's voice. He wants to talk to you. He's always available.

**Friday (Day 5):**

**Please read Luke 15:1-24, but pay close attention to the story about a man in versus 11-24.**

- ❓ Verses 11-24 are the most important story, I believe, in the Bible. It gives you the clearest picture you're ever going to see of God and how He relates.
- ❓ These three stories all show the importance of finding the lost and how everyone rejoiced when the lamb and coin were found. But it's interesting how the father (which is the perfect picture of God) didn't go looking for the son. He waited until the son came to the end of himself, and wanted to come home to his Dad.
- ❓ You're the apple of God's eye, and His favorite. If you don't think you're God's favorite, you must not be spending much time with Him, because He will make you feel that way. In God, everybody is his favorite.
- ❓ God loves with the perfect love, but it's not perfected until you choose to love Him back. God won't make you love Him. He won't do it, because it's not the nature of the Father to do that.
- ❓ In the Levitical law, if you have a rebellious son, you take him out to the edge of the city, and you stone him until he's dead. Leviticus is like the hardest book in the whole Bible to read. Everybody needs to read Leviticus, because if you don't read this book, are not going to understand grace.
- ❓ Compassion is God's first response when you decide to come home.
- ❓ Remember, God is what He is, but Father is who He is.
- ❓ The conceptual knowledge that God is our Heavenly Father is one thing, but it's the experiential knowledge is where the magic comes. It's the relationship that you and the Father have together. That's where the stuff happens in your life.
- ❓ From God's position, it's always been about the relationship that He want to have with His children, His sons and daughters, handpicked by Him.

There is so much you can say about how Jesus lived, but one of the main things was how He related to everyone. The atmosphere around Jesus is also the atmosphere that the Father wants to produce in you, 100% charged with agape, unconditional, love. Jesus always had time for His people.

I have always encouraged you to get in this book (the Bible) and pay attention to what this book says, because we're in a time where even some of the very elect are going to get deceived. But you don't get deceived when you know what's in this book, and you allow the Spirit of God to teach and lead you through these perilous times.

David was anointed by the prophet to be King, but that didn't happen right away. He spent 12 years out in the pasture in the lowest, loneliest job there was (out there in the wilderness) and that is of a shepherd. Well, these things will make you get with God.

### **Saturday Day 6):**

I have no tolerance for someone trying to scare someone else into salvation or the Kingdom. Because, when you go to evangelistic crusades, they always in this way; “*Now, if you were to die tonight*”, and they try to throw it out there.

The things you do don't make you righteous. Nothing you do can make you righteous. You are righteous because He kept the law for you.

Are you a servant? If you're talking about function, you're totally correct. We serve a lot! But if you're talking about identity, that's as far off as you can possibly be, that you're a hired hand in the Kingdom of God. **YOU'RE A SON OR A DAUGHTER, BY GOD'S OWN CHOICE.**

How many of you have someone in your circle that's really, really hard to love? I'm going to pray for you to have somebody like that, because we all need the practice.

Four things that I have learned to define and describe God:

**?** God is careless:

About His love for you. He doesn't just love the pretty ones or smart ones. He even loves those who He knows will never turn their lives over, just as much as He loves those who will. Jesus died for us when we didn't want to hear about that God stuff. That's how He demonstrated His love for you. He died for you and me in our sinful state. So, by our own choice, we won't have to stay there living in the death of sin. All you have to do is choose.

**?** God is reckless:

He gets His heart broken over and over again, but that never changes His feelings for us. It will just be superficial until you experience His love through *experiential* knowledge of the Father.

**?** God is stubborn:

God loves you with such a stubborn determination, and there is nothing you can do about it.

**?** God is shameless:

When a woman caught in adultery was brought to Jesus, what did He do? He told them that any that have not sinned can throw the first stone. Jesus didn't shame her and neither will God ever shame or embarrass us. That's why we should never shame one another for anything done.

