

## The Whole Church #18 – The Fatherhood of God, Part 4

AT Snacks- April 14, 2024

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### Monday:

You can get the conceptual knowledge that God is your heavenly Father, and most everybody has known the concept of that. But, it's the experiential knowledge that you experience in your relationship with Him. That's where the magic happens.

Just a little review on the identifying characteristics of our house:

- The Kingdom of God: *“Seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you”*.
  - When those things are a priority in your life, every other thing starts to come into proper perspective and fall into place.
  - Your life is only going to go as well as your spiritual life is going.
- Relationship with the Father: He reveals Himself as Father, because that's who He is. That's who He wants to be with you.
- Grace:
  - When people have embraced and are learning about grace and interacting with God, the Father, the Creator of the universe, when we do that, that's where it really begins to happen.
  - So the people who think that we are too deep in our conversation about grace, really, the argument is, they are saying that God's no as good as we say He is.
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  - **Tuesday:**
- Relationships- Family:
  - Him first, and then with one another.
  - Pay attention to the people who are in relationship with you, and pay attention to the people whom God wants you to be in relationship with.
  - God is not looking for a congregation. He's looking for a family. If He was looking for something other than a family, He would have called Himself something other than Father.
- Equipping the Saints:
  - The five fold ministries were given for the building up and the edifying of the

body, and for the equipping of the saints for the work the ministry.

- That's a new concept to people who have been in the Bible Belt, who depend on someone else like me or a few others to do all the ministry.
- The church is never going to be the church that the Bible talks about until people begin to understand that they're to be equipped for the work of the ministry- not just a few, but all of us.
- Signs and Wonder:
  - Probably everybody, if you stop and look at your own life, can see somewhere in your life that something miraculous happened. And you know that it was God who did it.
  - So, we are in a season now where we're going to see a whole lot more of that.
- The Poor:
  - This church, for 35 years, has always made serving the underprivileged, or those who need help, a priority.
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  - **Wednesday:**

People who don't have a relationship with the Father don't understand Him. They tend to think He's distant, and it's hard to measure up. But once you start the process, you start to experience His love.

**God is what He is, but Father is who He is.** Knowing He is Father is not the same as knowing Him as Father.

Take your earthly dad for an example: if you didn't or don't have interaction with him, you miss out on all the benefits and the intimacy and the things that a father can impart, and give, and direct, and help you with as a son or daughter. It works that same with our Heavenly Father.

It's you and Him, interacting together. That's where the magic happens.

God speaks in all kinds of ways: in signs and wonders, words of wisdom and knowledge, through children and even through a donkey one time. I'm encouraged by that. But my favorite is the still small voice, which is the voice you hear in your mind, but you don't hear.

If you aren't hearing the Lord, there's a good chance that the problem is not on His end. So, if you make it a priority to hear God, you'll hear Him a lot. But if you don't, you might not.

#### **Thursday:**

There's a steady flow of pertinent information for you, flowing from the throne of God all the time, in your direction.

You are the apple of His eye. If you don't think you're God's favorite, you must not have spent much time with Him lately. Because, when you spend time with the Father, He makes you know and understand that you're the most important thing, for Him, of everything that God created.

That intimacy and that relationship is what God longs for. That's what God had in mind for you, from the beginning, that the two of you would share life together.,

Lean in and get yourself some of that relationship. You can have all of God that you want. Take some time, get up earlier, 5, 10 or 15 minutes, and take some time with Him, where it's just you and Him. Go with no agenda!

I'm finding out more and hearing more from God when I go with no agenda. *"God, I don't know anything. I'm just here to enjoy your presence."* And heads up, because stuff is going to start coming your way, because God is in a talkative mood.

### **Friday:**

It makes all kinds of sense to get with God and listen to what He's saying. Activate your faith and start walking out the things that God says to you. This is what life is all about.

The Bible doesn't encourage you to do anything that isn't doable. That's why He allows people to come into your life that are really, really hard to love. So, it's doable, but you're going to need all the help that the Holy Spirit can give you. All you have to do is just cooperate.

Once you experience the love of God, then you're able to love with that kind of love. The deeper you go in the Father, the deeper you go in relationship, the simpler everything gets.

There is nothing easy about life. You can't be a sissy if you're going to make it through life. It has all kinds of tricks, turns, challenges and plenty of things out there that can take you down, if you don't put your trust in the Father.

### **Saturday:**

Rejoice in your suffering, because suffering produces perseverance. You're making it through the trials when you get knocked down and you get back up. Perseverance is getting back up and getting your focus back on.

The world is looking for people who have character. So, He's building character in us through sufferings in our obedience to the Father through those times.

Every time the Bible uses the word hope, it's talking about an absolute assurance of something.

You are going to portray the God that you know to the world. That's why it needs to be firsthand. That's why it needs to be experiential. That's why it doesn't need to be what someone else said. That's why it needs to be between you and God.

It's when you embrace Him in relationship, it's when you start to walk your life out with Him, that you say, *"WOW! It's a lot more than I expected!"*.

The world is not going to change with or through people who just know about God. It's going to change with and through people who know God. There's a difference.

The Bible was never meant to be a substitute for your relationship with Him.