

PURSUING OUR CAPACITY

A person with a backpack stands on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a vast, hazy mountain range under a clear sky.

Knowing the Father's Heart

“A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society.”

Billy Graham

OT: God's Heart Revealed

Jeremiah 3:19 NLT

¹⁹ “I thought to myself, ‘I would love to treat you as my own children!’ I wanted nothing more than to give you this beautiful land—the finest possession in the world. **I looked forward to your calling me ‘Father,’** and I wanted you never to turn from me.

Isaiah 64:8 ESV

⁸ But now, O Lord, **you are our Father;** we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

NT Writers – Emphasised God The Father

Acts 1:4 NLT

⁴ ...he (*Jesus*) commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem **until the Father sends you the gift he promised...**”

Romans 1:7 NLT

⁷..May **God our Father** and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

Identical:

1 Cor. 1:3

2 Cor. 1:2

Gal. 1:3

Eph. 1:2

Philip. 1:2

2 Thess. 1:2

Titus 1:4

Phil. 1:3

Similar:

1 Tim 1:2 ‘mercy’

2 Tim 1:2 ‘mercy’

Col. 1:2

Jesus – Pointed to God As Father

John 1:18 NIV

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is **in closest relationship with the Father**, has made him known.

John 6:44 NLT

⁴⁴ For no one can come to me unless **the Father who sent me draws them to me**, and at the last day I will raise them up.

Being A Good Father – God’s Pattern For Us?

1. Relationship & Family (Belonging)

Psalm 103:13_{NLT} *David*: “The Lord is like a father to his children, **tender and compassionate...**”

2. Provision & Protection (Blessing)

James 1:17_{NLT} Whatever is **good and perfect is a gift** coming down to us **from God our Father.**

3. Prayer & Guidance (Becoming)

Matt 6:9_{NLT} Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”

Fatherhood – Divine Opportunity to Restore

Luke 15:20, 22-24 NLT *“The Prodigal – Parable of the Lost Son”*

²⁰ “So he returned home to his father. And **while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming**. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him...”

²² “...his father said to the servants, **‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet.**

²³ And kill the calf we have been fattening. **We must celebrate** with a feast, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.

Jesus, A Faithful Son...

Luke 23:44-46 NIV

⁴⁴ ...darkness came over the whole land until three ... ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘**Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.**’ When he had said this, he breathed his last.

John 20:16-17 NLT

¹⁶ “Mary!” Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”). ¹⁷ “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘**I am ascending to my Father and your Father**, to my God and your God.’”

Our Great Calling – ‘The Family Business!’

Matt 28:18-20 NLT

¹⁸ ...“I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.** ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

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