

A background image showing the Earth from space, with a bright sun in the upper right corner creating a lens flare effect. The Earth's blue atmosphere and white clouds are visible against the blackness of space.

**A TIME FOR...**

**“Knowing God as Father”**

**“When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.”**

*Mark Twain*

# How do we See God?

Acts 17:22-23, 26-28 NLT

<sup>22</sup> ...Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way,  
<sup>23</sup> for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: ‘**To an Unknown God.**’ This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I’m telling you about.

<sup>26</sup> **From one man he created all the nations** throughout the whole earth... <sup>27</sup> “His purpose was for **the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him**—though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, ‘**We are his offspring.**’

# One God - Three Distinct “Persons”

John 15:26 NLT

<sup>26</sup> But **I will send** you the Advocate—the **Spirit of truth**. He will come to you **from the Father** and will testify all about me.

Matthew 28:19 NLT

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**.

“The idea of the Trinity does not supersede monotheism; it interprets it, in the light of a specific set of revelatory events and experiences.” *Keith Ward, Religion and Creation*

# Knowing God, ...Our Heavenly Father?

Ephesians 1:3-5 NLT

<sup>3</sup> All praise to **God, the Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. <sup>4</sup> Even before he made the world, **God loved us and chose us** in Christ to be holy and **without fault in his eyes**. <sup>5</sup> God decided in advance **to adopt us** into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him **great pleasure**.

# Abba Father - Intimacy in Great Pressure

Mark 14:36<sub>NLT</sub>

<sup>36</sup> “Abba, Father,” he cried out, “everything is possible for you. **Please take this cup of suffering away** from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

Gal 4:6-7<sub>NLT</sub>

<sup>6</sup> And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, **prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.”**

<sup>7</sup> Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

# Lost Son: The Father Forgives & Restores

Luke 15:18-21 NLT

<sup>18</sup> I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, <sup>19</sup> and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.””

<sup>20</sup> “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.

<sup>21</sup> His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and **I am no longer worthy of being called your son.**’

# What Does the Father Know and Do?

- **Father knows my shape - Purpose**

Isaiah 64:8... you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter; we are all formed by your hand.

- **Father knows my heart - Prayer**

Matt 6:6 ...your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

- **Father knows my pressures - Provision**

Matt 6:8 ...your Father knows what you need before you ask him!

- **Father knows about timing - Preparation**

Acts 1:7 It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.





## Q. What has God given to all Father's...?

- **Power To Create Life**
- **Power to Build Confidence**
- **Power To Inspire a Destiny**
- **Power to Restore**
- **Power To Influence Generations**