



“Relating to God as Father”

How to Know God as Father When Your Father Was Harsh or Absent

QUESTION: How do you respond to “Father”?

Great Passages, But...

Romans 8:15-17

*“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received **the Spirit of adoption** as sons, by whom we cry, **“Abba! Father!”**”*

*The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God**, and if children, **then heirs**—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”*

Galatians 4:4-7

*“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might **receive adoption as sons**. And because you are sons,*

*God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, **“Abba! Father!”** So you are **no longer a slave, but a son**, and if a son, then **an heir** through God.”*

Every Metaphor for God Gets Distorted:

- **God as King** (Political Corruption)
- **God as Shepherd** (Neglect of Responsibility)
- **God as Master** (Abuse of Power)
- **God as Rescuer** (“Messiah-Complex”)
- **God as Father** (Abuse, Control, Neglect, Absence)

Asking Good Questions:

QUESTION: Must I have a good father figure in order to really relate to and understand God as Father?

QUESTION: How do I give God the same courtesy I want from other people? “Please just get to know me for who I really am, instead of assuming I am like [blank].”



5 Images/Metaphors of God as Father from the Psalms:

Psalm 3:1-6 – God as Protector (Image: “lifter of my head”)

Psalm 65:9-10 – God as Provider (Image: “willingly present in adversity”)

Psalm 37:12-13 – God as Authority (Image: “laughter of control & perspective”)

Psalm 32:6-8 – God as Counselor (Image: “nurture then instruction”)

Psalm 46:10 – God as Comforter (Image: “tender shhhhhh”)

New Testament Chapters with Multiple References to “God as Father”

Matthew 5, 6, 10, 18, 26

Luke 15

John 5, 6, 8, 14, 15, 16

Romans 8

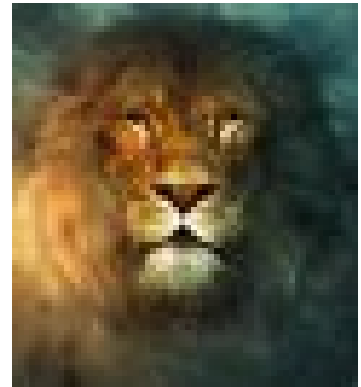
Galatians 4

I Thessalonians 2

Hebrews 12

I Peter 1

I John 2, 4



*Aslan and the dependence / independence
of the “Sons of Adam” and “Daughters of
Eve” in Narnia.*

What Do I Do Now?

1. Identify and take responsibility for specific lies, false beliefs, expectations, and fears that poison your relationship with God. **(Brokenness)**
2. Find truths that counter your lies. **(Conviction)**
3. Turn to God for help. **(Faith/Trust)**
4. Get to know those who love God and invite them into your struggle. **(Community)**
5. Know that God is patient with His children. **(Rest)** *“Attributes of God” Month Long Devotion*