

“Up side down and inside out ...”

For though you have countless guides /
teachers / instructors / guardians in Christ,
you do not have many fathers...

1 Cor 4:15

You cannot be a true father without being a son.

When we are saved ...

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God
John 1:12

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are!
1 John 3:1

What is in our "belief drawer"?

What do we believe about ourselves?

Truth doesn't set us free .. Jn 8:32

Knowledge of the truth sets us free ...

Intellectual assent?

Example: the love of the Father

The fact that God the Father loves us ... Even as the Father has loved Jesus!

Jn 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

1 Jn 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us / lavished on us, that we should be called children of God

Eph 3:14

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, ...that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ..

may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,

that you may be filled with all the fullness of God

Example: the love of the Father

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Rm 5:5 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because

God's love has been **poured** into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us

Verb: a present status resulting from a past action

Acts 2:17 'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh ...

V33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing

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Howell Harris - a contemporary of Wesley

June 18th 1735 : Being in secret prayer I felt suddenly my heart melting within me like wax before a fire, with love to God my saviour. I felt not only love and peace, but also a longing to be dissolved and to be with Christ; and there was a cry in my inmost soul with which I was totally unacquainted before. It was this - "Abba, Father, Abba Father". I could not help calling God my Father. I knew that I was his child and that he loved me; my soul being filled and satiated, crying "It is enough - I am satisfied; give me strength and I will follow thee through fire and water". I could now say I was happy indeed. There was in me "a well of water, springing up into everlasting life" yea, the love of God was shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Ghost

Example: the love of the Father

The fact that God the Father loves us ...Even as the Father has loved Jesus!

Jn 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me ...

Jn 14:15 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him.

You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you

Example: the love of the Father

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Positionally, we are sons. Do we feel it though? Do we act like it?

Gal 3:26 You are all sons ... as long as the heir is a child, he is subject to guardians and trustees ... (OLDER SON SYNDROME)

.... 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

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Note that we "call out" or "cry out".

Douglas Moo : Commentary on Romans says,

" In using the verb "cry out" Paul stresses that our awareness of God as Father comes not from rational considerations nor from external testimony alone but from a truth deeply felt and intensely experienced.

If some Christians err in basing their assurance of salvation on feelings alone, many others err in basing it on facts and arguments alone.

Indeed, what Paul says here calls into question whether one can have a genuine experience of God's spirit of adoption without its affecting the emotions".

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Rm 8 : 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God ...

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

Fear of what?

The first "not good"?

Being ALONE!

Example: the love of the Father

- We can feel like orphans.
- We don't belong.
- Feelings of being cut-off, abandoned, fearful, not nurtured.

WHEN BASIC HUMAN NEED IS NOT MET,
WE NEVER STOP LOOKING FOR IT.
WHEN WE GROW UP, THE NEED DOESN'T GO AWAY
IT JUST MANIFESTS ITSELF IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

We find our comfort in

- Passion / lusts
- Possessions
- Power
- Position

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Jn 14:20 "I am in the Father and you are in me ...

21: He who loves me will be loved by my father and I too will love him and show myself to him ...

V23: love and obey and Father will love AND WE WILL COME AND MAKE OUR HOME WITH him.

Home = abiding place, resting place

"Perichoresis" - the dance of love

Perichoresis:

Genuine acceptance removes fear and hiding and creates freedom to know and be known.

In this freedom arises a fellowship and sharing so honest and open and real that persons involved dwell in one another. There is union without loss of individual identity. When one weeps, the other tastes salt.

It is only in the Triune relationship of Father, Son and Spirit that personal relationship of this order exists, and the early church used the word 'perichoresis' to describe it.

The good news is that we have been included in this relationship and it is to be played out fully in each of us and in all creation"

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Jn 17:20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me

V23: The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one ..

so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

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