

THE PERFECT FATHER - PASTOR TOM GARRETT

SUNDAY JUNE 19, 2016

Our greatest need is to know God - who He is, what He's like, and who we are to Him.

One of the most important needs that fathers meet Through the following qualities, God - The Perfect Father, meets the emotional needs of His children of all ages

F - Forgiving (acceptance)

- Every son or daughter will make mistakes, made bad decisions, or just plainly disobeys, and needs to know they can be forgiven and accepted.

A - Attentive - children need to know their father cares and that they matter

- Our Father God is watchful over every detail of our lives
 - Matthew 10:29-31 "What is the price of two sparrows - one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground with your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrow.
 - Psalm 147:4 AMP "He determines and counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by their names."

T - Triumphant - children need to have a sense of being protected/secure

- The world can be unfair, mean, even cruel
- everyone son or daughter needs to see his/her father as a winner, a champion; someone who is an overcomer, and victorious over difficulties and obstacles. More than that every son or daughter needs a Dad who will fight for him
- Our Father God is a triumphant champion
 - Exodus 15:1-2 (NKJV) - "Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and spoke saying,: 'I will sing to the LORD for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea
 - Isaiah 42:13 (NIV) - The LORD will march out like a champion, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies.

- Psalm 89:20-23 AMP - “I have found David My servant; with My holy oil have I anointed him, [Acts 13:22.] With whom My hand shall be established and ever abide; My arm also shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not exact from him or do him violence or outwit him, nor shall the wicked afflict and humble him. I will beat down his foes before his face and smite those who hate him.”

H - Healer - children need to be healed when they have been hurt/sick

- Life can hurt.
- Psalm 147:3 (AMP) - “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds [curing their pains and their sorrows]. [Ps. 34:18; Isa. 57:15; 61:1; Luke 4:18.]”
- Psalms 30:2 NKJV - “O LORD my God, I cried out to You, And You
 - When our earthly equipment is broken - cars, appliances, computers, etc., we return them to the earthly manufacturers. They know how to fix what they made.
 - When we are broken - in spirit, emotions, or body, we need to bring ourselves to the Manufacturer. He knows how to fix what He created..

E - Encouraging - children need to feel the encouragement of their father

- Everyone son
- 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 NIV
- [16] May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, [17] encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

R - Real - children need a sense of assurance that their father will be there when they need him,

- 2 Kings 6:15-17 KJVS - [15] And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? [16] And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. [17] And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord , I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.
- Psalms 16:8 NKJV - “I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.”

Cultivating our Knowledge of God

How do we develop our understanding of who God really is, and what He is really like?

(1) Seek Him With All of Your Heart

- Proverbs 2:1-5 NCV [1] My child, listen to what I say and remember what I command you. [2] Listen carefully to wisdom; set your mind on understanding. [3] Cry out for wisdom, and beg for understanding. [4] Search for it like silver, and hunt for it like hidden treasure. [5] Then you will understand respect for the LORD, and you will find that you know God.
- Jeremiah 29:11-14 NKJV - [11] For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. [12] Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. [13] And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. [14] I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.
- Hebrews 11:6 NCV - [6] Without faith no one can please God. Anyone who comes to God must believe that he is real and that he rewards those who truly want to find him.
- Hebrews 11:6 TLB - [6] You can never please God without faith, without depending on him. Anyone who wants to come to God must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely look for him.
- Hebrews 11:6 NKJV -[6] But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

(2) Study the Life of Jesus

- One of the purposes of Jesus coming was to show us what the Father is like
 - Hebrews 1:1-3 NKJV - [1] God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, [2] has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; [3] who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
 - Hebrews 1:1-3 NCV - [1] In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets many times and in many different ways. [2] But now in these last days God has spoken to us through his Son. God has chosen his Son to own all things, and through him he made the world. [3] The Son reflects the

glory of God and shows exactly what God is like. He holds everything together with his powerful word. When the Son made people clean from their sins, he sat down at the right side of God, the Great One in heaven.

- John 14:7-9 NKJV [7] "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." [8] Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." [9] Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"
- John 10:30 NKJV - [30] I and My Father are one."
 - Every time Jesus healed, forgave, encouraged, restored, and provided He revealed the who God the Father is, and what He is like.

