

## Engaging God the FATHER

Mike Parsons – 03. July 2016

Gen 1:1 In the beginning **God**...

Perfect relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Also Wisdom was there very early on:

Prov 8:22 “The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old. 23 “From everlasting I was established, 27 “When He established the heavens, I was there... 30 Then I was beside Him, and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him,

Gen 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness ... 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over

→ **From the beginning everything was about engaging God in relationship. God and Adam walked together in fellowship**

Gen 3:8 They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”

- Notice when Adam sinned God did not say *what did you do?* but **where are you?**
- Adam fell from the realm where he could walk with God in Eden God's heavenly garden.
- God had to come to earth himself as a man Jesus to restore that walking relationship.
- Note I said **walking** relationship not *working* relationship.
- Relationship with God always comes before working with Him.
- Note that I said working **with** Him not *for* Him.

→ **We are sons not slaves or servants, coheirs with Jesus for the establishing of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.**

That is why Jesus came to restore our relationship with the Father.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

- We have a law, a piece of legislation that authorises us to be a place and where Fatherhood and sonship can be restored and experienced
- Where reconciliation and restoration of relationship can take place and destiny can be discovered and fulfilled.
- I decree the law of fatherhood and sonship.
- I call forth the spirit that turns the hearts of the children back to their Father.
- I call forth a new dimension of intimacy and relationship in sonship.
- I call forth the alignment in the spirit with the 4 faces of God.

We all begin separated from God and carry rejection within our soul  
We all have that situation exacerbated during our lives by the damage caused by other relationships

→ **Often the root causes of many of our problems lie in our childhood**

- We are all affected in some way by our upbringing
- We are all influenced by the parenting of those who brought us up
- This can be severely affecting how we view and live life now
- This has affected all of us to one degree or another

Restoration of our relationship with God is the central feature of history

1 Thes 5: 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

➔ **With a reconciled and restored relationship with God a process of healing of spirit, soul and body can begin**

John 1:12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

1 John 3:1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God;

Rom 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children.

Rom 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ ....

Rom 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Jesus life is the perfect example of sonship and His relationship with the Father reveals true Fatherhood

John 14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

- Along with rights of being adopted as sons come the responsibilities
- We are born again into a royal family
- We have the responsibility to be a representative on earth so that others can see what God is like through our relationship with Him.

Rom 8:19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

Being part of a royal family gives us access to the palace and that in our case means heaven where God dwells

Heb 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

That means that we have all the resources of heaven available to us just like Jesus God's son

John 5:19 ..“Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

We have a destiny to fulfil that involves us seeing what the Father is doing

Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

- Adoption means we are chosen
- The Spirit of adoption enables us to call God Abba, father or daddy
- God wants us to know Him as our Father but the biggest obstacle to that happening is often our own parents, fathers who probably have not been the best examples of fatherhood
- The law of fatherhood gives us the opportunity to be restored and reconciled as sons.
- ➔ **You cannot really be a son or child of God without having a relationship with the Father.**
- God does not want you to feel like an orphan
- Even with God as your Father you may still feel like an orphan if your earthly father was not there for you physically or emotionally.
- **Your past experiences will affect your present and your future if they are not dealt with and healed**

Col 1:19 For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, **20** and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

- **We can all be set free and restored to know our true identity as children of God**
- **We can have that God shaped hole in us filled with a relationship with God himself as a loving Father**
- We may have tried to fill the emptiness and pain of the rejection we have in our emotions with substitute relationships or painkillers of various description or prescription.

- Some of the things the world offers us are other relationships, success, money, power, position, work.

We use these things to fill the hole but they often make the pain worse  
We can self-medicate with many things to ease the pain to take the edge off our emptiness:

Alcohol, drugs, gambling, sex, pornography, power, work, exercise, food, shopping etc.

These things all offer false hope and often leave us broken, damaged, hurting, angry, rejected, addicted

Often we feel empty, hollow, hopeless and disillusioned with life

Still not finding the answers to what we are really looking for

### **We all have our personal stories**

- You may never had a father or mother
- You may have had many substitute fathers
- You may have feelings of anger, bitter and resentment towards your parents
- You may have rationalised your life and have no surface emotion
- There is hope many have us have discovered healing, reconciliation and restoration of relationship
- That hope is Jesus who came to restore relationship with the Father
- Most of us are still in that process of learning what it is to be fathered properly

### **I want to share my personal journey with you of how my relationship with God as Father was restored.**

My earthly father came from a broken home so from a very early age he did not have a father as a role model.

He probably felt rejected and abandoned and probably made judgments that later came upon him.

From my experience of the generational issues and familiar spirits that I have had to deal with he had needs and emotional pain.

He started with a disadvantage and so I started life with a disadvantage emotionally and spiritually.

- My father was not able to effectively show me love
- That was not his fault having had no role model himself
- That did not stop it affecting me negatively.
- He did not mean it to be that way but he was still to blame
- He never told me he loved me
- He never really communicated much at all
- I can't remember having a real conversation or any physical affection.
- He never came to watch my school activities or sports or showed any interest in me

I was not abused physically or verbally but I was deprived emotionally which had equally serious effects.

I was deprived of a father's love and of his emotional presence so I sought out the comfort of other relationships

My uncle was good but they then had their own children  
From an early age it was relationships with girls that I tried to use as a substitute to fill the hole in my emotions. For some others it is with boys looking for a father replacement

Those relationships with girls caused more damage, hurt, pain and rejection but I needed them to fill the emptiness of my inner emotional needs.  
The relationship with my uncle and aunt led to my salvation experience as they took me to Sunday school and church meetings

- I became a Christian in September 1970 but there was no real emotional experience
- I invited Jesus into my life I then prayed to Jesus or to the Lord
- I never really connected to the fact that God was Father
- I still had needs that were not being met

My first long term relationship was 6 months in 1974 my O level year  
In the summer she broke that relationship off. For me it was devastation!

- **I made an inner vow not to be hurt again**
- **I experienced an emotional shutdown as protection - I became guarded and closed emotionally**
- I put a barrier around my heart which protected me from hurt and damage and kept everyone at arm's distance.
- It kept me safe but also kept me locked up and in a non-emotional prison.
- I thought it was a strength to be thick skinned and not being able to be hurt
  
- I became a very logical and analytical person, using my intellect to package things up so I didn't have to deal with the emotions.
- God used various situations to get through to me to begin the healing restorative process in my life
- God used my own family
- It challenged me to deal with the things in my heart.
- **Those things that had protected and guarded me had also locked me up so that I couldn't feel God's love.**

We have to overcome the obstacles in our life that will stop us from experiencing intimacy.

- There were many levels of issues in me but the root was father issues
- Everything was connected to my woundedness in fatherhood and sonship
  
- Over the years, God met with me in various encounters which He used to heal my heart.
- The first time, I was in a small group of people worshipping when God spoke to me and said 'I am your Father'.

- I struggled with the concept, as so many of us do because of our own fathers, but He broke through that and put His arms around me.
- I felt His arms, and I felt His presence, and it enabled me to begin to talk to Him and to communicate with him as Father
- The root issue was my father wounds but the surfaces issues were my rejection
- I started to receive help to deal with my emotional damage
- 2 main issues came up the surface of my broken heart
- I learned to forgive and release and become free

**A lot of hidden emotions came to the surface that I had buried most were negative to begin with**

- I felt attacked and vulnerable
- I became defensive
- My emotions began to open up and that led to the deeper issue of not being fathered being uncovered
- God started to break in
- I then began the process of forgiving and releasing my dad for all that I was owed
- I struggled to connect emotionally and was doing it by choice and will
- Then I had a picture of a picture that changed everything
- I was able to forgive and release my dad for the sham of the relationship
- I was even able to tell him I forgave him and told him I loved him and hugged him
- He froze and could not respond but I was on a journey to freedom and restoration
- 1994 in a meeting my emotions broke open
- 1996 I had my first encounter in heaven with the Father
- My relationship with God as Father continued to develop over the years
- I felt healed and restored to the degree that I knew

**Our previous hurts and past experience can cause us to protect ourselves, which will prevent us from fully entering into what God has for us.**

There may be many things that highlight or reveal these issues operating in us

- You may find it difficult, to be open. You may be be prickly to keep people at arm's length
- You may reject people first
- You may find you struggle in our praise times with the more intimate songs
- You may find you can't relate to songs about meeting God face to face or going deeper or drawing closer or dancing with Him, being in intimate relationship with Him

→ **Indicators of still being wounded.**

June 2010 I went to a conference and God spoke to me about giving Him my full attention

Worship opened my heart to a new dimension of intimacy and desire

Love was unveiled at another level that changed my heart

August 2010 - 40 day fast

Now I thought I had dealt with all my wounds, but one time I was in heaven talking to Jesus and He said to me, 'You have not met the Father' and I knew inside that it was true.

I had not met the Father in heaven

"It is because you have a father wound"

I started to argue

I've forgiven everybody, I have forgiven my dad, I have had ministry and I have met with the Father before

Jesus said, 'You have a father wound'. He showed me my heart and it had a big scar all over it.

He asked, 'Will you let me heal it?' and I said 'OK'.

So for about 40 minutes the Father came to me and spoke to me and He just said the same words over and over again: 'I love you... I love you... I love you... I love you.'

- **Each word of love He spoke healed my heart. I looked down and the scar was gone.**
- **I have continued to have such wonderful times of intimacy with the Father.**
- **It's what He wants with every one of His children.**

- All my experiences of healing had brought me back to zero from -100
- I began to see that because of my woundedness I had wounded my own children
- I had to be forgiven and healed from that also
- Now I needed to be fathered because I had never been fathered

I used think of intimacy as the warm fuzzy feelings that others expressed when they described their experiences with God

I was comparing myself with others

One day the Father spoke to me and asked how do you feel my love?

What do you mean?

When do you feel the most loved?

When we spend time with each other when you talk to me when you share things with me

There are different languages of love, physical affection, quality time, words of affirmation, gifts, and acts of service

**By virtue of being adopted back into God's family, we have been given:**

- A new name -**son** no longer slave
- A new legal standing/status - **accepted** no longer alienated or condemned
- A new family-relationship with **access to God's presence** within and in heaven
- A new image, the **image of Christ**,

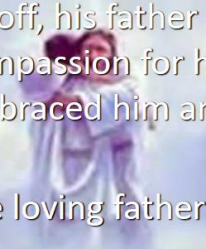
➔ **The enemy can stop your sonship if he can stop your father relationship**

➔ **We can't be revealed as sons if we don't have a Father**

- **God wants you to know Him as your heavenly Father**
- **Will you let God father you today?**

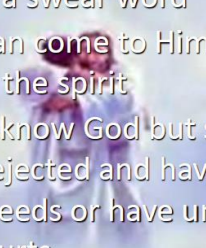
There is a wonderful story in the bible called the prodigal son  
Where the father representing God is waiting for his son to return even though he messed up his life

- **God is waiting for us to come to Him to be reconciled, healed, restored and made whole emotionally**

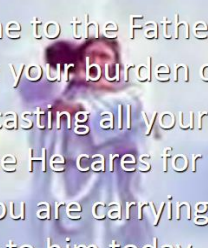


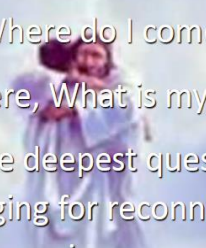
- Luke 15:20 So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.
- Story of the loving father

- We will need to forgive and release our own parents, fathers
- We will need to go through a process of restoration
- There is hope
- Today you can meet God as father
- We all have an opportunity of coming closer to Him



- May be you don't know God personally other than your higher power or as a swear word
- Today you can come to Him as He is here now in the spirit
- May be you know God but still feel wounded, rejected and have unmet emotional needs or have unhealed emotional hurts

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- You may be carrying guilt and shame about your own children
  - You can come to the Father and let Him remove your burden of guilt
  - 1 Peter 5:7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.
  - Whatever you are carrying you can hand it over to him today

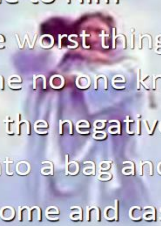


- God is willing and able and desires to meet all our needs in relationship
- Who I am, Where do I come from,
- Why I am Here, What is my purpose
- These are the deepest questions of our soul longing for reconnection with our eternal experience





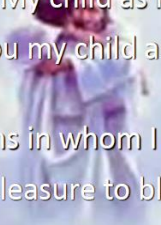
- Come to the Father now
- Close your eyes picture the Father waiting for you to come to Him
- Think of all the worst things you have ever done some no one knows about
- Package up all the negative things, sin, guilt, shame into a bag and come to Him
- He is waiting come and cast all those things at His feet



- Let Him embrace you with His arms of love
- Let Him put new clean clothes on you
- Let Him put a ring of sonship on your finger
- Feel the joy and pleasure of His heart for you
- Let Him release forgiveness to you



- Hear God the Father speak healing words over you.
- I love you and I accept you
- I affirm you as My child as My son
- I approve of you my child as My son and heir
- You are My sons in whom I am pleased.
- It is My good pleasure to bless you and empower you



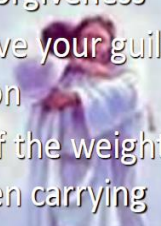
- Allow God to reveal your parental wounds.
- Hear God the Father speak healing words over you
- Let Him remove the scar tissue in your heart
- I love you I love you I love you .....



- I forgive you My children please forgive those who have hurt you and disappointed you
- Let you down, abandoned, rejected and abused you
- So you can be free from your past to pursue your future and fulfil your eternal destiny.



- I forgive you My children for your failures as parents
- Receive my forgiveness
- Let me remove your guilt, shame and condemnation
- Let me lift off the weight and burden you have been carrying
- Feel My love and acceptance and affirmation of you as parents





- You can meet the Father in heaven
- Let Jesus take you to the Father
- Feel His welcome and embrace
- Embrace your destiny as a son

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