GOD OUR FATHER

**Goal: to replace all false ideas of our Father’s love to us with Biblical fact.**

1. His Blessing, Eph. 1:3 Note: The letter of Ephesians was written to new believers in what we would call a “heathen” culture, described in 2:11, “Gentiles in the flesh.” This means that family values were almost nonexistent. It is likely that not only did these new Christians not receive a “father’s blessing,” but did not even know who their father was. Hence, this letter is started with the 7-fold blessing of our new Father.

 a. He chose us, 1:4. This means He wanted us individually. We are not an accident.

 b. He predestinated us, 1:5. This means He has unconditionally successful eternal plans for us.

 c. He accepted us, 1:6. This means we are always looked upon by God with grace.

 d. He redeemed us, 1:7. This means that none of our sins will ever be an issue.

 e. He forgave us, 1:7. This means that He remembers our sins no more.

 f. He gave us supernatural ability to learn, 1:8. This means that every believer can understand

 the deepest things of God.

 g. He sealed us with His Holy Spirit, 1:13,14. This means we are eternally secure.

2. He doesn’t want any of His kids to be ignorant, Eph. 1:17-19; 4:17-18; Col. 2:2.

3. All His greetings are grace (He wants to give us favor we don’t deserve), and peace (He is totally at peace with us, nothing wrong), Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2; 6:23; Phil. 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:2; 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2; Titus 1:4; Philemon 3; 2 John 3.

4. By the indwelling Holy Spirit, we cry “Abba, Father,” Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6. This is a term of closest familiarity and relationship.

5. Through our Lord Jesus we have total and continual access to our Father, Eph. 2:15.

6. Constantly cleansed from our sins by the Blood of Christ as we confess them, we walk in the light as our Father is in the light, having fellowship with Him, 1 John 1:3,7,9.

7. Jesus is our advocate with the Father, 1 John 2:1. This means Christ gives the Father solid, righteous ground to constantly forgive our sins.

8. Personal knowledge of and relationship with our Father is the 2nd level of spiritual maturity, 1 John 2:13.

9. God’s placing us as sons is a demonstration of His supreme love for us, 1 John 3:1.

10. One of the 7 points of Christian unity is we all have one Father, Eph. 4:6.

11. Our Father is the God of all comfort, 2 Cor. 1:3-4.

12. Our Father takes full responsibility for all our needs, and knows what we need before we ask Him , Matt. 6:26-32; 6:8,9; 7:11.

13. Our Father knows nothing else but unconditional forgiveness and acceptance when we repent, Luke 15:20-32.

14. Our practical relationship with the Father is closely related to the 10 Commandments, Heb. 8:10-12; John 14:21-23; I John 5:1-3.

15. Every tiny detail of our lives is controlled by our Father for our good, Matt. 10:29-31; Rom. 8:26-30.

16. Therefore, we are to give thanks to our Father for all things, Eph. 5:20; 1 Thess. 5:18; Phil. 4:6; Col. 1:3,12; 3:17.

17. Our Father’s love and entire nature will be seen in His children, 1 John 2:15; 4:8; Matt. 5:45,48.

18. We can count on our Father’s loving discipline, Heb. 12:9.

19. Through and in Christ, we are exalted to kings and priests unto our Father, Rev. 1:6.

20. One of our main tasks, if not the main task, is to glorify our Father, Matt. 5:16; John 15:8; Rom. 15:6; Phil. 4:20. Doxazo, “glorify,” means that people should think more, higher of our Father as they watch and are exposed to our lives.

21. It appears that our “guardian angel” is constantly beholding our Father’s Face, Matt. 18:10.

Comment: With a lack of this “gnosis,”( 1 John 2:13), a secure, trusting and enjoyable relationship with our Heavenly Father, how do we lose in the following areas:

 1. God - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 2. our spouse - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 3. our children - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 4. our pastors - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 5. our friends - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 6. being a mentor or mentee - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Note: lack of relationship with our Heavenly Father destroys trust. Lack of trust destroys communication. Lack of communication destroys relationships . Thus the vicious cycle of an unfruitful life.