



# FATHER'S LOVE

I did not have a close relationship with my biological father. When Jesus saved me, it was easy for me to draw close to him in a loving embrace, however, I couldn't seem to connect with my heavenly Father's love the same way. I knew what God's Word told me – that Jesus is a representation of who his Father in heaven is, so why couldn't I find that same intimacy with the Father that I had with Jesus. There were hurts in my heart from my earthly father that needed to be healed because they were barriers stopping me from drawing closer to my true Father in heaven.

*"My Father has entrusted everything to me. **No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.**" Matthew 11:27*

*Jesus told him, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.** If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!" John 14:6-7*

My earthly father did not know or follow God. He wasn't able to show me a father's love as a daughter. Over the years of drawing closer to Jesus, I had forgiven my father and received some healing but was still unable to jump into my heavenly Father's embrace and rest there the way I desired and the way I knew the Father desired me to.

Recently I was listening to a Father's Day service. The worship music was leading people to rest in your heavenly Father's love. A man started speaking some words from God's heart. He said your heavenly Father is not like your father on earth or the men in your life that depicted fathers. He said God is removing painful memories about your earthly father/s that do not represent the true love of your Father in Heaven.

Even though I knew what was written in the Bible about the Father's love for me, the fact that He gave his one and only Son for me, that He never leaves me or forsakes me and that nothing can separate me from His love, I still needed God's Holy Spirit power and love to deliver me from the past so I could run into the Father's love and rest.

*"For this is how God loved the world: **He gave his one and only Son**, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but **have eternal life**. **God sent his Son into the world** not to judge the world, but to **save the world through him**. John 3:16-17*

*And I am convinced that **nothing can ever separate us from God's love**. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, **nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord**. Romans 8:38-39*

As I was worshiping God, I resisted the urge to hold myself back because the desire to know His love and draw closer to my Father in heaven was greater than my fear that I was going to be hurt again. God's love embraced me and held me in. I saw it and I tangibly felt it. Not only did my heavenly Father take away hurts and past memories that were painful, He gave me a new memory. A memory of being surrounded by his love, enveloped in His loving embrace. It is a wonderful, new memory God has given me. God is love and I was wrapped in His love. My Father in heaven replaced the old, tainted memories of rejection and abandonment from my father on earth with a new memory of His love for me - a love that surpasses knowledge. It is a love that is available to you because He sent His one and only Son, Jesus to die for your sins. Jesus, who was without sin, took the punishment for your sins. He did this so there would be nothing separating you from God, your Father in heaven.

*For the wages of sin is death, but the **free gift** of God is **eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord**. Romans 6:23*

*For it is **my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life**. I will raise them up at the last day." John 6:40*

*"But **God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**." Romans 5:8*

*We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. **God is love**, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. 1 John 4:16*

The Father's love was no longer based on how I felt about myself or how my earthly father felt or behaved towards me. My Father in Heaven does not change like shifting shadows and His love for me has always been absolute. I do not have to earn my heavenly Father's love and neither do you.

If you have never known your heavenly Father's love for you and you would like to, please pray this prayer out loud:

Dear Father in Heaven,

I believe you sent your one and only son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for me. You did this because you love me and you desire for me to know you. You desire that I would live for you and spend eternity with you. Jesus Christ paid the price for me. He died on the cross so that all my sins would be forgiven and You raised Him to life. This is a free gift of salvation you give to me through faith in your Son Jesus and what He did for me. I am sorry I have chosen a life that has kept me separate from you. God, I know I have sinned against you and I ask for your forgiveness. I want Jesus to come into my heart and to take control of my life. I want to trust Jesus as my Saviour and follow Him as my Lord from this day forward. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

*If you **openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** For it is **by believing in your heart that you are made right with God,** and it is **by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.** Romans 10:9-10*

*"But **to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.**" John 1:12*

*So now we can **rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.** Romans 5:11*

*But **because of his great love for us,** God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—**it is by grace you have been saved.** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.  
Ephesians 2:4-10*

If you said that prayer, by faith you have been saved through Jesus Christ. You are a child of God. All your sins are forgiven and from this moment on you start your new life with God. Welcome to the family! This is only the beginning to your new life. Ask God to help you find believers who will disciple and help you in your journey to draw closer to Him. Reading the Bible – God's Word – will help you grow closer to Him and know His plans for your life. God created you with a unique purpose and He wants you to join with Him to make it happen! Remember you are not alone. God promised He will never leave you or forsake you. He promised He will give you a helper to be with you forever, the Holy Spirit.

## ***The Promise of the Holy Spirit***

***I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever. The Helper is the Spirit of truth. The people of the world cannot accept him, because they don't see him or know him. But you know him. He lives with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you all alone like orphans. I will come back to you. In a very short time the people in the world will not see me anymore. But you will see me. You will live because I live. On that day you will know that I am in the Father. You will know that you are in me and I am in you. Those who really love me are the ones who not only know my commands but also obey them. My Father will love such people, and I will love them. I will make myself known to them."*** John 14:16-21

***He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.*** Psalm 103:3

*He personally carried our sins  
in his body on the cross  
so that we can be dead to sin  
and live for what is right.*

***By his wounds  
you are healed.***

1 Peter 2:24