



Rick & Sue McCoy

We're off to Cyprus, Egypt and Israel in April 2016!!

We are asking all who read this to keep us in your prayers as we spend the month of April in the Middle East. We depart March 31st for a week in Cyprus attending Fatherheart Ministries' Gathering of the Eagles. There will be leaders within Fatherheart Ministries (FHM) from all over the world spending 7 days of fellowship, planning the future of the ministry, and seeking Father's directions for what He wants to accomplish through FHM.

On April 9th we then fly to Cairo, Egypt for four days with our missionary friends who are working with Sudanese refugees and running a school. Then on April 13th we fly to Israel for 11 days with our friends Alyosha and Jody. We will have several times to share on the Love of the Father with the people of the land!



Besides your prayers, ***if you feel led to help support this trip financially***, you can either go to our website and press "DONATE" to pay with PayPal, or you can make checks payable to:

Abba's Arms International, Inc.
P.O. Box 1396
State College, PA 16804
www.abbasarmsintl.org

If you get a chance, check out our Facebook page at
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"I'll Be a Father to You!"

The apostle Paul wrote those words in **2 Cor. 6:18** as a prophetic word from our Heavenly Father for everyone to hear or read for the rest of eternity. Those words are in italic in my (Rick) Bible because they refer to similar words that God spoke to David just before his death to assure him that his son, Solomon, would be taken care of by God Himself. God told David, *"I will be his Father, and he shall be My son."* **2 Sam. 7:14 2, Chron. 28:6** Throughout the Old and New Testament beginning with Adam and Eve, our Heavenly Father has wanted to have a Father-Son relationship with each one of us. In the last part of **2 Cor. 2:18** God says, *"..and you shall be My sons and daughters."* Every time I read those words, I can hear the cry of our Father's heart to have a personal intimate relationship with you and me where He can "father" us and do the things a perfect father will do for his children.

A Father in the Old Testament

The first evidence of God fathering us is recorded in the first chapters of Genesis concerning what took place in the Garden of Eden between God, Adam and Eve. We see Him spending quality time with them, instructing them in their purpose and responsibilities in life, and setting boundaries. God also provided for their every need, covered their shame and sin and corrected and protected them from the consequences of their actions. Even after Adam and Eve were forced to leave their home, God continued to look after His children and their descendants with provisions and protection. He also provided correction and guidance as they were able to open their hearts and respond to His leading.

God's affections as Father are next seen in what He tells Moses to share with Pharaoh, *"Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I say to you, let My son go so that they may serve Me."* **Ex. 4:22** Even in the midst of rebellion Moses reminded the people of Israel that God was still their Father (**Deut. 32:6**) and He reminded them of all the ways Father had taken care of them and provided for their every need (read **Deut. 32**). David recognized the importance of God as his Father who would deliver him from all of his enemies and take care of him even when everyone else turned against him. *"When my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me (adopt me as His child)"* **Ps. 27:10 AMP** David again compares God to a father in **Ps. 103:13 NIV**, *"As the Lord*

has compassion on His children..." Through his own times of prayer and crying out to God, David came to a personal revelation of God being a true Father to him, *"He shall cry to me, "You are my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation." Also, I will make him My firstborn..."* **Ps. 89:26-27**

A Father in the New Testament

Jesus could only come to the earth through the womb of a woman (*"...unless one is born of water (woman) and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God..."* **John 3:5**). However, one of the primary reasons Jesus spent 33 years on the earth before His crucifixion was to reintroduce the Father and demonstrate what it means to be a son to the Father. Jesus spent more time talking about the Father than any other topic. For example, Jesus told us that the Father knows all of our needs even before we ask Him **Matt. 6:8**; He rewards those who pray and fast **Matt. 6:18**; He gives us only good gifts **Matt. 7:11**; He forgives us of all our sins and remembers them no more **Matt. 6:14**; Father is extravagantly generous with His sons **Luke 15:11-31**; and many more.

Jesus was the perfect son first to His natural father Joseph, and also to the heavenly Father. When Jesus was 12 years old and wanted to stay at the temple in Jerusalem, He willingly submitted to his natural father's wishes and return to Nazareth with his parents to work in the carpentry shop with his father until He was 30 years old. Jesus also fully submitted to His Heavenly Father and did only what He saw His Father doing (**John 5:19**) or said what His Father told Him to say (**John 8:26**). Jesus was so much like His Father that He told Philip, *"He who has seen Me, has seen the Father."* **John 14:9** Jesus honored and exalted His Father saying, *"...My Father is greater than I."* **John 14:28** He even taught His followers to pray to the Father. **Matt 6:9**

A Father to YOU!

As I read Mark Gyde's book *A Father to YOU*, a whole new area of revelation about **2 Cor. 6:18**, began to open up to me. In the second part of the verse, our Heavenly Father is expressing the hope that we will be His sons and daughters. Father made the way for us to walk in that relationship through the finished work of the cross. But we still must throw off the old "orphan" ways of living our life and see our Heavenly Father with the eyes of our heart and not through the lenses of how we saw and interacted with our earthly fathers. I know that I saw the Heavenly Father with many of the same characteristics as

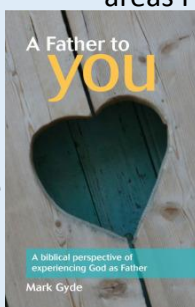
my earthly father. It has been quite a relearning process to change the preconceived ideas of who the Father is and replace them with the truths that I have found and learned from studying the Bible.

I remember Barry Adams who wrote the Father's Love Letter saying, "You really can't be a son without having a Father." When I first heard that, I thought that he was just stating the obvious, but I have since realized that there is a whole lot more to that statement. A statement Mark Gyde made in his book *A Father to YOU* started to open my eyes to the significance of what Barry Adams was saying. Mark said, "A lot of people know that I am a father because I have children, but only my four children know me as father because that have allowed me to father them." When I thought about that statement, I realized that I had not allowed my father to "father" me. At age 11, I made the decision to control my own life and be the obedient child so that I would not receive my father's wrath when I messed up. My dad was passive and very busy working three jobs, so it was easy for me to just try and do everything on my own. Even though we lived in the same home, I never was a son to my earthly father.

Both my attitude and my interaction with my Heavenly Father were a lot like how I was with my dad. I saw God as distant, too busy, tight with money, and someone to be feared. I kept my distance from God and was very independent. I never thought to ask God for help, which got me into a lot of trouble and extra work trying to do it myself! I did not allow God to father me much more than I did my own dad.

Through healing of my heart and getting rid of ungodly beliefs, lies, and sin consciousness, I finally saw God as my real Father and began to open my heart to Him as a true son. I asked Him to father me in all the areas I did not get fathered by my dad. Through His

comforting love and gentle guiding, I began to change. I got in touch with my feelings and emotions, the old bad habit patterns just seemed to drop away and I began receiving my love needs from my Heavenly Father. God has become a Father to me and I am walking more and more in the peace, rest, joy and love that He has always wanted me to have. I can now say, "I am Your son and You are my Father!" What freedom Sue and I have experienced as we learn to walk in true sonship and allow Father to be a Father to us!





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A Blessing for Walking as True Sons and Daughters

I bless you with a greater revelation of what it means to be a true son or daughter to your Heavenly Father. I bless you with the continued unfolding of wisdom and understanding on how to walk in an intimate personal relationship with your Heavenly Father. May Father show you how to stay at peace and rest while He takes care of your every problem or need. I bless you with experiencing the real freedom of walking as a son or daughter while you continue to accomplish the plans and purposes He has for you. I bless you with the extravagant blessing that Father wants to pour out in your life as you walk with Him. I bless you with Father's ferocious protection and His warring angels to stand guard over you and keep you safe in every situation. I bless you with His abundant health and well-being flowing through every cell of your body. As His child, you now have the same DNA as Jesus and He loves you as much as He loves Jesus.

