

# **“Abba, Father” What Is He Really Like**

## **Introduction**

I always want to know something about the author of a book I'm reading and how he or she was led to write the book. So let me share some things about myself and how I've been led, after several years of resisting, to write this series of lessons.

First a little background of my experience and relationship with each person of the Godhead: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As a child of 7 or 8, I began a relationship with Jesus when I received Him as my personal Savior in a morning service at our home church. That relationship was filled with the highs and lows of a carnal Christian throughout my childhood, the teen years, the early years of married life, and college. Six weeks before graduating from college I surrendered to Jesus as Lord and saw Him begin directing my life in new and exciting ways. My relationship with Jesus, the second person of the Godhead, reached its pinnacle during seminary in 1970-71 when the following verse captured my heart: Col 1:27b (NKJ) "... which is Christ in you, the hope of glory". I was awed with the realization that Jesus had taken up residence in me, which guaranteed that I would experience the hope of glory on earth and eventually in heaven. I can remember thinking that "I had all of God in Jesus, what else could there be?" But I was to discover there is much more of God to experience than just Jesus.

While attending seminary I began learning about and experiencing for the first time in my life the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit. At the church I attended (James Avenue Baptist Church) and at seminary the charismatic revival of the 1970's was flowing powerfully. Being filled with the Spirit was the emphasis of both preaching and special conferences. A year later my family and I were sent to Ohio to start a new mission church. Two years later a pastor friend led me into the baptism of the Holy Spirit and I began seeing His gifts and power manifested in my personal life and public ministry in various degrees over the next 27 years. It was exciting, but could there still be "much more" to experience of God?

In 1997, while fighting a battle against cancer in its third stage, Jesus began to give me revelation of the first person of the Godhead, God The Father, or as Jesus referred to Him while praying as, "**Abba, Father**". This revelation wasn't the result of personal study of the Bible, but solely by unmerited favor of Jesus who wants to reveal His God and Father to those who are open to receive. The desire to truly know and experience God the Father had been a growing desire for several years, but the reason why I wanted it was wrong. Graciously Jesus heard and responded to the cry of my heart and began to give the revelation, but only after helping me to deal with two things: 1) My wrong motivations and, 2) The judgments I held in my heart against my earthly father.

Having had a good, but less than perfect, relationship with my earthly father provided me with some opportunities to make judgments toward him that were projected onto my Heavenly Father. Realizing my earthly father's weaknesses and failures also produced in me a desire to be a better father with my three sons, but although I tried hard I was certainly far from being perfect. The same sin patterns and generational issues that had been destructive to my father wrecked their havoc on me too.

Jesus knew His Heavenly Father's plans for me to be a spiritual father to hurting and brokenhearted individuals. He also understood that I could never be a true representative of God the Father on my own power or from the experience of raising the children He gave me; He knew that I had to experience intimacy with "Abba, Father".

The first important experience in my becoming a spiritual father, and which set the direction for my future ministry, was an encounter with a young man in our church that had a strong prophetic gifting. On May 21, 1998 just after finishing chemo treatments and finding out that I had won the battle over cancer, he approached me after the morning services and asked if he could share a word with me. The essence of his word was that I was going to be "made a father to a multitude". Until that time I had only one single lady to whom I functioned as a spiritual father. Initially I was shocked by Ron's word and didn't fully understand their meaning nor know the events that would have to occur to bring that word into existence. As the years passed individuals were brought into my life to which I was allowed to function as a spiritual father. I've been exceedingly blessed that our heavenly Father has used me as one of His earthly representatives to impact the lives of a number of abused and/or neglected individuals whose lives have been changed by experiencing Him. Therefore, my goal is to intimately know the heart of Abba Father and then communicate it as clearly as possible to as many of His children as I can.

Several years ago I ran into a problem, which as I look back on now, created a break in my growing relationship with Abba Father. I was listening to a teaching by Arthur Burk, a man who had greatly influenced my life. The teaching was about the redemptive gifts and how birth order can cause a double anointing for those who have certain gifts. Arthur stated that when this situation happens, the person's primary calling is to reveal God the Father. My first response was awe, maybe even pride, but eventually it turned into a reaction of resistance. Although I had tremendous admiration for Arthur and respect for his spiritual insight, who was he to tell me what I was supposed to do based solely on my birth order and redemptive gift? So for several years I dug my heels in and totally resisted his instruction, nor did I ever pray about what he said. Often the thought would cross my mind that I was stagnating rather than gaining ground in my relationship with my Heavenly Father, but I let it slide by rather than acknowledge it and repent. This allowed the enemy to steal the joy of a growing relationship, but also the ministry of teaching what the Bible says about God the Father that is desperately needed at this time in His children's lives. Two things seem certain for the future: 1) Chaotic times lie ahead for all people but especially Christians, and 2) There is a coming revival like nothing the world has ever seen. Only those who know the heart and character of Abba Father, like Jesus did, will be able to endure the chaos and be used in the coming revival.

Several months ago I began having a renewed desire to study in more depth what Jesus had to say about "Abba, Father". As I started studying each morning at first it was haphazard, with no real direction or order to it. Then the Father gave me an extensive outline, yet after reading it several times my reaction was, "Wow! That is too hard and would take too long". It took awhile before I admitted that I needed to repent again of my resistance. One question continued to run through my mind, "Was this really what God the Father wanted me to do, or was it just some idea of my own?" On June 22, 2011 that question was finally settled when Abba Father spoke indicating that I was to go ahead with this study and share it with those who are interested. So I'm committed to following the Father's instruction with the purpose of discovering the truth about "*Abba, Father*": *What Is He Really Like*. Thanks for joining me in this journey.

In Abba Father's service,

*Jim McCorkle*

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