

Experiencing the Blessings of the Father's Love (pt. 2)

1. The Father longs to embrace you with his love because it is his nature. He desires more than understanding—he longs for intimacy. Many Christians spend their lives working to achieve God's favor.
2. What blessings are meant to restore our intimacy with God?

Romans 8:15-17 (NLT) 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. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷ And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory.

3. Let's explore the blessings we find coming from the Father's love.

I. INHERITANCE

1. Our experience begins to conform with our doctrine.
2. The *phileo* encounter with the Father's love changes how we think and feel about ourselves.

II. IDENTITY

1. When you drift from your true identity in Christ, the enemy is there to put a false identity in your heart.
 - a. "unworthy" / "unaccepted" / "failure"
 - b. Revelation 12:10 identifies Satan as "*the accuser of the brethren.*"
 - c. What names are defining you at this time in your life? Are those names coming from the devil, from your own sense of failure, or from your Father who created you?

III. HEALING

Luke 9:1-2 (NIV) *When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

1. Healing is the children's bread.
2. Healing must not be sought in a theology of healing, but by reaching out to the Father heart of God.

IV. GIFTS

LUKE 11:9-13 (NLT) *And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? ¹² Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! ¹³ So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.*

1. The Father's love is available to all believers, not just *informationally*, but *relationally*.
2. Like Jacob in the Old Testament who wrestled with God and would not let him go unless God blessed him, we too must pull down all barriers between us and the Father's love. We must not let go of our hope, or faith, and most certainly we must powerfully cling to the love of God, our Father.
3. Gifts flow most feely and accurately through a *phileo* relationship with the Father.

John 5:19-20 (TPT) *So Jesus said, "I speak to you timeless truth. The Son is not able to do anything from himself or through my own initiative. I only do the works that I see the Father doing, for the Son does the same works as his Father. ²⁰ "Because the Father loves his Son so much, he always reveals to me everything that he is about to do.*