

# Experiencing the Blessings of the Father's Love

**Luke 15:20-24** (NIV) *So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.*

<sup>21</sup> *The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."* <sup>22</sup> *But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.*

1. The Father longs to embrace you with his love because it is his nature.

**1 John 4:16** (NIV) *And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.*

2. Let's explore the blessings we will find on the Father's table:

## I. THE ROBE

1. The ROBE give us the *identity of a son*.

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

## II. THE RING

1. The RING gives us the *authority of a son*.

- a. The power to represent the Father is imputed to us.
- b. We now begin to act upon the authority the Scripture says that we have.

**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, <sup>2</sup> and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

### **III. THE SANDALS**

1. The SANDALS give us the *ability of a son*.

### **IV. THE FEAST**

1. If there remain in us feelings of unworthiness, uncleanness, guilt, or shame, it will be difficult to dine at the Father's table and experience the blessings of his love.