

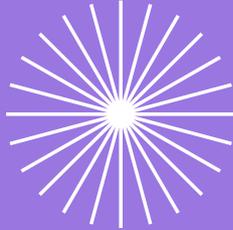


# The Father's Heart

Exploring the heart of God through  
the book of Romans

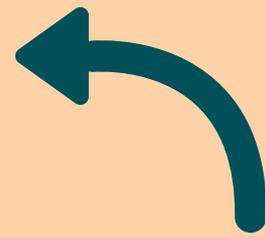


## ENCOUNTER 3



How close can I  
get to my  
Heavenly Father?

As co-heirs with Christ, we can grow in experiencing the same fulfilling and intimate relationship with Abba Father that Jesus Christ models.



The Big Idea

Romans

8:14-17



14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.





# GOD'S WORD SEEN IN REAL LIFE

"As the beloved of the Father, we have been brought near and given everything we need for life and godliness."  
- Allen Hood

High school was an interesting time for me. I was the classic overachiever trying to do anything and everything to get into the best college I could. And I did a lot of things--two sports, honors/AP classes, multiple clubs, and student body to name some things. I had a lot of friends and we had so much fun together.

But in high school I started to learn more about my acceptance as a son of God. I still did all the "things", but I began to have a different perspective. The Holy Spirit worked on my heart to long for the salvation of my friends and family and I grew in my walk. As I grew in my walk, my love for Christ was sincere but weak at times. Though people may think the good grades and popularity is what got me through High School, I know it was clinging to the cross and resting in my identity as His beloved son.

For all of us there's a lot to do and people we want to please. But our Abba Father wants us to rest in His love. He wants us to operate from a place of confidence as his child and not from a place of insecurity.

## Romans 8:14-17

- 1** Why is it important to think about and meditate upon me being a child of God? Can you think of a time where you were LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT?
- 2** Biblical examples of what they were like before coming to Christ...
- 3** Present day examples of what people are like without Christ...





## Romans 8:14-15a

**4** What does it look like to have a spirit of slavery?

**5** What are some areas of our life where I struggle with having a spirit of slavery?

## Romans 8:15b-17

**6** What does it look like to have a Spirit of adoption?

**7** What does it mean to be a co-heir with Christ?

Family LOVE (1 John 3:1)

Family RELATIONS (Eph. 3:14-15)

Family SEAL (Eph. 1:13-14)

Family ACCESS (John 16:23-24)

Family RESOURCES (Eph. 1:17-19)

Family INHERITANCE (Revelation 5:9-10)

Family NAME (John 14:12-14)

Family DISCIPLINE (Heb. 12:5-7)

Family SACRIFICE (Col. 1:24)

Family BUSINESS (John 20:21-23)

*"As the Spirit of adoption, He reveals the glory of our position as adopted sons and daughters. Being adopted speaks of a legal position of privilege in which the child becomes an heir of the family name, resources, and estate."*

*- Allen Hood*



# DOING GOD'S WORD IN REAL LIFE

## FATHER GOD (IN YOUR LIFE)

Growing in our relationship with God the Father means:

- > Regularly and quickly reflecting on Jesus' finished work on the cross
- > Acknowledging and accepting the role of the Holy Spirit

**8** Why is it important to grow in confidence that you are a child of God? Can you think of a time where you were LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT?

**9** Spirit of slavery or Spirit of adoption--which one is classifying your everyday as of late? Why do you say so? \*be careful of FALSE HUMILITY here\*



## ▶ **FATHER GOD (IN THE CHURCH)**

The church is a community of believers who have been perfectly loved by God the Father while they grow in loving Him in return.

**10** How can we encourage each other in our walks with Christ to be led by the Spirit of God?



**11** What kind of differences would we see in our youth group if we walked in confidence with the Spirit of adoption (not the spirit of slavery)?

## ▶ **FATHER GOD (IN THE WORLD)**

The world consists of all people who are loved by God--some give their lives to Him and others do not. While God ultimately is in control, He has given a certain amount of influence to Satan.

**13** Who in your life needs to know they are loved and accepted by God?

**14** What kind of difference would it make in an unbelieving friend's life if they were to have a Spirit of adoption that led them to understand they are a child of God?



# **DAILY FACE TIME WITH ABBA FATHER**

**1**

## **Be Still and know**

---

Find time to STOP and sit with the Lord. Morning? Night? Waiting to be picked up? On the school bus?

Listen to a favorite worship song or read a psalm/proverb. Connect to the Lord during this time. Tell Him how you are feeling.

Recommended time = 5 to 10 min

**2**

## **Read the Bible**

---

Read a portion of scripture or a daily devotion in your Bible plan.

BEFORE YOU DO... ask the Holy Spirit to give you spiritual understanding.

Recommended time = 10-20 min

**3**

## **Listen and write**

---

Take time to ask God questions. What does He want to teach you? What are His thoughts about you? Does He have an assignment for you?

Write these things down. Think of this as a combination of journaling and having a conversation. Refer back to these things as life happens to see God's work in your life.

Recommended time = 5 to 15 min

## **\*A Youth Pastor's note\***

There is nothing wrong with a good devotional/Bible plan. But I have come to find that I sometimes don't connect with Jesus and just read to "check a box".

After years of walking with the Lord I was taught this method of daily meeting with Jesus and I haven't found anything better for me. Sometimes I only do one or two steps. Other times I do all four steps. You will figure out what works best for you.

The goal is to meet with our loving Heavenly Father.

He is sincerely interested in building a history with His sons and daughters that is done in the secret place.

**4**

## **Pray (Intercede)**

---

This is the time to pray for yourself. Pray for friends to come to know Jesus. Pray for any prayer requests people have shared with you. Pray for your church. Pray for your friends at youth group. Pray for your advisors/youth pastor.

Recommended time = 5 to 1000 min

# FACE TIME EXAMPLE

March 25, 2020 | Waiting for mom at Mark Keppel flag pole (4:24 pm)

- I just bombed Mr. Y's math test on Chapter 2... oh yea... it's my birthday today. Happy birthday to me from Mr. Y =(
- D went to my game today with all her friends... I didn't play very well
- Spring break starts tomorrow!

## 01. Be still and know He is God

- Heavenly Father, I really am bummed out about my math test. But it was pretty cool that D came to watch my game today =)
- "What a Beautiful Name" by Hillsong
- Jesus, Your name is higher than all other names!



## 02. Read the Bible

Genesis 22

- Father, help me to be like Abraham--He was obedient to Your voice no matter what You asked. Father, I need Your help! Holy Spirit fill me up to be obedient to Your voice.



## 03. Listen and write

- Father, how much do You love me?
  - I have made You--fearfully and wonderfully--you are my masterpiece.
- Holy Spirit is there anything You want to reveal to me?
  - My daughter, be holy unto Me. I love you. Live righteously before me. Do not exchange my blessings for the trappings of this world.
  - You will see a man who is hungry. Feed him.



## 04. Pray (intercede)

- Personal pursuit of holiness
- Sister has been sad lately
- My church's missions team
- Dad and Mom
- Mr. Y - Jesus help me to honor him and show him Your love (even when he fails me... on my birthday...)

