

## My Favorite Fathers

- The Father above all fathers is our Father in heaven.
- God is our father, our creator, our strength, our foundation.
  - > God cares, God desires relationship with us.
  - > God was and is and will be.
- In our scripture lesson this morning, Paul gives thanks for God's attributes:
  - > Grace, power, salvation, a willing and understanding ear
  - > We see God's fatherly attributes throughout the scriptures!
- Isaiah 45:25: God remembers our sins no more!
- 2 Thess 3:3: God protects us!
- 1 Corinthians 1:9: God is faithful!
- 1 John 4:8: God is love!
- Psalms 139:1: God searches us and understands us!
- John 1:12: God wants to be your father!
- In today's language:
  - > When God surveys creation, God thinks of you.
  - > When the heavens exult, you are part of the song.
  - > If you stray from the path, God seeks you out.
  - > What God ordains, God sustains.
  - > God loves you utterly and completely.
- I believe that Godly fathers reflect God's glorious attributes and that we can celebrate God the Father by recognizing their gifts and attributes.
- I invite you to share with me my favorite fathers.
- **Joseph** was gracious and forgiving.
  - > When Joseph discovered that Mary was with child, even before the angel visit, he was inclined to be gracious.
  - > After the angel visit, he embraced becoming a husband and father without reservation, and without recrimination.
  - > What a wonderful spirit of love and forgiveness!
- Joseph provided and protected.
  - > First, he was inclined to protect Mary's reputation and purity.
  - > He was willing to go to great lengths to protect Jesus and his mother, Mary, even if it meant virtual exile in Egypt.
- > He provided for his family, allowing them to grow in faith and maturity.
- > Joseph was faithful.
- **David**. David's son Absalom rebelled against him, and actually raised a force sufficient to threaten the kingdom.
  - > But when David's generals defeated and killed Absalom, David mourned as would any father.
  - > "My son Absalom, Absalom my son: would to God that I might die for thee, Absalom my son, my son Absalom."
  - > All Godly fathers know that no matter how deep the pain, we love our children more than our own lives.
- **The Father of the Prodigal Son**
  - > He understood the importance of relationships.
  - > He was willing to let go.
  - > He was truly forgiving.
  - > He placed love ahead of pride.
  - > He was slow to judge and quick to celebrate!
- **My Own Father**
  - > Even facing my mother's force of personality, and my youthful argumentative challenges, he was patient and forgiving.
  - > Built three churches from the ground up.
  - > Was one of the great wordsmiths to ever preach the gospel.
  - > He had a beautiful way of translating great theological truths into elegant, understandable imagery.
  - > He always conveyed a sincere delight in being my dad.
- Today we celebrate the wonderful attributes we experience in the lives of Godly fathers.
- Today we celebrate the love and care of our heavenly father.
- Happy Father's Day!

## **2 Corinthians 6:1-10**

- 1 As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.
- 2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.
- 3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.
- 4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses;
- 5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;
- 6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;
- 7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;
- 8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors;
- 9 known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed;
- 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.



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