

Disc 103 - The Fatherhood of God - Rom 8:15

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The picture of an earthly father & his children

was **intended** by God to give us a **picture** of how God,
as our **Heavenly Father** - feels about us

Unfortunately - many of us have had earthly Fathers
that were **so consumed** in sin

that they have been **poor examples**
of what God **created fathers** to be

There are **some** here who **don't** even want to **consider**
comparing their **earthly father** to God, as their **Heavenly Father**

But I need to tell you today, **you have** a Heavenly Father
Who is the **perfect father**

He is - the **perfect**, **all-loving**, **never-leaving** father
Who loves for you enough to **Save you from your Sin**
& to work **in ALL things** for your **Good**

If you have **received Jesus Christ** as your Savior today

Then God **promises you** in His Word, that you have been **adopted**,
and that you can now call Him **ABBA Father**

Let's Pray

Let's **start** today with our Key Scripture - **Rom 8:15**

(as a side note) - I'm using **primarily** the **NLT** today,

Because the **NLT** expresses the "*thought*" of the original language
(as a **thought-for-thought translation**)

But our *primarily* **verse-by-verse** teaching version is the **ESV**
because it is a **word-for-word** (**essentially literal translation**)

Rom 8:15 - NLT

15 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."

IF you are saved today - you have a **real, perfect** Heavenly Father
whom you can call **ABBA, FATHER**

Which is the **most intimate word** for a Father
we could **translate** the Intimacy of this word as - "**Daddy**"

it's the **same word** Jesus used
when He cried out to His Father in the **Garden of Gethsemane**

& understanding **Who your Abba Father Is**
& understanding **His Incredible Plan** for you

Will *absolutely, radically,* **change** your life

However . . . → →

It's **important** to say right up front

We're talking about a **Relationship** with God
that **can only occur** by you Receiving **Jesus Christ** as your Savior

There is a **general misunderstanding** from the 1960's
"Love Songs" - that we are all **God's Children**, **by nature**

But what those **"Love Songs"** should have **correctly** said was
we are all **LOVED** by God - **IN-SPITE** **of our nature**

Because if we could have
the ABBA Father **relationship** with God automatically,

Then the **Sacrifice** of Jesus Christ was **NOT** necessary
But His sacrifice WAS necessary

& **the Bible** makes it clear that **Believing** in & Receiving Jesus
as Your Savior - is what gives you the **"Right"** to call God **"Father"**

Jn 1:12 - ESV

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Gal 3:26 - ESV

26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

So - Our **FIRST** Foundational Truth is

Foundation Truth: *Only those who have surrendered their lives to Christ can rightly address God as Father.*

Now - Let's talk about WHO are Heavenly ABBA Father is

Because He is our Creator
& Because He is Omniscient

God knows us Intimately & Perfectly
& He knows us Uniquely & Individually

Psa 139 describes the intimate knowledge God has
of EVERY detail & EVERY day of our lives

Psa 139:13-18 - NLT

13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.

15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.

16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

17 How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!

18 I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!

How well does God know you?

Better than we can really comprehend

AND - He can't stop thinking "Precious Thoughts" about you

He Knows every detail about you (good & bad)

& yet His thoughts toward you cannot be numbered

& they're not thoughts of judgment - but instead thoughts of Good, to give you a Future & a Hope

Jer 29:11 - NLT

11 For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Guys - we CAN trust our lives into the hands of our Heavenly ABBA Father (we really can)

& if we will TRUST Him in Faith, & Truly LOOK to Him as our Father We will actually be changed into His Image

Fathers - do you know that (to some extent), your children will grow into your image?

& the more they TRUST you - & the more they LOOK to you the more they will become LIKE you? (*for better or worse*)

& do you know that is exactly what God plans to happen with You - as His son or daughter

God desires us to grow - INTO His IMAGE
& we do that by TRUSTING Him, & LOOKING TO Him

2Cor 3:18 - NLT

18 So all of us who have had that veil removed [our salvation] can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

All of God's **LOVE** toward us
All of His **THOUGHTS** toward us
All of His **PLANS** for us

ALL revolve around
TRANSFORMING US more & more into His Image

In the ESV - 2Cor 3:18 says

18 And we all . . . are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another . . .

This word "**Transformed**" means LIT
to change the NATURE of a thing

When you were saved

you were **immediately adopted** into God's family
JUST AS you ARE - you didn't have to change one thing

But **now that** you are His son or daughter
God loves you enough to **TRANSFORM** the very nature of your life

It's been said - "***God loves us just as we are, but He loves us enough to not leave us just as we are***"

Isn't this true of a good earthly father

We love our children during the Terrible TWO'S - **AND**
We love them enough to not LEAVE THEM in the Terrible TWO'S

& for some we could say - in their TEENAGE years

We love them in their Teenage years - **AND**
We love them enough to not leave them in their Teenage years

God **Saved us** right in the Midst of our **SIN-FILLED** life
& He loves us enough to **not LEAVE US** in that **SIN-FILLED** life

God wants to TRANSFORM us
OUT OF the *Destruction of Sin*
& **INTO** the *True Abundant Life*

In **Gal Ch 5** there is a great list
of the **things** God wants to Transform us **OUT OF**
& the **things** God wants to Transform us **INTO**

Gal 5:19-21(A) - NLT

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. . .

This is the **DESTRUCTION of Sin**
that God wants to **Transform** us **OUT OF**

& then, **following this list** - is a list of the **FRUIT**
of **The Abundant Life** - God wants to **Transform us INTO**

Gal 5:22-23 - NLT

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

This is the **FRUIT** - of *the Abundant Life*
God wants to **Transform** us into

But Now - **as we begin** to look at the **PROCESS**
of God **Transforming** our lives

Today - we can only *focus* on **just ONE SPECIFIC** Question
regarding our **Transformation**

there are a number of **AREAS**, & a number of **WAYS**
that God Transforms us into **His IMAGE**

& we must **always remember**
in any discussion about our **Transformation**

The **AGENT** of **ALL Transformation** in our lives
is the person of the **Holy Spirit** - (*who we'll look at next week*)

& so - **with all that** - Today I'd like to ask just this **one question**

What are God's Primary Tools to Transform us

Acknowledging that God Transforms each of us
Uniquely & Individually

We **can say** - He (in general) uses
THREE Primary tools to mold & shape us

They are - **1) The Bible, & our Daily Devotion time**
2) Our Circumstances & our Trials
3) Other People, both Positive & Negative

Again - there are plenty of **other things** we can talk about in the **PROCESS** of our Transformation

But **today** - we want to focus on God's **PRIMARY TOOLS** that He uses to **Mold**, & **Shape**, & **Mature** us

I've heard **Pastor Jeff** say from the **1st day** I started ministering with him

He has said to people . . . ***"that circumstance or person, is NOT what you think it is, that's God's TOOL to transform you "***

& man, **have I seen** some feathers get **ruffled** with that truth

People come to us & say . . . ***"I need God to FIX this for me"***

& we say ***"FIX THIS? Are you kidding, that very thing is what God wants to use - to FIX YOU!"***

& believe me - He **KNOWS** where we need to be **FIXED** & He **KNOWS** how to **FIX US!**

SO - let's **look briefly** at these **THREE Primary Tools**

1) The Bible & our Daily Devotional Time

This is **hands-down** God's **most powerful TOOL** for Transformation **AND** - it is the one **"Least Likely"** to be **used** by all Christians

I **promise** you - your **spiritual enemy** will do everything possible, to keep you **too busy**, or **too pre-occupied**

to be **Transformed** by spending **Daily Devotional time** with your **Bible** & your **Heavenly Father**

Our **biggest challenge** as leaders is first - **To do this OURSELVES**
& second - **To get you to do this**

Because we know that if **WE** will do this
We'll be **Transformed** into what God has called **US** to be

& we know if **YOU** will do this
YOU will be **Transformed** into what God has called **YOU** to be

& this **isn't** just **rote repetition** of Bible Reading
& it **isn't** just **acquiring** Bible **knowledge**

It's **developing** an Intimate, Transforming,
Daily Communion with your **ABBA Father**

Devotional time involves **DAILY PRAYER**
where you **Purposely Align** your heart with God's Will

Devotional time involves **DAILY WORSHIP**
where you **Consciously Focus** on God instead of yourself

Devotional time involves **DAILY WORD**
where you **Meditate on & Apply** God's Word to your life

You **Purposely Align** your heart with God's
You **Consciously Focus** on God instead of yourself
You **Meditate on & Apply** God's Word to your life

THAT is *Daily Devotional Time*
& it is the most powerful **transformation tool** God uses

& we **REALLY, REALLY** want
to help you learn **HOW** to do this (*really*)

If you **REALLY, REALLY** want God to **Transform** you
thru your *Daily Devotional Time*

I want to **challenge you** - to **call** the church **office**
& **ask us** for a **mentor** to teach you how to do this

& the **same goes** for the **Word-By-Mail** family

If you will **really** make the **commitment**
to be **Transformed** thru your *Daily Devotional time*

Call us at the office (**the number's** on the CD)
& we'll **connect** you with a **mentor** who will teach you how to do this

In regard to Daily Meditating on God's Word - R.A. TORREY says:
We must study His words, fairly devour His words, let them sink into our thought and into our heart, keep them in memory, obey them constantly in our life, let them shape & mold our daily life and our every act. This is really the method of abiding in Christ. It is through his words that Jesus imparts himself to us

& So - Our Next **Foundational truth** is

Foundation Truth: The Bible & our Daily Devotional Time is God's #1 tool for transforming our lives, from the Destruction of Sin, to the True Abundant Life.

Now - **The 2nd TOOL** God uses to Transform us, is

2) Our Circumstances and our Trials

The best translation (in my opinion) of **Rom 8:28** is in the **NIV**
28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him . . .

We've got to know that God is **AT WORK** - For our **GOOD**
right in **the midst** of this Circumstance or Trial

& many of us would say ***"if God is at work for my good, then WHY doesn't he FIX my circumstance"***

& the answer is ***"Because that circumstance is God's TOOL to fix YOU"***

WHY? - Because (my 2nd favorite saying) - **God is not as interested in fixing your circumstances as He is in USING your circumstances to FIX YOU!**

& we have **GOT** to **BELIEVE** that !!

God uses our **Circumstances** & our **Trials**
to **mold** & **shape** us - to **mature** & **strengthen** us

& **actually** - to **BRING US** into the **TRUE Abundant Life**
that we **talked** about last week

WHICH IS . . . Unbroken Fellowship with God

& so often - **God uses** our **Circumstances** & **Trials**
to **bring us** into **THAT** True Abundant Life

Jas 1:2-4 - NLT → →

Jas 1:2-4 - NLT

2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

& if you would say ***"Well, that's fine & good, but I want my circumstances fixed NOW"***

& your Heavenly ABBA Father would say - ***"Oh, my child, you don't understand the Big Picture, you'll have to trust me"***

& haven't we said that same thing (re: much smaller matters) to OUR own children?

Foundation Truth: *if we are willing, God will use our circumstances & trials to transform us into the True Abundant Life.*

Finally - we said God's THIRD Primary tool for Transforming us, is

3) Other People - both Positive & Negative

Into EVERY life comes POSITIVE people & NEGATIVE people

& I'm talking specifically about people who IMPACT US either Positively or Negatively

The people who IMPACT us Positively are those who

Encourage us,

Strengthen us,

Counsel us . . . & most importantly

Point us to God

We need these **POSITIVE** People **BADLY**

& we NEED **TO BE** these Positive People **BADLY**

We see these "**Encouragers**" thru-out the Bible

Every strong **Man or Woman of God** we see in the Bible

has around them - those who **Encourage** & **Strengthen** them

& **Thank God** for these people in your life

& **PLEASE - BE** this person in someone else's life

These are **CRICALLY NEEDED** People - *Especially in the Church!*

But then, also, are **the people** that God allows in our lives
on the "**Other Side**"

These are the people who **IMPACT** us **NEGATIVELY**

& Just like God is **AT WORK** for our good, in our **Circumstances**,
either Positive or Negative

In the same way - **God is AT WORK** for our good

using **the People** in our lives - either Positive or Negative

The Psalms are full of **King David** crying out to God

to **save him** from the People who were his **enemies**

But in the end - it was those very people - who caused
King David to cling all the more to God as His SAVIOR

& that's exactly what they should do in our lives !

& possibly the best example, of seeing GOOD from BAD people
comes from the incredible story of Joseph

Who's enemies were initially his own brothers,
& then others who should've respected Joseph,
but instead chose to be his enemies

& finally, at the end of his life
when his brothers feared retaliation from Joseph

We read in Gen 50:19-20 - ESV

19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?"

20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good . . .

Guys - God will allow both
Encouragers & He Enemies - into your life

Put Please REMEMBER
He is AT WORK thru BOTH - For your GOOD

He is using those people - both Positive & Negative
as TOOLS - to mold you & to shape you,

to purge the bad out of you, & to develop the good in you

OK - Let's Review God's Primary TOOLS of Transformation

- 1) The **Bible**, & our Daily Devotion time (*remember the challenge*)
- 2) Our **Circumstances** & our Trials
- 3) Other **People**, both Positive & Negative

But remember the **MAIN POINT** of **The Fatherhood of God**

"God loves you just as you are, and He loves you enough to not leave you just as you are"

But in order for you to **TRUST** Him

You **HAVE TO** *know Him* as your Heavenly ABBA Father

There are **so many promises** in the Bible to you as His child that there are books written just **LISTING** all His promises

Your Heavenly Father PROMISES

to **CARE** for you

to **PROTECT** you

to **PROVIDE** for you

He promises to **guard** your **hearts** & **minds** in Christ Jesus

He promises to **never leave** you, nor **forsake** you

He promises to make you **victorious** in all things that matter

Because of all of God's Promises to you

Heb 13:6 says - ESV

6 So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

In Fact - there are **365 commands** in the Bible
for us to **FEAR NOT**

God is **WITH YOU** - **He** is your **ABBA Father** - **TRUST HIM!**

If you have **received Jesus Christ** as your Savior today

You have **received** the **Spirit of Adoption**
whereby you can cry out **ABBA, Father**

& you can **TRUST** your Heavenly Father
to always do, what is **truly BEST** for you

& you **can** always **trust** Him, to be *at work* - **FOR YOUR GOOD**
in **Every Circumstance & Situation**

Don't be a **Rebellious** son or daughter

Entrust **ALL** of your life to your Heavenly Father
He has **promised** to take good care of you - **& He Will**

Let's Pray