

Everlasting Father

Welcome to Week 3 of our Christmas series that we are calling, **Gloom to Glory (A Promise of Hope)**. This is a 4 part series where we are examining one of the most famous Christmas passages that we find in scripture. **Isaiah 9:6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In week one we looked at how Jesus gives us 3 promises of hope that proves He is our WONDERFUL COUNSELOR. Last week we looked at 3 displays of Jesus' power that proves to us that He truly is our MIGHTY GOOD. If you missed last week, we would love for you to catch up on our Vertical App or on our Youtube page.

In chapter 9 in the book of Isaiah, the prophet was sent by God to speak a word of HOPE to the struggling nation of Israel. Not just a word of hope, but a word of assurance and above all that; He gave a promise! A promise that would change the course of history. A promise you and I are still standing on and holding onto today. A promise that is unchanging and is eternal! **A promise that takes us from "gloom to glory!"** If you have your Bible, turn with us to chapter 9 of Isaiah and I will pray for us before we jump in..

Today we will dive into the 3rd name that Isaiah gives the Messiah and that is the name Everlasting Father. If there was ever something you and I needed out of our Savior it is the love of a FATHER! **Some of you have great dads or you had great dads, and your memories of him are fond and cherished.**

But for many of you, you didn't have a great relationship with your dad, and some of the greatest pain in your life comes from your relationship with him.

- Maybe he was never there. Maybe he **abandoned** you when you were very little; making you think that you weren't good enough to be loved.
- Or maybe it wasn't even his fault—maybe he **died** early and wasn't there during your childhood when you really needed him.
- Or maybe he was physically present but he wasn't really there, if you know what I mean—**he was always too busy and never really paid that much attention to you.**
- Or maybe all you can remember is **how disappointed he always seemed to be with you.**
- Or maybe he was **abusive**. In a church this size, there are people who possibly faced abuse from their fathers.
- Or maybe he passed away in his older years and there wasn't any **reconciliation** in the relationship between the two of you.

For whatever reason, there's a lot of pain that is brought up when the word Father is mentioned. Now, you're left with this gaping hole in your heart and more than likely it's still void. So, when I say that Jesus wants to be your Everlasting Father, that doesn't really mean alot to you. But to today is not about bringing up past hurt and trauma, but to help you see that Jesus being our Everlasting Father should bring us comfort. It should bring us from a place of Gloom to Glory.

But, before we go any further, I want to clear up a theological point so you won't be confused: Calling Jesus "the Everlasting Father" may seem odd, since the Bible clearly teaches that Jesus is the 2nd member of the Trinity, "called God's Son." Here the Son is called "the Father." Father means more of a representative and a founder. He is still the Son in the relationship within the divinity and Godhead, but he is called the Father in the sense of his relationship with us and being the father of our eternal hope and founder of our faith. This means in our relationship to us, He would be like the Father we've always longed for!

The Son who came to save us loves us with a perfect eternal affection as the Everlasting Father. Can you imagine that this morning? A perfect love! A love that is not dependent on our love back to Him. It's an unconditional love..a sacrificial love and love that endures. Isaiah calls the coming Messiah the Everlasting Father because He's going to bring that type of love on this side of eternity. **Unfortunately, we judge our Heavenly Father by our earthly one, when we need to evaluate our earthly fathers by our Heavenly one.** If we don't get this, we miss out on what Jesus does in our lives as the Everlasting Father..and I don't know about you, but I need that type of love. **Today, we wanna give you 3 PERFECT ways Jesus loves us as our Everlasting Father.**

Perfect Love #1: He Adopts Us Into His Family

Adoption is not something that should be taken lightly. For families that are praying through, planning through and going through all of the prep work of adoption, they can testify that is no cake walk. It takes sacrifice, it costs, and requires a love that is beyond ourselves. That is also what it took for you and I to be adopted. You see, as sons and daughters that have trusted in Jesus as Saviour through faith; we have been adopted into the family of God.

Ephesians 1:4-6, "4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves."

This was the plan from the beginning of time. We were chosen, and then Jesus through His sacrifice allowed us through faith to have the opportunity of adoption.

Galatians 4:4-8, "4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir."

Jesus' death paid the price for our adoption. We owe Him everything. This love created the walkway of being known and chosen. We are no longer orphans. By being adopted, we have this promise laid out before us, we have the Everlasting Father Jesus in our hearts! We're no longer slaves to this world. It has no hold on us. We're free!

You may have struggled with feeling like you don't belong in your family. You may have struggled with feeling like you were not accepted. Today, the promise of hope that Jesus gives is that through Him, you are a part of an eternal family. You were chosen, formed you in your mother's womb, given a name, given purpose, was forgiven, set free and received a seat at the table! You and I were not adopted just out of choice, but a deep eternal love!

Perfect Love #2: He Provides Us with ALL that We Need

Providing is something God is perfect at. He does not struggle in the area of provision. The Israelites saw this first hand, yet they struggled with what they received. God gave them a plan...Gather six days, a double portion on the last, and rest on the Sabbath. There is a miracle here. God fed a couple million people with manna from heaven for forty years. No gluten allergies, no low-carb diet, and no lack of vital nutrients. God provides for His people miraculously to teach them he can and will provide their daily bread; everything they need.

Jesus wants to do the same in our lives. If you had to come up with a list of things you need today, how many would be considered spiritual? For many, most of what we "need" is not bad for us. Food, water, shelter, the main necessities to stay alive.

Matthew 6:25-27;31-34, "25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

"31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Material needs may be prevalent in your circumstances and Jesus can take care of those and will, but Jesus wants to provide more than just that. Our greatest need is more of God, and Jesus wants to give us just that! **John Piper has asked, "What is the deepest root of your joy? What God GIVES to you? Or what God IS to you?"** Jesus graciously gives us our greatest need and that is for more of his word, more of his ways—more of him. Our pursuit of joy has to be rooted in more of who He is and not what He gives.

Ultimately, the greatest thing God gave us was Jesus and what was offered at the expense of His life. Salvation and eternal life. God does not always care and provide in ways that we expect in this life and that's okay. Scriptures do not promise that. This life is fleeting. This life is fragile. This life is but a vapor's breath. The next life, the age to come, is where all God's provision and care for us will ultimately make sense and come together as a whole. We may not receive healing in this life, but we will receive perfect healing in eternity. We may not see answers to our greatest prayers in this life, but we will receive them fully in eternity.

Revelation 21:1-7, "Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2** I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4** 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." **5** He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." **6** He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. **7** Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

You may have some desperate needs this morning that only you and God know about. Keep them before Him. Pray without ceasing. Believe in the promises He has laid out for you. Jesus is interceding on your behalf. But please know, He's providing even when we can't see. He's providing even when we don't understand. Jesus provides us all that we need material wise and spiritually! Perfect Love adopts us into His family, Perfect Love provides ALL that we need and it also...

Perfect Love #3: He Gives Us His Presence So We Never Feel Abandoned

Have you ever felt alone? In your family, in your community, in your marriage, as a child? Some people feel alone in a crowd of people. Abandonment causes anxiety, stress, trust issues, and a sense of not belonging. In a world that is constantly changing, it is really encouraging to have a sense of belonging. Jesus provides us that through His presence. Of all the things Jesus could give you and I, He gave us the best thing; He gave us The Holy Spirit. You see, a perfect Father will never abandon you!

So why? Why would Jesus give us The Holy Spirit? After overcoming death and rising on the 3rd day, He ascended back to Heaven. Physically, He's no longer here; spiritually He is, through who? The Holy Spirit. Even though you and I have never laid eyes on Jesus, we believe and have faith because of the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26, “**26** But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

Matthew 28:20, “.....And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

So who can receive the Holy Spirit? Scripture makes it pretty clear it's anyone after they believe in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:13-14, “**13** And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.”

One of the primary reasons for the Holy Spirit to reside in a believer's life is to change that life. To conform that person to the likeness of Jesus. We cannot do that on our own. In this life, there is a spiritual battle that is always going on. It's a battle of our fleshly desires and our new creation. **2 Corinthians 5:17**, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” Even though there is a new nature we are still trapped in this sinful body. Left to ourselves, we are dangerous and sinful. In abandonment, we are left to do what is against what God has laid out for us. The Apostle Paul describes it this way:

Romans 7:14-25, “**14** We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. **15** I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. **16** And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. **17** As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. **18** For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. **19** **For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.** **20** Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. **21** So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. **22** For in my inner being I delight in God's law; **23** but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. **24** What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? **25** Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Thankfully, Jesus made a way so that those through faith don't have to walk in abandonment. We don't have to walk this journey alone. We have The Holy Spirit, we have our brothers and sisters and the eternal family that God is building. Also, we have this promise: **Hebrews 13:5**, “... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” A promise that is fulfilled through Jesus giving us His presence of The Holy Spirit. We will NEVER be forsaken. If we ever needed something from our Savior, it was the love of a FATHER!

Invitation:

Is there fatherhood trauma that needs some healing in your life.. Would you choose to trust and rest in Jesus?

What is the deepest root of your joy? *Is it* What God GIVES you? Or is it WHO God IS?

Are you abiding in the Holy Spirit?

- **To abide is to trust God's word and live by it daily.**
- **It is to deny the flesh and its tendencies and to allow the Spirit to lead and guide us in our responses**
- **It is to continue in the things of Christ and to trust Him for things outside of your control**
- **It is a close personal relationship with Jesus**

Have you trusted in Jesus?