

Understanding the Foundations

Chapter 8

From Creator to Father

From Creator to Father

One of the things that seems very different between the New and Old Testaments is that the New Testament presents God as "our Father." When Jesus began His ministry, He outlined His message in what has become known as "The Sermon on The Mount." In this passage, Jesus not only refers to God as His Father, but He also refers to God as "your Father" 15 times. He even taught us to pray to Him as "Our Father."

⁷ *"And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for **your Father** knows what you need before you ask Him. ⁹ Pray then like this: **"Our Father** in heaven, hallowed be Your name..."* Matthew 6:7-9 (ESV)

Paul echoes this many times and twice even refers to God as "Abba" which is what a small child calls their loving father... Daddy!

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...*** Romans 8:14-16 (ESV)

The only other time the word "Abba" is used in the scriptures was when Jesus was praying to the Father during the agonizing hours before His betrayal and crucifixion.

³⁵ *And going a little farther, He fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. ³⁶ And He said, **"Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Remove this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will."*** Mark 14:35-36 (ESV)

Therefore, God has invited us into the same relationship that He has with Jesus.

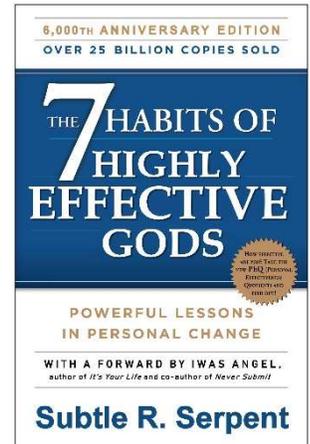
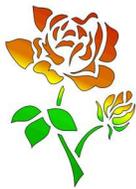
At this point, it would be easy to say, "Wow! Isn't it wonderful that we live in the New Testament when we have a loving God who we can approach as 'our Father' instead of cringing before a vengeful and angry God!" That's an easy "feel good"

sermon but it isn't quite right and that *not-quite-right* part leaves you with some troubling questions.

“What?” *Are you saying that God is not a loving Father?!*” No, not at all. It is just that His love goes far deeper than shallow, feel-good sermons tell you. As I was pondering how to approach this chapter, two great challenges loomed ahead.

The first challenge is the notion that somehow God is different today than He was in the Old Testament. Did He read a good self-help book on how to be a better God that changed His mind about what is right and wrong and how to run the universe? You even hear sermons that talk about “The God of The Old Testament” as if the universe is now under New Management.

The second challenge is that, sadly, very few people have grown up with a godly father. Therefore, when the scriptures say that God is our Father, that may not bring forth the best feelings for you. If that is your situation, my heart breaks for you... *and so does His*. Please hang on. We will come back to this second challenge at the end of this chapter and invite you to meet Him as the Father that you never knew. He is totally awesome!



I The LORD Do Not Change

⁶ For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷ From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts... Malachi 3:6-7 (ESV)

The scary thing about the “not-quite-right” sermons is that if God changed from being angry and impossible to please tyrant to being a really sweet and easy going guy... He might change back! In this verse, God says that despite all the unfaithfulness of His people, His covenant with them still stands. If they will return to Him, He will embrace them. God does not make empty promises or change His mind. When He says something, it will stand unchanged for all eternity. As Jesus said,

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”
Luke 21:33 (ESV)

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Matthew 5:17-18 (ESV)

Or... as it says in the book of Hebrews...

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8-9 (ESV)

“Ok... You say that God never changes... So why is He so different in the Old and New Testaments?” We have been so conditioned to see things in these stereotypes that it is a struggle to see what the scriptures actually say. But if we take off those lenses, we will see that the Old Testament truly is the foundation of the New Testament. Indeed, we will see that all of scripture is one continuous story that God is unfolding chapter by chapter.

God’s Plan – Chapter 1

Throughout the scriptures, God has been calling us to walk with Him and to be His People. Adam and Eve knew God as their Creator. He created them perfectly and placed them in a perfect environment. They were given total dominion over their world and everything in it... *except for one tree*. Some people ask why God put the tree in the garden if He didn’t want them to eat from it. Well, it had to be there. God was seeking a relationship with Adam and Eve and relationships are based on respect. When we respect the boundaries that someone sets, we demonstrate our respect for them. Sadly, Adam and Eve did not respect God enough to obey that one seemingly insignificant restriction. But it wasn’t as insignificant as we think.

⁴ ... the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**” Genesis 3:4-5 (ESV)

What does “**you will be like God**” mean? At first, it sounds great because then they would be “godly.” But it was the opposite. Think about it... they were already created “**in the image of God.**” [Genesis 1:26]

430 [e]	1961 [e]
kê·lō·hîm,	wih·yî·tem
כֵּאלֹהִים	וְהִיִּיתֶם
as gods	you shall be

The serpent’s lie was that if they rejected God’s authority, they would become gods. Neither do we need to feel sorry for them. They were not “deceived” in the sense that they didn’t know any better. These were two perfectly created adults who spoke face to face with God. They both chose to listen to the serpent’s sales pitch... together. They both knew what was at stake and they both willfully chose to buy into the lie.

Generation after generation, God continued to reach out to people providing ways that they could walk with Him. A few, like Enoch and Noah, did so [Genesis 5:21-24] but the vast majority rejected God and His ways pursuing the lie that Adam and Eve bought into... that they, themselves should be their own gods.

Of course, none of this caught God by surprise and, with infinite patience, He sifted through the millions of rebels as a miner pans for gold.

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward Him... 2 Chronicles 16:9 (ESV)

God's Plan – Chapter 2

After thousands of years of searching, God found a special gold nugget – Abram. As we discussed in Chapter 4 of this book, God established a covenant with Abram and began unfolding His plan of redemption for mankind.

*¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**”* Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV)

From Abram, God began building the people of Israel to be a demonstration of how He wanted to have fellowship with us. God built that one man into a small nation of several million people. Then, when the time was right, God chose another special gold nugget, Moses, to bring the people of Israel out of Egypt to Himself. As they approached Him in the wilderness, He told them;

⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine; ⁶ and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation... Exodus 19:5-6 (ESV)

We can't even truly comprehend the depth of the invitation that God was giving them. Compare carefully what God says in Leviticus 26 about His desire for Israel with Genesis 1.

Genesis 1:24-31 2:1-3 (ESV)	Leviticus 26:1-9 (ESV)
<p>²⁷ So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”</p> <p>²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.</p> <p>³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.</p> <p>^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy...</p>	<p>² You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the LORD.</p> <p>³ “If you walk in My statutes and observe My commandments and do them, ⁴ then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. ⁵ Your threshing shall last to the time of the grape harvest, and the grape harvest shall last to the time for sowing. And you shall eat your bread to the full and dwell in your land securely. ⁶ I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid. And I will remove harmful beasts from the land, and the sword shall not go through your land.</p> <p>⁷ You shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword.</p> <p>⁸ Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall chase ten thousand, and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. ⁹ I will turn to you and make you fruitful and multiply you and will confirm My covenant with you.</p>

Do you see the pattern? The promises God is making to Israel at Mount Sinai are the very same things that He blessed Adam and Eve with in the Garden! They are even in reverse order as if He is saying, *“Let’s put things back the way they were in the Garden so that we can walk together again in fellowship.”*

And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be My people.
Leviticus 26:12 (ESV)

Yet, as in the Garden, that relationship depended on respect of boundaries. The very concept of boundaries is offensive to humans because we have believed the lie that we are all gods... **and gods don’t have boundaries!** The insanity has reached the point where “the experts” now say that you should never say “No” to children or “inflict your will on them.” You should treat your 2-year-old as an equal and negotiate with them. Yet, rather than making people strong and independent, choosing to reject authority and boundaries makes people weak and

afraid. Look at the difference when God spoke between the rebellious people and Moses who was submitted and obedient to God.

¹⁸ Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off ¹⁹ and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” ²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of Him may be before you, that you may not sin.” ²¹ **The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.** Exodus 20:18-21 (ESV)

A Holy Fear

Verse 20 is worth examining. “Do not fear... that the fear of Him may be before you...” As you would expect, two different Hebrew words have been translated into the single English word “fear.”

853 [e]	5254 [e]	5668 [e]	3588 [e]	3372 [e]	408 [e]	5971 [e]	413 [e]	4872 [e]	559 [e]
'eṭ·kəm,	nas·sō·wṭ	lə·ḅa·'ā·ḅūr	kī,	tī·rā·'ū	'al-	hā·'ām	'el-	mō·šeh	way·yō·mer
אַתֶּם	נִסּוֹת	לְבַעֲבוֹר	כִּי	תִירָאוּ	אֶל-	הָעָם	אֶל-	מֹשֶׁה	וַיֹּאמֶר
you	to test	in order	for	Fear	not	the people	unto	Moses	And said
2398 [e]	1115 [e]	6440 [e]	5921 [e]	3374 [e]	1961 [e]	5668 [e]	430 [e]	935 [e]	
te·hē·ṭā·'ū.	lə·ḅil·tī	pə·nê·kəm	'al-	yir·'ā·tōw	tiḥ·yeh	ū·ḅa·'ā·ḅūr,	hā·'ē·lō·hīm;	bā	
תַּחַטְטְאוּ:	לְבַלְתִּי	פְּנֵיכֶם	עַל-	יִרְאֵתוּ	תִהְיֶה	וּבַעֲבוֹר	הָאֱלֹהִים	בָּא	
that you shall sin	not	your faces	before	his fear	may be	that	God	has come	

As the context implies, H-3372 is “being afraid” and H-3374 is “holding in awe and reverence.” We could leave it at that point but, interestingly, when these two words are used in other verses, they sometimes have the other meaning. Thus, like everything in scripture, there are greater depths of meaning to explore. This seeming contradiction will make perfect sense in the last section of this chapter.

A Husband – A Father

God chose to reveal Himself to the world through His covenant relationship with Israel. While people naturally understand Him as “Creator” or “God Almighty,” His desire is for a close and intimate relationship. Therefore, He chose two metaphors to reveal Himself – “Husband” and “Father.”

¹ The word of the LORD came to me, saying, ² “Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the LORD, “I remember the devotion of your youth, **your love as a bride**, how you followed Me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. ³ Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of His harvest...” Jeremiah 2:1-3 (ESV)

And when God was telling the Israelites to not follow the horrid mourning practices of the Amorite people who lived in the area, notice that He addresses them as “sons” saying, *“My kids don’t do stuff like that!”*

***You are the sons of the LORD your God.** You shall not cut yourselves or make any baldness on your foreheads [pulling out your hair] for the dead. For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.*

Deuteronomy 14:1-2 (ESV)

Yet, as we know, they were unfaithful in that relationship, so God’s incredible plans were seemingly thwarted. I say “seemingly” because God is never taken by surprise and He is never thwarted. What we see as “failure” is only the close of a chapter in the incredible book that He is writing. And just like any book, each chapter builds upon the previous ones revealing how grand His plan really is.

“God’s Plan – Chapter 3”

So when Jesus came, He did not abandon what He had begun with Israel. He was merely starting a new chapter in His book. As He said in Matthew 5:17, *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”*

Think of the word *“fulfill”* this way... If I tell you what I think the scriptures say, that may be helpful to you. However, if Moses, Daniel or Peter explained them to you, that would really be something! But what if God Himself came and said, *“OK, listen up, this is what I meant when I said...”* Well, that is exactly what Jesus is saying. Not only was Jesus the “fulfillment” of hundreds of promises in the Old Testament, He also came to “fully explain” what He had been teaching through the Law and Prophets. By personally demonstrating how to live it out, He stripped off all the garbage that people had heaped on top of His Word and straightened the twisted and distorted parts.

But Jesus wasn’t just a “super-rabbi” who came to clean up the rule book and live an exemplary life. Just as Mt. Sinai was a huge step forward in how God dealt with mankind, the coming of Jesus ushered in another unbelievable step forward.

Throughout *“Chapter-1,”* people knew about God and occasionally interacted with Him directly. They understood the basics of His laws and about sacrifice. Yet, in *Chapter-2,* God took a giant step forward by actually living among the people of Israel. Nothing like that had ever happened before. He gave them His Laws, the

Torah, to teach them His ways and He made sacrifice a part of their daily life. Likewise, in “Chapter-3” God took another gigantic step forward. He came and lived among us as a flesh and blood man that ordinary people could talk to face to face. And He fully demonstrated the meaning of sacrifice when He, Himself became the Lamb of God. I would never have believed that my King, the Creator of the Universe, would choose to lay down His life as a sacrifice for me... but there He was... as the Passover lambs were being slain at the Temple, the Lamb of God hung on a cross and said, “*It Is Finished!*” John 19:30 Then, on the day of Pentecost, His Laws, which He wrote with His own finger on tablets of stone at Mt. Sinai were written once again in fulfillment of this prophecy of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 31:33-34 (ESV)	Hebrews 10:15-17 (ESV)
<p>³³ <i>For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put My Law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.</i> ³⁴ <i>And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”</i></p>	<p>¹⁵ <i>And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,</i> ¹⁶ <i>“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put My Laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,”</i> ¹⁷ <i>then He adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”</i></p>

Once again, God offers an unbelievable invitation. As we said at the start of this chapter, the promise of sonship that was whispered in “Chapter-2” is now shouted over and over in “Chapter-3.”

Hebrews 12:5-9	Proverbs 3:11-12	Deuteronomy 8:5-7
<p>⁵ <i>And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by Him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives.”</i> ⁷ <i>It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons.</i></p>	<p>¹¹ <i>My son, do not despise the LORD’s discipline or be weary of His reproof, ¹² for the LORD reproves him whom He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.</i></p>	<p>⁵ <i>Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you.</i> ⁶ <i>So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in His ways and by fearing Him. ⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills,</i></p>
<p><i>As indeed He says in Hosea, “Those who were not My people I will call ‘My people,’ and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’” “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ there they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’”</i> Romans 9:25-26</p>		

And yet... once again... God's people have been unfaithful to Him. Even though He wrote His Laws on our hearts, we have taught one-another to ignore them. Even though He sent His Holy Spirit to live within us to guide us into His righteousness, we choose to walk in the detestable ways of the world. Like the Pharisees, we have arrogantly replaced His commandments with our own traditions. And in doing all these things, we have profaned the sacrifice that He made for us with His own blood.

God's Plan – Chapter 4

Has the enemy finally thwarted God's plans? Not in the least! There is yet one more chapter ahead and it will have a very different ending.

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward Him... 2 Chronicles 16:9 (ESV)

As we said before, God knows those who are "His," and when that number is complete He will turn the page to His final chapter.

³... No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴... It is these who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵ and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless. Revelation 14:3-5 (ESV)

When all is said and done, God's original plan will be established forever. Though the rebellion of men has, over and over, made it seem that all hope was lost – He has steadily revealed His story written before the creation of the world.

*¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her Husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God."** ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ⁵ And He who was seated on the throne said, **"Behold, I am making all things new."** Also He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ And 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 from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be My son!" Revelation 21:1-7 (ESV)*

What an incredibly glorious ending to this story! Chapter 4 is finally the fulfillment of God’s plans that we should walk with Him as His people – sons and daughters! A whole new world, restored to the perfection of the Garden of Eden. No sorrow, pain or death.

I would like to stop at that point. However, not everyone will see *this* ending of His story. In our quest to fill the pews by making people feel good, most churches avoid this next statement.

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.” Revelation 21:8 (ESV)

No one wants to hear that – but I am more concerned about how you will feel on *that*-day than *to*-day. It is as Jesus said,

¹³ *“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ **For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.** ¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets... ²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.’* Matthew 7:13-23 (ESV)

Yes, it is that serious. If you have been unfaithful in your walk with God, turn to Him *now* in repentance. He will receive you with joy!

I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents. Luke 15:10 (ESV)

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out. John 6:37 (ESV)



Daddy

Now, let us turn our attention back to the second great challenge that we mentioned at the start of this chapter. For many people, the Bible’s description of God as “our Father,” does not evoke good feelings. Many people do not even know who their

father is. Of those who do, many have relationships that are ravaged by drugs, alcohol, abuse, divorce and neglect. Vast numbers of people feel, *“If God is like my father I don’t want Him!”* Yes, we live in an utterly shattered world. That’s what happens when 8,000,000,000 people try to be gods all at the same time.

My Dad

The greatest blessing I have had in this life is probably that I had a very good father. He wasn’t perfect and sadly he did not walk in the presence of the Lord. Yet he was such a good father in so many ways that the relationship I had with him enables me to understand God as my Father... *and as **your** Father as well.* If your relationship with your dad was rough, please hang on as I share a little bit of my relationship with my dad.

My dad was always there for me. From the day that I was born until the day he died, he was there. No separations, no divorce, no neglect – he was there. And not just “there” but “there for me.” I could always go to him and he would put down whatever he was doing and give me his full attention. He was not an affectionate man, I don’t think he really knew how to show his emotions, but I never once doubted that he loved me, my sister and my mother with all his heart – even when we were not totally loveable. He was honest in every way. I never once saw even a hint of dishonesty or deception in anything that he did. He had a tremendous knowledge of the world and how it works. When he was young, he would sit and read the encyclopedia for entertainment. Yet his true wisdom came from the discipline of listening and thinking before he spoke. He was self-controlled even in the face of provocation. He was extremely successful in business and yet he lived simply and walked in true humility.

I didn’t always agree with my dad but I always knew that whatever he said, was what he believed was the best for me. He never had ulterior motives.

He was gentle and yet very firm. I can’t recall him ever even raising his voice at me – he didn’t need to because his perfect love for me evoked a deep reciprocal love and respect within me. It was that relationship which enables me to see the perfect harmony in these two verses...

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom... Proverbs 9:10 (ESV)

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 1 John 4:18 (ESV)

I knew that my dad would love me no matter what – I was “his.” Therefore, there was no fear in our relationship. Yet, at the same time, I loved him and treasured our relationship so much that it drove me to always do my very best – “fearing” that I might do or say something that would displease or dishonor him.

“Abba Father”

This is exactly what it means to belong to God... to be “His.” It is being totally enveloped in the awe of knowing that I am loved *that much* by the Creator of the Universe. He will always be there for me. When I come to Him, He always listens. He is totally faithful to His Word. When He makes a covenant it will stand forever. His love is perfect with no ulterior motives.

This is why I can’t stand shallow, feel good preaching that lowers God – *my Lord and Savior, my Father and my King* – to “a big buddy in the sky” or a “cosmic genie” who is there to just give me whatever I want. No one can stand in awe of an empty god like that. No one can fall so deeply in love with such a god that it drives the sin out of their lives.

What a priceless gift My father and my grandfather gave me by demonstrating, in flesh and blood, what God was like. Though they have been gone so many years, that gift lives on... But what if your father did not give you such a gift? As strange as it may sound – *Please, take some of mine.* My father and my grandfather were just men but they pointed me to the truth of who God is and what He is like. At this very moment, God is reaching out to you and inviting you to walk with Him in that kind of relationship. Dare to believe it... and dare to live it.

And you do not need to be alone.

First, and infinitely best, when you cry out to God asking Him to be your Father and to teach you His ways, He will send His Holy Spirit to guide you. He will write His Laws on your heart and teach you to recognize His voice among all the shouting and chaos of the world.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

John 10:27-28 (ESV)

²⁵ *“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave*

with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. John 14:25-27 (ESV)

Secondly, I really meant it when I said, “*take some of mine.*” If you need someone to talk to and encourage you, please write to me at:

Foundations@HisWordInWood.com

I am not a trained counselor. In fact, I don't have any qualifications at all except that I am loved by and belong to the Father... ***your Father*** if you ask Him to be.

Shalom!