

A Loving Father

by Zac Poonen

Zac Poonen emphasizes the loving nature of God the Father and the importance of approaching Him in prayer with faith and trust.

Scripture: Psalm 37:4, Psalm 84:11, Matthew 6:26-34, Matthew 7:11, John 16:27, Hebrews 8:11

Topics: "God's Love", "Prayer and Faith"

Description

Zac Poonen emphasizes that God the Father is not a strict figure but a loving parent who cares deeply for His children. He highlights that it was the Father's love that sent Jesus to save humanity, and that believers should approach God in prayer with the confidence of being loved and cared for. Poonen encourages the congregation to recognize that God listens to all His children, regardless of their maturity in faith, and that faith is essential for effective prayer. He reassures that God delights in giving good gifts to those who seek Him, reinforcing the idea that God is a good Father who desires to fulfill the needs and desires of His children. Ultimately, the sermon calls for a deeper understanding of God's fatherly love as the foundation of faith.

Transcript

Many have the wrong idea that God the Father is a very strict Person and that it is only Jesus Who loves them. This is a Satanic distortion of the truth. It was the love of the Father that sent Jesus to save us from our sins. Jesus told His disciples, "The Father Himself loves you" (Jn. 16:27). He also told them that if their Heavenly Father fed the birds and clothed the flowers, He would certainly take care of them. There was no need for them to be anxious then, for their Heavenly Father knew all their needs (Matt. 6:26-34).

He also told them that if earthly fathers knew how to give good gifts to their children, their heavenly Father would certainly give good things to His children too (Matt. 7:11).

You may say that all this is very elementary. Yet many times when we come to God in prayer we don't really believe that God is going to grant us our request, because we are not sure of His tender, loving, fatherly care for us. Thus we limit God by our unbelief. Do you really believe that when you pray, you are speaking to a loving Father Who delights to hear you and Who cares for you?

Some may have the feeling that God will hear them only if they are mature saints. How is it with an earthly father? If he has a number of children, does he listen to his 20-year-old son more than to his 3-year-old daughter? Does he tell his little daughter, "You are too young to talk to me. I can't listen to you?" Certainly

not. In fact, the father is more likely to listen to his youngest child than to His older children. It's even so with God.

He says, "All shall know Me (as Father), from the least (youngest) to the greatest (oldest)" (Heb. 8:11). Notice that the youngest are mentioned first!

Even if you were born again but yesterday, you can come to God boldly saying, "O God, You are my Father, I am Your child, and therefore I have a right to talk to You." That's the way Jesus encouraged His disciples to go to God in prayer.

Every time we pray, we must approach God as a Father who loves and cares, and who is interested in us. Only thus can faith be generated; and without faith it is no use praying at all.

God is a good God. He delights to give good gifts to His children. The Bible says in Psalm 84:11, "No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly." In Psalm 37:4 it says, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." These promises in the Old Testament are endorsed and confirmed and amplified by Jesus in the New Testament along with many more promises.

This is the foundation for our faith - the conscious acknowledgement of God as our loving Father.

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