



Berean Christian Fellowship

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Knowing Your Father—P5

“And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed” (Mark 1:35).

Young children spend a great deal of time interacting with their parents, learning to switch their wishes or ideas for their parents' wishes or ideas as they grow to trust that they have their best interests at heart. Every child needs their parents constantly throughout the day to reassure them as they experience this life and react to it—they trust them to provide for their needs, seek to be reassured that their fear or pain is not the end of the world; they ask them to explain reality, why they experience life the way it is, and what their future will be like. The hope of every parent is that their children will KNOW them—knowing the spirit behind their will, so that they know they are loved and will react to that love with love, trusting them enough to exchange their childish wishes and desires for what is good for them—because they know it is best for them because their parents desire it.

Jesus is our perfect example: *“I do as the Father has commanded Me, so that the world may know that I love the Father”* (John 14:31). We do not love our Father in spite of His nature; on the contrary, *“We love, because He first loved us”* (1 John 4:19b). So, when Jesus prayed, *“He fell on His face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will’”* (Matt. 26:39). Jesus shared His desire with His Father, but instead of repeating His petition insistently, He exchanged it in the same breath for His Father's desire. He knew that because His Father loved Him, the eventual outcome of His Father's will would be the best possible thing that could ever happen.

How did He know this? Simple: Jesus KNEW His Father—He knew Him intimately. *“O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that You have sent Me”* (John 17:25). Jesus knew His Father was only ever GOOD, that His will was only GOOD, and that the outcome of His will would be the best possible thing that could happen for everyone.

Paul prayed for the Church at Ephesus that *“the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe”* (Eph. 1:17-19a). Jesus told us that the Spirit Who helps us know God better is *“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 said to you”* (John 14:6)—*“to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit”* (1 Cor. 12:8). The Spirit helps us know more of God by teaching us from God's Word and applying His commands in our lives. Our relationship to the Spirit is intimate, for *“the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him”* (1 Cor. 6:17), and He *“Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words”* (Rom. 8:26b). What love!

The Holy Spirit in you knows God, for He is God. *“And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’”* (Gal. 4:6). Just as Jesus KNEW His Father was good and His will for all things was good, the children of God can know by His Spirit *“that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose”* (Rom. 8:28). Even so, Amen.

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