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## Peace in Knowing Our Father

How dare we approach a perfect God knowing we are full of imperfections and struggles? This was my thought for many years as I served God to my best abilities. The only time I felt comfortable was if I had a great day of doing good works and making great choices. I was constantly driven to perform so that He would not reject me. I didn't realize I had a giant of unworthiness working in me, which constantly had me giving offerings to God so that He might accept me. I gave offerings of time, good works, money, prayers, fasting, and service over and over again to prove my worth to Him.

Seeing God as my Father was the beginning of peace in my heart that now lives in me every moment of the day. Whether I have a great or not-so-great day, I feel at peace with Him. I am no longer attempting to earn His love if I have an offering or no offering. This truth has changed everything about my Christian walk, and I pray that you, too, will walk in this.

Too many believers will only discover this truth after entering heaven, which is sad. Many will live their entire life on this earth, never really experiencing the pure security and safety of knowing a Father who believes in and loves them. Your whole life changes when you realize what it means to be Fathered by a perfect Father. One of my most important assignments from God is to help the church to see God as their Father. For me personally, it is one of the most significant revelations that has changed my walk with God.

Many Christians faithfully serve God as the Almighty being in heaven and never transition to seeing themselves as His children. In years past, I heard many sermons on how to get God to answer my prayers based on approaching Him in fear and trembling. They see God as the God of the Old Testament and build their relationship based on that image. I've heard many messages about how we approach God in prayer after a ritual of offering Him something and cleansing ourselves first. I remember learning that we need to bother Him with our faith to get His attention. The picture that preacher had was of God being indifferent to our struggles and us being unworthy. Please read the following verses carefully; in them, we read how we, as born-again believers have a different relationship with God than the Old Testament saints.

Hebrews 12:18–24 *“For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.” And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.”*

God does not want us to draw near Him in fear but boldly run into His presence, not because He changed but because we have changed through Jesus. You are His child through salvation. Many years ago, we visited my family in Canada for a few weeks. While outside in a parking lot, a man approached my dad and said, "Hi Ken, how are you?" To which my dad replied, and they talked for a while. Harrison, who was very young, came up to me, tugged on my coat, and said, "Daddy, daddy" I replied, "What is it, son." "Does Grandpa have a name?" he asked. I answered back. "Yes, he does; his friends call him Ken; that is his first name." A few hours later, while we were back at the house, Harrison pulled on my shirt and said, "Daddy, daddy." I could tell his little brain had been working. "What is it, son?" I replied. "Do you have a name?" He asked. I said, "Yes, son, my name is Daddy, and you'll call me that the rest of your life." Then I said, "Son, before you were born, I had no children, so my friends called me Alan; that is my name; I was only Alan, but the day you were born, I then became Daddy, and the rest of my life I get to be called that because you were born."

God has always been God and will always remain the same, but the day you were born again, He also became your Father. You changed from a child of this world into a child of God. Your first birth was to the family of Adam, but your second birth was to His family. He is actually your Father, just like it says in Galatians 4:6, "*And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'*" Nothing will ever change His love for you. You can always run to Him day or night, good days and bad days, busy days, and slow days. He never changes. He is your Father.

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