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Knowing the Father as Your Daddy

Watching my wife, Christy run through a restaurant chasing after my young son was funny. We were preparing to leave when he saw his chance and made his great escape. The restaurant had a large area right in the middle that was fenced in with a short wall. On the outside of the area was an aisle to walk all the way around and since Harrison was so small at the time, you couldn't see him on the other side of the wall. The whole restaurant stopped eating and watched as Christy ran behind him trying to catch up to my speedy kid the whole while whispering in her stern voice for him to stop. They thought she was crazy because you could only see her talking to herself running through the place. As he followed the aisle, it took him completely around the outside of the entire restaurant returning him to where he began where I was waiting to capture him.

I sure miss those days of young kids; they add adventure to our lives. Every parent knows the fun of pursuing their beloved children through a crowd of strangers. We also understand the time and patience it takes to help our children to learn how to follow and obey authorities in their lives. We want them to know how to respect parents, teachers, coaches, police officers or any other true authority they have in their lives. The rest of their life they will live under some type of authority and the ones who don't learn this usually clash with others and end up in trouble. In fact, one of the signs of maturity for our children is they're usually able to understand and submit to the proper authorities in their lives.

Eventually, every one of us will end up under the ultimate authority of God and learn the importance of submission. Some people look at God's leadership as a hard taskmaster forcing His opinions and His will upon them, with hard punishment awaiting every person who dares to disobey the smallest instruction. Others view Him as a gentle wind of passiveness, always accepting and embracing every choice they make. Our view on authority has a significant effect on our view of God in our life. Our ability to understand His love for us also greatly affects our willingness to submit to His leadership.

Make no mistake God is very interested in leading your steps; He is very interested in giving you personal instructions and direction. When it comes to us listening to others in our life over His voice, He reminds us that His name is Jealous as in He wants to be the only one we worship. Exodus 34:13-14 says "*But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images*" (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),"

It is very important to see that God also asks us to call Him Father! This is crucial for us to understand because that's who He wants to be in our life. After all, you were born of Him, and now He wants us to see His authority in our life as a Father. I know many people have not experienced a healthy father in this world, but a biblical Father is a beautiful image of real authority. The scripture tells me how to act as a father toward my children, and it is the same way that God will act towards me. It shows the love and patience of a man whose whole interest

is the maturity and success of his children. He does not provoke his children Ephesians 6:4 "*And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*" A biblical father does not live for himself but to provide, protect and guide his family into the will of God. He will teach his children by living as an example; he will love his children and also he will discipline his children all with their best interests at heart.

To see exactly who God wants to become in your life let's look at Romans 8:15! "*For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."* While all the names of God are important, I believe that this one is the most significant! The best definition of the name "Abba" is the word "daddy." When my children were learning to speak Christy and I would compete to see if they would say "mommy" or "daddy" as their first word. I tried my best with both kids by speaking and singing "daddy" over and over but still "mommy" was always spoken first. Every parent hates the day when their children grow up and call them "dad" or "mom" it seems like that's the day they leave some of their childhood behind. Please understand that God wants you to see His authority in your life as a young child looks to his loving Father and reaches out their arms to be embraced and says "daddy." When I was young in the Lord, I learned how to hear His voice, but I did not have the ability to truly walk in obedience with Him until I learned to receive His love as my Daddy. I could call Him God or even Father but to verbally say the name "Daddy" took me time and forced me to come to a place of yielding to a childlike trust. Obedience became more than just doing what I was told and became an adventure of learning to be loved and guided by someone I trusted more than anyone, even myself. His correction always came in love and felt safe instead of fearful.

To Him also it is not a simple matter of listening and obeying, but it includes so much more. It encompasses an intimate relationship and maturing into the person He desires you to become. It means embracing His plan for your life and yielding of your will over to His will. There are so many wonderful and amazing things in your future. I can promise you that God has chased me around a few restaurants in my past and He caught me with His gentleness and forgiving arms. It was with this love that my Father has persuaded me to trust Him more and more each day. He is more than our Father, He is our daddy, and he believes in us!

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