

# ALAN TAYLOR

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## We Are Family

Family is very important to God, so much so that He created man to surround Himself with multitudes upon multitudes of people. In His original design, man was created in His very image and given the instructions to multiply because He wanted more of them, many more. We all know that because of Adam's original sin that mankind was taken away from God, at least until Jesus came. Through Jesus, God was able to create a new family called the children of God, with Him being our Father. Salvation and being born again means that we are born the first time to our earthly parents but born the second time to our Heavenly Father.

In the past, I would have people remind me that I didn't wish them a happy birthday, and I would apologize for not realizing it was their birthday. Then they would say, "Well, not my natural birthday but actually my spiritual one," the day they were born again. I used to laugh and pat them on the head and think it was a nice gesture, but now I realize that it absolutely is the truth. At that moment, the real you was honestly and completely birthed into His child, with God becoming your Father.

Jesus referred to this in Matthew 12: 46-50, **"While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him. Then one said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You." But He answered and said to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! "For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."**

Jesus was sending a message to His earthly family that they must also become born again after He was glorified. The emphasis being that our heavenly family is the one that lasts for eternity. During the holidays, when people around the world celebrate together, we all have different circumstances. Some have lovely earthly families to celebrate with, while others don't have anyone to share this time with. However, as believers, let us celebrate that we are all part of an incredible, wonderful, and loving family with a Father that will never leave us nor forsake us, and we have a Savior in Christ who will stick closer than a brother.

It is my great honor and privilege to be a part of God's family with you, and today I celebrate Jesus with you in mind. How incredible is it that we will be together for the rest of eternity because of the price that our Lord Jesus paid? This is the season to remind ourselves of the greatness of our God, and because of His kindness, we are birthed into His Family. Always remember that you will never be alone nor abandoned by God and that you are forever loved.

Have a Merry Christmas.

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