
THOUGHTS OF A FATHER

The context of what I would like to share over the next while, might best be described by looking at interpretations of the title – “Thoughts of a Father”. It may suggest, “Thoughts from a father”, as a father sharing his thoughts with a son or daughter. Perhaps it could also mean, “Thoughts about a Father”, as in sharing thoughts or ideas, or concepts, about our Heavenly Father. In reality I suspect that both interpretations will prove to be correct as my musings are expressed in writing.

I had the privilege of sharing some thoughts on the topic, “The Fatherhood of God”, one Sunday morning at Stanley Park Community Church, my home church. The opportunity was a blessing from God for me, and as I understand, for some others as well. There was so much more to share, however, that I felt that I had cheated some by not being able to give as much detail as I would have liked. I also sensed that I had invited a beginning, but needed to follow-up with some encouragement and perhaps more insight, not leaving people hanging so-to-speak. As I thought about this God seemed to plant, in my mind and heart, the idea of writing out what I felt needed to be shared and making it available to those who would be interested in looking further. Hence my attempt to share more of what I believe God would have us all meditate on and ponder in our hearts and minds. Let me remind you again that this is not intended to be a HOW TO, but rather a sharing of concepts and ideas to prayerfully dwell on. Forgive me if I repeat some of what you have already heard.

Where to begin? There is so much! It would seem however, due to the nature of the topic, and the fact that what I want to share is not sequential, that there could be many starting points, much like the strands on a spider web, all leading to the centre but all interconnected. There are many entwined pathways to be explored that lead to the same end. Let me begin this with the idea that we must become as children before God in order to have fellowship with God.

In some recent reading I have been doing in the Gospel of Luke, I came across the following familiar scripture: “People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”(Luke 18: 15-17). Jesus is making a very powerful statement. Obviously Jesus is not talking

about those of us who are beyond childhood, returning to childhood, but rather he is talking about an attitude. He is not talking about chronology, but about our values, beliefs, and understanding. This may be one place where 'mind over matter' is critical and essential. How might childhood manifest itself? Consider the following:

- 1) A child recognizes the authority of a father.
- 2) A child knows that he or she is loved by the father.
- 3) A child trusts the father implicitly.
- 4) A child willingly allows a father to lead.
- 5) A child is dependent upon the father.
- 6) A child needs the father to determine its fate and destiny.
- 7) A child does what the father requests.

Becoming like a child is one of the starting points in getting to know God as Father.

Sometimes we need to change our thinking, and sometimes we just need to focus our thinking, and sometimes we need to start thinking in ways we haven't before. It takes an effort to renew or refocus our thinking patterns, we are creatures of habit and new habits are sometimes difficult to begin. This is particularly true as we get older. I would suggest that you repeat the following prayer or declaration, or something very similar, everyday. The repetition is not for the benefit of God, but for your benefit, to renew or refocus your mind.

“God, this day I choose to make you my Father for the rest of my life. I believe that you know what is best for me and that you are trustworthy, therefore I ask that you be the master of my fate and destiny. I give up everything that resembles independence. I ask that you help me to think, say, do, plan, and hope, for only that which you would have me think, say, do, plan and hope. I will to be a child of God, and ask what you would have of me. Father, you know my own weaknesses, and so I ask for your help and strength to live out these decisions I have made. Draw me into a relationship with you as father and me as your child. I declare this is a day that the Lord has made, and I WILL rejoice and be glad in it.”

We need to recognize, even in very practical ways, God's authority in our lives. If the total of our knowledge, wisdom and understanding would fill a thimble, what would God's total fill? One of the strands that leads to knowing God as your Father, or father, or daddy, is learning to become a child, His child. Submit to the greatest Love man could ever know. It's the place of true freedom and peace. See Ps.: 131