

REVIVAL NEWS

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KNOWING OUR FATHER – Walking as sons

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The mission of Jesus

Jesus the Messiah had an apostolic mission on the earth to fulfill. The night before the cross He prayed to the Father and said, ***“I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do”*** John 17:4. The mission was to ***glorify the Father on the earth***. He then said, ***“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me”*** John 17:6. Jesus told Philip earlier, ***“Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father”*** John 14:9. Jesus came to reveal the Father. Have you seen the Father in the Son? Have you come to know the Father in Jesus the Messiah?

Begotten by the Father

It is important for all of us to know that the “born again” experience was a legitimate spiritual birth into God’s family. We are not orphans who have been adopted. We are begotten by the Father, ***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”*** 1 Peter 1:3. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is our Father. He gave us new birth, spiritual birth. He begot us. We are legitimate children of God! His nature, His spiritual DNA, is in us. We are now ***“partakers of the divine nature”*** (2 Peter 1:4). This is crucial to be established in our identity as sons of God.

Blessed by the Father

The apostle Paul knew by revelation the heart of our Father to immensely bless us when He wrote, ***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ”*** Ephesians 1:3. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has blessed us! I am blessed by my Father. He has blessed me with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. He has chosen me in Christ (v.4), He has predestined to me to be a son who walks in the inheritance (v.5), He has accepted me in the Beloved and graced me with every grace (v.6). And this He has done ***“according to the good pleasure of His will to the praise of the glory of His grace”*** (v.5-6). It pleases our Father to see us walking in the blessing He has bestowed upon us! Know that it is your Father’s good

pleasure to bless you – read **Ephesians 1:3-14** to see the extent of the spiritual blessings He has given us and let these be your portion!

Father of mercies

The apostle Paul shared with the Corinthian church about the troubles, tribulations and suffering he and his team experienced and was able to acknowledge, ***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort” 2 Corinthians 1:3.*** Our Father is a ***Father of mercies and God of all comfort!*** These ***mercies*** are to be a characteristic of His sons as we are to ***“put on tender mercies”*** (Colossians 3:12) and respond to the ***“mercies of God”*** by presenting ***“your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” Romans 12:1.*** These ***tender mercies*** are the kind acts of care and attention to our needs and consolation in our troubles. We have a good Father who is full of mercy and kindness towards us in all of our affliction, taking care of us and attending to our wounds. Jesus exhorts and commands us to ***“therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful” Luke 6:36.***

Father of Lights

The apostle and brother of the Lord, James, tells us, ***“Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning” James 1:16-17.*** He is called here the ***Father of lights!*** Paul the apostle calls us ***“sons of light and sons of the day”*** (1 Thessalonians 5:5) and also says that we are to be ***“children of God without fault in the midst of a perverse and crooked generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world” Philippians 2:15.***

As the ***Father of lights*** He never changes. Jesus commanded us to ***“let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” Matthew 5:16.*** Jesus is the ***“Light of the world”*** (John 8:12). Jesus the Messiah never changes, ***“Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever” Hebrews 13:8.*** He is the one who manifests His Father’s name and character – as we are also called to do. Do not hide His works. Let them shine. Jesus said, ***“the Father, who dwells in Me, does the works” John 14:10.*** It is now ***“God who works in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure” Philippians 2:13.*** As our Father shines and stands out, so now as His sons we are to shine and stand out for the world to see so that our Father is glorified!

Giver of every good and perfect gift

James also wrote about the ***Father of lights*** that ***“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights” James 1:17.*** Jesus told us that even earthly, human, fathers know how to give good gifts to their children, ***“how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” Luke 11:13.*** Our Father is the Giver of every good and perfect gift. He gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him and then all the gifts of the Spirit become available to us (1 Corinthians 12:8-10). We are to ***“pursue love and desire spiritual gifts” 1 Corinthians 14:1.*** Our Father wants us to desire His gifts and ask for them! As these gifts are used by His sons He is glorified and people come to know the power of God, and the Father is revealed in the Son, Jesus.

The Father of our spirits corrects and chastens His sons

In the book of **Hebrews** God is referred to as the *Father of spirits* when the writer says, *“Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?” Hebrews 12:9.* The *Father of spirits* does this *“that we may be partakers of His holiness” Hebrews 12:10.* Our Father is the *Father of spirits* who disciplines and chastens us in and by the Spirit. He puts deep conviction in us that we *“might yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness” Heb.12:11.* We as sons are to *“serve with our spirits in the gospel of His Son” Romans 1:9.* We are to be submitted to the *Father of our spirits* and *“worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh” Philippians 3:3.* As sons we are *“led by the Spirit of God” (Romans 8:14),* yielding ourselves to His leading and correction!

The Perfect Father

Jesus taught His disciples, *“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect” Matthew 5:48.* We have a perfect Father! He is perfect in all of His ways. *“He has not dealt with us according to our sins...as a father pities his children, so Yahweh pities those who fear Him...He remembers that we are dust” Psalm 103:10, 13-14.* The word *perfect* means: *complete, sound, whole and mature.* This is who our Father is. Jesus taught us that we should *“love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven” Matthew 5:44-45.* This is what makes our Father perfect and complete.

When we manifest these qualities we show ourselves to be sons of our Father. Jesus, as the Son of God, perfectly manifested this and showed us the Father when on the Cross He said of His persecutors, *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” Luke 23:34.* Stephen manifested that he was a son of God when he said of those who were murdering him for his witness of Jesus, *“Lord, do not charge them with this sin” Acts 7:60.* So, *be perfect just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

The Mystery of God

The apostle Paul expresses his great struggle for us to come to *“all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ” Colossians 2:2.* It is in Christ, we know the Father. Jesus reveals the Father. It is what He came to do! The *“only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him” John 1:18.* God is the *God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!* Jesus is the Way to know the Father and He brings us into this awesome *“fellowship with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ” 1 John 1:3.*

There is a deep revelation growing in His sons. It is a revelation of the Father that enables us to walk as sons. Jesus said that if we would love Him and keep His word, *“then My Father will love you and We will come and make Our home with you” John 14:23.* We become the home, the abode and dwelling, of the Father and the Son, revealing the mystery of God to the world! By abiding in the doctrine of Christ we have *“both the Father and the Son” 2 John 9.* Sons glorify and manifest the Father. Christ in us glorifies our Father in heaven!

Keep pursuing the knowledge of God

We are in an amazing season. Continue to pursue the knowledge of God (**Hos.6:3**). By coming to a deeper revelation and experience of our Father in Christ, we become more secure, confident, unashamed and filled with the love of God in all that we do. We become bold in our witness and assured of our placement as sons. See the Father in Jesus and be encompassed by the covering of our good and perfect Father!