

Abba Father's Love for you & me – What is your response to be?

Romans 8:14-17

An intimate message from God to you- Father's Love Letter

My Child, You may not know me, but I know everything about you.

⁽¹⁾ I know when you sit down and when you rise up. ⁽²⁾ I am familiar with all your ways. ⁽³⁾

Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. ⁽⁴⁾ For you were made in my image. ⁽⁵⁾ In me you live and move and have your being, for you are my offspring. ⁽⁶⁾

I knew you even before you were conceived. ⁽⁷⁾ I chose you when I planned creation. ⁽⁸⁾ You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. ⁽⁹⁾

I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. ⁽¹⁰⁾ You are fearfully and wonderfully made. ⁽¹¹⁾ I knit you together in your mother's womb. ⁽¹²⁾ And brought you forth on the day you were born. ⁽¹³⁾

I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. ⁽¹⁴⁾ I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. ⁽¹⁵⁾

And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. ⁽¹⁶⁾ I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. ⁽¹⁷⁾ For I am the perfect father. ⁽¹⁸⁾

Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. ⁽¹⁹⁾ For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. ⁽²⁰⁾ My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. ⁽²¹⁾ Because I love you with an everlasting love. ⁽²²⁾

My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. ⁽²³⁾ And I rejoice over you with singing. ⁽²⁴⁾ I will never stop doing good to you. ⁽²⁵⁾ For you are my treasured possession. ⁽²⁶⁾

I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. ⁽²⁷⁾ And I want to show you great and marvelous things. ⁽²⁸⁾ If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. ⁽²⁹⁾

Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. ⁽³⁰⁾ For it is I who gave you those desires. ⁽³¹⁾ I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. ⁽³²⁾ For I am your greatest encourager. ⁽³³⁾

I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. ⁽³⁴⁾ When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. ⁽³⁵⁾ As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. ⁽³⁶⁾

One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. ⁽³⁷⁾ I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. ⁽³⁸⁾ For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. ⁽³⁹⁾

He is the exact representation of my being. ⁽⁴⁰⁾ He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. ⁽⁴¹⁾ And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. ⁽⁴²⁾

His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. ⁽⁴³⁾ I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. ⁽⁴⁴⁾ If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. ⁽⁴⁵⁾ And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. ⁽⁴⁶⁾ Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. ⁽⁴⁷⁾

My Child, I have always been Father, and will always be Father. ⁽⁴⁸⁾
My question is... Will you be my child? ⁽⁴⁹⁾ I am waiting for you. ⁽⁵⁰⁾

Love, Your Dad ... Almighty God

Father's Love Letter is a compilation of the following paraphrased Bible verses presented in the form of a love letter from God to you... (1) Psalm 139:1; (2) Psalm 139:2; (3) Psalm 139:3; (4) Matthew 10:29-31; (5) Genesis 1:27; (6) Acts 17:28; (7) Jeremiah 1:4-5; (8) Ephesians 1:11-12; (9) Psalm 139:15-16; (10) Acts 17:26 (11) Psalm 139:14; (12) Psalm 139:13; (13) Psalm 71:6; (14) John 8:41-44; (15) 1 John 4:16; (16) 1 John 3:1; (17) Matthew 7:11; (18) Matthew 5:48; (19) James 1:17; (20) Matthew 6:31-33 (21) Jeremiah 29:11; (22) Jeremiah 31:3; (23) Psalm 139:17-18; (24) Zephaniah 3:17; (25) Jeremiah 32:40; (26) Exodus 19:5; (27) Jeremiah 32:41; (28) Jeremiah 33:3; (29) Deuteronomy 4:29 (30) Psalm 37:4; (31) Philippians 2:13; (32) Ephesians 3:20; (33) 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; (34) 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; (35) Psalm 34:18; (36) Isaiah 40:11; (37) Revelation 21:3-4; (38) John 17:23 (39) John 17:26; (40) Hebrews 1:3; (41) Romans 8:31; (42) 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; (43) 1 John 4:10; (44) Romans 8:31-32; (45) 1 John 2:23; (46) Romans 8:38-39 (47) Luke 15:7 (48) Ephesians 3:14-15; (49) John 1:12-13; (50) Luke 15:11-32. 1999

How will you respond to a letter like this from your Daddy, Almighty God? The Apostle Paul's response will help us here in **Romans 8:**

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. **17** Now if we are

children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Paul knew that as a Christian he was a child of God who belonged to God. He knew that God was not only his Father, but the father of all in the sense that God had created everything in the beginning, he had created all and not only that, but his love and providential care extended to all. So Paul is aware that he had not truly always been God's child because before his experience on the Road to Damascus when the Lord Jesus appeared to him, even though he thought he had been following and serving God by persecuting Jesus' followers, he was actually doing the work of his father the devil. But when he came to Christ on the Road to Damascus, or the Lord came to him, he became a child of God through faith in God's one and only Son and Saviour, Jesus Christ. And from that encounter he knew he was a child of God because he received the Holy Spirit and was born again. And as God's child he was from that moment on, lead by the Spirit, which is a hallmark of his relationship with God as his Father and he as God's child. The Spirit and it's leading are not only a sign to the believer but to the world that they are God's child and are being lead by him, that such a one has been in fact adopted as son or daughter by their heavenly Father. Christian believers who have trusted in Jesus and believed in him as the Son of God, received him as their Saviour, have been adopted by grace as God's child. And the great heartfelt response from any such by the spirit is to cry, "Abba Father." It is this cry that expresses one's especially close and intimate relationship with God the Father as his child.

So it is by the very testimony of God's spirit living and dwelling within us as his child that we can call out and call upon "Abba, Father". The Spirit within who testifies with our spirit that we are saved for eternity with Christ, that we have an especially close relationship with Abba Father as his child. Today, Abba Father wants you to know that he desires an intimate relationship with you even more than you do with Him. So why not allow yourself to express this inner cry, let the Spirit testify with yours within, with the words of, "Abba, Father", to both encounter and draw closer in your relationship to God the Father.

'Abba' is simply Aramaic for Father and means daddy, papa, my own dear father. When I consider the word Ab-ba, I think of the most basic unit of language that we have which is the phoneme boundary, a sound like bah or dah. It is also the very first sound that a 12-18 month old makes when it begins to speak. As a first word a young one learns to

say and repeat it's easy to say, ba-ba or da-da and soon dad or daddy. This is in English today whereas a Jewish child in Jesus' time when Aramaic was spoken, their first words began with ba-ba and da-da as well which soon becomes Abba, the name of their Almighty God. The good news is that, no matter how old you are, if you are a Christian Jesus, Paul is saying that we may address God in the same way, just as a 14 month old learning to speak its first words sitting in their father or parent's lap, with that same level of trust and intimacy. Do you enjoy that same level of trust and intimacy with your heavenly daddy as the child with a simple faith does when sitting or moving around in its parent's lap? No matter whether you play, chat away or even fall to sleep, are you assured that your daddy has got you no matter what, because you've chosen to be with Him in his caring presence? And with this,

Do you have the inner sense of peace and knowing that as a Christian believer, a follower of Christ that you belong to God in the most intimate way? That in fact what Paul is telling us is that we are daddy's most loved child, his son or daughter, boy or girl. This is not a sentimental wishy-washy type of love that I'm talking about. It is instead a love born out of a deep childlike trust and reverence that Jesus declared in John 17:23 would mark the lives of his followers.

Could you be so bold as to pray, "Abba, daddy, I belong to you!" "Because of your gift of grace, I've been adopted by your spirit as your son or daughter". Praying such a prayer of belief and trust where you discover and experience the intimate love of your heavenly daddy, as you cry out, "Abba Father". Such an experience is God's gift of grace. It is the best gift imaginable for any Christian on this Father's Day, Jesus' gift of the Abba experience, a gift that requires each of us to open our hearts and minds to receive him into our own lives. It is a potential life changing and transforming experience by the power of God when we encounter Abba Daddy in such a way that we know it because the Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are God's own children. Personally speaking, having experienced the life changing power of this encounter with Abba, I can stand before you today and say, my name is Kent and I am daddy's boy. Now can you say that using your own name?

Or are you experiencing a negative reaction to ever being able to experience such an intimate loving relationship with your heavenly Father because of your own determined streak of self-reliance or perhaps because of what your earthly Father, parent or parental role model said or did to you as a child, or even omitted to say and do, so that you are put off approaching, let alone trusting God in this way.

If that is you, then I have a word for you from Brennan Manning, a former addict and alcoholic, former catholic priest and married man with quite a colourful past. In his book 'The Furious Longing of God' he tells the story of ministering at a large retreat. One night after praying for many people till after midnight he went to bed so exhausted that he slept in his clothes. Then at 3am he hears a knock at the door. He opens the door to find a 78-year-old nun crying. She tells him her story revealing for the first time what it is that she had been keeping quiet and holding onto for the last 73 years. From the age of five her father sexually abused her in the most perverse ways for nearly ten years. She felt dirty and lived with a heart full of hatred. She hated her father as much as she intensely hated herself, so much so that even as a nun she would only force herself to take communion when her absence would be definitely noticed. Brennan prayed with her for healing. Then he asked her if she could do something for the next 30 days, which was to find a quiet place every morning, sit in a chair, close her eyes, upturn her palms and pray this one phrase over and over: "Abba, I belong to you."

Brennan chose this prayer because it has exactly 7 syllables, the number that perfectly corresponds to our breathing pattern. He told her that as you inhale pray 'Ab-ba', and as you exhale, 'I'll be-long to You.' Through her tears she agreed to do it. A year later Brennan received a letter from the nun where she described the inner healing of her heart, a complete forgiveness of her father, and an inner peace she'd never known in all her years. In finishing the letter she said this, "A year ago, I would've signed this letter with my real name in religious life-Sister Mary Genevieve. But from now on, I'm Daddy's little girl."

This is a woman who it would have been wise to seek professional counseling but instead chose to pray the spirit's true cry of her heart stating that she belongs to her Abba Daddy. In daring to pray with such childlike trust and deep reverence she had both discovered and experienced after many years as a Christian that she was much loved by her Abba daddy in a very close and intimate relationship.

On this Father's Day your Abba Daddy has told you that he loves you! You need to choose how it is that you will respond. If you would choose to open yourself to God may the Holy Spirit within you testify with your spirit so that you might encounter God in the most intimate way, as you cry out Abba Father, I am your child and I belong to you!

May you be blessed in his presence.

