

RECOGNIZE, RECEIVE, AND RELEASE THE FATHER HEART OF GOD

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INTRODUCTION: (Some general thoughts regarding this subject)

1. When I as a believer in Jesus Christ recognize, receive, and release the Father Heart of God, I will...

- experience security in all relationships.
- experience intimacy with the Father.
- experience courage to face adversity.
- experience strength to overcome discouragement.
- experience insight when dealing with conflict.
- experience peace in the midst of unrest.
- experience joy when experiencing trials.
- experience victory over temptation.
- experience rest instead of striving.
- experience significance when struggling with low self esteem.
- experience acceptance when faced with rejection.
- experience grace to forgive when offended.
- experience liberty to overcome bondage's.
- experience holy living naturally.
- experience freedom from being ruled by the self life
- experience salvation as God intended.
- experience worship in a whole new dimension.

2. The subject, "*The Father Heart of God*," recognizes the "Fatherhood" of God but that does not exclude all aspects of God character, including "motherly" attributes of God. This comment is not intended to promote a gender neutral God. Rather, it reinforces God's heart that includes qualities of both masculine and feminine. Please note the following verses that represent a couple of examples of God's character:

Luke 13:34 – The words of Jesus to the inhabitants of Jerusalem: "*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!*"

I Thessalonians 2:6b-7 – The apostle Paul expresses the heart of God when he was speaking to the church of the Thessalonians: "...As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, ⁷ but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children."

3. This subject is so huge and thus this outline only will give some introductory insights. My desire as a teacher is that this teaching will awaken a desire within you to explore the depths and riches of God's amazing love to us. As we see above, by **recognizing, receiving,** and then **releasing the Father Heart of God**, it will have a dramatic influence for good on our life and ministry, and thus bring Glory to God. To walk in ignorance or rejection of this truth will lead to ineffectiveness, frustration, and unholy living.

I. RECOGNIZE THE FATHER'S HEART

1. God's father heart of love

I John 3:1 – *“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.”*

Jeremiah 31:3 – *The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.”*

Example: - God's expresses his heart of love for the Children of Israel. - Exodus 19:4 - *“You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.”*

For reflection and action: - Do I have a deep assurance of the Father's love? Why or why not? Is the Father's love something I must really feel emotionally or is it something I can simply embrace by faith?

2. God's father heart of forgiveness

Colossians 2:13-14 – *“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.”*

Ephesians 1:7 – *“In him (Jesus) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.”*

Example: - In spite of Israel's false worship, God is willing to extend forgiveness to them. – Isaiah 1:18-19 – *“Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land.”*

For reflection and action: - Can I truthfully say that I have fully received the Father's forgiveness? Are there individuals and situations that I find hard to forgive? Have I fully forgiven myself?

3. God's father heart of compassion

Psalms 86:15 – *“But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.”*

Psalms 116:5 – *“The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.”*

Example: - God expresses his compassion to wayward Israel. – Hosea 11:8 - *“How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused.”*

For reflection and action: - Do I demonstrate compassion in my life? With whom do I find it difficult to demonstrate compassion? What is at the root of this?

4. God's father heart of mercy

Ephesians 2:4-5 - *"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved."*

I Peter 3:4-5 - *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you..."*

Example: - This demonstrates God's mercy to the Children of Israel. - Isaiah 63:8-9 - *"In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old."*

For reflection and action: - Where in my life, or to others, do I find it difficult to show mercy? Is mercy a natural reaction to pitiful situations or do I have to really work at showing mercy? Is there a danger of having too much mercy? If so, why?

5. God's father heart of grace

Romans 5:17 - *"For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ."*

II Corinthians 9:8 - *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*

Example: - God pours out his grace on the church. - Ephesians 1:7-8 - *"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding."*

For reflection and action: - How would I define the broader meaning of grace? How is grace demonstrated in my life? In all situations of life, do I sense that I am living in the "*abundant provision of grace*?" Why or why not? How can one grow in grace?

6. God's father heart of provision

I Timothy 6:17 - *"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment."*

Matthew 6:25-26 - *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"*

Example: - God provides comfort for those who mourn. - Isaiah 61:2-3 - *"...to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who*

mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion--to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor."

For reflection and action: - How have I experienced God's provision in my life? Name the blessings. If we seem to lack, what is the reason? What is at the heart of my fear of lack of provision at times?

7. God's father heart of justice

Psalms 9:8-10 – "He will judge the world in righteousness; he will govern the peoples with justice. The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you."

Psalm 89:14-15 – "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you. Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD."

Example: - God sacrificed his Son, Jesus, to demonstrate a just payment for sin. Romans 3:25-26 – *"God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."*

For reflection and action: - Do I ever struggle with God being a just God? If so, what are the reasons? Do I fully understand, at least by faith, that Christ's death has satisfied God's justice for my sins? Am I secure in my salvation? If not, why not? If so, why so?

8. God's father heart of healing

Psalms 103:2-3 – "Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits-- who forgives all your sins, and heals all your diseases..."

Exodus 15:26 - "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

Example: - God promises restoration for Israel from Babylon, which will include healing. – Jeremiah 33:6-7 – *"Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security. I will bring Judah and Israel back from captivity and will rebuild them as they were before. I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me."*

For reflection and action: - If God says, "He will heal all our diseases," why do Christian people die of sickness? What is the total implication of healing?

9. God's father heart of salvation

Psalms 62:6-8 – "He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge."

Isaiah 25:9 – “*In that day they will say, ‘Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.’*”

Example: The Psalmist recounts the salvation of the Lord to Israel. – Psalm 22:4-5 – “*In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.*”

For reflection: - What does “salvation” mean? Can you say with confidence, “*He (God the Father, Jesus) is my rock and my salvation...fortress...I will not be shaken?*” How would you describe your salvation experience, past and present? What will your future salvation include?

10. God’s father heart of holiness

Exodus 15:11 – “*Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you-- majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?*”

Ephesians 4:24 – “*...and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*”

Example:- God demonstrated his holiness when he brought them out of the land of Egypt. (Part of the song of Moses and Miriam). – Exodus 15:11 - “*Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you--majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?*”

For reflection and action: - Do I really have a clear understanding and conviction of the holiness of God? How does one grow in holiness? What areas in my life do I struggle in holiness?

For reflection and action: - Having surveyed ten expressions of the Father’s Heart, do I have a renewed appreciation of the Father’s love for me? Why or why not? What are additional expressions of the Father’s heart that could be studied?

Summary: Examples listed above concerning the *Father’s heart* are not exhaustive. I challenge you to search the Scriptures to find additional examples of the Father’s heart, both in the characteristics listed above, as well as additional examples.

List additional examples here:

As we begin to *recognize* all of the attributes of the Father’s heart, it should encourage, inspire, and motivate us to *receive* all these provisions of His love!

II. RECEIVE THE FATHER'S HEART OF LOVE

To the extent, by faith, that we *receive* or embrace the Father's heart of love for us, will we be able to experience life as God desires, enter into intimacy with him, and pass on or *release* this love to others. *How do we fully receive the Father's heart of love?*

1. Remove the obstacles that hinder us from receiving the Father's heart of love.

What are the obstacles that hinder us? This list is not exhaustive.

- a. **Fear of intimacy** – What are the reasons this is an obstacle?
- lack of experiencing intimacy in one's childhood
 - violation of trust
 - fear of being exposed as to what God would really want to do in our life
 - pride—I don't want to open myself to others
 - unbelief—God really doesn't care very much for me

What must one do to overcome this obstacle? BELIEVE that God knows what is best for my life and that He wants to be intimate with me.

Isaiah 40:11 – *“He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.”*

- b. **Rejection**—What are the reasons this is an obstacle?
- experienced major or significant hurt from individuals that one looked up to or trusted
 - question why God would be any different than how one may have been negatively treated by others.

What must one do to overcome this obstacle? ACCEPT the fact that God never rejects anyone. He wants to have a love relationship with me.

Ephesians 1:4-5 – *“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will...”*

- c. **Unbelief**—What are the reasons this is an obstacle?
- question why a holy, mighty, and awesome God would want to have a relationship with me
 - experience significant feelings of insecurity and insignificance

What must one do to overcome this obstacle? **TRUST** God and His Word, believing that what it says about His love for me is true. Declare the truths of His Word over your life.

Romans 8:38-39 - *“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

d. Ignorance—What are the reasons this is an obstacle?

- unaware what is at the basis of their struggles
- assume that other are to blame for their struggles
- blame themselves for not being able to experience intimacy with God

What must one do to overcome this obstacle? **LEARN** what the Bible says about the Father’s love. Learn the truths and then, by faith, apply them to my life.

Jeremiah 30:17a – *“But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,’ declares the LORD...”*

e. Anger and resentment—What are the reasons this is an obstacle?

- controlled by others through not letting go of anger and resentment
- the mind is filled with negative thoughts toward God because of attitudes toward others

What must one do to overcome this obstacle? **REPENT, FORGIVE, AND RELEASE** the persons that have offended. When I understand God’s heart of forgiveness, then a softening takes place. Through release I begin the thrilling journey of not only understanding God’s mercy and grace toward me, but I experience the joy that comes when I release it to others. Praise the Lord, anger and resentment simply dissolve away!

Ephesians 4:31-32 – *“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*

f. Legalism—What are the reasons this is an obstacle?

- often view God as a lawgiver who is ready to “hit one over the head” when there is disobedience

- have a limited understanding of God’s grace
- live with a judgmental mindset in attitudes and thoughts

What must one do to overcome this obstacle? RECEIVE GRACE from God by faith. Only a revelation of God’s grace will remove the drudgery of legalism. One’s duty to God is rooted in love, not obligation. Surrender is a battle of the flesh and always will be. Overflowing grace is the oil and the energy that drives and motivates my life as a believer.

Romans 7:5-6 – *“For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.”*

For reflection and action: - After reviewing these obstacles, which one(s) may I be dealing with in my personal life? Do I have the confidence that I can overcome these obstacles? Following are some exhortations on how to remove the obstacles.

Summary exhortations on “removing the obstacles”

1. Remove all obstacles so that we “can run the race with perseverance”

Hebrews 12:1-3 – *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”*

2. Repent of all known sin (obstacles) so we can enter into full relationship and intimacy with God.

Proverbs 28:13 – *“He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”*

I John 1:9 – *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

2. Believe the truth of God’s Word concerning His love for us

a. God has given us the “Spirit of sonship”

Romans 8:15-17 – *“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. 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.”*

b. God has given us the “right” to become His children

John 1:12-13 – “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.”

c. God has “adopted” us into his family

Ephesians 1:4-6 – “For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.”

d. God has “lavished” his love on us by calling us His children

I John 3:1-3 – “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.”

Summary exhortations on “believing the truth of God’s Word”

1. Refuse to harden your heart that leads to a “darkened understanding” of God’s love.

Ephesians 4:17-18 – “So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.”

2. Resist the lie of Satan that you cannot experience God’s love and support.

II Timothy 4:16-18 – “At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

3. Remember God’s personal love for you at all time.

Isaiah 41:13 –“For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.”

3. Declare the reality of the Father’s heart of love

a. Declare with the mouth God’s truth about His love

Romans 10:8-11 – *But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with*

your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

b. Stephen declared the Word of God when facing death, revealing the very heart of God's love through Jesus.

Acts 7:59-60 - "While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep."

c. Declare the reality of the Father's heart of love through prayer

Take examples from the Scriptures noted above and make them your prayer. **Example:** *I John 3:1-3 – Heavenly Father, I thank you for the love that you lavished on me. I thank you that you call me your child. Heavenly Father, I desire to know you more so that I can demonstrate to the world your heart of love. Lord, I thank you that when I meet you, according to your word, I will be like you. Knowing this, Heavenly Father, inspires me to walk in your purity. Amen*

Summary exhortations on “declaring the reality of the Father’s heart of love”

1. Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to assist you in declaring God’s love.

I Corinthians 2:10-14 - "The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."

2. Recall the faithfulness of God’s love continually in order to declare it.

Lamentations 3:20-24 - "I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

3. Reach out in faith, fully surrendering your will to God that he is able to help you overcome all obstacles to receiving the Father’s heart of love.

I John 3:7-9 – "Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God

appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God."

For reflection and action: - Am I fully open to receive the Father's love? How will this attitude be reflected in my life? Out of all the "summary exhortations" above, what represents the greatest challenge to me? What is my observation why people have a hard time believing that God really loves them?

III. RELEASE THE FATHER'S HEART OF LOVE TO OTHERS

We must not only **RECOGNIZE** and **RECEIVE** the Father's heart of love, but we must also **RELEASE** the Father's heart of love to those we live in close proximity with as well as everyone in the world that we meet. The basic cry of the world, with all of his massive needs of every kind imaginable, is a cry to have intimacy with the Father. Without this understanding of the Father's heart, the world looks for solutions in all of the wrong areas. This is our mission! We are His ambassadors of love!

1. Our mission is to release the Father's heart of love

a. God commanded it

Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-10 (note 3:9-10 – Example of Moses) – "And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

b. Jesus commissioned us

John 20:21 – Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

c. The Great Commandment

Luke 10:27 - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, Love your neighbor as yourself."

For reflection and action: - Am I fulfilling God's commands for my life? If not, why not? What is keeping me back?

2. We are ambassadors of the Father's heart of love

a. We are ambassadors by our proclamation of the Father's heart

II Corinthians 5:11- "Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men."

Jesus proclaimed God's love: Mark 6:1-2 – *"Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed."*

Philip and other church leaders proclaimed God's love: Acts 8:4-8 – *“Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in that city.”*

b. We are ambassadors by our actions, demonstrating the Father's heart

II Corinthians 5:14-15 – *“For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”*

Jesus feeds the multitudes: Luke 8:1-10 (verses 1-4) *“During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.” His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?”*

The example of the Macedonian churches: II Corinthians 8:1-7 (verses 1-5) – *“And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.”*

c. We are ambassadors by our attitude, how we express the Father's heart

II Corinthians 5:16 – *“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.”*

Jesus expressed an attitude of humility in his entire life, expressing the Father's love: Philippians 2:5-11 – (verses 5-7) – *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death--even death on a cross!”*

Paul exhorts us on having the proper attitude: Philippians 4:8 – *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.”*

For reflection and action: - What is the greatest challenge for me in being a true ambassador for God to the world? Are there attitudes that I struggle with in my life that could give a poor testimony? Name them. What specific actions is God calling me to take as His ambassador to represent His heart to the world?

CONCLUSION:

When we get a revelation of God's love by the power of the Holy Spirit and **RECOGNIZE** all that He has done for us, it will fill us with gratitude, cause us to search for greater intimacy with Him, and will radically affect our worship to Him. Our worship experience will not be to see how much we can get FROM Him. Rather, it will result in giving our all TO Him. He is worthy of our praise!

When we not only **RECOGNIZE** God's love, but also **RECEIVE** God's love, our focus in life will be on His ability to work through us and not on our own insecurities. We will be at peace with ourselves, and with the world we live in!

Not only must we **RECOGNIZE** and **RECEIVE** God's love, we must also **RELEASE** Gods' love. Actually, our service will be a love response to God rather than an obligation to fulfill. We will radiate joy and be a living demonstration of God's Kingdom on earth. Most of all, we will bring glory to God!

I challenge you to allow this study to be a catalyst to inspire you to search the Scriptures further on the theme of *"The Father Heart of God."* By doing so, you will be blessed and be a blessing of God's love to the world.

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" – I John 3:1