

## Part 2: Getting to Know Your Father

Father. Protector. Provider. Loving. Caring. Compassionate. Teacher. If you have ever prayed to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you have become God's child. And as His child, you can expect to have a Father who embraces the qualities I just listed--and more. Your new Father is the Almighty God, Creator of the universe.

His greatness and power may lead you to shrink back in awe and fear, driven to worship Him from a distance. But that is not the kind of relationship your new Father wants. First John 4:18 tells us, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love."

Since we worship a perfect Father and know His love, we need not tremble in His presence. Respect Him, yes. But not avoid Him. He is a loving Father and wants you to draw near to Him. He wants to know you in the same way a kind, loving earthly father would want an intimate relationship with his children.

Throughout the Bible, God emphasizes this is what He desires most of all. In Jeremiah 2:8, He declared that those who handled His law didn't know Him. He inspired the prophet Hosea to plead, "So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord" (Hosea 6:3). In verse 6, Hosea also pointed out the Father preferred intimate relationship over sacrificial service.

Paul carried on this message in the New Testament. In Philippians 3:7-10, he wrote of giving up everything he owned in order to fully know God. I urge you to make a similar, lifetime commitment to seek this loving Father with all your heart. He will reveal Himself in many ways, such as every-day experiences, nature, the lives of others who know Him, and words He speaks to your spirit through the Holy Spirit.

But the most effective way of getting to know Him is through His Word, the Bible. The following study will help you understand the new spiritual birth that comes from trusting Jesus as your Savior. However, it is primarily designed to help lead you into the exciting, daily practice of getting to know the Father by searching the Scriptures.

## **Learning Suggestions**

If you are excited about your spiritual rebirth, you will want to learn about your heavenly Father and your relationship with Him as quickly as possible. Let me offer these suggestions to help you learn faster.

### *1. Use the Bible.*

As you complete this study, keep your Bible handy. I pray the thoughts I share will inform, inspire, and encourage you. But my insights don't match the power of God's written Word. The Scriptures represent God speaking directly to you. As you read and study, the Holy Spirit will bring these words to life, transforming them into His living Word. To help your understanding, I suggest a modern translation. The verses quoted within this book come from the New American Standard (NASB).

### *2. Take notes.*

Along with your Bible, use a note pad and pencil. While I have provided space for answers, the Lord may bring more thoughts to your mind than can be contained on the pages. Write down insights, ideas, and inspirations. This will help you understand and remember what you see. You will also have notes to review later, enabling you to share your knowledge with others.

### *3. Focus on the Father.*

Forming a relationship with your heavenly Father is your goal. The object of your study should be more than gathering facts. You want to get to know a Person and spend time with Him. Don't rush to fill in the blanks so you can dash off to another activity. Soak in His presence.

God bless you as you begin this spiritual adventure. May your heavenly Father make His face shine upon you as you study. With a devoted heart, you can come to know personally His approval, affirmation and encouragement. Upon this reality you can build the most meaningful life possible.