

The Father We All Need Ray Flores, June 15, 2025

Our Identity is in Christ - Romans 8:14-17 NIV *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.*

[You are not a slave to fear; you are a child of God. Through the Spirit, we cry out, "Abba, Father" - a personal, tender name for God. We are not just accepted. We are adopted, and heirs with Christ. Our past does not define us. God's love does].

Earthly Fathers Are Imperfect - Romans 3:23 NIV *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,* [All fall short. Even good dads are only human.]

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV *³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

[In our pain and troubles, God meets us with compassion and comfort. He brings healing, not shame.]

God is our Faithful and Perfect Father - James 1:17 NIV *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.* [Every good and perfect gift comes from Him.]

Hebrews 13:5b NIV . . . *because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."* [He will never leave or forsake you. God is never moody, short-tempered, absent, or distant. He is constant and kind.]

The Story of The Prodigal Son Shows Us God's Heart - Luke 15:20 NIV *So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.*

God's Loving Correction Produces Growth - Hebrews 12:10-11 NIV *¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.* [His discipline produces righteousness and peace. God doesn't punish; He restores.]

To Fathers: Keep Going! - Galatians 6:9 NIV *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. [Your work matters. Don't give up!]*

1 Peter 5:10 NIV *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. [Restore your strength in the Lord, finish well, and leave a holy legacy.]*

Isaiah 40:29-31 NIV *²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. [God gives strength to the weary.]*

Philippians 1:6 NIV *being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. [God will finish the good work He started in you.]*

To Single Mothers: We Honor You - Isaiah 41:10 NIV *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. [God is your strength, provider and protector. You are not carrying this alone.]*

Come to the Father - 1 John 3:1 NIV *See what great 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. [You are lavishly loved by the Father.]*