

**Christianity is a Person
& His Relationship with us**

Come unto me - Matt 11:28
 I am the way - Jn 14:6
 Trust in me - Jn 14:1
 My Peace - Jn 14:27
 My Love - Jn 15:9, 10
 My Joy - Jn 15:11
 My Grace - II Cor 12:9

**His Desire: Companionship
Rev 3:20**

Share My Peace - Jn 14:27
 Share My Love - Jn 15:9
 Share My Joy - John 15:11
 Share My Grace - 2 Cor 12:9
 Share My Power - 2 Cor 12:9

Self-Destructive Sins

Neglect of our Father
 Unresponsiveness to our Father
 Unfaithfulness to our Father
 Double-mindedness
 Infidelity
 Spiritual Adultery

How do We Feel?

When betrayed
 When treated as unreliable
 When manipulated

How does God Feel?

When betrayed
 When treated as unreliable
 When manipulated

Introduction

- A. We must always remember the context (or basic structure of Christianity) when we seek to understand the Biblical foundation of our faith.
- B. There are four factors (at least) that make up this context.

Christianity is a PERSON—therefore it is a RELATIONSHIP

Christianity is a REVELATION—therefore it is an AUTHORITY

Christianity is a REDEMPTION—therefore it is POWERFUL

Christianity is an EXPERIENCE—therefore it involves DECISIONS

- C. We must begin with the Person of our Lord for the obvious reason that everything we believe, everything we do, and how we interpret life—depends ultimately on what we believe about God. There is no escape from this truth. An erroneous belief about God will introduce error into all our life—if we are consistent—happily we are not.

I. The Personhood of Our Father.

- A. God is a Person

- 1. Note Isaiah 40:18-31

- 18 *To whom, then, will you compare God?
What image will you compare him to?*
- 19 *As for an idol, a craftsman casts it,
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold
and fashions silver chains for it.*
- 20 *A man too poor to present such an offering
selects wood that will not rot.
He looks for a skilled craftsman
to set up an idol that will not topple.*
- 21 *Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood since the earth was founded?*
- 22 *He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
and its people are like grasshoppers.
He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.*

Lesson #1 – The Person of Our Father

- 23 *He brings princes to naught
and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.*
- 24 *No sooner are they planted,
no sooner are they sown,
no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.*
- 25 *“To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.*
- 26 *Lift your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one,
and calls them each by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.*
- 27 *Why do you say, O Jacob,
and complain, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD;
my cause is disregarded by my God”?*
- 28 *Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.*
- 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.*
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- a. Vs 18-20—He is infinitely better than the best of idols.
- b. Vs 21-24—He is absolutely sovereign. (Note the pronoun, decisions, and plan)
- c. Vs 25-26—He is the all-powerful Creator—the Holy One.
- d. Vs 27-31—He is all-knowing, eternal, always present, all-powerful, gracious. He gives Himself names: Lord, Everlasting God, Creator.

2. Note Jer 10:6-10

- 6 *No one is like you, O LORD;
you are great,
and your name is mighty in power.*
- 7 *Who should not revere you,
O King of the nations?
This is your due.
Among all the wise men of the nations
and in all their kingdoms,
there is no one like you.*
- 8 *They are all senseless and foolish;
they are taught by worthless wooden idols.*

- 9 *Hammered silver is brought from Tarshish
and gold from Uphaz.
What the craftsman and goldsmith have made
is then dressed in blue and purple—
all made by skilled workers.*
- 10 *But the LORD is the true God;
he is the living God, the eternal King.
When he is angry, the earth trembles;
the nations cannot endure his wrath.*
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- a. Vs 6-9—Our Father is incomparably great, powerful, the King of the Nations.
b. V10—Our Father is the True God, the Living God, the Eternal King.

3. Summary:

God is not some idea of divinity or almighty power God is a person—The Living God—
Creator—Sovereign—Redeemer God thinks, plans, makes decisions, has emotions, He
loves, can be angry, can be hurt, He cares, He has personality, He has character and has the
right to be loved, worshipped, honored, respected, recognized, praised, and obeyed.

B. God has revealed to us a mystery about Himself.

1. The mystery in human words is: Our Lord is one in essence, and yet within that unity,
there are three "persons:" The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit.
2. Scriptures for contemplation:

Deut 6:4;

- 4 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*
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Matt 28:19;

- 19 *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit,*
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John 10:30;

- 30 *I and the Father are one."*
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2 Cor 13:14

- 14 *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be
with you all.*
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II. The Plan and Power of Our Father.**A. His plan is to exult the Lord Jesus and display His worth, honor, and excellence.**

Consider these verses:

Luke 1:26-38;

- 26 *In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."*
- 29 *Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."*
- 34 *"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"*
- 35 *The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. 37 For nothing is impossible with God."*
- 38 *"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.*
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Luke 3:21,22;

- 21 *When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*
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Luke 4:16-21;

- 16 *He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:*
- 18 *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*
- 20 *Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, 21 and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*
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Luke 9:1,2;

- 1 *When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*
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Luke 10:1;

- 1 *After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.*
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Luke 10:17-24;

- 17 *The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."*
18 *He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*
21 *At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.*
22 *"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."*
23 *Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. 24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."*
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Phil 2:5-11;

- 5 *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:*
6 *Who, being in very nature God,*
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
7 *but made himself nothing,*
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
8 *And being found in appearance as a man,*
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!
9 *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place*
and gave him the name that is above every name,
10 *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,*
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 *and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,*
to the glory of God the Father.
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Col 1:12-20;

- 12 *giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

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15 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

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Rev 1:4-7;

4 *John,*

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

7 *Look, he is coming with the clouds,*

and every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

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Rev. 1:12-20;

12 *I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.*

17 *When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.*

19 *“Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. 20 The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.*

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Rev. 5:1-14;

1 *Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. 5 Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”*

6 *Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song:*

- “You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased men for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation.
10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth.”*
- 11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they sang:
“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”*
- 13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:
“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!”*
- 14 The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.
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Rev. 19:13-16;

- 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:
KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
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Rev. 22:7-21.

- 7 “Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.”
8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. 9 But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!”*
- 10 Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. 11 Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy.”*
- 12 “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.*
- 14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.*
- 16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”*
- 17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.*
- 18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.*

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- 20 *He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*
 21 *The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.*
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- B. The method chosen by our Father, as related to us as believers, is to give salvation to those who choose to believe on His Son. And, then train them, give them His Spirit, give them gifts, test and try them, fill them with faith, love, hope, joy and power so they display the love, grace, power and testimony of the Lord Jesus in daily life.

Consider these verses:

Matt 28:18-20;

- 18 *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*
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Mark 16:15-20;

- 15 *He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."*
 19 *After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. 20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.*
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John 10:25-30;

- 25 *Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."*
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John 15:1-17;

- 1 *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*
 5 *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

9 *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other.*

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John 17:6-26;

6 *“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.*

13 *“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.*

20 *“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

24 *“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*

25 *“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”*

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Acts 2:14-18;

14 *Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

17 *“In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.*

18 *Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.*

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Rom 8:18-39;

- 18 *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.*
- 22 *We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*
- 26 *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.*
- 28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*
- 31 *What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written:*
*“For your sake we face death all day long;
 we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”*
- 37 *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 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.*
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Rom 15:1-13;

- 1 *We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3 For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” 4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*
- 5 *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- 7 *Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs 9 so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:*
*“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;
 I will sing hymns to your name.”*
- 10 *Again, it says,*
“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”
- 11 *And again,*
*“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
 and sing praises to him, all you peoples.”*

12 *And again, Isaiah says,
“The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
the Gentiles will hope in him.”*

13 *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*
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2 Cor 1:3,4;

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 have received from God.*
NIV

2 Cor 5:16-21;

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. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*
NIV

Gal 5:22,23;

22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*
NIV

Eph 2:4-10;

4 *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*
NIV

Phil 2:12-16;

12 *Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*
14 *Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 16 as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.*
NIV

Lesson #1 – The Person of Our Father

1 Peter 1:6-9;

- 6 *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*
NIV

1 Peter 4:12-19.

- 12 *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And, “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” 19 So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.*
NIV

C. The personal and passionate desire of our Father—is to be a Heavenly Father to us.

1. He created us in His image so we could receive His love and love Him in return.
2. He has always sought an intimate, personal, loving fellowship with His own.
3. In spite of how you feel and what has happened to you—He wants you.

Consider these verses:

Gen 3:8;

- 8 *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*
NIV

Deut 4:20;

- 20 *But as for you, the LORD took you and brought you out of the iron-smelting furnace, out of Egypt, to be the people of his inheritance, as you now are.*
NIV

Deut 31:10;

- 10 *Then Moses commanded them: “At the end of every seven years, in the year for canceling debts, during the Feast of Tabernacles,*
NIV

Ps 63:1-5;

- 1 *A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah.
O God, you are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you,
my body longs for you,
in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.*
- 2 *I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.*
- 3 *Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.*
- 4 *I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.*
- 5 *My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.*
NIV

Ps 81:11-16;

- 11 *“But my people would not listen to me;
Israel would not submit to me.*
- 12 *So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts
to follow their own devices.*
- 13 *“If my people would but listen to me,
if Israel would follow my ways,*
- 14 *how quickly would I subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes!*
- 15 *Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him,
and their punishment would last forever.*
- 16 *But you would be fed with the finest of wheat;
with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”*
NIV

Ps 89:15;

- 15 *Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,
who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.*
NIV

Is 43:1-28;

- 1 *But now, this is what the LORD says—
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.*
- 2 *When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,*

- you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.*
- 3 *For I am the LORD, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I give Egypt for your ransom,
Cush and Seba in your
stead.*
- 4 *Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you,
I will give men in exchange for you,
and people in exchange for your life.*
- 5 *Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your children from the east
and gather you from the west.*
- 6 *I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'
and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.'
Bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the ends of the earth—*
- 7 *everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."*
- 8 *Lead out those who have eyes but are blind,
who have ears but are deaf.*
- 9 *All the nations gather together
and the peoples assemble.
Which of them foretold this
and proclaimed to us the former things?
Let them bring in their witnesses to prove they were right,
so that others may hear and say, "It is true."*
- 10 *"You are my witnesses," declares the LORD,
"and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.
Before me no god was formed,
nor will there be one after me.*
- 11 *I, even I, am the LORD,
and apart from me there is no savior.*
- 12 *I have revealed and saved and proclaimed—
I, and not some foreign god among you.
You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "that I am God.*
- 13 *Yes, and from ancient days I am he.
No one can deliver out of my hand.
When I act, who can reverse it?"*
- 14 *This is what the LORD says—
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
"For your sake I will send to Babylon
and bring down as fugitives all the Babylonians,
in the ships in which they took pride.*
- 15 *I am the LORD, your Holy One,
Israel's Creator, your King."*
- 16 *This is what the LORD says—
he who made a way through the sea,
a path through the mighty waters,
who drew out the chariots and horses,
the army and reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise again,*

- extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:*
- 18 *“Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.*
- 19 *See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the desert
and streams in the wasteland.*
- 20 *The wild animals honor me,
the jackals and the owls,
because I provide water in the desert
and streams in the wasteland,
to give drink to my people, my chosen,*
- 21 *the people I formed for myself
that they may proclaim my praise.*
- 22 *“Yet you have not called upon me, O Jacob,
you have not wearied yourselves for me, O Israel.*
- 23 *You have not brought me sheep for burnt offerings,
nor honored me with your sacrifices.
I have not burdened you with grain offerings
nor wearied you with demands for incense.*
- 24 *You have not bought any fragrant calamus for me,
or lavished on me the fat of your sacrifices.
But you have burdened me with your sins
and wearied me with your offenses.*
- 25 *“I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more.*
- 26 *Review the past for me,
let us argue the matter together;
state the case for your innocence.*
- 27 *Your first father sinned;
your spokesmen rebelled against me.*
- 28 *So I will disgrace the dignitaries of your temple,
and I will consign Jacob to destruction
and Israel to scorn.*
- NIV*

Is 54:5;

- 5 *For your Maker is your husband—
the LORD Almighty is his name—
the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer;
he is called the God of all the earth.*
- NIV*

Jer 2:1-8;

- 1 *The word of the LORD came to me: 2 “Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem:
“I remember the devotion of your youth,
how as a bride you loved me
and followed me through the desert,
through a land not sown.*
- 3 *Israel was holy to the LORD,
the firstfruits of his harvest;*

*all who devoured her were held guilty,
and disaster overtook them,"*
declares the LORD.

- 4 *Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob,
all you clans of the house of Israel.*
- 5 *This is what the LORD says:
"What fault did your fathers find in me,
that they strayed so far from me?
They followed worthless idols
and became worthless themselves.*
- 6 *They did not ask, 'Where is the LORD,
who brought us up out of Egypt
and led us through the barren wilderness,
through a land of deserts and rifts,
a land of drought and darkness,
a land where no one travels and no one lives?'*
- 7 *I brought you into a fertile land
to eat its fruit and rich produce.
But you came and defiled my land
and made my inheritance detestable.*
- 8 *The priests did not ask,
'Where is the LORD?'*
*Those who deal with the law did not know me;
the leaders rebelled against me.
The prophets prophesied by Baal,
following worthless idols.*
NIV

Jer 31:3;

- 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.*
NIV

Mal 1:2;

- 2 *"I have loved you," says the LORD.
"But you ask, 'How have you loved us?'
"Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" the LORD says. "Yet I have loved Jacob,
NIV*

Matt 11:28-30;

- 28 *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and
learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is
easy and my burden is light."*
NIV

Eph 3:14-21;

- 14 *For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its
name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your
inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and*

established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

- 20 *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

NIV

Rev 21:2.

- 2 *I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.*

NIV

D. There is no way to measure the unlimited power of our Father to carry out His plan.

1. He is infinite in ability:

Jer 32:17,27;

17 *“Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.*

27 *“I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?”*

NIV

Luke 1:37;

37 *For nothing is impossible with God.”*

NIV

Luke 18:27

27 *Jesus replied, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”*

NIV

2. He is infinite in wisdom:

Isaiah 11:2;

2 *The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of power,
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD—*

NIV

Hab 2:14;

14 *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD,
as the waters cover the sea.*

NIV

Rom 11:33

33 *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!
NIV*

3. He is infinite in love:

Ps 36:5;

5 *Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.
NIV*

Ps 108:4;

4 *For great is your love, higher than the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.
NIV*

Jer 31:3

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.
NIV*

4. He is infinite in grace:

2 Cor 9:8;

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.
NIV*

2 Cor 12:9

9 *But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.
NIV*

III. The Pain of Our Father.

2 Sam 24:16;

16 *When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, “Enough! Withdraw your hand.” The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.
NIV*

Ps 78:40;

40 *How often they rebelled against him in the desert
and grieved him in the wasteland!*
NIV

Isaiah 63:7-10;

7 *I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,
the deeds for which he is to be praised,
according to all the LORD has done for us—
yes, the many good things he has done
for the house of Israel,
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.*
8 *He said, “Surely they are my people,
sons who will not be false to me”;
and so he became their Savior.*
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.*
10 *Yet they rebelled
and grieved his Holy Spirit.
So he turned and became their enemy
and he himself fought against them.*
NIV

Jer 42:10

10 *‘If you stay in this land, I will build you up and not tear you down; I will plant you and not uproot you, for I am
grieved over the disaster I have inflicted on you.*
NIV

A. He is hurt when we do not treat Him as a holy, loving, faithful Person of truth.

1. When we do not talk to Him, love Him, and are unthankful.

Is 43:21-28

21 *the people I formed for myself
that they may proclaim my praise.*
22 *“Yet you have not called upon me, O Jacob,
you have not wearied yourselves for me, O Israel.*
23 *You have not brought me sheep for burnt offerings,
nor honored me with your sacrifices.
I have not burdened you with grain offerings
nor wearied you with demands for incense.*
24 *You have not bought any fragrant calamus for me,
or lavished on me the fat of your sacrifices.
But you have burdened me with your sins
and wearied me with your offenses.*
25 *“I, even I, am he who blots out*

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- your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more.*
- 26 *Review the past for me,
let us argue the matter together;
state the case for your innocence.*
- 27 *Your first father sinned;
your spokesmen rebelled against me.*
- 28 *So I will disgrace the dignitaries of your temple,
and I will consign Jacob to destruction
and Israel to scorn.*
NIV

2. When we treat Him as a "power" we can control by our "good works."

Jer 7:3,4

- 3 *This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. 4 Do not trust in deceptive words and say, "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!"*
NIV

3 When we try to manipulate Him by bargains or threats.

Ex 17:1-7;

- 1 *The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." 3 Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?"*
- 3 *But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"*
- 4 *Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."*
- 5 *The LORD answered Moses, "Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"*
NIV

Matt 4:5-7

- 5 *Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:
"He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a
stone.'"*
- 7 *Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*
NIV

4. When we choose to disobey Him by sins of commission or omission.

1 Sam 15:11

11 *"I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." Samuel was troubled, and he cried out to the LORD all that night.*
NIV

1 Sam 15:35

35 *Until the day Samuel died, he did not go to see Saul again, though Samuel mourned for him. And the LORD was grieved that he had made Saul king over Israel.*
NIV

5. When we steal His glory, are proud, self righteous, don't trust Him.

1 Sam 13:5-14

5 *The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Micmash, east of Beth Aven. 6 When the men of Israel saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. 7 Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. 8 He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. 9 So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. 10 Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.*
11 *"What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash, 12 I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."*
13 *"You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. 14 But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command."*
NIV

6. When we do not allow Him to love us, care for us, and be a Father to us.

2 Cor 6:18

18 *"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."*
NIV

7. When we disobey Him and bring self-destructive sins into our life.

Jer 2:1-19

- 1 *The word of the LORD came to me: 2 “Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem:
“I remember the devotion of your youth,
how as a bride you loved me
and followed me through the desert,
through a land not sown.*
- 3 *Israel was holy to the LORD,
the firstfruits of his harvest;
all who devoured her were held guilty,
and disaster overtook them,”*
declares the LORD.
- 4 *Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob,
all you clans of the house of Israel.*
- 5 *This is what the LORD says:
“What fault did your fathers find in me,
that they strayed so far from me?
They followed worthless idols
and became worthless themselves.*
- 6 *They did not ask, ‘Where is the LORD,
who brought us up out of Egypt
and led us through the barren wilderness,
through a land of deserts and rifts,
a land of drought and darkness,
a land where no one travels and no one lives?’*
- 7 *I brought you into a fertile land
to eat its fruit and rich produce.
But you came and defiled my land
and made my inheritance detestable.*
- 8 *The priests did not ask,
‘Where is the LORD?’
Those who deal with the law did not know me;
the leaders rebelled against me.
The prophets prophesied by Baal,
following worthless idols.*
- 9 *“Therefore I bring charges against you again,”
declares the LORD.
“And I will bring charges against your children’s children.*
- 10 *Cross over to the coasts of Kittim and look,
send to Kedar and observe closely;
see if there has ever been anything like this:*
- 11 *Has a nation ever changed its gods?
(Yet they are not gods at all.)
But my people have exchanged their Glory
for worthless idols.*
- 12 *Be appalled at this, O heavens,
and shudder with great horror,”*
declares the LORD.
- 13 *“My people have committed two sins:
They have forsaken me,
the spring of living water,
and have dug their own cisterns,
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.*
- 14 *Is Israel a servant, a slave by birth?*

- Why then has he become plunder?
15 Lions have roared;
they have growled at him.
They have laid waste his land;
his towns are burned and deserted.
16 Also, the men of Memphis and Tahpanhes
have shaved the crown of your head.
17 Have you not brought this on yourselves
by forsaking the LORD your God
when he led you in the way?
18 Now why go to Egypt
to drink water from the Shihor?
And why go to Assyria
to drink water from the River?
19 Your wickedness will punish you;
your backsliding will rebuke you.
Consider then and realize
how evil and bitter it is for you
when you forsake the LORD your God
and have no awe of me,"
declares the Lord, the LORD Almighty.
NIV*

8. When we force Him out of areas of our life and force Him to judge us.

Jer 4: 13-19

- 13 Look! He advances like the clouds,
his chariots come like a whirlwind,
his horses are swifter than eagles.
Woe to us! We are ruined!
14 O Jerusalem, wash the evil from your heart and be saved.
How long will you harbor wicked thoughts?
15 A voice is announcing from Dan,
proclaiming disaster from the hills of Ephraim.
16 "Tell this to the nations,
proclaim it to Jerusalem:
'A besieging army is coming from a distant land,
raising a war cry against the cities of Judah.
17 They surround her like men guarding a field,
because she has rebelled against me,'"
declares the LORD.
18 "Your own conduct and actions
have brought this upon you.
This is your punishment.
How bitter it is!
How it pierces to the heart!"
19 Oh, my anguish, my anguish!
I writhe in pain.
Oh, the agony of my heart!
My heart pounds within me,
I cannot keep silent.
For I have heard the sound of the trumpet;
I have heard the battle cry.
NIV*

B. He is hurt when we fail to treat Him as the Infinite, Holy Almighty God that He is.

1. When we fail to believe Him and live in unbelief in some area of life.

Matt 17:17

*17 "O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me."
NIV*

2. When we neglect Him, fail to seek Him, and do not learn to love Him.

Rom 10:21

*21 But concerning Israel he says,
"All day long I have held out my hands
to a disobedient and obstinate people."
NIV*

3. When we accuse Him of treating us shabbily and demand "Why?"

Deut 1:26,27

*26 But you were unwilling to go up; you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God. 27 You grumbled in your tents and said, "The LORD hates us; so he brought us out of Egypt to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us."
NIV*

4. When we blame Him for sin and evil and for things He did not do.

Jer 2:1-6

*1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 "Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem:
"I remember the devotion of your youth,
how as a bride you loved me
and followed me through the desert,
through a land not sown.
3 Israel was holy to the LORD,
the firstfruits of his harvest;
all who devoured her were held guilty,
and disaster overtook them,"
declares the LORD.
4 Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob,
all you clans of the house of Israel.
5 This is what the LORD says:
"What fault did your fathers find in me,
that they strayed so far from me?
They followed worthless idols
and became worthless themselves.*

6 *They did not ask, 'Where is the LORD,
who brought us up out of Egypt
and led us through the barren wilderness,
through a land of deserts and rifts,
a land of drought and darkness,
a land where no one travels and no one lives?'*
NIV

5. When we give His place in our life to others and things.

Luke 12:13-21;

13 *Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."*
14 *Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" 15 Then he said to them,
"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance
of his possessions."*
16 *And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. 17 He thought
to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'*
18 *"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will
store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for
many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."'*
20 *"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get
what you have prepared for yourself?'*
21 *"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."*
NIV

Col 3:5

5 *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil
desires and greed, which is idolatry.*
NIV

6. When we fail to listen to Him.

Is 65:12;

12 *I will destine you for the sword,
and you will all bend down for the slaughter;
for I called but you did not answer,
I spoke but you did not listen.
You did evil in my sight
and chose what displeases me."*
NIV

Jer 7:13;

13 *While you were doing all these things, declares the LORD, I spoke to you again and again, but you did
not listen; I called you, but you did not answer.*
NIV

Lesson #1 – The Person of Our Father

Jer 11:10.

10 They have returned to the sins of their forefathers, who refused to listen to my words. They have followed other gods to serve them. Both the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken the covenant I made with their forefathers.
NIV

Conclusion: God wants you—do not refuse Him. Please seek Him and ask Him for help.