

Why explore the Father's Love?

In the last 20 years or so there has been a rise in teaching about the love of the Father, and people have had experiences of being flooded with that love, which has resulted in a healing of wounded hearts, and a wonderful new sense of belonging, of his presence, of freedom from fear and comparisons and legalism and an ability to share that love as never before. The healing of family relationships has been a wonderful result as people have been free to ask forgiveness and give it.

Some of the teachers focus on the picture of the Father's lavish love in the story of the Prodigal Son. Others look closely at the nature of the Trinity – with Father, Son and Spirit being 'a family' before the world was created – and we are rescued and welcomed into that family. Another has a strong focus on 'The Central Event' for Jesus of standing in the river, identifying with us, receiving the Spirit and the wonderful affirmation of the Father's love before he faces his testing work and final death. Others will look at all the ways Father is mentioned in Scripture, especially in John's gospel, and how Jesus related as a Son to his Father as a model for us to relate to the Father. There is also exploration into being 'in Christ' therefore sharing not only the results of his suffering, but also the love and closeness to the Father that he has.

There is a paradigm shift from simply knowing more things, to encountering with the heart more of his love and learning to live in child-like trust out of that secure place, at peace, with 'perfect love' casting out fear. There are many delightful stories to savour.

Many of these teachers explore what 'an orphan heart' is – one who feels outside, unacceptable, not provided for, unloveable... or one who lives by law, by doing it all right, by being exclusive and bound and judgemental (see the younger and elder brother in the Prodigal story as examples.) Then they help us find the places in our hearts where we shut off to parental love and authority, and where we need to forgive and release and be released.

For this teaching to have an effect in our hearts and become the reality of our lives we need to be hungry and earnest – willing to be challenged and changed in our perspectives – and willing to 'surrender to love.'

Our story is that about 15 months ago I was researching 'I will not leave you as orphans' and found material on the orphan heart, and thence to the Father's healing love. I was then directed to the school at Taupo and David and I went there about May last year with a great sense this was God's leading. It has been life-changing. These events have an incredibly restful, loving atmosphere. They totally trust Abba, through his Spirit, to do the work.

I feel I have a new husband who is living from his heart in a way I have never seen. I have a freedom from fear and anxiety as never before, and have seen friends lives changed as they too have sought this experience of Abba, Father. One friend (all have been long time believers) had an area of emotional agony that arose whenever she was in physical pain (back problems). Her emotional agony was dramatically healed as she encountered her Abba on that first school we three went to. She is so different. Another friend was changed from regular depression and such deep anxiety she was on medication for it, just as she listened to CDs over a few days while travelling. A light went on that you can see in her whole appearance and she has had no medication since. She had tried endless prayer healing help and only this freed her. Another was set free by being able to say at last 'I am loveable'. That enabled her heart to receive.

All these speakers talk about having real conversion experiences, then later meeting the Holy Spirit and experiencing the miraculous, and the gifts, but still having a deep insecurity within. Then in various ways they met the third person of the Trinity, and have truly become sons and daughters in their deepest hearts.

There are free mp3 downloads and articles on lots of sites – and also DVDs, CDs to purchase. These are from NZ, UK, Canada and USA. All of them know each other and often teach at the same conferences.

Free mp3 downloads (which you can make into CDs and share)

1. **Barry Adams** (Canada) @ www.fatherheart.tv Barry designed ‘The Father’s love-letter’ which you can download free.

And on the Teaching Videos section on the right column, you will find his teaching and links to many others. There is a link to the free mp3 downloads of his seminar ‘The Tangible Benefits of the Fatherheart of God.’ We would recommend this highly. Plus some new ones recently.

2. **Mark Stibbe** (UK) On his website www.fathershousetrust.com go to media, and then to free mp3s. (He also has books and seminar CDs for sale – all very good – he has a PhD and writes both great stories and very thorough doctrinal teaching in his books. He is an Anglican Vicar)

There are also church sites with his mp3 messages as follows:

www.saltlight.org/europe/resources/speakers/mark-stibbe There are 4 or 5 really helpful messages here.

<http://www.woodlandchurch.net/conferences-a-specials> You will find at the bottom of the page 5 sessions on ‘The Fatherheart of God’ that are really inspirational.

Also:

NZ ministry of James and Denise Jordan and their team

They are in Taupo – where they run ‘schools’ for 6 days – which I would thoroughly recommend. Check their website for their NZ schools and weekends, and their CDs and DVDs. www.fatherheart.net The DVD on ‘The Cross – an ocean of love’ is especially good.

Ed Piorek (pronounced Pea-orick) has a great book and DVD and CD seminars on ‘The Father Loves You.’ They are currently very discounted on his site www.thefatherlovesyou.com The 2004 conference CDs at the bottom of the products page are a steal... much the same content as the DVD series. We have found his material the clearest and simplest to give to people hearing this for the first time.

Jack Frost (USA) has free printed articles www.shilohplace.org/resources I would also recommend that you get some of his teaching from the shop – many of them you can get in mp3 download form cheaply. His material is very gutsy and honest, but extremely helpful, both his books and DVDs.

Kath Wells

www.prayerchangeslives.org