



“We Cry Abba, Father” Handout (All Scriptures NIV)

Pastor Paul Taylor/June 21, 2009

Today is Father’s Day. There are NO perfect fathers-they don’t exist-except one. I want to challenge each of you to find a way to _____ your father, saved or unsaved. Don’t know what to do? Honor is the _____ of dishonoring them. If you do, it will go well with you and you will live long on the earth (Ex. 20:12, Eph. 6:2-3).

Today we celebrate human fathers who have done their best, and our heavenly Father. Our God is the only one who can heal and restore sin damaged lives, through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

It requires _____. God happens to be an expert at doing this and has given us his Holy Spirit as a personal trainer to coach us. To experience change, our part is to _____ and _____.

- **Romans 8:13-15**, “For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, 14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 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.”**”

Abba, Father: ABBA (ab' buh) is the Aramaic word for " _____ " *used by Jesus to speak of His own intimate relationship with God*, a relationship that others can enter through faith.

- **Story of shepherds in Jordan**
- **John 10:1-5** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 "But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 "Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."
- **Decide whose son/daughter you are.** Our willingness to be led by the Holy Spirit is a mark of sonship. Sons/daughters of God aren’t slaves so there is no need to be afraid of our Father.
- **Listen and obey the voice of the _____ and operate in his power.** We make choices everyday; to live by our sinful nature or be led by the Holy Spirit within us. To think like he thinks, act like he acts, get healed, become a His agent of healing. To do all that, we need to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit within us.

Three Voices we hear from:

1. **Our Flesh.** **Rom. 8:5-6** says. “Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.”
2. _____. **John 8: 44**, “...not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” He loves to argue with God’s truth, especially when we are physically or emotionally worn down. His voice is always questioning God’s truth.
3. **The Holy Spirit.** **John 14:26**, But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Roadblocks to Hearing God’s Voice

1. **Bitterness**, _____, **judgment** all keep us from hearing God’s voice. (**an example line people up**) (1 John 1: 6-7, 1 Peter 3:7, Psalm 81:8-16)
2. **Fear of what we might hear God tell us, causes us to stop our ears.** When this is true, our growth and maturity is probably stunted in other areas also. This comes from a lack of trust or lack of friendship with God.
3. _____ **to obey** after we know we have heard also cause a wall of guilt to develop. Broken human friendships are the same way.
4. **Those who demand answers now will get one, from their flesh/soul.** Hearing from God requires waiting on Him.

What Does God Voice Sound Like?

1. **When God speaks, your spirit recognizes Him.** You “know” that what is said is true.
2. **His voice sounds like...** Rarely God speaks in an audible voice. Many times God speaks in impressions, not a voice but rather a “knowing”. He may communicate in dreams, visions, scripture, through Biblical counsel, and even signs. He often speaks simply and often kindly, firmly even with correction. If you are not sensitive to this gentleness-you will miss it. Measure everything you hear against the established will and Word of God.
3. **Wait**, for God to respond to your questions and needs.
4. **Practice** _____. If God has spoken to you clearly, and you don’t obey, you can expect to feel the Spirits grieving or disappointment-but not condemnation. Asking forgiveness and purposing to obey will clear up the feeling of unfinished business.
5. **Practice asking God questions**, bring your concerns to him regular, daily basis and get his strategy and response.

Getting Started:

1. **Repent for disobedience in the past.** If you need to make things right then do it. If you can’t, ask for and accept forgiveness.
2. **Start** _____. Give yourself permission to learn, to fail, and time to improve. Hearing God’s voice is a learned skill.
3. **Hang out with God more to “know” his voice better.** Spend more time praying, reading, discussing, obeying, and over time, it will make a difference.
4. **Celebrate your successes and learn from your failures.** Write down what you are learning, when you heard God’s voice. Don’t throw away the truth of communication with God because of apparent “failure.” *He is Abba, Father.*