

## Called to Belong

### How to experience Fatherly Care in a Troubled world

Not accident – chance – not natural or intuitive – **you**  
Proverbs 24:3

3 By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established.

Psalms 68:5

A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. 6 God sets the **solitary** in families; He brings out those who are bound into **prosperity**. NKJV

Pros – any **limit** – BM 3 or 7 – Bal? **Season**  
Pros **related** wellbeing of family

How to experience God as Father

Simple – **look** at Jesus – exp Father

Jesus came: show what the Father is like, so that we can **experience** him as Father

### A. SEE HIM IN HIS GREAT GIVING

John 3:16

Always see pain of Jesus – F is just as painful if not

more  
Gave? – **so loved** – reflect char – it's His char

**How - judge** char?  
Look – book – talk? – borrow – not poor

It is not that he is **poor** – but **becos** he does not know how to **handle** – what he has **already** with **responsibly**

Heb: love ahav – root give – **boy demand**

Boy always **demand** you to **sacri** for him – dump – that is not love

Giving out of love - never be disappointing - you get pleasure in the very act of giving.

Prodigal son's father – regret?  
No – **pleasure** in giving

Give out of love – gratitude  
Giving to get is **valid** – but you miss the **immed joy** – the **pleasure of giving**

Same way - We give becocs we are **true sons** – same **nat** as the Father – give out of love

But **promise** from Word: sow bountifully – out of grati – grace

...

James 5:7-8 So be patient, brethren, [as you wait] till the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits expectantly for the precious harvest from the land. [See how] he keeps up his patient [vigil] over it until it receives the early and late rains. AMP

There you see – you give – receive?

**Even the reaping is grace** – you give **one seed** – one **tree** – many **fruit** – thousands seeds

**Grace** – God give rain – **environment** – **opportunity** - **Hidden wealth**

God is very very unfair - unfairly good – blesses us despite ...

Romans 11:16

16 If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

**First fruit** – **many teachings** – **best Marshall** – tape counter – **Num 18** - exp the **Commanded blessing 133**

The **tithe** like the first fruit – make the whole **HOLY**

**Why need made holy?**  
**Dynamic** – **anointed** – **supernatural** – **rod of Moses** → **Rod of God**

Takes on the supernatural – with the rod – Moses worked miracles bef Pharaoh

1 Timothy 6:17

Some thing **uncertain** about \$ - Many still feel – **1997 crisis** – suddenly several country's money value dropped - suicides

**Shield** – **made holy** - Most powerful safeguard against – any economic uncertainties

**Isaac** – so blessed despite econ crisis – **envious**

**JM Kraft** cheese founder - started – only wagon – broke down – started to tithe – 25% - only investment paid well consistently is money given to the Lord

### B. SEE HIM IN HIS GREAT GLORY

Story of the trans in a new light.

Preached on it a **few times**.  
People often wonder how we **prepare** message? Long process

Word and prayer for hours and every newspaper, news journal, book or tape, listening (tape 2x speed – learn from Rick Warren) – potential source of ideas and illustrations

But it is when we **rest** – revelations flow – that which God wants to bring to congregation – often early hour – 4 or 5 am – **crystallise** the points – then many more hours to crystallise the revelation into a way that congregation can understand

Transfig – sandwich bet – Peter's declaration – keys; and helplessness of disciples in helping the troubling father

Keys – **heaven on earth** – but found – not able exp – power of those keys

**Troubled world** – **Bible clearly: where** trouble from: world – d – self (flesh)

**Definitely** – it's not God  
God is the **ANS** - **solution** – not the problem – how **exp care**

Jesus – ans – soln – not cause of trouble

If in trouble – think it's God – how faith for miracle?

**See Him in his glory; exp care (heavenly miracle power)**

see glory of Jesus – **exp care** of Father  
Look at the 3 passages – Luk 9 27 Mk 9 Matt 17

One boss of member said – there are plagiarisation in the Bible. One author copy from another  
Ans: ultimately same author – Holy Spirit

But note that each passage may appear similar but there are particular emphases that Holy Spirit wants to bring out

Same way – preachers seem to be preaching the same thing – or emph same revelation – but simply goes to show – same Holy Spirit that inspired them all. Look at the messages carefully, you will note the different emphasis that the Holy Spirit wants to bring to each congregation's unique situation

### 1. God's care is for the asking

Luke 9:28

28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. Mark 9:29

29 He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

Luke – mentioned purpose of going up Mt – pray but Matt and Mark

But the other 2 never mention that What does Matthew and Mark tell us about the essence of prayer?

Just - Led them to a **high MT** by themselves Luke 17 1

No mention of **word** – prayer but **describe** what they did – actually prayer

Beautiful thing – give **idea** on the essence of prayer

Mark 9:2

2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.

**The essence of prayer is spending time in God's presence all alone**

Often – asked – how long should pray? – 6 hr or 1 hr  
**Focus law - Miss the real heart of what prayer is about – presence - rel – intimacy**  
**1 hr a good guide – like tithing – 10% of waking hour**

Like – man tell wife – seminar – appt 10 am – don't late

*When they come time together – got 60 min – start now – OK talk – all time - keep looking at watch.*

– miss fun – intimacy - relationship

Most powerful prayers – extremely **short** – Lazarus

John 11:41-43

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

Mark 6:41

41 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and **looking** up to **heaven**, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.

Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.

**Prayer is basically expressing your dependence on God**

Too focus on long hours – rob us of – short powerful prayer – can make at **all** times

Nehemiah 2:4-5

4 The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven,

5 and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favour in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it."

Most imp – tell God **honestly** – **INSIDE: fear – anxieties – David honest** → vict

Don't have to speak **perf** KJ **English – Some** – voice change - suddenly – all the thees and thous come out

**Beseech** - arm of protection – angels guard our ways so that we would not strike our foot against a stone – Jesus your son our Lord one God

**Sometimes**, no time – long prayers – Peter – Lord help

Your prayers don't have to be **sophisticated** to be effective

**Save** them for your audience w an earthly king

**2. Keep your focus TOTALLY on Jesus' glory**

What is the glory of God?

Glory of God – not mystical spiritual atmosphere – it's the goodness and grace and superlative beauty of Jesus in his great love for us

Ephesians 1:6

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

What will happen when we focus on the glory of Jesus?

**Focus on his glory you will experience His care – in this troubled world**

Psalms 27:4-5

4 One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house (His presence) of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. 5 For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.

Luke 9:30-31

30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, 31 appeared in **glorious** splendour, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to **fulfilment** (God's purpose TEV) at Jerusalem.

The **greatest** Law Giver – **greatest** Prophet

What were the greatest of the greatest **talking** about? Jesus - Cross

**If you want to do great things for God, talk about the Jesus and Cross**

E W **Kenyan**:

Notice – not they didn't talk about the **oil** price – not Roman, **US** dollars

They didn't talk about - Global **warming** – VP El Gore – save the planet – God's priority: save the people – planet will be OK

They didn't talk about the political situation of the Roman empire

*Some distracted - **politics** — some confused role of citizen and ch*

*As citizen we need to do the responsible thing*

*But as a church – our call is to pray those in auth (Rom 13) – pulpit is sacred – to preach Christ and Him crucified*

Mark 9 7-8

7 And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" 8 Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves. NKJV

Father – always **affirm** Jesus – **esp** moment of **weakness**

Baptism – and when treated as equal

**Same** way: need affirm kids – esp in area – weakness

Stop **beating** them or yourself

Don't **CALL** anyone unclean whom God has cleansed – the unclean ani still **look same** – but God don't call them unclean

When God **cleanses** you – did a great job

**Listen** to him

Why listen to HIM?

**Not** formula; Metd: human prin: 7 Keys

It is a **PERSON**

Every situation is **unique** - God uses **creative** and unique ways in different seasons

God's way seldom **repeated**

Supply **Eligah** with raven, and poor widow - **Neh**

*Look at the way, he provided for Eligah – most stingy bird – that finishes off the bone*

*He can even use the most stingy person to provide for you*

*Supply Nehemiah by the hand of the emperor*

Open to new creative ways – not what you have done bef.

**1968 – Swiss** - leader –

*In watchmaking – 80% profit*

*In 1968, the Swiss dominated the world of watchmaking.*

*They had 80% of all profits, 65% of the world's market share.*

*They were the **undisputed experts** in watchmaking.*

*10 years – 10% - 50,000 of 60,000 jobless*

But in **10 years**, they went from 65% to **less than 10%** of the market share ... and they had to layoff **50,000** of their 65,000 watchmakers!

**Who - Japanese**

Who is the world leader of watchmaking today?

Of course, you know the answer ... **the Japanese!**

**Why the sudden change**

Quartz movement

**QUESTION:** How could the Swiss be so utterly displaced?

**ANSWER:** There was a paradigm shift—**quartz movement watch!**

**Who invented**

Now, who invented it? Not the Japanese, but the **Swiss themselves!**

But when the researchers presented the whole idea to the Swiss watchmakers, they **totally rejected it.**

**No** spring, **no** bearings, **no** gears ... it is not a watch!

So **confident** were they of their **judgment**, they didn't even **patent** it.

Later that year, in the **World Watch Congress** ... TI + Seiko came along, grabbed the technology ... and the rest is history!

Focus on **LAW** – prin – miss the miracle

It's the truth that sets us free

**Mark 9:14**

14 When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them.

Robbed of **immed** breakthrough - argument over the **law**

Got to do this – that – didn't sow enough, pray, fast ...

**Mark 9:19**

19 "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

Ever notice – the Kingdom Series is not in my name – tho written by me

Becos – these are not Joshua's 13 laws of success or leadership It is the Truth that set us free.

If it is human laws or principles, tho the principles are good – it will only limit us to the level of achievement that the author has achieved.

Truth – will take us beyond human achievements to what God has destined for us

**Mark 9:23**

23 "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

Why is it to rely on Jesus' faith and faithfulness?

For **those** – oh got to have faith

Most of the time - we take it as – all things possible to those who believes

**Not** much of a help - \$ - sick - anxious

Like saying - financially broken – Oh you need more money, sick – Oh you need more health

**FOR him** who believes

Who is the **HIM** – whose faith? Jesus

It is not your faith but **HIS** faith Your job is to **focus HIM** – faith will arise - **auto**

How many know I can fly?

**30%**

In a plane – I take up the ability of plane

Same way – in Christ – take up his righteousness, goodness and faith!

The more you forget about yourself and your circumstance – conscious of Jesus - 30%

and more you conscious of Jesus – faith will arise

See Jesus 30%, faith is 30%

**Mark 9:24**

24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Jesus' faith covers what is lacking in your own faith

Peo said – oh I don't have wisdom

Ans: it is not your wisdom but His wisdom

Oh I don't deserve the blessing

Ans: it is not what you deserve but what he deserves.

Look Peter - People often **laugh**

**Notice** - when he - cried out – Lord save –

Jesus didn't – **lecture** – lessons on faith – didn't pray enough – or fast enough

Immed – reachout and caught hold –

**Psalms 21:6-7**

6 Surely you have granted him eternal blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence.

7 For the king trusts in the LORD; through the unfailing love of the Most High he will not be shaken.

**Mark 9:25-27**

25 When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

26 The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead."

27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

Seems to get **worst** – just the dying grasp of defeated foe – last burst of fire

Jesus ensures – **guarantee**

**Psalms 3:3-5**

3 But you are a shield around me, O LORD; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head (gives me courage).

4 To the LORD I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill. 5 I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me (protect, watch over).

Next week:

See the Father as he really is – exp radical supernatural changes in yourself and others.

Also: Why do kids of **godly** parents at times also go astray?

**Adam**, Noah, Samuel, Daniel

Even if **perfect** parent – kids still rebel?

How to deal w rebellious kids and parents!