

A Father You Need

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Key Scripture

Ephesians 1:3 (ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Sermon in One Sentence

In a world of brokenness and unfulfilled longings, God stands revealed as the perfect Father who tirelessly blesses His children with everything they truly need for life and godliness.

Introduction

I recently read a heartbreaking story about a young man named Alex. Growing up, Alex's father was largely absent, either physically or emotionally. He longed for affirmation, for guidance, for a steady hand to help him navigate the tumultuous waters of adolescence. But that hand never came. As an adult, Alex found himself endlessly searching for approval, always feeling a void, a deep-seated insecurity born from that early deprivation. His story, sadly, is not unique. Many of us carry the scars of imperfect earthly fathers, or perhaps the wound of an absent one, leaving us with an unfulfilled yearning for what a father should be.

This deep human ache for a righteous, loving, and present father figure is not an accidental byproduct of our existence; it's a God-given longing. It points us to a perfect reality, a divine archetype that alone can truly satisfy. It points us to God Himself, who is not just *a* father, but *the* Father you need.

Today, we turn to the incredible truth revealed in Ephesians 1, a truth that recalibrates our understanding of fatherhood and invites us into an intimate, secure relationship with the One who is utterly complete and completely good. As we unpack this powerful passage, we'll discover that God is the Father who blesses, the Father who chooses, and the Father who secures.

Historical & Biblical Context

The Apostle Paul, writing from prison, penned his letter to the Ephesians, a vibrant and growing Gentile church in the wealthy Roman city of Ephesus. His aim was to remind these new believers of the astonishing spiritual riches they possessed in Christ and to unite them, Jew and Gentile, in one glorious body. After the opening salutation, Paul launches into a magnificent doxology, a hymn of praise in verses 3-14, which celebrates the triune God's work of salvation. This long, flowing Greek sentence emphasizes God's sovereign initiative and incredible generosity towards His people in Christ. Our key verse, Ephesians 1:3, serves as the triumphant opening to this majestic declaration, setting the tone for the entire chapter and indeed, the entire letter. It's a foundational statement that grounds all subsequent blessings in the character and action of "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." It is from this theological mountain peak that Paul surveys the breathtaking landscape of our spiritual inheritance.

Main Point I — The Father Who Blesses

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3b ...who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

The first critical truth about the Father you need is that He is the Father who abundantly blesses. Paul doesn't say God *might* bless us, or *will eventually* bless us; he declares that God "has blessed us." This is a completed action, a past reality that impacts our present and future. And what kind of blessings? "Every spiritual blessing." Not merely material comforts, though God certainly supplies those, but blessings of the deepest, most enduring kind – those that touch our spirit, transform our character, and secure our eternal destiny. These blessings are "in the heavenly places," indicating their divine origin, their eternal quality, and their existence in the spiritual realm where Christ now reigns.

This isn't about God waiting for us to earn His favor; it's about His lavish generosity that flows from His very nature. These spiritual blessings include things like redemption, forgiveness, adoption, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit – gifts that far surpass anything this world can offer. To be "in Christ" is the conduit through which all these blessings flow. It's not about our performance, but about our position – a position gifted to us by our gracious Father. He meets our deepest needs, not with temporary fixes, but with eternal, spiritual realities that truly enrich our souls.

Main Point II — The Father Who Chooses

Scripture: Ephesians 1:4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love.

Beyond just blessing, the Father you need is the Father who chooses. Before the first star ignited, before the earth was formed, before human history even began, God had you in mind. Paul says He "chose us in him before the foundation of the world." This is a stunning declaration of divine intentionality and sovereign love. This choice wasn't based on anything good in us, because we hadn't even existed! It was an act of pure, unadulterated grace flowing from His divine will and purpose. We are not an afterthought; we are eternally foreknown and loved by God.

This divine election is not arbitrary or capricious; it has a profound purpose: "that we should be holy and blameless before him in love." God chose us not just for salvation, but for transformation. He chose us to be conformed to the image of His Son, to reflect His character and holiness. This is the ultimate expression of a Father's care: not just to rescue His children, but to raise them to their highest possible good, to call them to a life of moral purity and loving obedience. This deep, abiding love is the genesis of our salvation and the goal of our sanctification.

Main Point III — The Father Who Secures

Scripture: Ephesians 1:5a He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.

Finally, the Father you need is the Father who secures. For those of us who have experienced rejection or instability, the idea of permanent belonging is incredibly powerful. Paul assures us that God "predestined us

for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ." "Predestined" here carries the weight of divine determination, a certainty that is unshakeable. And the outcome? "Adoption to himself." This isn't a mere legal transaction; it's a profound declaration of intimate relationship. In Roman times, an adopted son lost all former rights and gained all the rights and privileges of his new family, often even inheriting more than natural-born children. Moreover, an adopted son could not be disinherited.

This speaks to an unconditional, unbreakable bond. We are not merely forgiven slaves; we are beloved children, adopted into the very family of God. We bear His name, share in His inheritance, and enjoy His unwavering protection and affirmation. This adoption isn't dependent on our ability to perform or please; it's "according to the purpose of his will." It is a gift, founded solely on His perfect plan and His limitless love. This secure identity—as adopted children of God—is the ultimate antidote to insecurity, loneliness, and fear, because it comes from the Father who will never leave you nor forsake you.

Illustration

Consider the story of Joni Eareckson Tada. At 17, a diving accident left her a quadriplegic. In the initial years, the physical and emotional pain was overwhelming. She wrestled with God, questioning His goodness and purpose. She often felt desolate, abandoned, yearning for a father's touch or a husband's embrace that seemed impossible. Yet, through years of struggle, she didn't just find resilience; she found the profound, unwavering love of her Heavenly Father. She realized that despite her physical limitations, she was eternally blessed in Christ, chosen for a divine purpose, and securely adopted into God's family. Her testimony isn't about overcoming disability; it's about discovering the sufficiency of a perfect, loving Father who provides every spiritual blessing, chose her before time, and secures her adoption, enabling her to live a life of joy and tremendous ministry, despite unimaginable physical suffering. She found that the Father she needed was truly enough.

Practical Application

- 1. Praise God for His Blessings:** Take time each day this week to articulate specific spiritual blessings you have received in Christ (e.g., forgiveness, peace, hope, adoption). Let gratitude transform your perspective.
- 2. Embrace Your Chosen Identity:** Reflect on the truth that God chose *you* before the foundation of the world. Allow this truth to combat feelings of insecurity, rejection, or inadequacy, remembering your worth is rooted in His eternal choice.
- 3. Live as an Adopted Child:** Identify one area in your life where you've been striving for approval or working to earn love. This week, intentionally rest in your secure identity as God's adopted child, trusting in His unconditional acceptance.
- 4. Share the Father's Love:** Consider someone in your life who might be longing for a father's love or struggling with feelings of abandonment. Look for an opportunity to share the truth of God as the perfect Father with them this week.

Discussion Questions

1. How has your experience with earthly fathers (or the lack thereof) shaped your perception of God as Father?
2. What "spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" do you find most meaningful right now, and why?
3. How does the truth of being "chosen before the foundation of the world" impact your understanding of God's love for you?
4. In what practical ways can we live more fully as adopted children of God, secure in His love and provision?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we are humbled and awed by Your magnificent love. Thank You for being the perfect Father we so desperately need, the One who blesses us lavishly, chooses us eternally, and secures our adoption forever. Forgive us for often looking elsewhere for the comfort and identity that only You can provide. May our lives reflect the glorious truth of Your fatherly heart. Amen.

Benediction

Now go, knowing that you are blessed, chosen, and eternally secure in the love of God, your perfect Father.