

# Releasing the Blessing of the Father

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## I. God gives us power as believers to receive and release the love and blessing of the Father.

- A. There's a supernatural love available to all who believe in Jesus. "For love comes from God" (I John 4:7-21).
- B. There is a love feast from God that starts with our acceptance of Jesus and His forgiveness for our sins (Romans 8:1-2) and progresses as the Spirit takes us straight to the love of the Father (Romans 8:14-16). We begin to love, because He first loves us. God tenderizes us (I John 4:19-21).
- C. Example of India ministry team and the paralyzed girl

## II. The power of a father's blessing

- A. We all desperately need to feel God's blessing and love. Amazingly, as a member of the Body of Christ, "To give a blessing is to affirm, to say 'yes' to a person's belovedness." Examples: Bar Mitzvah, Janet, the 24-year-old student (Henri Nouwen, Life of the Beloved, pp. 55-59)
- B. Everyone needs the blessing of their heavenly Father and their earthly father. Even Jesus needed the affirmation of his Father. If your earthly father is missing, the provision of your heavenly Father is more than enough for you. The audible voice of the heavenly Father said to Jesus, "You are my Son, whom I love. With You I am well pleased" (Mark 1:9-11).
  - 1. "What an earthquake in the human soul of Jesus" (Brennan Manning)!
  - 2. Example of African American news commentator: "What we need most in the inner city is fathers." But I think we especially need fathers who know their heavenly Father, and who can bless and love their children in Jesus' name with the resources God gives.

## III. It is the awareness of God as "Abba" (Daddy) that takes us straight to the healing and reconciliation ministry of Jesus (e.g., the conversion of Bilquis Sheikh in I Dared to Call Him Father).

- A. Processing anger and pain can lead us to experiences with God that heal and tenderize our own soul. "We love, because He first loved us" (I John 4:19).
- B. It can even become possible to love our enemies and pray for them (Matthew 5:43-48).
- C. Is there a Zacchaeus in your life—your family, your business, a traitor, an outcast, someone not so lovely (Luke 19:1-9)?
- D. In the end, God reduces us to this, "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love" (Galatians 5:6).
- E. Example of Larry Malaney in The Furious Longing of God, by Brennan Manning, pp. 90-93.
- F. All Christian dads are especially gifted by the Holy Spirit to do what Larry's dad did. You just need to know how powerful your love is in the life of your children.