

# Father's Compass

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God's desire is to bring us to a deeper understanding of His heart and open our eyes to a new perspective of seeing Him beyond our selfish motivations and superficial religiosity. God is calling us to know Him as "**Father**". In order for us to know Him as Father we must have a desire to know and receive Father's heart. In order to know and receive His heart we must know what brings joy and what brings pain to His heart. We must seek to know what motivates Him and what His desires are. We must willingly allow His desires to become ours and His love our motivation.

**Matthew 7:7-14** *7Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 9Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 10Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11If ye then, being evil, know how to give **good gifts unto your children**, how much more shall your **Father which is in heaven give good things** to them that ask him? 12Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. 13Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which **leadeth unto life**, and few there be that **find it**.*

Webster's Dictionary defines a Father as the First Person of the Trinity. Another definition given is one who begets a son. And finally, one who originates or institutes. As God's Word has shown us last week that we are the chosen not the choosers if we seek to surrender our will to His sovereignty. In Bible study Wednesday night the Word challenged us to look at the choices of our lives, look at the patterns of our choices and evaluate who's choices are we really following? Ours or Father's. **Ephesians 1:4** says He chose us. He chose to offer the adoption as sons and daughters but you have to choose to walk out the responsibility of becoming that son or daughter. In **Matthew 7** Father shows us the way.

First you have to ask. **To ask** is to call for. In every area of your life God has initiated and instituted a way of freedom and deliverance from the mess your life is to the life in living His. But you have to desire His way more than your own. You have to know that His thoughts are higher than your and His ways are better than your own. Just as the prodigal son. When he returned Father said, "Son did you not know your inheritance was not just a portion but it was all yours as long as your a son."

Second, Father says you have **to seek**. To seek is to go in search of. Ever play hide and seek with someone who wants to just hide all the time but never wants to be it. The game doesn't work too well if no one wants the responsibility to seek. Oh we want to find all the blessings of Father but few are willing to make the effort to seek what is required to obtain. Which brings us to the third step in the process of becoming sons and daughters.

You have to knock. **To knock** is to set a force in motion. To pursue the ways of God requires you to make an effort towards change and transformation. If you are refusing to change your thinking, your habits, your attitudes, or anything else then God is not going to change them for you. The Word of God will transform you but it will not knock those things out of your hands. In Matthew 7 God says, you have to do the knocking but Father is there to give you the strength through the power of the Holy Spirit, the power of His Word, and the power of the love of Christ in those God has chosen to put around you.

Father desires to set your life in motion in the direction of His hope and future for your life. But you have to go in the right direction. This is what a Father is for. In order for transformation of your life to take place you have to make a change in the direction you were going and chart a different course for your life. This is the hard part. All your hopes, ambitions, dreams, expectations and plans you had for your life. All that you thought you had figured out has to change and be surrendered to God's plans. In **Jeremiah 29:11-12 (NIV)** Father tells the prophet, "*11For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. 12In those days when you pray, I will listen.*" Notice God says,

“the plans I have”. He did not say that He did not know the plans that Jeremiah had for I am sure Jeremiah had plans that God very well knew of. But the prophet is reminded and the question inferred, “Whose are you and whose plans will you follow?”

Direction, wisdom, guidance, instruction, and living the same in demonstration are all part of what being a father is all about as our heavenly Father so explains again in Matthew 7. If earthly father whose hearts are innately selfish would still give good gifts to their children who ask, how much more would our heavenly Father give unto us whom He has chosen? Here in is insight to the eternal and unchanging heart of our heavenly Father. Who, regardless of what your earthly father was, is full of compassion towards you. Whose whole purpose is to see you succeed in living life His way and becoming like Him. For living life His way leads to life and any other way to destruction.

Just as we can see the pattern's of God in all creation if we look. We see the patterns of His will in us. That He chose us that we might choose Him. We can see the pattern that He gave us a sovereign will that we might choose to surrender to His will as sovereign in our lives. He gave us life and the ability to have intimate relationship with Him and each other that we in turn may give life created in His image and bring increase. We have discussed how that we are all different but yet the same. How only God can create diversity in the midst of unity. So it is in Fatherhood.

The pattern of purpose. God's purpose for us as fathers is to embrace His purpose as a Father. He desires us to, as earthly and as spiritual fathers, to know His plans for our children, His children, and give direction, wisdom, impartation, guidance, direction. To help them chart the course of God's destiny and purpose for their lives. To help them see Father and His desire for them to have hope and a future. That in as much as Father chose us and gave us the same. Through His plan of redemption in Christ His Son, He changed all humanity, the course of history and every culture that was or ever will be. He told us the way and showed us the way. So, we as fathers are to do the same for our children that they might impact their culture for the Kingdom of God. Only in living life God's way do they have a hope and a future in this culture and world we live in. We have a responsibility to chart the course and live it in demonstration. In imitating our heavenly Father to our children we must know the direction of our compass. We must ensure that our compass is not distracted by outside magnetic interferences that would cause us to deviate from our path. We must have:

1. **Character:** As defined in **I Timothy 1-7** and **Titus 1:5-9** it is character that gives a sense of dependability and credibility to those we lead.
2. **Vision:** It is having the knowledge of God and the understanding of His ways that provide a road map or vision for who we are, why we are here and where we are going. If you have not a vision in God's Kingdom for your life how can your children have God's vision for theirs? Have a vision for your children's lives. Not one made of what you hope for but what God hopes for.
3. **Relationship:** Relationship is crucial. Real and right relationship. Without relationship there is no trust and where there is not trust their cannot be impartation of wisdom, guidance, correction, or instruction. Trust only comes when they see you live for them and not for your self that they might learn to live for others unselfishly themselves. This is the essence of what the Scripture tells us in Matthew 7 verse 12. This is the law and the prophets, to live an altruistic life; to seek the well being of others above your own selfish motives and inhibitions; to live the law of love as demonstrated through Christ. If you do not have right and real relationship with your children and they get off course you cannot be the one to help get them back on course.
4. **Skills:** **I Timothy 4:11-13** *11Command and teach these things. 12Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 13Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.* Don't just tell it to them but live it before them. Master the precepts and principles of living life God's way that you might teach them to others.

So how do I develop this compass to live life as my heavenly Father, follow the course He has charted for my life and live it as a father to my children that they might know the same path way that seemingly has become ancient to our day?

1. **Earn trust:** Trust only comes through consistent, loving, unselfish and sincere relationship building. Trust takes a life time to build but can be lost in a moments time with one bad decision. Guard it, maintain, and enrich it.
2. **Model the commitment:** Model your commitment to commitment to God, your living His ways, and the commitment to honor the relationships in your life.
3. **Serve:** Serving empowers and motivates commitment. Give of yourself. Not just your time, efforts, or money but of your heart.

It does not matter if you are a biological father or not. These principles apply to you because we are all called to beget spiritual sons and daughters. It is the pattern of our heavenly Father more so than even biological offspring. Somewhere out there are spiritual children waiting to be adopted. Hoping for a Father. Someone to take them under their wing and impart life and hope to them and show them a better way. To chart a new course for their lives and be a moral compass for their future and the culture around them. God has called us all to be the moral compass for the culture. Even if you are a single mother trying to fulfill both God divine roles. These principles apply to you as well.

I ask you, look at your life. Look at the choices you have made, where they have led you and where they are taking you. Are you following Father compass? Who is making the choices? Whose path are you own? Did you get off course somewhere? Father can get you back on course. Will you let Him?