

THANK GOD FOR FATHERS

By, "Thomas" C. L. Thomas

Fathers, fractured, flawed and even fickle are the first pictures of God The Father that their children will encounter in a tangible and touchable manner. The calling to be father to the world of children, biological and orphaned, communal and concentric is a monumental one. But it comes with a clear purpose that we honor. For all those who have risen to the occasion as men who would be more than being biologically capable, but rather, biblically honorable, we commend you!

The purpose of this study is to celebrate fatherhood and the encouragement gained from fathers so that we appreciate and grow in our calling as disciples who embody the model of Scripture. To accomplish this purpose this study will be developed around four major points from 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12.

"You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory."

I. FATHERS HELP.

- A. *"You know that we helped you, like a father helps his own children."* 1 Thessalonians
- B. The notion of **helping** indicates that one offers assistance, primarily for areas where one's inability is evident.
- C. **Help** here indicates that the wellbeing of the child reflects the wellbeing of the Father.
- D. The father finds completion and his ability to help and support and assist and develop his child.
- E. We can easily see both the connection of God's glory being seen and how He is our strength, our shepherd, our refuge, our help in a time of trouble!
- F. Psalm 18. DAVID FACED FOUR GIANTS, AND GIVE COMMENTARY
- G. **"I love you, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I have been**

saved from my enemies. The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.” Psalms

- H. In like fashion when fathers help their children, they take on the character of The Father and bring Him glory through reflecting His willingness to help his children!

*“We **encouraged** you, we **comforted** you, and we kept urging you to live the kind of life that pleases God, who calls you to share in his own Kingdom and glory.” 1 Thessalonians*

II. FATHERS GIVE HOPE. “encourage”

- A. Fathers are given a monumental task of **speaking life** into places that are void of strength.
- B. The idea of a father giving hope is one that carries with it an understanding of a child who feels hopeless!
- C. How often do we see in Scripture where our God is encouraging the creature?
- D. GOD tells Joshua **be strong** and of good courage.
- E. GOD told Moses before him **I have called** you for this purpose.
- F. GOD **whispers** to Elijah in a mountain during his depression.
- G. GOD **visits** Hagar in the desert when life has totally folded around her.
- H. GOD **reminds** Mary that she is chosen and unique among all women.
- I. To the aged Elizabeth GOD describes how she would be **significant** in the scheme of redemption.
- J. Over and again our God, the father, demonstrates His ability to give courage, give hope, bring light places and replace a period of despondency with one of optimism!**
- K. Fathers are called to be a child’s first coach!
- L. They are called to see the possibility of the children!

M. They are called to help them believe that they are more than conquerors, superheroes, able to take on the world and then some, because of the legacy and lineage!

III. FATHERS HEAL. “comfort”

A. The consolation and reassurance of those who are in distress, anxiety or need. Such comfort is an essential aspect of human relationships.

B. Scripture declares that God comforts his people in times of distress.

C. ‘Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’ Is. 41:10

1. I am with you.
2. I am YOUR God.
3. I will strengthen you.
4. I will help you.
5. I will uphold you.

D. A little girl lost a close friend in sudden death and one day reported to her family that she had gone to comfort the friend’s mother. They were like sisters, inseparable and did everything together. She made her way to her friend’s home and saw the mother sitting alone in the living room, her head between her pressed hands. And, she joined her in that moment. Later that evening, when she made her way back home her parent inquired about the visit. “What did you say?” asked her parents. “Nothing,” she replied. “I just climbed up on her lap and cried with her.”

E. This little girl is a picture of comfort. Fathers, often, aren’t masterful at words or solutions to the pain of their children. But, one thing that is a powerful posture of comfort is **presence**.

F. God is **present** with his children. Fathers are called to be the same. To be:

1. The hug your daughter needs when her heart has been shattered by some fellow who doesn’t know how valuable she is.
2. To listen to the same story over and over again when your child is attempting to make sense of the moment.

3. To show strength and tenderness when there are no words, and its time for pure emotion.
4. To be God's representative in the transaction of emotional frustration.
Can you hear the scriptures?

G. God comforts the depressed. 2 Cor. 7:6

H. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.* 2 Cor.1:3-4

“For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.” 1 Thessalonians

IV. FATHERS AIM AT HEAVEN AS THE ULTIMATE TASK OF THEIR FATHERHOOD! “urging you to live...”

- A. Imagine how empty fatherhood would be if the sum of everything you've done ends in this reality. Especially, when believers know that this world is not our home!
- B. When we function from the posture of being pilgrims passing through, when we know that gaining money, working tirelessly, or exhausting oneself to provide the physical necessities of meaningless if one spiritual foundation is not established!
- C. *“It is the greatest joy of my life to hear that my children are consistently living their lives in the ways of truth!”* 3 John
- D. **Without question the greatest badge that a father can merit is the one that he holds indicating that his children follow Jesus!**
- E. That his children are living a life worthy of God!
- F. That his children embrace a life where “you have been called into his kingdom, and his glory!”

“Father help all fathers to father like you. In Jesus name we pray, Amen!”