

FATHER ASSIGNMENT

- 1) List the characteristics of a "perfect" father or mother. (A perfect father or mother would be ...) You should have 25-35 qualities listed. If you get stuck, interview people who might give you some suggestions. Feel free to look for books that might give you some ideas of character qualities that a perfect father has.
- 2) After making this list ask yourself, "Did I get this as a child?" This is not a blame list but a list to bring about deep reconciliation.
- 3) Pray for forgiveness and "release." For each of these qualities, you are going to release your earthly parent of their responsibility for providing this to you, when you were a child, now, and into the future. This allows you to be "available" for adoption. The sins of commission are what we usually forgive people for, but with a parent it's the sin of omission that often is difficult to forgive. It is what is left undone that we struggle with the most.
- 4) Search for 5-7 scriptures describing the nature of God as it relates to one of the qualities of the "perfect father." Write out the complete verse in a notebook (one verse per page).
- 5) Underneath each verse, completely rewrite it and personalize it.

Note: Up to this point, you can do #1-5 as quickly as you want. But from this point on you will do one scripture per day.

- 6) Take one verse a day and "pray the scripture." You are going to invite the Lord to be your Abba (daddy) with that particular character quality. Tell Him how you feel, how you fear risking again, how you have compensated for not ever knowing about this quality (or ask Him to show you how you have compensated for this lack). This is your response to God and His truth in the scripture speaking to you. If you just can't believe this, then the enemy may have gotten to you first and "conceived" a lie in your heart. You need to confess this as a lie to the Father (I John 1:9). God will cleanse you from the lie and now He can plant new seed --- Truth can once more be conceived in your spirit.
- 7) After you have prayed the scriptures, look to the Father for a response. His response may include speaking to you from a scripture, reminding you of something, or giving you a "trial" as an "opportunity" to display Himself in His role as Father. (Consider the eastern vs. western mindset when it comes to testing and trials. In eastern mindset, the teacher arrives on the scene, takes the student through some new area or "trial", offering wisdom and counsel as a part of the process. So from that point of view, it is an exciting opportunity to gain from the teacher and achieve growth. In the western mind, a test is a time of the teacher withdrawing, no books or resources allowed, and it is to see what we can do to perform on our own. This really helps us to understand James 1. This is why we tend to put God to the test in the midst of a trial instead of being tested ourselves. We tend to do the same thing that Israel did in Exodus 17 - questioning whether God is with us or not.
- 8) It takes 1-2 weeks to pray through one scripture and meditate, repent, watch etc. for each quality. Once you have done it for one quality, move to another quality, and repeat the process.

This assignment usually takes one year to work through. Don't hurry it! You will experience God change your life like you never imagined possible.