

CHIEF MINISTRIES

January 2022

Long before he laid down earth's foundations, [God] had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love. Ephesians 1:4 (The Message)

Did you know when God looks at you, he loves you simply because He made you?

When my children were small, I would sit down by the side of their bed at night and just watch them sleep. I'd watch their chests rise and fall. I got so much joy out of watching them sleep peacefully. That's the way your heavenly Father feels about you.

The Bible says, "*Long before he laid down earth's foundations, [God] had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love*" (Ephesians 1:4 The Message). Before God even created the universe, he thought of you. In fact, the Bible says that the entire universe was created simply so God could create the human race and love us. We are the focus of his love, the apple of His eye (see Det 32:10, Psalm 17:8) unlike anything else in creation.

You were created to be loved by God.

When you let that profound truth sink into your soul, you will never again have a problem with insecurity or low self-esteem. Because when you realize that God created you in order to love you, it will take away all those uncertain feelings. Why? Because you start to see yourself as God see you! I know as some of you are reading this, you are thinking about your earthly father, but that too is a trap of the enemy. You see, God (Father), is not man, He is perfect! Man is not perfect, no man, no matter how hard they try or how good they are...ONLY God is perfect. Once you have accepted Jesus into your heart, God becomes your Father, He created you to love you and all He asks in return is to love Him back!! He created us with free will, which means we have a choice to accept or deny Him and His love. I'll address this later.

In Hosea 6:6, God says, "*I don't want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don't want your offerings—I want you to know me*" (TLB). The most important thing you can know is that God created you to love you. And the most important thing you can do is to know and love him back. That's your number one purpose in life.

The tragedy is that most people go through their entire life missing the purpose of it. They know all kinds of things—stock quotes, sports scores, who's on the cover of their favorite magazine—but they don't know God.

There are times when life on this earth is hard and uncomfortable...and even downright painful. When those times come, you deeply need the comfort that only the Holy Spirit can bring.

How do you receive that kind of comfort?

By doing just what the believers in Acts did. By "walking in the fear of the Lord."

Now, when I talk about "the fear of the Lord," please understand, I'm not saying you should be afraid of God. He's your Father! You should be as secure and unafraid when you come before Him as a child who knows he is dearly loved. But you must also have so much respect for Him that whenever He reveals something you need to do, you do it immediately—even if it goes against your natural desires. *That's walking in the fear of the Lord.*

When I received the phone call from the hospital that Chief had passed, the news of it wounded my heart. We had just had a video visit 26 hours before. Although, he was weak, on continuous dialysis, in the ICU with medications to keep his blood pressure up, his voice was strong, he wasn't on any oxygen, his thoughts were clear, we talked, laughed, made plans for our future and we even prayed for each other at the close of our one hour visit. My heart hurt, I cried and cried, and in the natural, I wanted to get angry about it, to strike back in some way. But instead, I began praying in other tongues. As I prayed, I was prompted in my spirit to rejoice and praise the Lord.

I certainly didn't *feel* like praising. I felt like stomping my feet (and did a bit). But, out of respect to my Lord, I put my feelings aside and obeyed. Next, the Holy Spirit impressed me to listen to and transcribe a particular prophecy, I had received in August 2003, which was prior to Chief even coming to prison. As I did, I could tell I was being strengthened. Those words received many years prior was what I was living now.

As time passed, I realized I was free. By my obedience, I had opened myself to the comforting power of the Holy Spirit. The anger and pain that had filled me were gone! They had been replaced by the gentle love and reassurance of the Lord. Does that mean I don't still have moments of grief, for the loss of someone I loved? No, but with that also comes re-assurance that God's ways (my Father's ways) are perfect, and I start thinking about the 20 years Chief and I were in each other's lives and all the things we went through together that made us stronger. I thank God for allowing us to be part of each other's lives and to grow closer to Him and also closer to each other. I find myself praising and rejoicing in Chief being with our Father and looking forward to the time I too will be there.

No matter how tough or painful a situation you may be facing today, trust and obey the plans and directions of your Father. He will make that same supernatural, Holy Spirit-inspired comfort available to you! Why? Because you were created for Him to love and you to love Him back!! He has to remain your "First Love"! Your priority in life.

When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He too asked God:

"'Abba, Father,' he cried out, 'everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.'" Mark 14:36 (NLT)

He knew that the next day he was going to face torture, suffering, and death on the cross. He didn't want to go through that pain any more than you or I would have wanted to.

"He went on a little further and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by" (Mark 14:35 NLT).

Jesus wanted to know if there were any other way that God could accomplish his will for the salvation of the world. So, he prayed and asked his Father to make a way for him. In doing that, Jesus showed us that it's okay to tell God that you don't want to go through your suffering.

Mark 14:36 says, *"'Abba, Father,' he cried out, 'everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine'" (NLT).*

In this prayer, Jesus models the three things you should pray when you're in pain:

Affirm God's power. Tell God, "Father, I know you can do anything! All things are possible for you. I know you could take care of this situation. I know you could keep me out of this suffering. I know you could take away the pain instantly. God, you're all powerful."

Ask with passion. Then say to God, "Father, please give me what I ask! Take away this suffering and pain. You see my hurt, and I know you care. I know you are with me. I know you will answer my prayer. Please don't let this pain be my burden any longer."

Accept God's plan. Finally, tell him, "God, I don't want to go through this suffering. But what I want most is your will. More than anything, I want your plan, your purpose, and your perspective. Please do your will in my life, even if it means I have to bear this pain. I know you will be with me and help me and make me more like you."

This is not an easy prayer, especially when you're in pain. But it will always be the prayer God honors and answers.

You may know about God, but do you know him personally? Do you have a friendship—a love relationship—with Him? God wants you in his family

God made you to love you, and one of the places you see that most clearly is on the cross. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God made it possible for you to become part of His family for eternity. No matter what you've done or where you've been, you've got a place in God's forever family ready and waiting for you. The invitation is wide open. Just believe and receive. Are you ready? Here's a prayer you can start with: "Dear God, I know when I die, I'm going to give an account of my life to you. I know I have sinned against you, and I have lived by my plan, not yours. I want that to change, starting right now. I want to turn away from my sins and toward you.

Thank you for sending Jesus to die for all that I've done wrong so that I don't have to pay the penalty. I know I don't deserve your forgiveness. I know only your grace can save me, Lord. I could never be good enough to get into a perfect place.

Jesus, thank you for loving me so much that you took all my guilt on yourself. You made me acceptable for heaven, and I humbly ask you to save me. I believe in you, Jesus. And I believe you will keep your promise to save me instantly, certainly, completely, and eternally. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

I hope you see that even though we were created by God for Him to love and we to love Him back, when Adam sinned and that sin separated us from God, that God, then made a way for us to be re-established into His family→ through Jesus (born as man and God) and thru His sacrifice at the cross for our sins thru death and His resurrection, He was reunited with the Father and the Holy Spirit was sent to continue to minister, lead, guide and comfort us. Jesus is the only way back into the family of God! Once there, we are re-established into ALL the Father had/has for us from creation. We serve a triune God (Godhead) Father, Son and Holy Spirit!!

Three persons in one God. The belief that God is three persons—the Father, the Son who is Jesus, and the Holy Spirit which is the spirit of God's grace. Why is it important to understand the triune God? Understanding the importance of the Trinity defines our attitude/focus of worship, which deepens our knowledge of the Holy Spirit. Knowing God is like a child's fondness of wanting to know, learn and to be like his father. The child pursues his father out of a love that is automatic because it brings joy, God (Father), wants us to be in that type of relationship with Him.

Keeping the first things first and knowing we were created by God for Him to love us and we to love Him!

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022

Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)

If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part, please go to www.chiefministries.com

Christ's Heart In Every Felon