

The Mark of a Spiritual Father

The identity of fathers is very unclear today. Many years ago, there was a very popular show called "Father Knows Best, written by Ed Gray. The show depicted a middle income family in the Midwest. It purportedly depicted what a family and a father should look like. In a 1983 interview, Ed Gray spoke disparagingly of Father Knows Best:

"I wish there was some way I could tell the kids not to believe it. The dialogue, the situations, the characters - they were all totally false. The show did everyone a disservice. The girls were always trained to use their feminine wiles, to pretend to be helpless to attract men. The show contributed to a lot of the problems between men and women that we see today. . . . I think we were all well motivated, but what we did was run a hoax. 'Father Knows Best' purported to be a reasonable facsimile of life. And the bad thing is, the model is so deceitful. It usually revolved around not wanting to tell the truth, either out of embarrassment, or not wanting to hurt someone. If I could say anything to make up for all the years I lent myself to (that), it would be, 'You Know Best.'"¹

Then, we had shows like All in the Family that starred Archie Bunker. The sitcom made humor of the family and fathers. The entertainment industry over the years has made many other TV shows and movies that depict fathers. Unfortunately, most of them, like "Father Knows Best" have not properly depicted the true mark of a father.

In the natural world, many people have not had great fathers. Seventy percent of children today grow up in broken homes. Oftentimes, these children do not have a good understanding of what a father should be. Prison statistics show that 86% of those incarcerated come from a home without a father. The father is an important figure in the stability and success of a home. Even though a father's value is recognized by experts, their understanding of a father and what makes a father a good father is limited.

In the spiritual, even less is known about fathers. We live in a culture where mentoring and fathering is not prevalent. The church produces attenders but few disciples. Where are the fathers who are to raise up spiritual sons? Would we even recognize a spiritual father if we saw one? What is the distinguishing mark of a spiritual father? That is the question that we want to address this morning. Our text today is in 1 John 2:12-14. In it John writes some characteristics of little children, children, young men, and fathers. The different stages of development give us some understanding of our journey to maturity, with the father being the mark of maturity. What is the mark of a spiritual father? That is the question we will look at this morning.

(1 John 2:12-14) "I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. {13} I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. {14} I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one."

¹"Ken Hall, "Billy Gray, Bud from Father Knows Best. Collects Racing Motorcycles"". go-star.com. Retrieved April 30, 2010.

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Subject: Why has John written?

1. He has written to little children to let them know that their sins are forgiven (vs 12).
2. He has written to children to let them know that they know the Father (vs 13).
3. He has written to young men to let them know that:
 - a. They have overcome the evil one (vs 13, 14).
 - b. They are strong (vs 14).
 - c. The word of God abides in them (vs 14).
4. He has written to fathers to let them know that they have known Him who has been from the beginning (vs 13-14).

Children

John begins by talking about little children. He says that their sins are forgiven. The basic need of all people is for their sins to be forgiven. Paul writes that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Isaiah writes something similar. He says that "all of us like sheep have gone astray, but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."

(Romans 3:23) "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

(Isaiah 53:6) "All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him."

Paul goes on to write that the wages of sin is death. What we earn or deserve with our sins is death, or spiritual separation from God. Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do on our own efforts to erase our sins. Paul writes in Ephesians that salvation is not as a result of works, lest any man should boast. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation. Helping an elderly woman across the street, buying groceries for a family in need, or sending donations to help starving children are all outstanding and exemplary things to do. But, none of them will solve our sin problem.

We can think of our relationship with God in terms of a phone line. Before Adam and Eve sinned, there was perfect fellowship and relationship with God the Father. Once they sinned, the phone line was severed. There was a spiritual death that took place. Nothing that they could do would erase the sins and restore perfect fellowship with the Father.

The point is that everyone has a need for their sins to be forgiven. John writes that little children have their sins forgiven. When a person receives Christ, his sins are forgiven. The Lord causes the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:21 that "He who knew no sin was made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." In Romans 10:9-10 he tells us that if we confess with our mouths Jesus as Lord, and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we shall be saved; for with our hearts we believe, resulting in our righteousness, and with our mouths we confess, resulting in salvation. When we believe and receive Christ into our lives, we are born again. We become children of God. We have our sins forgiven and we become the righteousness of God in Him. We are little children whose sins are forgiven.

(Romans 10:9-10) "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your

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heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; {10} for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

(Romans 6:23) "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Having our sins forgiven is a wonderful thing. The weight or burden of sin is removed. In Psalms 103:2-4 we are told not to forget any of His benefits. What is the first benefit that is mentioned? It is that God pardons all our iniquities. He does many other things that we should be thankful for, but the first is to forgive us of our sins.

(Psalms 103:2-4) "Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; {3} Who pardons all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases; {4} Who redeems your life from the pit; Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;"

In Psalms 32, David writes about how blessed a man is whose transgressions are forgiven and whose sins are covered. David goes on to write about the pain and consequences of sin. Sin devastates, destroys, and drains us of life.

(Psalms 32:1-4) "(A Psalm of David. A Maskil.) How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! {2} How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit! {3} When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. {4} For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah.

Shortly after I became a Christian, Karen and I got involved in Campus Crusade for Christ. They had two booklets that we used. The yellow booklet was called the Four Spiritual Laws and it gave the plan of salvation. The other booklet was blue and was about spiritual breathing. It dealt with confessing or agreeing with God about our sins so that we maintain a right relationship with God.

In Psalms 32, David continues by speaking about this "spiritual breathing." He goes on to say that when we confess our sins, He forgives us of our sins. He tells us to pray and ask God to forgive us of our sins while we can, before a flood of waters sweeps us away. It is a wonderful thing to have our sins forgiven. That is the starting point for all of us in our relationship with God. When we are born again, and are little children, our sins are forgiven.

(Psalms 32:5-6) "I acknowledged my sin to Thee, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin. Selah. {6} Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to Thee in a time when Thou mayest be found; Surely in a flood of great waters they shall not reach him."

How are our sins forgiven? They are forgiven when we come into a relationship with the Father. In Matthew 7, we find an account of judgment day for some people that were relying on their works. Jesus says that "not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven." Those being judged said, "Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?" Jesus answers them, "I never knew

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You, depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.” The key is that children have come into a relationship with God. When we come into a relationship with the Father, it will be evidenced by our works.

(Matthew 7:21-23) ""Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. {22} "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' {23} "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"

John writes in 1 John 5:12-13 that “he who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.” Again, if we have come into a relationship with God through Christ, we have life. If we have not entered into that relationship with Him, we do not have eternal life.

(1 John 5:12-13) "He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. {13} These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life."

Young Men

The next stage of maturity or group that John writes about is young men. He tells us that young men have overcome the evil one. He also says that they are strong and the word of God abides in them. Young men have come into a relationship with Christ and have their sins forgiven. But, they have not stopped there. They have gone on in their walk with the Lord. They are strong and are overcomers in life.

In 1993 I was playing some pretty good golf. I had a number of strong finishes in my last few months on tour. I simply did not play enough successive events that year to get any momentum going. I had to go back to the PGA Tour Qualifying School that fall. As a Tour player I was exempt through the first stage. I played well at the second stage and got through easily. At the final stage, after 105 holes, I thought I was right on the cut line of making it. I thought I needed a birdie on the last hole to qualify. There were no scoreboards to let people know how they stood. My game plan for the hole was to hit an iron off the tee and a mid-iron into the green and take par every day. The pin location was such that a mid-iron would make birdie difficult. Therefore, I opted to hit driver off the tee. My tee shot was slightly to the right of the fairway. The edge of the fairway sloped hard to the right and my tee shot caught the top of the slope and bounced hard right through a bunker and into a water hazard to the right of the bunker. My drop, with a penalty, had to be in the bunker. The ball buried in the sand when I dropped it. The final result was that I made a seven on the hole. When I got in, I found out that a six on the hole would have been all I needed to regain my PGA Tour card. I had missed it by one shot. It was a terrible disappointment to overcome.

As I walked off the green and over to the scoreboard, the Holy Spirit gave me a verse and a tune for the verse. It was Romans 15:13 which says, "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Not only

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did the Lord give me the verse and the melody to go with it, He filled me with all joy and peace. My countenance was not that of disappointment, grief, and despair. My countenance was joy, peace, and hope. I had overcome a huge disappointment through the help of the Holy Spirit and God's word.

A reporter from Sports Illustrated was there at the scoreboard and saw that I had made a seven and missed by one shot. He also noticed my countenance. He could hardly believe my attitude about what had just happened. He decided to write a story about me. A few months later, he arranged to spend some time with my family and I on the road, and he put together a feature story in Sports Illustrated. God used that incident on the last hole for His glory. All this was a result of overcoming a disappointment.

John wrote that young men have overcome, are strong, and abide in God's word. I had learned to overcome, abide in God's word, and was strong. Those are characteristics of a young man. This is not a child, who just has his sins forgiven. This is a person who has grown and matured in his walk and is overcoming.

How do we grow strong and overcome. Let's take a look at a few ways to grow strong. We'll take a look at Abraham first. Paul tells us in Romans 4 that Abraham grew strong in faith. The key to understanding how he grew strong in faith is God's promises. Abraham believed and was fully assured that God would make good His promises to him. We need to find God's promises about the areas that we are struggling with. Then, we need to meditate on those promises and let them saturate our heart.

(Romans 4:20-21) "yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, {21} and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform."

For example, when I was struggling with patience, I looked up verses on patience. Then, I memorized them. Next, I meditated and filled my heart with those passages. Finally, I looked for applications for my life. As I went through this process, God gave me more revelation and understanding. Soon, I found myself being far more patient. I had grown strong in faith in the area of patience and was bearing fruit. I had become an overcomer in this area.

Paul writes in Ephesians 6 about putting on our spiritual armor. He prefaces this with a charge to us to be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. We will never grow spiritually strong in the strength of our own might. We must learn to become strong in the strength of His might. It is His power working through us that makes us strong.

(Ephesians 6:10-11) "Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. {11} Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."

Paul writes about becoming strong in God's strength in 2 Corinthians 12. He says that power is perfected in weakness. He writes that he will boast about his weaknesses so that the power of Christ will dwell in him. Paul was not trusting in his own strengths, but in the power of God, which manifested itself through his weaknesses.

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(2 Corinthians 12:9-10) "And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. {10} Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

All of us have to overcome things. There may be poverty, sickness, fear, anxiety, or a host of other things. God wants us to grow and mature. He wants us to grow strong in His word and to abide in His word. He wants us to overcome these things in our lives. He wants us to become mature.

There were many areas of my life that I needed to become an overcomer in. I was anxious at times during tournaments. I memorized and meditated on verses in the Bible about anxiety. I learned from Philippians 4:6-8 to pray with thanksgiving and to set my mind on things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent, and worthy of praise.

(Philippians 4:6-8) "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. {7} And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. {8} Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things."

I learned from Pro 12:25 that I needed to speak good words to myself when I felt anxious. Good words may be Scripture, like all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose. Or, it may be a word of encouragement, like hit a nice draw at the oak tree.

(Proverbs 12:25) "Anxiety in the heart of a man weighs it down, But a good word makes it glad."

(Romans 8:28) "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

I learned many different verses to help me become an overcomer. I strengthened myself by learning and applying Scriptural promises. I learned how to abide in the word. Jesus told us that when we abide in the word, we will know the truth, and it will set us free. I became strong in the word and was set free in many areas of my life. All that was part of becoming an overcomer.

(John 8:31-32) "Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; {32} and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.""

During the 1980's the mental game became a hot topic. Players began to use sports psychologists to help them. They would bring their swing coaches and their sports psychologists to the tournaments. I was hearing all kinds of things that violated Scriptural principles. I decided to write a book on the mental side of golf, except from a Scriptural viewpoint. I wrote a book and

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called it Prepare to Win. I never published it, but I taught it to high school golfers, and other professionals.

I taught the Dr. Phillips High School golf team and they won the Florida State Championship. A Senior Tour player named Walt Zembriski came to me one day and asked me to help him become a winner on the Champions Tour. I began working with him on his mental game. He won four Senior Tour events shortly after I started working with him. I went back to playing professional golf in 1992. I wanted to win a tournament real badly and validate the things that I had been learning. I won the 1995 Tallahassee Open, which was a real satisfying accomplishment for me. It was just one more validation about how the principles of God are true.

That is what Abraham did. He grabbed hold of the promises of God, strengthened himself with them, and grew strong in faith. All of these things are part of becoming a strong young man in the Lord.

Spiritual Fathers

In verse 13, John tells fathers that they have known Him who has been from the beginning. Then, in verse 14, John writes to the fathers again and tells them that they know Him who has been from the beginning. When a person enters into a relationship with Christ, he knows the person. As the person walks with the Lord and experiences forgiveness, he learns more about the Lord. His relationship gets stronger. As the person begins to read the Scriptures and abide in the word, he gets stronger. He begins to overcome things in his life and gain confidence. His relationship and walk with the Lord is even stronger. But all these things are not the mark of a spiritual father.

John tells us that the mark of a spiritual father is that he knows the Father. He knows the Lord, who has been from the beginning. This is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. This is the Lord that made the heavens and the earth. This is the Word that was in the beginning and was with God and was God. This is the One who created everything that came into being. A father knows this person who has been from the beginning.

(John 1:1-3) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {2} He was in the beginning with God. {3} All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."

A spiritual father is one who has learned that it is not about the demons being subject to us. It is not about having the authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions. A spiritual father is one who rejoices that his name is recorded in heaven. He rejoices that he knows the Father who has been from the beginning.

(Luke 10:17-20) "And the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." {18} And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. {19} "Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you. {20} "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.""

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Paul, in his later years wrote the book of Philippians. He writes in chapter three that he counts all things as loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Paul had experienced all kinds of miracles. He was bit by a viper and shook it off in the fire. The people thought he was a God. Paul had delivered people from demons. He had healed people. He had led thousands of people to Christ. He had established churches. He had testified before kings. Paul had discipled and mentored many sons. But, here in Philippians, Paul writes that he counts all things as loss in view of knowing Christ. Paul was a spiritual father. He had the distinguishing mark of a father – he knew Him who was from the beginning.

(Philippians 3:8-11) "More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, {9} and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, {10} that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; {11} in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."

How do we get to know our Heavenly Father? How do we get to this place in our journey with the Lord? What are some things that we can do?

First, if you have never entered into a relationship with Christ, you must receive Him into your life. It is pretty simple. You must believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you must confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. Lord simply means master. You must confess Him to be Lord or master of your life.

(Romans 10:9-10) "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; {10} for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

John tells us that He gives the right to become His children when believe and receive Him. In 1 John, he tells us that whoever has the Son has life, whoever does not have the Son does not have life. We enter into this eternal relationship with Christ when we receive Him. That is the starting point. We must become children of his before we can become a father.

(John 1:12) "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,"

(1 John 5:12-13) "He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. {13} These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life."

The next thing that we must do is spend time with the Father. We need to spend time in His word. We need to read, meditate, study, and pray His word. We will never know or love God any more than we know or love His word. He is the Word. We need to set aside time everyday to read His Word. Peter tells us to long for the pure milk of the word so that we can grow in respect to salvation, if indeed we have tasted the kindness of the Lord. If we have become a child of God, we begin to grow when we drink the pure milk of His word.

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(1 Peter 2:2-3) "like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, {3} if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord."

But, to continue growing, we must do more than drink the pure milk of the word. We must abide in the word of God. We must learn the truth and walk in truth. When we become strong in His word, we will know that we have become young men.

(John 8:31-32) "Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; {32} and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.""

But, to become spiritual fathers, we need to really know the Father. The prophet Hosea, was very similar to Paul. He recognized that there was nothing greater than knowing Christ. He encourages us in Hosea 6:3 to press on to know the Lord. He says, "so let us know. Let us press on to know the Lord. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth.

(Hosea 6:3) ""So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth.""

The Hebrew word for press on is radaph. It means to run after, usually with hostile intent. It means to chase, put to flight, follow, hunt, or pursue. There is an intensity and aggressiveness in this word. It is not just following the Lord; it is running after the Lord. Are you running after the Lord, or are you passive in your relationship with the Lord? Are you in hot pursuit of the Lord, or are you casually attending some church meetings? What is the intensity of your pursuit of God? Hosea tells us to radaph or press on to know the Lord.

H7291. radaph, raw-daf'; a prim. root; to run after (usually with hostile intent; fig. [of time] gone by):--chase, put to flight, follow (after, on), hunt, (be under) persecute (-ion, -or), pursue (-r).

My encouragement for us today is to press on in our walks with the Lord. Don't let anything come between you and your time with the Lord. Push aside the distractions. Push aside the busyness in life. Make time for the Lord. Set the alarm clock earlier. Carve out time to pray and study His word. Press on to know the Lord.

The prophet Isaiah speaks about knowing the Lord. He says that an ox knows its owner, and a donkey its master's manger, but Israel does not know, His people do not understand who He is. The same could be said today. There are lots of church goers, but how many really know the Lord? How many know His ways? How many are hotly pursuing the Lord? How many are pressing on to know the Lord?

(Isaiah 1:3) ""An ox knows its owner, And a donkey its master's manger, But Israel does not know, My people do not understand.""

David writes in Psalms 32 something very similar. In that Psalm he is talking about the

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consequences of sin in our lives and how we should repent. Towards the end, the Lord says, do not be as a horse or the mule which have no understanding, whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check or they will not come near you. God wants to instruct us and teach us in the ways we should go. He wants us to know Him and His ways. But, He does not want to make us do it. He wants us to make the effort to pursue Him. He could easily deal with us as He did Israel. He did something great for them and they followed Him. They quickly forgot Him and He let them go into bondage. They would cry out and He would deliver them again. On and on it went. The consequences were like trappings to make them come near. God does not want us that way. He wants us to pursue, run after, press on, and radaph Him so that we will know the Lord.

(Psalms 32:8-9) "I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. {9} Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, Otherwise they will not come near to you."

My heart is to see a church full of spiritual fathers who know Him who was from the beginning. Let's pray.

1. Children

- A basic need of everyone is to be _____. (Rom 3:23, 6:23, Is 53:6)
- The children of God have been _____ of their sins. (1 John 2:12)
- We become children of God by _____ and _____ (receiving) Him. (Rom 10:9-10)
- The first benefit mentioned in Psalms 103 is _____. (Ps 103:2-4)
- A man whose sins are forgiven is considered _____. (Ps 32:1-6)
- God wants to _____ us (Matt 7:21-23, 1 John 5:12-13)

2. Young Men

- Young men are _____, _____ in God's word, and have _____ the evil one.
- We become strong by meditating on God's _____ (Rom 4:20-21)
- We are strong in _____ (Eph 6:10-11, 2 Cor 12:9-10)
- We overcome by _____ God's word in our lives. (Phi 4:6-8, Pr 12:25, Rom 8:28, John 8:31-32)

3. Spiritual Fathers

- The mark of a father is that he _____ the Father. (John 2:13-14, John 1:1-3)
- A spiritual father rejoices that he _____ the Father and his name is recorded in heaven. (Luke 10:17-20)
- A spiritual father considers all things as loss in comparison to _____ the Father. (Phil 3:8-11)
- The first step in knowing the Father is to _____ Him. (Rom 10:9-10, John 1:12, 1 John 5:12-13)
- The second step is to _____ with Him. (1 Pet 2:2-3, John 8:31-32)
- The third step is to _____ on to know the Father. (Hos 6:3, Isa 1:3, Ps 32:8-9)

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