



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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[www.chapel-flock.com](http://www.chapel-flock.com)

## Worship Music

### Prayer

Lord, I am making the decision to stand with my pastor in prayer. I want to join him as a sincere prayer partner and support him spiritually by praying for him. I ask You to deliver him from people who have wrong motives. I also pray that his ministry will be well received; that he will have joy in his ministry; that he will make right decisions and stay in the will of God; and that he will always feel strong and refreshed in his spirit, soul, and body. Please richly bless my pastor, his wife, and his family in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sparkling Gems From The Greek

[When I Cry-Gaithers](#)

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[In The Garden-Randy Travis](#)

[High-RyanDan](#)

### Video's / New Information/ Prayer Requests

["Conquering Fear" Chuck Smith](#)

If you have a prayer request...please e-mail it to us so we can pray for you...or a person.....

[chapel-flock@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chapel-flock@sbcglobal.net)

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## Bible Study Sites

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## Deuteronomy 11:1-32 (AMP)

1 THEREFORE YOU shall love the Lord your God and keep His charge, His statutes, His precepts, and His commandments always. 2 And know this day—for I am not speaking to your children who have not [personally] known and seen it—the instruction and discipline of the Lord your God: His greatness, His mighty hand, and His outstretched arm; 3 His signs and His deeds which He did in Egypt to Pharaoh the king of Egypt and to all his land; 4 And what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and chariots, how He made the waters of the Red Sea flow over them as they pursued you, and how the Lord has destroyed them to this day; 5 And what He did to you in the wilderness until you came to this place; 6 And what He did to Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben, how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up them, their households, their tents, and every living thing that followed them, in the midst of all Israel. 7 For your eyes have seen all the great work of the Lord which He did. 8 Therefore you shall keep all the commandments which I command you today, that you may be strong and go in and possess the land which you go across [the Jordan] to possess, 9 And that you may live long in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give to them and to their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey. 10 For the land which you go in to possess is not like the land of Egypt, from which you came out, where you sowed your seed and watered it with your foot laboriously as in a garden of vegetables. 11 But the land which you enter to possess is a land of hills and valleys which drinks water of the rain of the heavens, 12 A land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always upon it from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. 13 And if you will diligently heed My commandments which I command you this day—to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your [mind and] heart and with your entire being— 14 I will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. 15 And I will give grass in your fields for your cattle, that you may eat and be full. 16 Take heed to yourselves, lest your [minds and] hearts be deceived and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them, 17 And the Lord's anger be kindled against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there will be no rain and the land will not yield its fruit, and you perish quickly off the good land which the Lord gives you. 18 Therefore you shall lay up these My words in your [minds and] hearts and in your [entire] being, and bind them for a sign upon your hands and as forehead bands between your eyes. 19 And you shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you rise up. 20 And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and on your gates, 21 That your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth. 22 For if you diligently keep all this commandment which I command you to do, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to cleave to Him— 23 Then the Lord will drive out all these nations before you, and you shall dispossess nations greater and mightier than you. 24 Every place upon which the sole of your foot shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness to Lebanon, and from the River, the river Euphrates, to the western sea [the Mediterranean] your territory shall be. 25 There shall no man be able to stand before you; the Lord your God shall lay the fear and the dread of you upon all the land that you shall tread, as He has said to you. 26 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse— 27 The blessing if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you this day; 28 And the curse if you will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you this day to go after other gods, which you have not known. 29 And when the Lord your God has brought you into the land which you go to possess, you shall set the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal. 30 Are they not beyond the Jordan, west of the road, where the sun goes down, in the land of the Canaanites living in the Arabah opposite Gilgal, beside the oaks or terebinths of Moreh? 31 For you are to cross over the Jordan to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God gives you, and you shall possess it and live in it. 32 And you shall be watchful to do all the statutes and ordinances which I set before you this day.

## Deuteronomy 11. Blessings of Obedience

This great chapter, like chapter 6 and chapter 28, is an appeal for devotion to God's Word and obedience to His commandments as the basis for national prosperity, with wonderful promises and ominous warnings.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History and Commentaries; page 177)

## Chapter 11

In chapter eleven he continues his warnings to them, as they are about to come into the land. And he reminds them again of the miracles that God did for them in bringing them out of Egypt. How He spoiled the Pharaoh and all of his land, how He destroyed the armies of Egypt there in the Red Sea, and how He watched over them, nurtured them, kept them, preserved them all through the wilderness right up to this moment and what He did to those that rebelled against them. Dathan and Abiram, how the earth opened and swallowed them up.

Your eyes have seen all the great acts of the Lord which he did. [You've watched God work.] Therefore you're to keep all his commandments which I command you this day, be strong, go in and possess the land; that you may prolong your days in the land, which the LORD swore to your fathers to give to them, a land that flows with milk and honey. The land, where you go to possess, is not the land of Egypt, from which you came out, where you sowed your seed, and had to water it with your foot, like a garden of herbs: But it's a land, where you're gonna get sufficient rain, [Where there will be plenty of streams and rivulets and so forth.] d And this I love. This particular spot of land is the land that the Lord cares for.

And the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it (Deu 11:12). rinking water the rain from heaven. The land that your LORD cares for (Deu 11:7-12) I always like to think of this scripture when I'm over in Israel. Hey, I'm right in the area where God's always looking. The eyes of the Lord are always upon this particular spot of land. It's a land that God cares for.

Now, it really isn't the most beautiful land in the world. I've been in a lot of places that I think are more beautiful than Israel as far as physical beauty. Really, the state of California, you get up in the high Sierras up around Yosemite and all and you've got beauties that are unparalleled as far as—there's nothing in Israel to compare with those things. But yet it is a land that God had purposed to fulfill His plan of redemption for mankind, and thus, it was a land that God was interested. It's a land that He cares for because in this land His son was to be born. In this land His Son was to walk. In this land His Son was to die. And thus, God was interested in this land. His eyes were always upon it. From the beginning of the year even to the end of the year. Now it will come to pass, if you will hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, Then God will give you the rain in its due season, the first and the latter rain, that you may gather your corn, and your wine, and your oil. And I'll send the grass in the fields for your cattle, that you may eat and be full (Deu 11:12-15). So, when you come in, as long you love God and serve God, God's gonna bless you. The land will be blessed. You'll have rain in its season, the early and the latter rain. You'll have green grass in the field for your cattle. You'll have good crops. One requirement, just love God and serve God with all your heart, with all your soul. But take heed, that your heart is not deceived, that you turn aside and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the LORD'S wrath will be kindled against you, and he shut up the heavens, that there be no rain, and the land will not yield their fruit; lest you perish quickly from off the good land from which the LORD gives you. Therefore lay up these words in your heart and in your soul, bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they might be as frontlets between your eyes (Deu 11:16-18).

In other words, remember this. Now the interesting thing, again you can get into a ritual but you can in the ritual forget the meanings. And they still go through the ritual of binding their phylacteries. They go through the ritual of binding the little law upon their hand, binding the little box with the law upon their foreheads, the masseuses on their door and kissing of the masseuses. They go through the whole ritual thing but that's all it is, is a ritual. There is no real serving God and loving God with all their hearts and souls. The ritual has substituted for that. And we must beware lest we allow a ritual to substitute for reality. It's a deception. They were warned that they should not be deceived and go worshipping other gods. Though the warning came yet they did not heed the warning and thus, even as God pronounced the judgments that should come they did come because God's word is true.

Teach them to your children, speak to them when you're sitting down at the table, when you're lying down in the room at night, when you're walking with them in the path. Write them upon the door posts of your house, and upon your gates (Deu 11:19-20): I think that it's great to have mottoes around the house; scriptures pasted up on the walls. For you ladies on your mirrors you might have the scripture "Favor is deceitful, beauty is vain but the woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:30). That around the house we have the word of God. God is saying, "Look, put it all over the place. Write it out there". This is good graffiti. We have a fellow in our church who designs heartpacers and has designed some of the most sophisticated heartpacers that are in the entire industry. Little computers that are the size of a quarter that can be implanted under the skin and remain operational for twenty years. And the other night he brought me the big design sheets for this new computerized heartpacer that will be about the size of a quarter and he was laying them out in my office and showing me these big layout sheets. They take photographs of these big layout sheets and put them on these little tiny silicone chips and all. And then, well, they lay the chips one on top of the other and you have just a miniature computer the size of a quarter. It will constantly monitor your heartbeat and as soon as your heartbeat drops down below fifty-seven or fifty-six or wherever the doctor wants to set it, then this little computer when it's monitoring their heart, when it drops below that it kicks on and starts throwing an electrical charge at your heart to keep the beat up to whatever standard the doctor wants it. Once it's implanted, he's got a little system where the doctor can just with a magnet change a computer from the outside. And it's a very sophisticated little thing.

But he was showing me these layout sheets with all of the little circuitry designs within it. But within all of the circuitry designs he's got Romans nine and ten. "For if thou shalt confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord, believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead thou shalt be saved. Maranatha doves, fish, John 3:16 and all kinds of scriptures. "Jesus is love and God loves you" and all, all of this are all imprinted in these little miniature microchips for the computer. Takes an electron microscope to see them but he says, "I figure, whoever gets one of these heartpacers is gonna have the word of God hidden away in his heart". Man I just had fits in the office when I was looking at those. I love it. I love that kind of stuff. All of a sudden guy turns good and he doesn't know why. So put these words in your heart, he says, and in your soul. Put them around the place that they might be reminders to you and to your children to walk after the Lord. It was the Lord that gave you the land and if you serve Him and love Him you'll remain and continue in the land. But if you forsake Him you'll be driven from the land. For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments [verse twenty-two] that I command you, and to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, to cleave to him; Then will the LORD drive out all the nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves. Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, to the river Euphrates, even to the uttermost sea shall your coast be (Deu 11:22-24). Actually, they never did conquer all that God had given to them. They never did possess all that was theirs by God's divine decree. I think that there's an unfortunate parallel in our life. I don't think that we ever possess all that God has for us or all that God would do for us. It's there, all we have to do by faith is go in and claim it and take it and yet all of us come short of the glory of God: that which God would do for us if we would just step in and take. It's tragic that when the borders were so expanded by God and all you have to do is possess it that they failed to possess all that God had given, even as it's tragic that we so often fail to possess all that God has given. Now many times that we fail to possess for different reasons: intellectual limitations, restrictions that we have placed upon God by our presuppositions. So many reasons why we fail to enter into the fullness that God has for our lives. There will be no one that'll be able to stand before you: because God is gonna be with you. [But he said,] Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD: A curse, if you will not obey (Deu 11:25-28) That's always the way it is. God sets before you the blessing and the curse; it's your choice. You can choose the path of God's blessing in your life; you can choose the path that'll lead to God's curse upon your life. Now, it isn't that God curses you, it is the curse is already on that manner of life. God is warning you that that manner of life has a curse already upon it.

Now, if you are constantly warning a person that the path that he is taking is leading to a pit of quicksand and as he's going down the path everyone he meets says, "Oh be careful down the path a ways there's a pit of quicksand. You can't go past it" and the guy keeps going. And as he gets there, someone says "Hey be careful, don't go out there that's quicksand. You'll get lost, you know, you'll suck in". But he ignores all the warnings, he continues on that path and he gets mired in the quicksand and gets caught in it and goes under. And as he's going under, he curses all of the people that he met along the path for not stopping him. Is that right? Of course it isn't. They warned him where the path was leading. Now look, God has warned you where your path is leading. If you disobey Him, if you rebel against Him, God said, "Hey that path is leading to destruction". And He warns you all the way along the path.

Now if you go to destruction it isn't that God sent you there. It's that you deliberately went there against all of God's endeavors to keep you from there. Actually, Jesus Christ, in a sense, has laid down before the gate of hell and you've gotta cross over His body to get there. You've gotta trample under foot the Son of God and count the blood of His covenant wherewith He was sanctified an unholy thing to get into hell. He's done everything to stop you, lying right down in your path, making you tramp over Him to get there. And if you end up there you surely can't blame God or you can't blame Jesus. You can only blame your own stubborn rebellion against God. For God did all that He could short of the violation of your will to stop you from going. I've set before you a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if you obey... : A curse, if you don't obey... When you get in the land, put these blessings the blessings on mount Gerizim, the curse on mount Ebal (Deu 11:26-29). Now when you come into the land, the middle of the land, the area where Abraham first came, the place where Jacob lived for such a time, dug a well; right there in the area of Shechem, on the south side is Mount Gerizim, on the north side is Mount Ebal. And when they came into the land some of the men were to go up to the top of Mount Gerizim and they were to shout to the people who were in this valley between these two mountains, shout down to them the blessings of the land and the conditions of blessings. And as these men would shout down, "Blessed be ye in the fields" the people say, "Amen". "And in your cities" "Amen" and they would shout down these blessings. But on Mount Ebal there's another bunch of guys that were shouting the curses that would come to them if they disobeyed. So on Gerizim the blessing was placed and they would shout down to the people in the valley, the people would consent "Amen, Amen". And from Ebal the curses were pronounced and again the consenting "Yes, that's right. That's right, amen, amen. So be it". So that must have been quite an experience. I've been in Yosemite when I was a kid and they used to have the firefalls and, you know, up on top of Glacier Point, the guys would just say, "Are you ready camp Curry", you know, and the voice you would hear over to Simi Valley and the guy down below would yell "We're ready Glacier Point. Let the fire fall." You know, then you'd see the beautiful firefalls. Unfortunately they don't have those there; they were absolutely spectacular. But even as those guys were up on the top of Glacier Point and down in the valley you could hear their voices, so was in Israel. It must have been a very remarkable and moving experience to have a million or so people filling this valley and this bunch of guys up on the top of Mount Gerizim calling down upon them the blessings of God if they would walk and obey and keep the commandments of God, the things that God would do for them. And then to hear the warnings of God from the other side. It was meant to be impressed in their minds so that they wouldn't forget, but unfortunately they forgot.

As a child, did you ever wonder what it would be like to be born into royalty? Those of us who came from poorer backgrounds probably spent quite a bit of time daydreaming of what it would be like to be rich.

We may not come from wealthy families, but the Bible makes it clear that because of our relationship with Christ, we are made into a spiritual nation of descendants through faith. As Paul writes in Galatians 3:29, "if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." When we trace our true heritage, we find our identity no longer rooted in Europe or Asia or Africa. By grace we can trace our true lineage back to Christ, the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. And because of this special relationship, we are now What is an Heir? ...A child of six or seven who receives a large inheritance is, technically speaking, a very wealthy person. Yet until this child reaches the age of majority, as stipulated in the will left by his parents, he is no different in practical position than a hired servant in the home. Certainly all the physical needs of the heir will be met, but he will have no authority to decide how his inheritance will be handled until he comes of age. The life situation of an heir has not changed considerably since the time of Paul. Paul wrote, "Now I say, that the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father" (Galatians 4:1,2). Paul explains that the heir found himself under the authority of a steward who had been given full responsibility to manage the estate. Typically, a guardian also would be appointed to oversee the child's upbringing and to teach him right and wrong until he grew to adulthood. In Roman society, a boy was considered an infant until he was seven years old. From this time until age 17, a small, purple band would encircle his robe, identifying him as a child. At age 17 he would be given another robe without the purple band to indicate he should be considered a man. Still, not until he reached the age of 25 did he enjoy the legal right to get involved in business affairs. Things were somewhat simpler in Jewish culture. At age 12, a boy would go through a ceremony known as a bar mitzvah, in which he would become a full-fledged "son of the covenant." The father of the boy would stand and offer a prayer of thanks that he was no longer responsible for his son's actions. The boy in turn would offer a prayer accepting personal responsibility for himself as a man. Paul uses this well-known transition to adulthood to illustrate the relationship of the law to God's people. When Israel was placed under the law, it was made heir of the promises of God. Yet as long as the nation was under the law, the promises of their glorious inheritance would not be fulfilled. They awaited the day called "the fulness of the time" when God would make good on every promise through the provision of His Son. Until that time, Israel was much like a small child under the governing control of the law. heirs of the very kingdom of God.

The Bondage of the Law;....The law covered nearly every contingency of day-to-day life, from diet to business transactions to marital relationships. The law exercised strict oversight over God's people until the time they would "graduate" from childhood to adulthood, when at last they could enjoy the full benefits of the inheritance promised to them. The promise of a new and wonderful relationship with God through the coming of the Messiah had been given to Israel, and yet this promise could not be fulfilled until the time appointed by the Father. The law provided a framework for both individuals and even an entire society to live in order and harmony. If such external guidelines are all we have in our relationship with God, however, we find ourselves in a form of bondage. That is why Paul

wrote, "Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world" (Galatians 4:3). The law can never take us into the rich, full, free life that the Holy Spirit wants for us. When Paul refers to the "elements of the world," he is speaking of what we would call the basics of life. The law of Moses was quite effective concerning these kinds of foundational "do's and don'ts" of daily living. I have always found it ironic that the first church council (described in Acts 15) dealt so strongly with the question of a complex code of behavior governing the life of believers. Even though they concluded that believers were no longer obligated to slavishly follow a code of external behavior, there are still many churches today that seek to impose similar control over their people. I grew up in a church that believed it had a divine mandate to tell women how they should dress and what was appropriate or inappropriate in hairstyles. The leaders also seemed to believe they had a revelation about God's opinions on makeup. As children, we were given endless commands about what we could or could not do. I wouldn't go so far as to say the church put us back under the law of Moses, but it did lay such a heavy load of condemnation and bondage on me that I wasn't able to bear up under its weight. I was constantly repenting because I simply couldn't live up to the standards they had set up. The law could never take us into the rich, full, free life that the Holy Spirit wants for us. It only brings guilt, condemnation, and frustration. Fortunately, the law is not the end of the story.

When the Time Came;....In Paul's day, the legal procedures governing the granting of an inheritance were very precise. When a child reached the age specified in a will for majority, there was no longer a need for a guardian or a steward to exercise oversight. The heir could receive what was promised directly when he came of age in "the fulness of the time." Paul had that in mind when he wrote, "When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law" (Galatians 4:4). Since Jesus has come, we can experience the fullness of blessing God has promised. But there is another shade of meaning to this notion of "the fulness of the time." Have you ever wondered why God allowed his people to live under the law for nearly 1,400 years before He sent His Son? To be honest, we may never fully understand God's timing. His ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts. But if we take a brief look at history, we may see many obvious reasons why the timing of Jesus' arrival on the human scene was especially opportune. First, Christ was born in an era of unprecedented peace. For over 13 years before the birth of Christ and throughout His lifetime, the gates to the temple of Janus in Rome were closed. Whenever Rome went to war, this temple would be crowded with worshipers praying to Janus for victory. But in Christ's era, the classic Pax Romana was firmly in place. Rome also had made huge strides forward in transportation, creating a well-designed system of roads stretching across the empire. And Greek, a clear, expressive, and remarkably specific language, had become the universal tongue under Roman rule. All these factors contributed to the rapid spread of the gospel in the first century. It may well be that God waited for this strategic moment so that the message of His love and forgiveness for all mankind might enjoy a worldwide impact. Notice as well that Paul spoke of Christ being "sent" by the Father, implying not only the eternal preexistence of Christ, but also that Jesus came with a specific purpose in mind. Jesus was sent into this world to complete the redemption of humanity. He came to establish a new covenant whereby man could relate to God in intimacy and enter into the fullness of His promised blessings. Paul also tells us that Jesus was "made of a woman, made under the law." This reference to the Virgin birth strongly alludes to the first promise of the Messiah given in Scripture. In Genesis 3:15, God promised that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent, destroying the works of death and separation from God that Satan had brought about in the Garden of Eden. Jesus also was "made under the law," a reminder that Christ was born a Jew and was sent first to redeem the Jewish people. He came that the people of God might finally achieve spiritual adulthood and enjoy the whole of their spiritual inheritance. Only through Jesus would they receive their inheritance from the heavenly Father.

What a Dad!... I often miss a dear, departed saint by the name of Iva Newman who was involved at Calvary from the beginning. This godly woman walked with God more years than I have lived. I used to love to hear her pray. "Now, Father dear..." she would say. Oh, how I loved that! She enjoyed a close, beautiful, intimate fellowship with God. She related to God as her "Father dear." Did you know that the death and resurrection of Christ has won for you that same kind of rich, close relationship? That was Paul's point when he wrote, "Because Ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:6). In this passage we see a marvelous picture of the involvement of the entire Trinity in the life of the believer: God the Father sends forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts. A parallel passage found in Romans 8:15,16 tells us that the Spirit of God Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the sons of God. This kind of relationship is possible only if we experience a complete spiritual rebirth. As Jesus Himself put it, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" (John 3:6,7). When we are born again spiritually, we are given the power to enter into a wonderfully intimate relationship with God, typified by Paul's use of the term "Abba." Abba is an endearing term for "father." It's an Aramaic word; and if you visit Israel even today you'll constantly hear the little children calling out, "Abba! Abba!" They're saying, "Daddy! Daddy!" Jesus often used the term. No doubt His disciples heard Him use it so frequently in His prayer life that they did not translate the word into Greek. They preserved the Aramaic expression because they wanted to capture the same warmth and intimacy Jesus shared with His Father. It is God's intent that we come to know Him as our loving Father, even as our Dad. ...How wonderful it is to know that God wants the same loving, personal relationship with us in our walk with Him! Too often we are prone to see God as a great, distant, all-powerful Creator, but it is God's intent that we come to know Him as our loving Father, even as our Dad. Some see this kind of familiarity as disrespectful, yet it is God Himself who calls us to such a level of intimacy. I recall a time when I had the opportunity to meet with a group of Italian believers for a prayer meeting. For my benefit they were praying in English, but even then they kept referring to God as "Papa." At first I thought this was getting just a tad too informal; but a moment's reflection made me reconsider. There was a depth of love and closeness in that expression that rang true to Scripture. How remarkable it is that God now welcomes us into His presence as dearly loved children and not fearful, cringing slaves. Isn't this the way a relationship between a father and his children should be? When my children come to visit they don't stand at attention, salute, and quiver in fear as they talk with me. They don't approach me with all kinds of pretentious formality and say, "Oh, exalted father, grant this humble request of your child this day." Usually it's more like, "Hey Dad, I need five bucks. I don't have time to explain; just give it to me now and I'll fill you in later!" God desires that our time with Him be relaxing and restoring to our hearts. He wants us to feel at home with Him and to be free and open in our relationship. We might as well feel that way since our lives are an open book before Him anyway. He knows us better than we know ourselves. God doesn't want us to have a cold, aloof, arms-length relationship with Him. God wants us to know His love personally in the very depths of our heart.

Whatever expression that communicates such closeness is completely acceptable, whether that is "Father," "Dad," or even "Papa."

**The Ideal Dad;...God is our Father in the purest, truest, most holy sense. He is our Father in an ideal way. God help us, our corrupted culture has destroyed the father image in the hearts of many children. That's tragic. I thank God for my godly father, who always has helped me relate to God in a very close, glorious way. I feel sorry for people who can't relate to the fatherhood of God in their lives because of some corrupted example. Whatever your experience has been, God wants you to relate to Him in that closest kind of fellowship, that intimacy, and to know him as a loving, righteous Father, a holy and pure and caring Father. His Spirit within our hearts cries out, "Abba! Daddy! Father!" God is able to bestow upon us His love, lavishing us with His kindness and His goodness, that we might come to love Him more and more. This is the purpose of God for man. Your life will never be complete until the purposes of God have been accomplished in you - until you relate to God in that close, personal way, until you say, "Oh, Abba!" and feel it from your heart. Dads, do you remember the first time your child said, "Daddy"? It's very distinguishable. You understood it completely. My own little girl was so smart. The first word she said was, "Daddy." That's right - clear as can be. I turned, I screamed, I shouted, "What?" I was sad that nobody else was around, because who would believe me? I tried to get her to say it again and she gave me the sweetest, most knowing smile - but she wouldn't repeat it. Still, I heard it! Soon she was saying it in front of everybody and I was so thrilled. On that day when we first say, "Oh, Abba!" and He hears us, God is thrilled. It's the beginning of a relationship where from the heart we can say, "Hey, that's my Abba. That's my Daddy." The wonder is that this is just the beginning of the richness of our fellowship with God.**

**Heirs of God;....As incomprehensibly great as it is to enter into a relationship with God as our "Abba," that is not the end of the story. Paul tells us, "Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God" (Galatians 4:7). By coming into this relationship with God as His adopted sons, His Spirit now in our hearts crying, "Oh, Abba," we have become heirs of God. We are heirs of God's eternal, glorious kingdom. Our Father loves us so much he has generously made us His heirs, and this spiritual inheritance is intended by God to be a very real and present blessing in our lives. Some make the mistake of thinking that a believer has to wait until heaven to enjoy his inheritance, but nothing could be further from the truth. The Bible tells us that the earmarks of the kingdom of God are righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). We can cash in on these wonderful blessings in the here and now. The peace of God which passes all understanding can keep our hearts and minds right now. Our soul can overflow with joy unspeakable and full of glory right now. We can experience a liberating freedom from guilt and fear because we have been declared completely righteous by our believing in the finished work of Jesus Christ.**

**That's Not All, Folks;...These are just a few of the elements of our glorious inheritance that already are ours because God has made us joint heirs with Jesus. We can enter into the place of highest blessing because of the wonderful love and grace of our heavenly "Dad." And yet, that is not all. Jesus said there is coming a day when He will say to those on His right hand, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34). I'm an heir of God; I'm the adopted son of the King. So if my Father is the King of the universe, that must make me Prince Charles! It also makes you a prince or a princess. It makes you an heir of the kingdom - the kingdom that God wants you to share with Him and to enjoy, world without end. And then will the purposes of God for man be accomplished, when man is restored into this full, complete, intimate fellowship with God.**

**Our hearts can overflow with thanksgiving for the warmth and security we now feel in knowing of God's limitless love and concern for us. What strength there is in the sure knowledge that He will take care of us, watch over us, and keep us in His love. We can live with confidence and be sure that we have a Father who is for us, solidly behind us every step of the way, granting us tremendous resources that we might walk with Him in newness of life.**

**Our "Abba" is committed to keeping us from falling and to present us faultless before His presence with exceeding joy (see Jude 24). He has granted us sonship and an incorruptible inheritance through Jesus Christ our Lord. Not because we deserve it. Not because we've earned it. All of this has been made possible only through His rich mercy and grace.**

**How wonderful it is that when we are born again we discover that, in a unique way, we have become both spiritually wealthy and members of royalty in the best and truest sense of the term. Because we are children of God, we have been made princes and princesses of the kingdom. Because of what Christ has done for us, we will receive an inheritance that is incorruptible and undefiled and will not fade away - and it is waiting for every one of us to enjoy for all eternity.**

("Why Grace Changes Everything"; Chuck Smith; Chapter 13: "Members Of Royalty")

(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pg 274-276)  
(Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Devos; Sparkling Gems From The Greek)

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