



December 15, 2019

Sermon Series: Given

### Week 2: Our Relationship with God – Who We are in Christ

*God has given us closeness through our relationship with the Holy Spirit.*

#### Introduction

1. Share with your group the three words you wrote down to describe our Heavenly Father (or if you didn't have the chance to do so, write them down now).
2. Share the three words our Heavenly Father would write down to describe you (again, write these words down now if you didn't have the chance to do so on Sunday).
3. Reflection: Is there a word (or two) that you would have liked to be included in #2, but didn't write down because you may be struggling in a particular area? Open in prayer by asking God to reveal any areas that may be obstacles / hindrances in experiencing intimacy with our Father.

#### Discussion

Read Galatians 4: 4 – 7

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir."

In Week 1, we learned that God gave **His Son** to SECURE us in our redemption and adoption: we are His heirs! Amen!

This week, we learned that God gave **His Spirit** to ASSURE us of our adoption: and we encounter that through *experience*: God has given us His indwelling Spirit so that may *experience* a close relationship with Him (intimacy).

Read Romans 8:9, focusing on the words in bold.

"You, however, are not in the flesh but **in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you**. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him."

1. Name a few practical ways that God indwells in you on a daily / weekly basis – whether it be through your daily devotionals, quiet time and prayer, worship music, serving in ministry, etc.
2. Has there ever been a specific time you experienced the fullness of God (i.e. felt really close to Him)? Reflect on how this time made an impact within your personal circle: with your family, friends, ministry, etc.

Re-read Romans 8:9, focusing on the words in bold.

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. **Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him.**”

God has given us closeness through our relationship with the Holy Spirit! However, in her message, Amy also mentioned that we can just as easily distort our intimacy with God. Take some time to reflect on how you have personally distorted your intimacy with Him. A few examples: shame, bias (as a result of previous experiences), withholding, etc.

The Father longs for ongoing intimacy with Him. We experience closeness in our relationship with the Father through His Spirit when we become:

1. **Authentically intimate.**

Read John 14:10: Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

Jeremiah 29:13: You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Luke 7:36 – 38: When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. 38 As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

- Write down something that stood out to you in the above verses.
- Did anything convict you personally?
- What things do we need to surrender to have a raw connection with our Father and experience the fullness of God?

2. **Boldly dependent.**

Read John 5:19: Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

Mark 10:13 – 16: People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Luke 11:13: If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

- Apart from Him, we can do nothing. On a scale of 1 to 10, how **in**dependent are you?
- Did you know that God is never inconvenienced by us? Think about that!
- Another perspective: for anyone who has ever experienced parenthood, you will know that a newborn doesn't ever *wait* to ask. What's more, a newborn will continue to ask until they get what they want! In what ways can we learn from a newborn's innocence of total and utter dependence?

### 3. **Brazenly devoted.**

Read Matthew 14:23: After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone

1 John 2:15. Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.

- How zealous and intentional are you with your relationship with God?
- Do you make room in your calendars (space, time) with God?

### 4. **Actively obedient.**

Philippians 2:8. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!

- Everything Jesus did and said was by His Father's instruction. Are you obedient to God's calling? What ways can you become more obedient. Ask the members in your LifeGroup to pray for you in this way.

### **In Closing:**

*Abba, Father*

A common first word a baby utters is "dada". There is such joy in a parent's heart when this word is uttered! How much more joy does our Father express, in His infinite love for us, when we call out to our "daddy".

Close in prayer by praying to Abba

"Dear Abba, Father

Thank you for longing to have an intimate relationship with me.

Forgive me for the ways I have distorted this relationship, putting any obstacles and hindrances in the way. Show me how I can be authentically intimate, boldly dependent, brazenly devoted and actively obedient.

Love your son. Love your daughter.

Amen."