

[#2] WHERE IS YOUR FATHER?

Welcome back to the COGPOD where the children of God gather to discover more, about our God Jehovah and His firstborn son, our brother, Jesus. I am your host brother Ed. This is the 1st in a series of 4 in which we will see what Jehovah's word the Bible has to say about Him, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and our relationship with each. So, let's get started with the 1st in the series, entitled: Where is Your Father? This discussion will be based in John chapter 8. So let's begin.

It's been said that you don't get a chance to pick your parents. However, spiritually speaking, that is not the case. Ya see, there are but two spiritual fathers from which mankind must choose either by choice, or by our actions and attitudes. The first is Jehovah, and the other is Satan. Who your spiritual father is, is literally a matter of eternal life or eternal death. So then, a most important question: Who is your father? If in all sincerity and truthfulness, one cannot correctly answer that question, then what's said at Heb.12:7,8 could be true in our case. It says; **7**Endure what you suffer as being a father's punishment; your suffering shows that God is treating you as his children. Was there ever a child who was not punished by his father? **8**If you are not punished, as all his children are, it means you are not real children, but bastards. [GNT]

What a powerful observation. How could such a thing ever occur? A legitimate child of God not knowing and using their Fathers' name? How and why would a legitimate child of Almighty God not know, or worse, be ashamed to use our fathers' name? Another question: Is it possible for one to believe that one is a child of Jehovah God when one is, in actuality, a child of the devil? These questions will be addressed in the first of this 4-part series entitled Where is your Father?

First off; why is it important to use our Father Jehovah's name? Joel 2:32 provides a very powerful answer to that question as it states; **32**And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of Jehovah shall be delivered; for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those that escape, as Jehovah hath said, and among the remnant those whom Jehovah doth call.[ASV] So we see that salvation itself is tied to calling on the name of Jehovah, not the LORD. Peter re-enforces the importance of calling on the name of Jehovah for Christians when quoting Joel 2:32 at Acts 2:21 **21**"And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of THE LORD JEHOVAH shall receive life.'[HPBT] And Paul again quotes the prophet Joel at Rom 10:13; **13**"For everyone who will call the name of THE LORD JEHOVAH shall be saved."[HPBT] Thereby connecting the name of Jehovah with salvation itself. Importantly, Jehovah wants us to use His name as Ps 50:vss 1&15 highlights. **1**The Mighty One, God, Jehovah, hath spoken, And called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. Now vs;15 **15**And call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. Also, Jer 33:2-3 shows that Jehovah wants us to call on Him and cites the benefits of doing so. **2**Thus saith Jehovah that doeth it, Jehovah that formeth it to establish it; Jehovah is his name: **3**Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and will show thee great things, and difficult, which thou knowest not.[ASV] Zech 13:9

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also highlights Jehovah's desire for us to call upon His name and why. 9And I will bring the third part into the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried. They shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people; and they shall say, Jehovah is my God. [ASV] So, by calling on the Name of Jehovah with the proper heart attitude, it can move Him to take ownership of us. The uniqueness of Jehovah's name, which is the subject of another podcast, is brought to our attention in the following scriptures: Isa 42:8; 8I am Jehovah, that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise unto graven images. Isa 41:13; 13For I, Jehovah thy God, will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Isa 45:5,6; 5I am Jehovah, and there is none else; besides me there is no God. I will gird thee, though thou hast not known me; 6that they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none besides me: I am Jehovah, and there is none else. Ex 6:2,3 2And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am Jehovah: 3and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, as God Almighty; but by my name Jehovah I was not known to them. [All previous citations ASV]

From Just a small sampling of scripture it is very, very evident that the Sovereign Lord Jehovah wants us to know, use, and call upon his name. More on this in a future podcast. Now another very, very, important question:

Is Your God and Father Who YOU Think He Is? Let's do a Spiritual Paternity Test to Find Out!! This is where our discussion of John chapter 8 begins. I'd first like to read it, starting from vs 12.

12When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." 13The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid." 14Jesus answered, "Even if, I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from, and where I am going. But you, have, no idea where I come from or, where I am going. 15You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. 16But, if I do judge, my decisions are true, because, I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. 17In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. 18I, am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me." 19Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You, do not know me, or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also." 20He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come. 21Once more, Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come." 22This made the Jews ask, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?" 23But he continued, "You, are from below; I, am from above. You are of this world; I, am not of this world. 24I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins." 25"Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been

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telling you from the beginning,” Jesus replied. 26“I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him, I tell the world.” 27They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. 28So, Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but speak just what the Father has taught me. 29The one who sent me, is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.” 30Even as he spoke, many believed in him. 31To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32Then, you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say, that, we shall be set free?” 34Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins, is a slave to sin. 35Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son, belongs to it forever. 36So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. 37I know that you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you, are looking for a way to kill me, because, you have no room for my word. 38I am telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence, and you, are doing what you have heard from your father. 39“Abraham is our father,” they answered. “If, you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do what Abraham did. 40As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham, did not do such things. 41You, are doing the works of your own father.” “We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have is God himself.” 42Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. 43Why is my language not clear to you? Because, you, are unable to hear what I say. 44You, belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar, and the father of lies. 45Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! 46Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? 47Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.” The Jews answered him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?” 49“I am not possessed by a demon,” said Jesus, “but I honor my Father, and you, dishonor me. 50I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. 51Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word, will never see death.” 52At this they exclaimed, “Now we know that you are demonpossessed! Abraham died, and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. 53Are you, greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?” 54Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. 55Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. 56Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought, of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.” 57“You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!” 58“Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before

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Abraham was born, I am!" [59](#)At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds. [NIV]

That; is a powerful portion of scripture isn't it.