



THE WORD OF FAITH

JULY 1974

ABBA FATHER

by Kenneth E. Hagin

MATTHEW 6:25-34

25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

This is a marvelous section of scripture. But for now there are two parts of it I want you to notice in particular. In verse 26, "...your heavenly Father feedeth them...." And verse 32, "...your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things."

"Your heavenly Father," it reads. We need to become acquainted with our heavenly Father.

Now this isn't talking to the world here; because He is not the heavenly Father of everyone in the world. To listen to some people talk, we are all the children of God, God is the Father of all of us, and we are all brothers and sisters.

Well, we are not!

The devil is the father of some. Jesus said to some of the most religious people of that day, "Ye are of your father the devil...." (John 8:44). Jesus didn't say that our heavenly Father was their father--He said the devil was their father.

Yet even though we have been born again, and have become children of God, so many times we have never really become acquainted with our Father.

Several years ago, after I had taught on this subject, a lady came up to me saying, "Brother Hagin, I've been saved for 11 years. And ever since I've been saved, I've loved Jesus. I was born again and filled with the Holy Ghost, yet somehow I just didn't become acquainted with the Father as I should have. But since you've been teaching along this line, I have become acquainted with my heavenly Father--and I'm just about to love Him to death!" That was the expression she used.

There is no truth in all the Bible as far reaching as the blessed fact that if we have been born again and have come into the family of God--God the Father is our Father!...and He cares for us!

He is interested in us. And I mean each of us individually--not just as a group, or a body, or a church. He is interested in all of His children and He loves every single one of us with the same love.

Jesus preached to the Jews about God being His Father and they didn't understand Him. He endeavored to introduce them to a kind, loving, heavenly Father. And they couldn't understand that kind of a God. He told them, "For God so loved the world that he gave...."

But they had lived under the old covenant-- the covenant of the law of sin and death. It was the law of an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.

They were not able to live up to it because their natures had not been changed. So God set up the Levitical priesthood by which the blood of animals could be shed to cover their sins. Then they could be counted as righteous in His sight and He could bless them. The sins of the people could be confessed over the head of a scapegoat. That goat was let go in the wilderness and judgment fell out there instead of on them.

When God gave Moses the law on tables of stone there on the mountain, fire and smoke overshadowed the mountain and if even an animal touched it he was thrust through with a sword.

In the Old Testament when they built first the tabernacle and then the temple, they didn't know Him as Father God. They knew Him as Elohim, El Shaddai, or Jehovah. They did not know Him personally. His presence was kept shut up in the Holy of Holies. It was necessary that every male throughout Israel go up to the temple at Jerusalem at least once a year to present himself before God. That was where He was. And even then they didn't dare enter into His presence. No one did save the High Priest and he only with great precaution. If you intruded into that place in the wrong manner you fell down dead instantly. The High Priest, after offering sacrifice by the blood of animals for his own sins and the sins of the people, could enter into this Holy of Holies and receive atonement for their sins --pushing them off, so to speak, into the future.

That was the kind of hard, harsh atmosphere of justice that these Jews had come up in. And when Jesus came along to introduce them to a loving, kind, heavenly Father, they couldn't understand it.

And, you know, I'm afraid that is not only true concerning these Jews. But I'm afraid it is true concerning the sons and daughters of the Almighty God today. Many have never really become acquainted with Him as being their Father.

* *

Let's notice some things Jesus said about the Father.

JOHN 16:27

For the Father himself loveth you....

JOHN 16:23

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

MATTHEW 6:8-9

...for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father....

Notice the utter tenderness of it--"Our Father...."

I like what Paul said when he prayed for the church at Ephesus. He began his prayer for them like this, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named" (Eph. 3:14-15).

Isn't that sweet! I like to do that. I like to get on my knees and repeat those words of Paul, "I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."

That makes this so real. It takes it out of the hard, harsh religious atmosphere. This is not religion. It has nothing in the world to do with religion. Some folks ask, "Do you have religion?" Thank God, I don't have a bit of it. And I don't want any. When it is "religion" it is "God"--but when it is a "family" it is "Father."

He may be God to the sinner, but He's Father to me. "I bow my knees unto the Father...of whom the whole family...." It becomes the Father and His family. We are in the family of God.

It's not important what church you are in. The thing that is important is what family you're in. Thank God, I am in His family--He is my Father!

I want to become better acquainted with my Father, don't you? I want to know Him better. Thank God, we can. How are we going to know more about Him? How are we going to become better acquainted with our Father?

Smith Wigglesworth said, "I can't understand God by feelings. I understand God the Father by what the Word says about Him. He is everything the Word says He is. Get acquainted with the Father through the Word."

That's an important statement. Get acquainted with the Father through the Word! It is in the Word we find out about Him, about His love, about His nature, about how He cares for us, about how He loves us. He is everything the Word says He is!

Jesus Himself said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).

MATTHEW 6:26

26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, not gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

The folks Jesus was preaching to never grasped it. It was something new to them. And it's almost new to us sometimes. We've never grasped it. Most of us have been taught to fear and shrink from a God of Justice.

MATTHEW 6:30,31

30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

Another translation reads, "Be therefore not faithless, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?" implying that when you talk like that you're without faith. Another translation tells us not to be anxious. It all says the same thing because if you are anxious and full of care and doubt, you are without faith.

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MATTHEW 6:32-33

32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

They won't be taken away from you--they will be added unto you. You see, God the Father cares for His own.

MATTHEW 6:34

34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow....

I like a translation which says, "Be not anxious for the morrow...." Sometimes we do have to think about tomorrow because we have appointments to keep, etc. Really the thought He is trying to get over here is, "Don't worry about tomorrow." "Be not anxious about tomorrow." He doesn't want His children full of worry and fretting. Why? Because He loves us!

A certain well known preacher in his early days pastored a country church in southwest Texas. One morning when he got up for breakfast his wife told him, "We don't have a thing in the house to eat--not a morsel of food--absolutely nothing."

"Well, go ahead and set the table anyhow," he told her.

So they set the table and gathered the children around. They simply bowed their heads and thanked God, in the name of Jesus, for provision.

"Now I'm going to hook the horse up to the buggy," he told his wife, "and I'm going into town. It won't take me long to get there and back so you'll know when to have the stove fired up because I'm bringing back a bill of groceries."

"Where will you get it?"

"I don't know, but my Father cares for me. I'm not going to worry about that. He told me not to. But I'm just going after it because we need it. I'll come back with a bill of groceries."

He sang and rejoiced all the way into town. When he got

there, he hooked the old horse to the hitching post and started walking down the boardwalk, not knowing where he was going or what he was going to do--just trusting God.

About that time an old drunk staggered out of the swinging doors of the saloon. He could hardly stand up as he staggered down the boardwalk toward this preacher. When he got right up to him he recognized him and called him by name, "Uncle Bud." He stopped dead still, reached into both pockets, pulled out a double handful of silver dollars and said, "Here, here, take this and buy you something to eat. We're not going to let you starve."

The preacher bought the biggest bill of groceries he'd ever bought and went home. When his wife asked him about it he said, "I knew the Lord would provide."

"But I don't understand," she said, "how in the world did that old drunk know? You didn't tell him you didn't have anything to eat, did you?"

"No, I didn't tell him. God told him."

Even in the midst of adversity this preacher knew his Father. He knew it wasn't His will that His children be without food. He knew it wasn't God's will because they were His children.

"...your heavenly Father knoweth...." (Verse 32). If He is your Father, you can be assured that He will take a father's place and perform a father's part. You may be certain that as your Father, He loves you, He cares for you, and He will take care of you.

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CAMPMEETING '74

This is the final issue of "The Word of Faith" you will receive before our FAITH SEMINAR AND INDOOR CAMPMEETING here in Tulsa. We're expecting great things as we meet in three services a day at Sheridan Assembly Christian Center, 205 S. Sheridan Road, July 21 through 28. Kenneth E. Hagin - Kenneth Copeland - Ken W. Hagin - Buddy Harrison - will be teaching and ministering as the Lord directs. Come be with us!

RADIO NEWS

FAITH SEMINAR OF THE AIR can now be heard over these following stations:

- * VICKSBURG, MISS. at 10:00 am over WQMV - FM 98.7
- * SEATTLE, WASH. at 3:45 pm over KBLE - AM 1050
- * SPOKANE, WASH. at 1:30 pm over KUDY 1280

CRUSADE SCHEDULE

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Masonic Temple

510 North Naches

Thurs. thru Sat. 10:00 am & 7:30 pm

Sunday, June 23 2:30 pm

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1415 5th St. South

Thurs. thru Sat. 10:00 am & 7:30 pm

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STEWARDSHIP

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MONTHLY LESSON

For this month's Monthly Lesson, we are sending out two lessons touching on two subjects we are frequently asked about: "fasting" and "being slain in the Spirit" or "falling under the power." These will be sent to you free upon request for--OBSERVATIONS...on FASTING (M25) and on THE PRESENCE OF GOD'S POWER (M26).

TRAINING CENTER OPENING IN SEPTEMBER

The Lord has directed Brother Hagin to start a Training Center for ministers--those who have a definite call to full time ministry. This is a 9 month school to be conducted in Tulsa from September through May. If you are interested write to the attention of Ken W. Hagin for further information.

Audio Tapes

"FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH...." (I Timothy 6:12). There is a fight to faith--and there are enemies to it. The greatest enemy is a lack of understanding as to what God's Word teaches on vital subjects. Often a Christian's faith is weak and held in bondage because he does not understand these scriptural truths.

For an offering of \$18.00 we will send you this series of six teaching tapes along with six corresponding printed lessons. Specify whether you want CASSETTES or 5" REEL TAPES.

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Books

We are pleased to announce that two of our books are now available in Spanish for our Spanish-speaking friends. They are:

REDIMIDO DE LA POBREZA, LA ENFERMEDAD, LA MUERTE (Redeemed From Poverty, Sickness, and Death)

¿PIENSA USTED BIEN? ¿O MAL? (Right and Wrong Thinking)

The Spanish language translations will be sent to those sending any offering this month who request them.



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