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LifeinJesus.net

'A Child of God'
by
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A CHILD OF GOD

Maybe you grew up knowing your dad really loved you and he supported you and helped you. But maybe your dad didn't show you he loved you, or maybe he showed you he didn't. Maybe you never knew him or he wasn't around much. Maybe he didn't protect you when you needed it. Maybe he made fun of you. Maybe he abused you.

The Perfect Father

God is the perfect father. He loves you so much more than the best human father ever could. He wants to tell you He loves you and show you His love. He wants you to experience it all the time. He wants to build you up and tell you how special you are. He wants to protect you from all harm. He wants to help you and guide you and it will always be in the best way. You can trust Him completely. He is always there. He will never desert you.

God is so awesome, powerful, holy and majestic. Yet the Bible tells you He wants to relate to you as a father

to a child! And the good news is that when you're born-again, that's exactly what happens – you become His child and He becomes your Father. You can talk to Him easily and naturally. You can chat to Him – it's what He wants you to do. Of course, it's important to revere and respect Him, but you can relax in His presence and communicate with Him in an intimate way.

In Galatians 4:6 the Bible says *'because you are children, God sent out the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!"'* The English word which comes nearest to the Aramaic word 'Abba' is 'Daddy'. It expresses complete trusting love and confidence. But 'Abba' also has an element of knowledge in it. It is not just a superficial word – it shows an understanding of the true basis of the relationship between a father and child. Jesus called God 'Abba, Father' when He was on earth. If you are born-again, you can do the same.

This verse also tells you that, if you're born-again, Jesus's Holy Spirit has come into your heart. So, just as Jesus called God 'Abba, Father', now you can too.

The Cross

No-one can live a perfect life. Everyone does, says and thinks wrong things. You may feel you live a good life, but in your heart you know you still get some things wrong. You may be very aware that your life is far from good. These wrong actions, words and thoughts are called sin in the Bible. God could never let sin go unpunished. He absolutely and totally hates it.

But God loves you so much. He longs for you to know Him personally in a close Father and child relationship. He does not want to punish people. So He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for all people, for all sins and for all time. Jesus died on a cross as the 'once for all' sacrifice. Instead of your having to be punished for the things you do wrong, God put that punishment on Jesus. Jesus died instead of you!

When Jesus suffered and died, He took all the sins, sickness and poverty of this world on Himself and carried it in your place. He won the victory over it all. It was as Jesus died on the Cross that all your sins were forgiven, past, present and future. And because of this you are free to become God's child!

How do I Become a Child of God?

If you're not born-again you cannot be God's child. If you are born-again, you are God's Child. It's as simple as that. There is only one way to become His child and it's through Jesus. There is no other way. Jesus said in John 14:6 *'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.'*

Through history people have tried to reach God in different ways. This has led to many false religions and philosophies. But all of them involve you in having to earn your own way to whatever or whoever they put in God's place. But you can never earn your way to the true God. Becoming God's child is a gift He offers you totally freely. And it's free because Jesus has done all that's needed. You only have to respond and receive Him.

When you acknowledge Jesus as God and decide to follow Him, you make Him your Lord. When you believe in and accept His sacrifice on the Cross for yourself personally, you make Him your Saviour. You are then born-again and have a brand-new perfect spirit. God becomes your Father and you His child, and

you can start to enjoy your personal love relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says - *'if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.'* Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you do, say and think. Believe that Jesus is Lord, that He died for you and that He is now alive. Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. Say it with your voice and believe it in your heart. If you've done that sincerely, you are now born-again. Jesus has come to live in you and your spirit has been made brand-new – believe it and thank Him. Everything you've ever done wrong or ever will do wrong is forgiven, and you will be with God for eternity.

As a child of God you have lots of brothers and sisters – a whole new family. Tell a trusted Christian you are now born-again and they will help you in your new life in Jesus. And you have the Bible, God's Word to you, which will help you understand and experience more of His love.

How Do You Know You're a Child of God?

Some people have a real experience of God when they are born-again. Others feel nothing. If you are finding it hard to believe anything has changed, don't be concerned. Choose to believe you are indeed now a child of God.

Faith is a big part of being a Christian. The Bible makes it very clear that as you sincerely accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour you are born-again – you have become a child of God. You may feel unworthy – yes, you are – everyone is, but it's all about God's love for you and Jesus's sacrifice for you on the Cross. John 3:16 says – *'For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.'*

God wants you to be His child more than you want it! He loves you so much and wants to be your Father and shower you with His perfect love. If you don't feel any different, keep believing you are and as you start to grow in your faith, things will change - God will make Himself real to you. Galatians 3:26 says – *'For you are all children of God, through faith in Christ Jesus.'*

When you're born-again, God puts His Holy Spirit inside you. You will learn to 'hear' Him speaking to you. This isn't something worrying or frightening. It's not voices in your head. It's a quiet communication in your heart. Romans 8:14 says – *'For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are children of God.'*

And as you grow as a Christian you will become more aware of the Holy Spirit and He will reassure you that you are indeed a child of God. Romans 8:16 says – *'The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.'*

There may be times when things are going wrong or negative thoughts come into your head, that you start to doubt whether you really are a child of God. You need to determine to keep believing and hold on until things settle back in your mind. Speaking the verses from the Bible in this booklet out loud will really help you keep going and stand firm. They'll build you up in faith as you hear the truth. 1 John 3:1 says – *'See how great a love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God!'*

Part of a Family

John 1:12 assures you - *'But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name.'* As a child of God you now have a new family. Every born-again Christian is a child of God, so we are all brothers and sisters with God as our Father. This is partly why it's important to find a church, because the people in it are your family.

Jesus was God's Son too - His child. So He is now your brother as well as your Lord and Saviour. God is the perfect Father and Jesus is the perfect Brother. Wow! What a brilliant family to belong to.

People's behaviour isn't automatically made perfect when they are born-again, so as in any family, there may sometimes be difficulties, but as God's family there should be a real sense of seeking God together and desiring to get on with each other. In John 13:34-35 Jesus says - *'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'* God's family doesn't always find this easy, but it should be what we're seeking to do.

The Bible explains that God adopts you into His family. In Bible times adoption was something only wealthy people could do. Of course anyone could take a child in, but for that child to become their legal son and so be able to inherit, a sum of money had to be paid. God wanted you to be part of His family so much that He paid the price – He gave Jesus to suffer your punishment. So, as you believe in Him, you are adopted into God’s family with all the rights of a legal child, including inheritance. Romans 8:15 says – *‘you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”* You are adopted by the Lord of lords, the King of kings!

An Heir

Romans 8: 17 says - *‘and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.’* In the Bible the word ‘sons’ is often used to mean both sons and daughters. Some people can get upset or feel annoyed when it only mentions ‘sons’. It was part of the culture of the time to just refer to sons, but Jesus so often made it abundantly clear that women are as important to Him in every way as men. In fact He

revealed who He was more openly and directly to women than to men.

But in those times, only sons inherited. The daughters didn't. So the fact that women are included in the term 'sons' means they are also God's heirs, in just the same way that the sons are. Brilliant news!

So what do you inherit from God? Everything God has He wants to share with you in this life: faith, victory, assurance, healing, hope, not being short of money or other resources, and many more blessings. And through eternity He wants you to share in His glory with Jesus. Amazingly in 2 Timothy 2:12 the Bible says – *'If we endure, we will also reign with him.'*

Discipline

Of course being a father involves disciplining your child, and God will discipline you when needed. Hebrews 12:8 says – *'But if you are without discipline, of which all have been made partakers, then are you illegitimate, and not children.'*

A human father who lets his children do wrong things and never corrects them would not be a good father –

he would be neglecting his children. Remember, God is the one and only perfect Father and whatever He does is for your good, even if it's difficult for a while. So, if you're getting things wrong, God will gently point it out and show you how to change. If you are stubborn and rebellious, He may use other Christian people to help you see the truth. Sometimes it may feel like punishment, but God will never punish you in anger. Everything He does is out of love for you.

There's a Responsibility Too

Any child in a human family has to learn how they are to behave and respond to their parents. A child who takes everything and shows no gratitude or love in return will not grow up to be a balanced adult. He or she is likely to be selfish and arrogant.

God your Father gives and gives and gives to you, but He does ask for something in return. Jesus said in Luke 10:27 – *'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.'* God knows the way for you to grow healthily in every way is to love. And He asks you to love Him first and

foremost, to love the people around you in the way Jesus has loved you, and to rightly love yourself.

God's love for you is boundless and completely unconditional. As you seek to live in a way that pleases Him, don't do it to try and earn His love, or to prove to Him or yourself that you deserve it. It's an impossible thing to try and do. No-one can ever be good enough to earn God's love. No-one can ever deserve it. What God wants you to do is simply receive it and allow it to change you.

Father and Child

All this is possible only because of Jesus. God wanted you to be part of His family from before you were born! He wants to be your Father and you to be His child. He wants you to receive all His blessings, starting in this life and continuing through eternity. What a wonderful Father!

Life in Jesus

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and all He has done and won for us
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God is the perfect Father –
He will never leave you or let you down.
He loves you totally and unconditionally.
But the only way to come into a Father / child
relationship with Him is through Jesus.
This booklet will show you how to become God's child
and how wonderful it is to be part of His family.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the

booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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