

A FATHER'S LOVE

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I remember being confronted with a very devastating situation. I knew that it was too much for me to handle alone. Yet, I was afraid to go to God with it. I really thought that this was something that God's love could not cover. I really believed that I had finally done it...I had committed the sin that God would in no way forgive. It was a very trying time for me. I struggled to overcome the thoughts that Satan was sending my way. Unfortunately, I had grabbed hold to them and began to fertilize and water them. Before I knew it, those little thoughts had begun to grow into seedlings and were on their way to becoming full grown plants.

I remember hearing in a very still voice in my inner-man in the midst of tears and running thoughts, "Stop seeing me as your God; I am your FATHER." My response was, "Huh." I heard it again, "Stop seeing me as your God; I am your FATHER." It was in that moment that it all clicked. I knew He was God but I forgot that He was so much more to me; He was and is my FATHER.

I recognized in that moment that in spite of and in light of the issues in my life, He was and would always be my FATHER. I was reminded of what that reality means. It meant that He had chosen me before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4) knowing the situation that I was facing was going to happen. And He chose me not because I was perfect or because I was always going to get it right but because it brought Him pleasure to do so (Ephesians 1:5). As a result of that choosing, I was redeemed and the demands of justice fulfilled (Ephesians 1:7). With my redemption also came the forgiveness of past and future sins (1 John 1:9). All I would need to do is simply go to my FATHER, who would be waiting for me with open arms, and confess my faults (Psalms 86:5). I also recognized that my FATHER's love was so deep that He stepped out of Himself in the person of Jesus and came through forty and two generations to ultimately go to the cross for me. Even more humbling, yet, equally awesome, is the fact that had it only been me He still would have done it. This is just a glimpse of my FATHER's love toward me.

It is difficult for us to accept our FATHER's unconditional love. Although we may have examples that come close, we truly do not have a human example that encompasses the totality of His love. His love for us, as the redeemed, allows Him to be merciful in the midst of His judgment and chastisement. His love keeps us in the palm of His hand even when we try with all of our might to jump out (John 10:28-29). He loves us even when we do not love Him back. I know... no, I am thoroughly convinced that no one will ever love me the way my heavenly FATHER does.

So, when you are faced with a situation that seems hopeless or a sin that has taken you to your lowest low, simply call out "FATHER!" And you will hear His love respond, "Yes, my child".