

## EXTREME COMMUNICATION TALKING TO YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER!

Suppose you were hanging out with your friends one day, and your cell phone rings. You answer, and an unfamiliar, powerful voice calls out your name. You ask, “Who is this”?

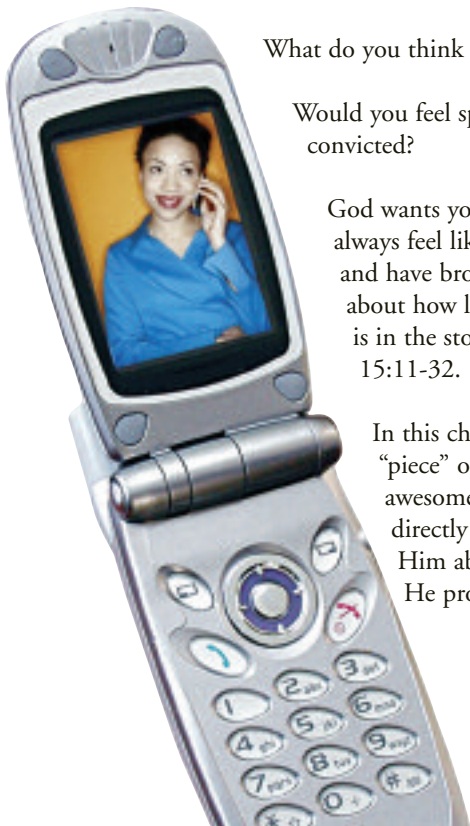
You are totally “blown away” when the answer comes back, “I’m your heavenly Father. I’m calling to talk with you...because you’re my child...and I haven’t heard from you for awhile!”

What do you think your reaction would be?

Would you feel special... scared... excited... nervous... convicted?

God wants you to know Him so well that you will always feel like talking to Him...even when you sin and have broken fellowship with Him. Read about how loving and forgiving your Father’s heart is in the story of the “Prodigal Son,” in Luke 15:11-32.

In this chapter, you will see how this vital “piece” of the puzzle, prayer, is the most awesome privilege a believer has...to come directly into God’s presence and talk with Him about whatever is on your heart. And, He promises to listen!



## RELATIONSHIP... NOT RULES

When you invited Jesus into your life, you began a relationship with God that is very personal and intimate. All relationships need good communication to be healthy.

Jesus' death for you on the cross made it possible for you to talk directly with your Father in heaven. Your Father wants you to seek His guidance, comfort, peace, and intimate companionship at all times...not just when you want things. He actually desires your companionship! (Galatians 4:6)

### FITTING THE "PIECES" TOGETHER

Prayer requires the other "pieces" of the "puzzle".

**THE HOLY SPIRIT** helps you pray.

**FAITH** makes your prayers effective.

**GOD'S WORD** teaches you Who God is and How to pray.



Now that you know Christ, begin this study by asking Him to make Himself more real to you.

*"You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy."*

John 16:24

## KNOWING YOUR FATHER

*“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”*

A.W. Tozer

*The first part of this study will focus on God’s character. Then you will know Who your Father is... and how to talk with Him.*

Before you begin trying to grasp how totally awesome your Father is...you need to know that His greatness is far beyond human understanding. But His Word does give us part of the picture... and it truly is awesome!

### ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- God is Sovereign (In Charge)
- God is Eternal (Always Existed)
- God is Omniscient (All Knowing)
- God is Omnipresent (Everywhere)
- God is Omnipotent (All Powerful)
- God is Immutable (Unchanging)
- God is Holy (Righteous and Set Apart)
- God is Just (Absolutely Fair)
- God is Love (Unconditional Acceptance)
- God is Truth (Totally Trustworthy)

As you look at this list, and the following descriptions, take time to think about each of them, and how each awesome attribute affects your view of God... and your relationship with Him.

## GOD IS SOVEREIGN (In Charge)

God alone is Ruler of the universe. He has complete authority to do whatever pleases Him.

*When you talk to your Father, approach Him with humility and respect for His absolute authority.*

**Q** Read Job 1:6-12. Who was in control at all times?

---

**Q** Whom can you trust at all times?

---

**Q** What does Romans 8:28 mean to you personally?

## GOD IS ETERNAL (Always Exists)

You live in a time dimension. God doesn't. God has always existed, and He always will exist. When you join God in heaven, you will live forever with Him. He gives you eternal life!

*When you talk to your Father, think about the time ahead when you will be with Him forever and ever! Awesome!*

**Q** What else has God told us is eternal? (Is. 40:8)

---

**Q** How long will God rule? (Ps. 45:6)

## GOD IS OMNISCIENT (All Knowing)

God knows everything in the past. He knows everything that is going on in the universe now. And He knows everything that is going to happen in the future.

**Q** Read Psalm 139, and jot down your thoughts:

---

---

---

*When you talk to your Father, think about the fact that He knows what you are going to say...before you say it. He even knows what is going on deep in your heart. And, He knows what is best for you!*

## GOD IS OMNIPRESENT (Everywhere)

This universe is about thirty billion light years across...and contains at least ten trillion stars. (More than all the grains of sand on earth!) Yet God is present on every star, and in every inch of space.

**Q** Your thoughts on Psalm 139:7&8:

---

---

---

*When you talk to your Father, think about the fact that wherever you go... He is already there. Even during your darkest time...you can count on His being there.*

## GOD IS OMNIPOTENT (All powerful)

Since God is all powerful, nothing is difficult for Him. Even the enormous power to create the universe was just “finger-work” for Him (Psalm 8:3).

The Prophet Jeremiah said:

*“O Sovereign Lord! You have made the heavens and earth by Your great power. Nothing is too hard for You!”*

Jer. 32:17

*When you talk to your Father, humbly realize He can do anything. And, although He cares about every detail in your life, think about how small your problems are when compared with how awesome He is!*

## GOD IS IMMUTABLE (Unchanging)

Since we are always changing our minds or moods...it is hard to imagine a God that is always the same, “yesterday, today...and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

*When you talk to your Father, think about the fact that because He never changes...His love for you also never changes. It doesn't fluctuate with your emotions or deeds. It is also important to understand that because God never changes... His Word will never change!*

## GOD IS HOLY (Righteous and Set Apart)

God has never thought an unrighteous thought...and never will! He is absolutely pure and perfect in every way! (Ps. 145:17)

Sin is the exact opposite of God's nature...and without Christ's death for you on the cross, you would be totally rejected from His presence. God's holiness is beyond explanation.

**Q** Read Revelation 20:12-15, and put down your thoughts:

---

---

*When you talk to your Father, think about His holiness and righteousness...and how Jesus has made it possible for you to come directly into His awesome presence.*

## GOD IS JUST (Perfectly Fair)

God is the Supreme Judge of the universe. He cannot make a mistake...and is always totally fair. There is no "Court of Appeals!" (Jeremiah 9:24)  
God cannot "look the other way" regarding your sin.

*When you talk to your Father, think about the fact that He will always be fair by His perfect standard. You need to trust Him even when you think He has been unfair.*

(Gen 18:25b)

## GOD IS LOVE (Unconditional Acceptance)

God will never love you less...and He cannot love you more!

The Bible tells us that God doesn't just have love...but it tells us that...  
“*He is love!*” (1 John 4:16)

The fact that your Father sent Jesus to suffer and die for you on the cross...illustrates the depth of His love for you. (1 John 3:1)

*When you talk to your Father, think about the high price He paid for your salvation, even though you will never fully understand it or appreciate it. Then thank Him!*

## GOD IS TRUTH (Totally Trustworthy)

God cannot lie. Everything He says is true. (Titus 1:2)

**Q** Who claimed to be the “Truth” in John 14:6?

**Q** What does Jesus say is the “Truth” in John 17:17?

Since God is “Truth”, you can always count on Him...and you can always trust His promises to you!

*When you talk to your Father, thank Him for the promises in the Bible. Review the promises...one by one...with Him. Tell Him you want to trust Him!*

Read and pray David's prayer in 1 Chron. 29:11-13.



## PRAYING BOLDLY

Now that you begin to see how awesome your Heavenly Father is, you may be afraid to approach him in prayer. God's word tells you that as his child, you are always welcome in His presence. Go to Him... **boldly!**

*“So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it.”*

Heb. 4:16

## PRAYING WITH HUMILITY

Although God wants you to talk to Him at all times, it is important that you approach Him with a humble heart. (1 Peter 5:5-6) God opposes human pride, and wants you to be totally dependent upon His resources.

## PRAYING WITH CONFIDENCE

### PRAY ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD

God has given His word to teach you how to pray expectantly, and with confidence. Learn the following prayer principles and look up the Scripture references and then... pray expectantly!

### FAMILY ONLY

God answers the prayers of His children. He also hears and answers prayers of non-Christians when they come to Christ in faith for the forgiveness of their sins. (John 16.24)

## ABIDING ANSWERS

Jesus said that an abiding Christian can be confident in his prayers being heard...and answered according to God's will.

**Q** What does John 15:7 say?

---

**Q** What does Psalms 66:18-20 say?

---

### **“THY WILL BE DONE”**

Jesus modeled the attitude you should have when you come to your Father. You should desire His will above yours, even though it may be difficult to accept. Read Mark 14:32-40.

*“And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us: And if we know that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.”*

1 John 5:14

Now that you know Him, you can be confident...if you are abiding in Him...that He will answer any prayer that is according to His perfect will.

### **GOD'S PERFECT TIMING**

Don't give up on prayers that don't get answered right away. One of the signs of a Spirit controlled Christian is “patience”. (Gal. 5:22)

Countless Christians will tell you stories of God's faithfulness in answering prayers after many years of continual prayer.

## YOUR PRAYER LIFE

You began your prayer life as a member of God's family when you invited Jesus into your life.

**Q** How has it been going since?

---

---

**Q** What is different?

---

---

### BEGINNING YOUR DAY

If you want your relationship with Christ to grow, plan to meet Him every morning. Read *7 minutes with God – How to plan a daily quiet time.* (Navpress)

Most Christians who are abiding in Christ begin their day with a “quiet time.” You can start talking to God “before your feet hit the ground,” as you get out of bed. Say something like this:

“Good morning Lord! Today, before I get going, I just want You to know I love You...and want to live for You today!”

### CLAIMING HIS PROMISES

If you really want to have an awesome day, take some of God's promises with you, and claim them for your day. Like this:

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths.”*

Proverbs 3:5&6

Pray: “Lord, today, I am going to trust You to direct my paths, and I am going to seek Your will for my life in each situation.”

## RESTORING FELLOWSHIP (BY CONFESSION)

When you slip and fall, and feel like no one cares, run to your Lord's waiting arms. He will comfort you and dry your tears.

(Read: Romans 8:26-27)

To restore fellowship with the Holy Spirit, simply tell Him that you sinned, (name it), and choose to let Him control your life. He will then restore you to fellowship with Him. (1 John 1:9)

## THANK, PRAISE, AND ADORE HIM

God has done so much for you that it is important to take some time to thank Him, and think about His love and grace. Read the Psalms, and as you read the many praises...stop and make them your own. Think about His greatness and His great love for you...and adore Him.

(Begin with Psalms 95,107, & 145-150)

## REQUESTS

God wants you to bring Him your requests. In fact, He delights in you doing that since it is an act of faith and obedience. Never quit asking Him for things that are biblical and within His will. He promises to answer those prayers...in His time!

*"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace...."*

Phil. 4:6,7a

## SO...ARE YOU TALKING TO YOUR AWESOME FATHER?

Suggestion: For the next 30 days start a prayer list. Then keep it going.

Write down the following:

- Your personal growth in Christ.
- Prayer for specific issues you are dealing with.
- Prayer for friends and family.
- Prayer for non-Christians you desire to know Christ.
- Prayer for other Christians you can help grow.

Are you beginning to see how all the pieces fit together?

If you are reading God's Word, and allowing the Holy Spirit to control your life...you will naturally talk with Him more. As you put all these "pieces" together, your faith will grow.

When it all starts coming together...life gets truly awesome!

In the next chapter, you will see how you are to grow together, along with all other believers in the Body of Christ! Get ready for the next vital "piece", "Extreme Relationships"!

To read more on this vital subject, the following books and devotionals are recommended: *Intimacy With The Almighty*, (Swindoll), *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire, Cymbala, Humility*, (Murray), *31 Days of Praise*, (Myers).