

FATHER'S DAY SUNDAY 3RD SEPT.

Dancing with God.

How many of you learned to dance when you were growing up?

Or was it something you were not allowed to do, because of church restrictions, like the Methodist church where my mum went. However, when she met my dad, being Church of Christ, things changed.

I loved my state school because at the end of each year we would hold a dance. My mum sent my brother and I to learn ballroom dancing in our teens, and although we moaned about going, I am grateful I learnt the dances. Because I was then able to go dancing at the various town halls on a Saturday night?

There is actually quite a bit of dancing in the Bible.

In 1st **Samuel** King David dances before the Lord in praise as the Ark was brought to Jerusalem. As the symbol of God's presence entered the city David put on his dancing shorts and headed into the streets, jumping, shouting, twirling in great joy. (That's what the word dance means by the way – to twirl in great joy.)

The very last Psalm, *Psalm 150:4 literally commands us to dance. "Praise him with the tambourine and dancing".*

God loves it when we connect with Him, abandon our inhibitions, draw close to Him and dance.



But many of us are afraid to Dance with the Father. Why? Because we have experienced our earthly fathers letting us down. So, we use that experience to compare to God, our Heavenly Father.

If our earthly father was distant, we assume our Heavenly Father is far away.

If our earthly father was disconnected from us, we have a view of God who is unconcerned, unattached, far-removed from our lives.

If you had a father who, no matter what you did – it was never good enough – you will assume that God the Father will never be pleased with you. The guilt, shame, hurt of your past will never be relieved.

We have grown to be afraid to dance with our Heavenly Father. Intimacy, trust, connection are ideas that just don't seem to fit us and God.

50 of the most famous atheistic thinkers of our age were interviewed. The one thing they had in common, was that they hated their dads. If you have a bad view of your earthly father, you are going to have a rough time relating to your Heavenly Father.

What's the solution? What's the good news?

The good news is that you still can dance with the father. You still can enjoy connection, intimacy, trust, and abandon with the One who created you.

It is called re-fathering – learning again, or for the first time, what it means to have a LOVING, CARING, CONSISTENT and CAPABLE Father.

We can dance with the Father – we just need to re-learn what kind of Father we have.

WE CAN DANCE WITH THE FATHER BECAUSE HE REALLY CARES

Psalm 103:13-15 says, “The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him. For he understands how weak we are”.

The Hebrew word for tender and compassionate is just one word. It carries the idea of a father bringing his child close to him when he hurts. Cuddling and caring when the child hurts.

The point of the verse: God really cares for you! He cares more than you will ever know. Jesus tells us,

Matthew 10:30 that He cares so much that He keeps track of the number of hairs on your head.

It is hard to comprehend God’s care. Think of an ant trying to understand humans. It does not have the mental capacity to get it. Therefore, how can we ever comprehend that the Creator of the entire universe cares enough to be concerned about our littlest of problems. Our problem is that we don’t want to dance we want to dump!

Consider the comments made by the disciples in **Mark 4:38** when Jesus had told them to cross over the Sea of Galilee to the other

side. He went to sleep amid a sudden storm causing the small boat to shake. Naturally, the disciples were afraid. More than afraid, they were astonished that – even during the storm – Jesus was fast asleep.

“Frantically they woke him up, shouting, “Teacher, don’t you even care that we are going to drown?” (Mark 4:38)

Did you get that? “don’t you even care”? They were afraid and started dumping on God. Of course, their biggest mistake was thinking that the boat could sink! Remember this – your boat will never sink when Jesus is in it! It might take on a little water, but it won’t sink.

That’s the real gist of the matter. When we worry, we assume God doesn’t care!

But the New Testament reminds us, “Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

It would be easier to list what God the Father doesn’t care about. Is there anything He doesn’t care about – NO. That chapter would be blank! Not only does our Heavenly Father care, but He is always there!

WE CAN DANCE WITH THE FATHER BECAUSE HE IS ALWAYS THERE.

God tells us in Deuteronomy chapter 31, “I will never leave you; I will never forget you.”

That promise was so important to God that He repeats it in the New Testament.

“I will never leave you; I will never forget you.” (Hebrews 13:5).

Psalm 121:3 says it this way: “He will not let you stumble and fall”.

The book of Jude 24 says, “all glory to God, who is able to keep you from stumbling”.

Our earthly fathers may eventually let us down. It’s hard to be consistent as a parent, isn’t it? People change. Things change. But there is one constant: our Heavenly Father.

He never changes. 2 Timothy 2:13 says: “If we are unfaithful, God remains faithful, for He cannot deny himself.”

It’s not like when children or even we make the comment: “but you promised!” We try to keep our promises, we try to be consistent, but even at our very best we are inconsistent at times but not God.

“God never changes his mind about the people He calls and the things He gives them.” (Romans 11:29)

You may wonder how God can even put up with you when you fail to follow through with His will. God is simply waiting for you to let Him take the lead again. Learn to dance with the Father. Let Him take the lead!

YOU CAN DANCE WITH THE FATHER BECAUSE HE WILL ALWAYS COME THROUGH!

A little boy ask his dad, “Dad, do you know everything.” “Yes,” the father replied, “I know everything about some things.”

Well, I think we can all say that, but we don’t know everything about everything. But God knows everything. Not only does He know everything; He has the power to do **ANYTHING!**

The best part about connecting with God, trusting God, growing close to God, is that we can give Him everything, our cares, hopes, and desires and He will take care of it. We can give ourselves totally over to His purposes for our life, knowing that He has the power to accomplish whatever He chooses in our life.

Ephesians 3:20 says, “Now glory be to God, who by His mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infininitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.”

Luke 1:37 reminds us, “For nothing is impossible with God.”

Do you have a habit you can’t break and worry that God has given up on you? – nothing is impossible with God.

Are you struggling in a relationship and can’t seem to come to resolution? – nothing is impossible with God.

Are you stuck in your spiritual journey and don’t have a clue how to take the next step? – nothing is impossible with God.

Sometimes we ignore the truth that God, our Father is there. He cares, and He can fix anything in our life if we just turn ourselves over to His control.

I picture our Father in Heaven standing patiently, waiting for us, saying something similar,

“May I have this dance?”

We can't dance with the Father until He is our Father. He created us, but we must give ourselves over fully to Him and His will for our life. God the Father wants to begin a lifelong dance with us. He cares. He's always there. He can accomplish in our life whatever needs to be accomplished.