

SEVEN KEYS TO CONFIDENCE

Key Truth #3: God is My Loving Father

Misconceptions about God:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

I can be confident because:

1. God is my _____ Father

"...those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God." Rom. 8:14

2. God is my _____ Father

"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'" Rom. 8:15

"And so we should not be like cringing, fearful slaves, but we should behave like God's very own children, adopted into the bosom of his family, and calling to him, 'Abba, Father.'" Rom. 8:15 (Living Bible)

"Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me." Ps. 27:10

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." Rom. 8:16

3. God is my _____ Father

"Now if we are children, then we are heirs --heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory." Rom. 8:17

"And since we are His children, we will share His treasures --for all God gives to His Son Jesus is now ours too!" Rom. 8:17a (Living Bible)

How do I experience God in this way?

- _____ your false hidden beliefs
- _____ your past
- _____ your mind with the truth about God

"...to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God..." John 1:12

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to "take it home": Spend a few minutes every day reading Scripture, praying, and answering thought provoking questions about this weekend's topic!

This week's memory verse: Rom. 8:15 - *"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"*

Monday

Look back over your notes from Sunday. What point was particularly relevant for you? Why?

Read Romans 8:15,16 and consider your gentle Father. How can your confidence increase dramatically if you truly believe this?

Do you usually experience the truth of these verses? Why or why not?

Today, memorize the verse at the top of the page and claim it every day this week!

Thank God that He has blessed you with adoption-- and that means He will never reject you! Ask Him to help you truly believe He loves you like a tender Father!

Tuesday

Today, let's consider God as our guiding Father. Have you experienced God's fatherly guidance in your life? Give an example or two.

In what areas do you need God's guidance right now?

Read Matt. 6:9-13. In what ways does Jesus ask our father to guide us?

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Do you pray daily that God would guide you in these ways?

Why is it that we will beg God for guidance on less important issues and yet less frequently ask Him for guidance on the issues Jesus raises in the Lord's prayer?

Today, ask God for guidance in the temptations that will come your way. Ask Him to lead you out of harm's way, and to deliver you from evil. Thank Him for His guidance in every area.

Wednesday

Read Romans 12:1-2. In order to renew our thinking about God we must first reveal the misconceptions we have about God. How would you describe your earthly father?

What personal misconceptions about God do you need to release?

The second and third steps to experiencing God in this way: release your past (realize that past poor examples of human fathers and past misconceptions of God were not the truth about God!) and renew your mind.

What practical steps can you take to refocus on God as your loving Father?

What difference will this change in mind-set make in your life?

Ask God to help you put the past patterns of thinking behind you. Ask for His strength to refocus on who He really is. Thank Him for His tenderness toward you.

Thursday

Let's talk about our generous Father. Read Romans 8:17. What are some of the blessings you received as an heir? Here's a partial list:

- You are beyond condemnation (Rom. 8:1)
- You are delivered from the power of evil (Col. 1:13)
- You are perfect in God's eyes (Hebrews 10:14)
- You have access to God at any moment (Eph. 2:18)
- You are a royal priest of God (1 Peter 2:5)
- You will never be abandoned (Hebrews 13:5)
- You have every spiritual blessing possible! (Eph. 1:3)

Can you name any others? (You might start in Ephesians 1).

How can this perspective help you go through life?

Today, thank God for the blessings he soaks you with! Thank Him that He chose to adopt you as His child! Now determine to live in the joy and reality of this life-changing truth!

Friday

Today, read ahead to next week's text: Romans 8:18-27. What perplexes you the most about suffering?

What is Paul's main point about having confidence in the middle of suffering?

Thank God that He is with you in the midst of trouble. Ask Him for the confidence Paul speaks of in these verses!

Saturday

Finish up any devotions you may have missed this week, and memorize that verse on the top of the previous page! *Please pray for boldness and Spirit-led confidence for all those involved in the services this weekend!*