

He is never too busy for deepest questions

By Elise L. Moore, C.S.

Who is your father? That can be a tricky question. Some do not know their “real” father and consider a significant man in their life as a father. Sometimes who we consider our father changes as people come into and out of our lives.

I had two fathers who I loved totally. Both men that my mother married were very, very special to me. They both treated me as their daughter, and I do not feel compelled to choose between them. I feel fortunate to have been embraced and loved so completely by two fathers.

But there was a time when I felt fatherless. My parents had separated. My dad was far away, and he and I were not getting along. This was when the Bible truth that God is our Father became real to me and saved me.

Jesus called God “Father” more than 150 times in the Gospels. It was his favorite name for God and indicated his relationship to God as Son. But Jesus saw God as not only *his* father, but the Father of all. So, when his disciples asked him to teach them how to pray, Jesus told them to begin by saying, “*Our* Father which art in heaven...” (Matthew 6:9). This is an inclusive prayer which recognizes the divine right of all to spiritual sonship and daughtership.

God is the universal creator and all are His beloved children. As it says in Malachi 2:10, “Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us?”

As a child, I prayed to understand God as my one, and only true Father. This was so comforting. Since God is Spirit and is always present, my Father was with me every moment. Since God is all-knowing, He was always conscious of me. This Father was never absent or too busy to listen to me or provide answers to my deepest questions. Since God is love, infinite love, there was enough love to embrace me until I felt loved.

When I needed to feel close to my Father, I used to ride my bike about two blocks and sit in someone's yard. It always seemed so peaceful and no one ever bothered me. I took my Bible and *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy. Reading about God, His all-power and loving presence. His care and guidance, always brought me peace. Then I would become very still in my thoughts and listen. God would send spiritual thoughts that were just right for me and answer whatever was troubling me at the time.

I felt the tangible presence of God as my Father. This actually was what led to my becoming close with my own dad, and later with my step father. God was my *real* Father and who I turned to for help and support and solutions. God was also their Father, so they were being led by God to know how to parent. We were all being parented by the one divine Parent.

This Father's Day let's honor God as the Father of all. This will help us forgive our human fathers, if they need forgiving. It will help us appreciate the good in our human fathers. No one can ever be fatherless with God as our Father.

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