

Romans 8:15

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Unfortunately, a lot of you reading this are just like me and are too familiar with the pains of divorce and remarriages by our moms and dads. Both of my parents were married three times, and unfortunately I followed in their footsteps and have been married 3 times myself and have been single for over 14 years now. So when you read today's devotional verse it's kind of hard to relate to calling God Abba, or Daddy which is what it means.

I remember one time one of my ex-stepbrothers told me that if I called my stepfather dad, that he (my stepdad) would give me stuff. So I did, not because I considered him my dad, because my dad was very much a part of my life growing up, but because of what I could get out of him. But it really didn't work and I could never ever consider him my dad. My mom's third husband I could not even call him dad, because I was grown up by then so I called him by his name.

But I believe that God wants us to call Him Father or even Dad or Daddy.

† **Galatians 4:4-7 (NLT2)** *But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.*

Calling a man Father is a big deal, but calling God Father is even a bigger deal, and a humongous deal is calling God Daddy, because the word Dad or Daddy is a very intimate way of addressing someone. It would mean that you would have a relationship with that person like no other. Kind of like a relationship between a husband or wife. When a man marries a woman, he would never call any other woman his wife, not because he wouldn't have the same close intimate relationship that he has with his wife, with any other woman.

Maybe you never had that kind of relationship with your dad because of how he treated you or turned his back on you when you were but a child. We could go on with all kinds of examples but one thing we must do is see God for Who He is, God. Not a man who will let you down or reject you or beat you or use you or _____, you fill in the blank.

No, God loves you with an unconditional love like no other you will ever experience here on this earth. No man, woman or child could ever love you like God does, nor can you love anyone the way God loves you. Now you can argue how much you love your child or grandchild, but take

that love that you have for him or her and multiply it by a thousand, and it barely scratches the surface of God's love for you. Therefore, *cry out, "Abba, Father."* Or simply "Daddy"

† **Romans 5:8 (NLT2)** *But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*