

# FATHER GOD

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## FOREWORD

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# FATHER GOD

Do you know God as your Father? This is the profound question Derek Prince addresses in *Father God*, the powerful message you are about to read.

Far from being provocative or critical in any way, the question really comes as an invitation from Derek. In the early pages of this work, you will discover his own deeply personal encounter with Abba, Father.

For Derek, the experience of coming to know God as his Father arose unexpectedly and dramatically out of his own personal need. Very possibly, as you turn these pages, the realization may hit you that you face a situation very similar to Derek's. If that is true, you will be wonderfully encouraged by the message communicated here. Derek's own testimony—totally grounded in a biblical presentation—affirms a marvelous truth: **you and I can experience the Fatherhood of God for ourselves.** That reality will stir the hearts of all who long for the life-changing experience of knowing God as Abba, Father.

## Father God

You need to be aware of one other factor as you read this message. Derek's overriding hope and belief in presenting this teaching was that it might have its greatest impact upon future generations of believers. His passion comes across loud and clear in these pages. Here is how he so pointedly expressed it:

*“In view of the fatherless generations all around us, we recognize that no one is ever going to be satisfied until they have a father. It is our privilege to tell them there is a Father who loves them. There is a Father who is waiting for them, who will not condemn them, who will not criticize them, who will not point out all their faults and failings. He is just waiting. I believe if we could get that message across to the fatherless generations all around us, many of them would run into their Father's arms. That is what they are longing for.”*

As you read these words, a deep longing may rise in your own heart for the connection Derek has described here. That stirring you sense may in itself be the strongest indication that this teaching is for you—and that a life-changing event of your own is awaiting you in these pages. What Derek conveys here is absolutely true: You can have your very own personal encounter with Father God. If that happens, it will fulfill our greatest hope (and Derek's as well) in presenting this teaching.

There is a wonderful little chorus called *Father God, I Give All Thanks*. It was a personal favorite of one of Derek Prince's dear, departed friends—Pastor Bill Cooper from Naples, Florida. In his rich baritone voice, Bill would regularly close his church services in Naples with a rendition of this song, written by another well-known minister, Pastor Jack Hayford. The simple words of the chorus go like this:

*Father God,  
I give all thanks and praise to Thee.  
Father God,  
My hands I humbly raise to Thee.  
For Your mighty power and love  
Amazes me, amazes me—  
And I stand in awe and worship, Father God.*

Maybe before you even turn the next page of this booklet, you might want to lift those words to the Lord in faith. Let them express your thanks in advance for the wonderful truths you are about to receive.

It is our hope and prayer that by reading *Father God*, your heart will be filled to overflowing. May you truly experience a fresh revelation of God as your Father, enabling you—in a brand new way—to “...stand in awe and worship Father God.”

— The International Publishing Team of  
Derek Prince Ministries

## INTRODUCTION

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# A PROCLAMATION

If someone were to ask you if you truly know your father, how would you respond? That important issue is the main subject of this booklet. It is a topic that has an impact upon each of us—every day of our lives. The theme of this message is “knowing your father”—specifically, *Knowing God as Your Father*.

In this introduction, I would like to begin our exploration of this topic with a proclamation. Our declaration is taken from the First Epistle of John, chapter 3, verses 1, 2 and 3. I invite you to join me in proclaiming this passage out loud (if you are in a place where you can do so):

*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! [Indeed, we are !] Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

*And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

In this booklet I want to examine what it really means to know God as your Father. When Jesus taught us *The Lord's Prayer*, He instructed us to begin with the words, "Our Father." By virtue of Jesus' instruction we all have the right language to use, and it is correct. But here is the question that arises: Do we all have the experience? Or is that phrase, "Our Father," just a set of familiar religious words to us?

## Two Main Elements

*Do I truly know God as my Father?* The reality of our experience of God as our Father is vitally important to us. To help us address this matter, I would like to begin with a passage familiar to most Christians. In John 14:6, Jesus says these words:

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

In that statement there are two key elements:  
1) the way, and 2) the destination.

What is the way? Clearly, Jesus is the way.

What is the destination? Amazingly, far too many Christians have never even considered that question.

Jesus said, “No one comes to the Father except through Me.” Jesus is the way. But *the Father* is the destination.

Through many years of experience and observation, I am aware that multitudes of Christians are “on the way.” However they have never truly arrived at their destination. They have never come to know God personally *as a Father*. So they continue “on the way”—they live good lives and they receive many blessings. But they have missed the real point of the reason Jesus came. He came to bring us to the Father.

That is the important issue we will settle and apply personally in this booklet.

## CHAPTER ONE

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# It Happened To Me

When it comes to discovering the destination—coming to the Father—I can say that it happened to me. Please allow me to illustrate from personal experience this important distinction between being “on the way” and arriving at the destination—coming to know God as my Father.

I was rather dramatically saved in the middle of the night in an Army barrack room during World War II. My salvation experience took place in the year 1941, in the seaside town of Scarborough in Yorkshire, England. I didn’t know anything about the doctrine of salvation. I simply had the experience. (I later discovered that there were people who had the doctrine but didn’t have the experience. Frankly, if I had to choose, I would rather have the experience than the doctrine. The good news is that you can have both! Never be content with the doctrine without the experience.)

The night I came to know Jesus personally, I experienced salvation—and my life was dramatically and permanently revolutionized. That transformation

continued over many years of walking with the Lord. I never became a backslider. Many times I was not what I should have been, but I never turned my back on the Lord. Over those next decades, God blessed me and used me to preach the gospel in over fifty nations. But an experience awaited me that would transform me even more dramatically than all I had yet encountered.

In 1996, there was a wonderful celebration of my fiftieth year in full-time ministry. The event was attended by many friends, associates and family members. After that time of celebration, Ruth and I went on holiday to Hawaii. We had rented a little apartment and intended to go there to rest. What we experienced, however, was far from rest.

Actually, as I look back on the years, it is quite amazing how many times we would go somewhere to rest, but find it impossible to do so. In fact, it became almost a foregone conclusion that, no matter what our intentions were, we wouldn't rest. This particular holiday was no exception. During that time in Hawaii, I ended up having surgery, Ruth struggled with illness, and there were all kinds of disruptions.

Even though there were some impediments, we had come to Hawaii to rest. So each morning we would sit up in bed and pray and worship. We would also take communion together.