



The Biblical Counseling & Educational Center's

Take a minute, and search your heart.

When you need to step into a place of fear, who do you reach for?

Many times when trouble looms we look to our Heavenly Father. We ask for His guidance and He reaches down, takes us by the hand and guides us through. Have you ever thought about the hand that reaches down to you in your time of need?

Remember when your earthly parents stretched out their hands to lift you up? Think of a child standing on the edge of a swimming pool, his father in the pool encouraging him to jump. There is hesitation, but finally he springs into the outstretched hands. What a step, or leap, of faith! Knowing his father loved him, he decided to trust and jump.

The same holds true in our relationship with the Lord. **When you are on the edge and He is encouraging you to take a leap of faith how will you respond?** Leap? Hesitate, then leap? Or...? Can we trust Him? Why should we submit our ways to Him?

Not all fathers and their children have loving and trusting relationships. My relationship with my dad was very superficial, not only because of him, but because of what I wanted from the relationship. I was more interested in what he could do for me getting to know him, or trying to please him. The relationship was all about ME! Unfortunately my dad passed away in 1990 and I was never able to really build that relationship. However, my Heavenly Father, in His grace and mercy, gave me the opportunity to have a father-son relationship with Him. Psalms 68:5 says He is "a father to the fatherless".

Gary Stiff is a dear friend, one who holds me accountable wrote the following about his father's hands:

"What are God's hands like? Unlike my dad's hands, His are always scarred, always strong yet always tender."

"Hey, my dad's hands have some resemblance. My dad was an ironworker. His hands were burned from welding, calloused from grasping hammers and steel and very strong from gripping girders and moving them into position. But they were tender from holding his four boys hands when they



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learned to walk and run. Calloused hands that tenderly brushed our cheeks and embraced our mother. I know that now because I remember those hands; but then I wasn't thinking of his hands or him, only what I wanted from him."

"Now that my dad is in his 80's, I desire to know him personally. Now his hands are thin and tremble, and they lovingly care for his bride. He is everything a son could desire. He's a man's man. Soon he will pass on, and I will need a deeper relationship with my Heavenly Father, as He will be my only

Dad. What is He like? I have so much to learn. Now is the time to build my relationship with my Heavenly Father, so the transition won't be so difficult. Dad went to war, fought, was injured, recovered, came home and never looked back. God sent His Son into a war, fought, was killed, rose again and never looked back. Oh yeah, they both won."

Children are not likely to jump into the arms of a stranger. If we don't trust God with our lives, He must be a stranger rather than our loving Father. When a stranger gives a gift, the focus is generally on the gift itself rather than the giver. Even when a gift is received from a father, it may only foster a superficial relationship. But God, our Heavenly Father, offers us a priceless gift. Are you focusing on the gift alone or... the giver?

It is important to recognize whose hand is reaching out to us. A hand that shows the marks of His love for us, you know, the nail scarred hands. He offers the gifts of love, salvation, answered prayer, etc. The joy of these gifts is wonderful, and giving thanks is the godly thing to do, however stopping there could be disastrous. **Are you making every attempt to get to know Him? Who He is, His characteristics? Is it your desire to take His hand and walk with Him day by day? To grow more like Him as you spend time with Him?**

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
2 Peter 1:2-3

Respectfully, Chuck Andrews