



## Daily Devotionals

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### 1 JOHN 3:2-6 KNOWING THE FATHER

*<sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. <sup>4</sup> Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.*

When you were a very young child did you know what your father actually did at work every day? Even when we came to know that he was an engineer, a butcher, a teacher, a fireman or a lawyer, we had no idea what that actually entailed. However, that was not what was important to us. What we needed to know was that he loved us and provided for us - that he was present and would be on our side. There came a time when we were brought into the knowledge of his profession and as we lived together as family we learned more and more what that profession actually involved. But even then - even now - what was most important was that he loved us. Yet that was still only made known to us by revelation through his actions toward us.

God is our Creator and our Father. He has demonstrated his love for us by his refusal to consider abandoning humankind and starting all of creation over. The ultimate revelation of his love for humankind was the incarnation and death of his Son so that we might be reconciled to him and live with him forever. That love and that act have given us the opportunity to be God's adopted children. Through faith in Jesus Christ that is who we are. But what we are to be lies in the realm of hope - that reality which remains yet unseen (Hebrews 11:1). So we can only come to know God and open ourselves to his further revelation of himself and who we are to be through following the One who knows him best, Jesus Christ. The path to the Father that was blazed by Jesus was the path of obedience to the Father's will. Whenever we sin we turn off that path and way from the Father. If we choose to continue or abide in our sin instead of repenting and following Jesus, then we will never know the Father, let alone make progress toward him.

Going back to the imperfect image and experience of our own fathers, we gain a greater appreciation of who they are and what they do by growing in our relationship with them. So often our experience of our fathers is that they seem so much smarter as we get older. Even the most giving and loving father will remain unknown to a child that rebels and runs away from home. In addition, to run away from your father is to reject his aid in becoming the person you could be.

**Father, it is written that you knew me in my mother's womb and ordained a purpose for me before I ever was (Psalm 139:15-16). Give me the gift of faith to live in belief of your loving-kindness and with the hope of eternal fulfillment in you. Endow me with the wisdom to seek what I can know of your Word and the patience to allow you to reveal your will to me more fully when you deem the time to be right. But at all times guide me in obedience to your will so that I will not wander from your presence and cut myself off from the knowledge of you. Amen.**

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