

## ***What Jesus Taught about God as Father***

*by*

***Stanford E. Murrell***

*One of the great works Christ came to accomplish was to reveal the Father to men. Would you like to know something about God as Father? Then consider the following revelation of Him from the lips of the Lord. The points are arranged in a chronological manner according to the prescription of Christ's teaching.*

1. **Through good works in the lives of believers the Father is glorified in heaven.** Matt 5:16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

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*Work for the night is coming,  
Under the sunset skies;  
While their bright tints are glowing,  
Work, for daylight flies.*

*Work till the last beam fadeth, Fadeth to  
shine no more; Work, while the night is  
dark'ning, When men's work is o'er.*

~\*~

Annie L. Coghill

2. **By living out the ethics of the kingdom of heaven as outlined in the Sermon on the Mount, individuals are recognized as the children of the Father.** Matt 5:45 *That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.* "Grace is the good pleasure of God that inclines him to bestow benefits upon the undeserving. It is a self-existent principle inherent in the divine nature

and appears to us as a self-caused propensity to pity the wretched, spare the guilty, welcome the outcast, and bring into favor those who were before under just disapprobation. Its use to us sinful men is to save us and make us sit together in heavenly places to demonstrate to the ages the exceeding riches of God's kindness to us in Christ Jesus." A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)

3. **The Father is perfect in every way.** Matt 5:48 *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.* "There are some again to whom the idea of a God perfect as they could image Him in love and devotion and truth, seems, they say, too good to be true; such have not yet perceived that no God anything less than absolutely glorious in loveliness would be worth believing in, or such as the human soul could believe in." George Macdonald (1824-1905)

§ On Christmas Day 1968, the three astronauts of Apollo 8 circled the dark side of the moon and headed for home. Suddenly, over the horizon of the moon rose the blue and white Earth garlanded by the glistening light of the sun against the black void of space. Those sophisticated men, trained in science and technology, did not utter Einstein's name. They did not even go to the poets, the lyricists, or the dramatists. Only one thing could capture the awe-inspiring thrill of this magnificent observation. Billions heard the voice from outer space as the astronaut read it: "*In the beginning God*" —the only concept worthy enough to describe that unspeakable awe, unutterable in any other way. "*In the beginning God created*" —the invasive, the inescapable sense of the infinite and the eternal. The

Perfect One who has done all things well.

4. **The Father properly rewards appropriate religious behavior** Matt 6:1,4 *Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven...That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.*

§ There is a marble tablet set into the outside walls of Plymouth's High Street Chapel, bearing these remarkable words:

*Erected by Friends  
As a Memorial of their esteem and  
respect for  
JOHN POUNDS  
Who, while earning his livelihood  
By mending shoes, gratuitously  
Educated  
And, in part, clothed and fed  
Some hundreds of Poor Children  
He died suddenly  
On the first of January, 1839  
Aged 72 years.  
'Thou shalt be blessed: —For they  
Cannot Recompense thee.'*

The Father is pleased when good works are done in secret.

5. **The Father encourages private prayer.** Matt 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. "Prayer pulls the rope below and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly. Others give but an occasional pluck at the rope. But he who

wins with heaven is the man who grasps the rope boldly and pulls continuously, with all his might." C.H. Spurgeon

6. **The Father knows what every heart and life needs and promises to meet our needs so that we do not have to worry.** Matt 6:8 *Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.* The word worry comes from the Greek word *merimnao*, a combination of two words—*merizo*, which means *to divide*, and *nous* which refers to the mind. Worry therefore means *to divide the mind*. The Bible says that *A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.* (James 1:8)

§ In the spring of 1871, a young man read twenty-one words that changed his life. As a medical student at the Montreal General Hospital he was worried about final examinations and beyond that where he should establish his medical practice. Thomas Carlyle wrote the words that changed William Osler, a founder of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. These are the twenty-one words: *Our main business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand.* The Father has promised to meet our needs at hands. The future can wait without worry.

7. **There is an appropriate way to speak to the Father.** Matt 6:9 *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.* The proper way to speak to God is with respect to His holiness and His honor. The Father is in heaven and His name is holy. "We can seek God and find Him! God is knowable, touchable, hearable, seeable, with the mind, the

hands, the ears, and eyes of the inner man. (A.W. Tozer 1897-1963)

- 8. The Father will forgive sins on the same basis that others are forgiven.** Matt 6:14 *For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:* Matt 6:15 *But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.* (cp. Matt. 18:21-35; Mark 11:25,26) Lord Edward Herbert, an English journalist, said, *He who cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which he must pass himself, for every man has need to be forgiven.*

~\*~

*Forgiveness is the fragrance  
of the flower that clings to  
the heel that crushes it.*

~\*~

- 9. The Father welcomes sincere expressions of serious devotion such as fasting.** Matt 6:18 *That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.* Such spiritual counsel is needed because there is a temptation to want others to know just what we have done for Christ and for the Church. The heart is a cauldron of pride and humility. It wants to be humble, but finds subtle ways to show off. Those who seek to be humble before men can be assured that the Father will one-day honor their endeavor for humility is so foreign to the fallen heart. "Take delight in being unknown and unregarded. A true understanding and humble estimate of oneself is the highest and most valuable of all lessons. To take no account of oneself, but always to think well and highly of others, is the highest wisdom. ... We are

all-frail; consider none more frail than yourself." Thomas a Kempis, (*Leadership*, Vol. 3, no. 3.)

- 10. The Father has a tender regard for nature.** Matt 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? "The longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of man; and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?" Benjamin Franklin

- 11. The Father does not want the Christian to worry, but to trust Him and seek first spiritual matters.** Matt 6:32,33 (*For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:.) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

§ In one of his prayers in the US Senate, Peter Marshall prayed, "*O Lord, forgive us our ulcers, the badges of our anxieties and insecurities.*"

- 12. The Father knows how to give good gifts to His children** Matt 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? The gifts of God include eternal life and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. (cp. Luke 11:13) For these gifts of divine grace we must pray, as did Clement of Alexandria (c. 150-215).

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O Educator, be gracious to thy children,  
O Educator, Father, Guide of Israel, Son and  
Father, both one, Lord. Give to us, who  
follow thy command, to fulfill the likeness  
of thy image, and to see, according to our  
strength, the God who is both a good God  
and a Judge who is not harsh.

Do thou thyself bestow all things on us  
who dwell in thy peace, who have been  
placed in thy city, who sail the sea of sin  
unruffled, that we may be made tranquil and  
supported by the Holy Spirit, the unutterable  
Wisdom, by night and day, unto the perfect  
day, to sing eternal thanksgiving to the one  
only Father and Son, Son and Father,  
Educator and Teacher with the Holy Spirit.

~\*~

*Worship in the Early Church,  
Christian History, Issue 37*

**13. The Father has a specific will, which  
He wants men to do, the failure of  
which to perform will bar entrance  
into heaven.** Matt 7:21 *Not every one  
that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall  
enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he  
that doeth the will of my Father which is  
in heaven.*

~\*~

*I ordered the Lord:  
"Get right with me,  
My will be done,  
And instantly!"*

*And I don't know why,  
But prayers fell numb,  
Till I learned to pray  
In Jesus' way:  
"Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done."*

~\*~

Henry Hubert Hutto

**14. The Father will enable the persecuted  
Christian to speak in an appropriate  
manner.** Matt 10:20 *For it is not ye that  
speak, but the Spirit of your Father  
which speaketh in you.* "When God is  
seeking a person, he will not allow my  
fear, my feeling of intimidation or my  
lack of knowledge or experience to  
prevent that person from finding him.

—Rebecca Manley Pippert

**15. The Father is concerned about the  
minutest detail of daily life.** Matt  
10:29-31 *Are not two sparrows sold for  
a farthing? And one of them shall not  
fall on the ground without your Father.  
But the very hairs of your head are all  
numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are  
of more value than many sparrows.*

§ In one of J. Wilbur Chapman's  
evangelistic meetings, a man described  
his earlier life. He had been a vagrant  
who begged on the streets of New York  
City for a year. One day he tapped a man  
on the shoulder and said, "*Buddy, could  
you spare a dime?*" The man turned  
around. It was his own father. "*A dime?*"  
he exclaimed. "*I have been looking for  
you for eighteen years. All that I have is  
yours.*"

**16. The Father will honor those who  
honor His Son.** Matt 10:32 *Whosoever  
therefore shall confess me before men,  
him will I confess also before my Father  
which is in heaven.* Matt 10:33 *But  
whosoever shall deny me before men,  
him will I also deny before my Father  
which is in heaven.* While there is no  
single way to witness about Christ, there  
must be a word of testimony spoken  
about Him to someone sometime in the  
course of the Christian life.

§ Dr. G. Campbell Morgan tells the story of two Christians who worked side by side for five years without finding out, either of them, that the other had ever made a profession of faith in Christ. One of them in telling it to Dr. Morgan said, “Wasn’t it funny!” “Funny?” said Dr. Morgan, “Why no. God find the man and let us get down on our knees before God, for you have never been bore again!”

**17. The Father will conceal spiritual truth from those who are self-righteous in order to reveal it to the humble.** Matt 11:25 *At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.* Matt 11:26 *Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.* “God gives the believer a new set of inner eyes to see what he could not see before, a new set of inner ears to hear what he could not hear before.” John Powell

**18. The only way to truly know the Father is through His Son.** Matt 11:27 *All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.*

~\*~

*Come ye sinners, poor and needy,  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
Full of mercy, love, and pow’r.*

~\*~

Joseph Hard

**19. Those who make every effort to do the will of the Father are declared to be the true relatives of Christ.** Matt 12:50 *For whosoever shall do the will of my*

*Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.* While this is a precious promise, it does involve a certain amount of pain and suffering for being a member of the Family of God involves great risks in the devil’s world. In the day of ultimate judgment it will be revealed that the scars they bear can identify those who did the will of the Father.

§ It is said that when the knights of King Arthur’s court, returned from the field of battle, if they did not bear in their bodies some scar of the battle, they were thrust from the presence of the king with the command, “Go get your scar!” The apostle Paul said, “I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.” (Gal. 6:17) When we appear before the judgment seat of Christ, to be judged for the deeds done in the body, Christ is not going to look for medals. He is going to look for family members. He is going to look for scars.

**20. The Father has a vast kingdom over which He rules, even the whole universe.** Matt 13:43 *Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.* Unfortunately, not everyone who hears about the Father/King will believe or even understand. Bernie May in “*Under His Wing*” (Leadership, Vol. 4, no. 3) tells of a personal experience with unbelief.

§ An airline captain who flies overseas routes also runs a small filling station near his home. Between trips to Europe and the Middle East, he get a kick out of changing plugs and points and talking to the folks while pumping gas.

One Saturday morning, dressed in his greasy overalls, he walked down to

the local hardware store to pick up a wrench “What’s new?” the storeowner asked as he rang up the purchase. “Ah, I’m thinking of taking the Cairo run this month,” the captain replied. “I enjoy flying to London and Frankfurt, but I think the change of pace will do me good.”

Another customer, curious, asked, “Who’s the world traveler?” Rolling his eyes, the storeowner nodded toward the departing pump jockey. “Some nut who runs the gas station down the street. Thinks he’s an airline pilot!” Both men got a good laugh out of that one.

It is easy to be deceived. On the other hand, I was in the grocery store the other day and this ordinary looking young man kept telling me about his Father, the King. You never know, do you?

21. It is God the Father who plants the soil in the fertile ground of regeneration that results in the fruit of salvation and sanctification. Those plants that the Father has not shall be torn up by their roots. Matt 15:13 *But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.* When a plant is rooted up and cast into hell, the soul will soon realize there is no hope in hell; there is no life in hell; there is no love in hell, and there is was no need to have gone to eternal judgment.

~\*~

*All hope abandon, ye who enter here.*

Dante Alighieri  
(1265-1321)

~\*~

*Damnation: continual dying.*

John Donne  
(1572-1631)

~\*~

*Even as in heaven there will be most perfect charity, so in hell there will be the most perfect hate.*

Saint Thomas Aquinas  
(1225-1274)

*God will never send anybody to hell. If man goes to hell, he goes by his own free choice. Hell was created for the devil and his angels, not for man. God never meant that man should go there.*

Billy Graham  
(1918-)

22. **In matchless grace, the Father reveals Christ to men.** Matt 16:17 *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father, which is in heaven.*

~\*~

*There is a God!  
The sky His presence snares,  
His hand upheaves the billows  
in their mirth,  
Destroys the mighty,  
yet the humble spares  
And with contentment crowns the  
thought of worth.*

~\*~

Charlottee Saunders Cushman

23. **The glory of the Father shall be revealed at the Second Advent of Christ.** Matt 16:27 *For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.* Therefore, “live as if Christ died yesterday, arose this morning, and is coming back today!”

**24. The guardian angels of children are fortunate to dwell in the presence of the Father.** Matt 18:10 *Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.* C.H. Spurgeon said, “A child of five, if properly instructed, can believe and become regenerated like an adult.”

~\*~

*Gentle Jesus, meek and mild,  
Look upon a little child;  
Pity my simplicity,  
Suffer me to come to Thee.*

*Lamb of God, I look to Thee:  
Thou shalt my example be;  
Thou are gentle, meek, and mild;  
Thou was once a little child.*

*Fain I would be as Thou art;  
Give me Thy obedient heart.  
Thou art pitiful and kind,  
Let me have Thy loving mind.*

*Loving Jesus, gentle Lamb,  
In thy gracious hands I am;  
Make me, Savior, what Thou art;  
Live Thyself within my heart.*

*Let me above all fulfill  
God my heavenly Father's will;  
Never His good Spirit grieve,  
Only to His glory live.*

*I shall then show forth Thy praise;  
Serve Thee all my happy days;  
Then the world shall always see  
Christ, the Holy Child in me.*

~\*~

Charles Wesley

**25. It is not the will of the Father that elect souls should perish.** Matt 18:14 *Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.* C.H. Spurgeon said, “A child of five, if properly instructed, can believe and become regenerated like an adult.”

**26. The Father is pleased to honor united prayer requests.** Matt 18:19 *Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.*

~\*~

*That weary ones had rest, the sad had joy  
That day, and wondered “How?”  
A plowman singing at his had prayed,  
“Lord, help them now.”*

*Away in foreign lands, they wondered  
“How”  
Their simple word had power.*

*At home, the gleaners, two or three had met  
To pray an hour.*

*Yes, we are always wondering “How?”  
Because we do not see,  
Someone, unknown perhaps, and far away  
On bended knee.*

~\*~

**27. The Father will not forgive those who do not, from the deepest recesses of their heart forgive others.** Matt 18:35 *So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.*

§ A man hurled a stone at his dog. So terrific was the blow that the dog's leg was shattered! Whining and limping, the wounded creature came sadly to the man, fell at his feet, and licked the hand, which had hurled the merciless stone! That's like Christian love and forgiveness. O, that more of God's children were as loving and forgiving as that dog! (Walter B. Knight)

**28. The Father has prepared places of honor for some.** Matt 20:23 *And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.* These words of Christ were not intended to discourage the disciples as much as temper them. The Father will justly reward each child of His after...

*After the crosses—a crown of life;  
After the weeping—a song;  
After the night of sorrow—a bright and glorious dawn.*

*After the heartaches—the comforting;  
After the storm—a calm;  
After the suffering and sighing—God's love a healing balm.*

*After the longing—a reality;  
After wand'ring—the way;  
After the pain of parting—the glad reunion day.*

*After the mourning—the oil of joy;  
After darkness—the light;  
After earth's toil and trials—the blessed face of Christ.*

~\*~

Eda A. Reid

These are just some of the honors the Father waits to bestow.

**29. The Father is jealous of honor and glory and titles that belong to Him.**

Matt 23:9 *And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.* Though Christians are invited to come to God as Father, it should never be forgotten that He is still great and awesome and worthy of respect.

§ The historian and literary genius H.G. Wells was no friend of the Church, but sometimes he served the Church well. Years ago in the *New Yorker*, he told a story about an Episcopalian clergyman. This Episcopalian bishop was the kind of man who always said pious thing to people. When troubled folks came to him, he found that a particularly helpful thing to say, if said in a right tone of voice, was, "*Have you prayed about it?*" If said in just the right way, it seemed to settle things.

The Bishop himself did not pray much; he had life wrapped up in a neat package. But one-day life tumbled in on him, and he found himself overwhelmed. It occurred to the bishop that maybe he should take some of his own advice. So, one Saturday afternoon he entered into the great cathedral, went to the front, and knelt to pray on the crimson rug. Then he folded his hands before the altar (he could not help but think how childlike he was).

Then he began to pray. He said, "*O God—*" and suddenly there was a voice. It was crisp, businesslike. The voice said, "*Well, what is it?*"

The next day when the worshipers came to Sunday services, they found the bishop sprawled face down on the crimson carpet. When they turned him



over, they discovered he was dead. Lines of horror were etched upon his face—and the point is made.

What H.G. Wells was saying in that story is simply this: there are folks who talk a lot about God who would be scared to death if they saw him face to face. (Haddon Robinson) And to a certain extent, we should be afraid. We should have a sense of awe of the Almighty. He is a jealous God.

**30. The secret decrees of divine foreordination belong to the Father alone.** Matt 24:36 *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

§ One day in 1789, the sky of Hartford, Conn. Darkened ominously, and some of the representatives, glancing out the windows, feared the end was at hand. Colonel Davenport, the Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives sought to quell a clamor for immediate adjournment. Davenport rose and said, “*The Day of Judgment is either approaching or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause for adjournment. If it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. Therefore, I wish that candles be brought.*” Christians must not fear what is to come in life but we are to be found faithful till the Lord returns. Instead of being terrified by the dark, we are to be lights as we watch and wait.

**31. The Father will bless the righteous and Jesus will allow them entrance into His kingdom.** Matt 25:34 *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

~\*~

*Servant of God, well done,  
Thy glorious warfare is past;  
The battle is fought, the race is run,  
And thou art crowned at last!*

**32. The Father has a cup of sorrow for some to drink, but always for wise and holy reasons.** Matt 26:39 *And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.*

~\*~

*Be still my soul  
The Lord is on thy side  
Leave to thy God to order and provide  
In every change He faithful will remain.*

~\*~

Katharina von Schlegel

**33. The Father will administer a cup of sorrow to His own despite prayers for mercy.** Matt 26:42 *He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.* Twenty six times the word “tribulation” is used in Scripture. There are some things that the Father can only teach through the pressures of sorrow.

*Pressed out of measure and pressed to  
all length;  
Pressed so intensely it seems beyond  
strength;  
Pressed in the body and pressed in the  
soul;  
Pressed in the mind till the dark surges  
roll;  
Pressure by foes, and pressure by  
friends;  
Pressure on pressure, till life nearly  
ends;  
Pressed into loving the staff and the rod;*

*Pressed into knowing no helper but God;  
Pressed into liberty where nothing  
clings;  
Pressed into faith for impossible things;  
Pressed into living a life in the Lord;  
Pressed into living a Christ-like  
outpoured.*

~\*~

Annie Johnson Flint

- 34. Whenever Christ has prayed and asked for something definite to happen, the Father has always answered His requests.** Matt 26:53 *Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?*

Of all the supernatural beings mentioned in the Scriptures, it is the angels who are constantly depicted as being identified with heaven. When the angel of God called to Hagar in the wilderness, we read that this call was heard "out of heaven" (Gen. 21:17). When the angel appeared at the time of the vision which Jacob heard at Bethel, he saw a ladder reaching to heaven on which the angels of God were ascending and descending. Often the angels are called the "heavenly ones" (Ps. 29:1) or the "heavenly host" (Luke 2:13). When the angelic host had finished their song to the shepherds, we read that "the angels went away with them into heaven" (Luke 2:15). It was an angel "from heaven" that rolled away the stone at the tomb where our Lord was buried (Matt. 28:2). Our Lord Himself often spoke of "the angels in heaven" (Mark 12:25; 13:32; Matt. 22:30). Then we have such a phrase as "the angels of heaven" (Matt. 24:36), and in a most interesting passage our Lord said, "*Angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven*" (Matt. 18:10).

Wilbur M. Smith (*The Biblical Doctrine of Heaven* James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited)

- 35. Authority for making disciples in all nations comes from the Father.** Matt 28:19 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

- 36. The glory of the Father is shared with His Son.** Mark 8:38 *Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.* Author and theologian John Stott comments on what it means to not be ashamed of Christ and to bear testimony to His name. "So much so-called *testimony* today is really autobiography and even sometimes thinly disguised self-advertisement, that we need to regain a proper biblical perspective. All true testimony is testimony to Jesus Christ, as he stands on trial before the world. (*Authentic Christianity*. Christianity Today, Vol. 40, no. 9)

- 37. It is the will of the Father that men forgive others, no matter how grievous the offense.** Mark 11:25,26 *And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.* In 1722, while still a young man, Jonathan Edwards drew up a list of resolutions, committing himself to a God-centered life to be lived in harmony with others. There were seventy resolutions in all one of which was this: Resolved, Never to do

any thing, which if I should see in another, I should count a just occasion to despise him for, or to think any way the more meanly of him. It is probable that Edwards did not anticipate how deeply this resolution would be tested. In later years men reviled him unjustly and finally dismissed him from the pulpit. And he forgave them from the heart.

**38. Only the Father knows the day and the hour of the Second Advent of Christ.** Mark 13:32 *But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.* Despite this clear passage, any number of men and women have set the day and the hour of the Lord's return. They have all been wrong. In modern times, it has been argued that if the day and the hour cannot be known, at least the generation can. The result has been additional date setting by focusing upon the establishment of Israel as a nation in 1948. And again, all of the modern day prophets have been wrong. Note. By teaching that only the Father knows the day and hour of His return, Christ set for the Doctrine of the Divine Decree as well as the omniscience of the Father.

**39. The Father is tender and loving reflected in the Aramaic term "Abba" or "Pappa."** Mark 14:36 *And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.* In the midst of His greatest ordeal, Christ never doubted the love of God—and neither should we.

~\*~

*And were the heav'ns of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill,  
And every man a scribe by trade,  
To write the love of God above*

*Would drain the ocean dry,  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,  
Though stretch'd from sky to sky.*

~\*~

Chaldee Ode

**40. The Father is merciful.** Luke 6:36 *Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.*

~\*~

*When all thy mercies, O my God,  
My rising soul surveys,  
Transported with the view, I'm lost  
In wonder, love, and praise.*

~\*~

Joseph Addison  
(1672-1719)

**41. The Father will act as He pleases in the realm of men.** Luke 10:21 *In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.* Nothing is more certain than God rules in the affairs of men. God rules because He has the right to rule. "The right of God's sovereignty is derived from His omnipotence." Thomas Hobbs (1588-1679)

There are certain philosophers and political leaders and atheists who might deny the reign of God in the affairs of men or if He even has the power and authority. But all such discussion is foolish.

"To discuss the authority of Almighty God seems a bit meaningless, and to question it would be absurd. Can we imagine the Lord God of Hosts having to request permission of anyone or to apply

for anything to a higher body? To whom would God go for permission? Who is higher than the Highest? Who is mightier than the Almighty? Whose position antedates that of the Eternal? At whose throne would God kneel? Where is the greater one to whom he must appeal? A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)

- 42. The Father cannot be known apart from the Son.** Luke 10:22 *All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.* In matchless grace the Lord Jesus Christ does reveal the Father. "The Son of God became man to enable men to become the sons of God." C.S. Lewis *Mere Christianity*
- 43. The will of the Father is always honored in heaven.** Luke 11:2 *And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.* Notice that the name of the Father is sacred or hallowed.
- 44. The Father loves to give gifts that are asked for. In particular there is the gift of the Holy Spirit.** Luke 11:13 *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*
- 45. The Father is not the God of the deist who believes that He has left the world to operate according to natural law.** Rather, the Father is intimately aware of all our needs, including the need for forgiveness of sin and personal holiness. Luke 12:30 *For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your*

*Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.*

~\*~

*Back of the loaf is the snowy flour,  
And back of the flour the mill,  
And back of the mill is the wheat  
And the shower,  
And the sun and the Father's will.*

~\*~

Maltbie D. Babcock  
(1858-1901)

- 46. In the parable of the Prodigal Son the Father's long-suffering in allowing an act of rebellion by the child and His graciousness in receiving the rebellious son back based upon repentance is set forth.** Luke 15:12, 18, 21 *And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living...I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, ... And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. The Father is willing to forgive those who truly repent. Herein is grace. "Grace is the good pleasure of God that inclines him to bestow benefits upon the undeserving. It is a self-existent principle inherent in the divine nature and appears to us as a self-caused propensity to pity the wretched, spare the guilty, welcome the outcast, and bring into favor those who were before under just disapprobation. Its use to us sinful men is to save us and make us sit together in heavenly places to demonstrate to the ages the exceeding riches of God's kindness to us in Christ Jesus." A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)*

**47. While the Father never surrenders**

**His sovereignty,** He does give authority to others. Luke 22:29 *And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;* Concerning this kingdom, it is to be noted that it is different from the kingdom's of this world in that it is spiritual. The kingdom of God refers to the rule and reign of God in the hearts of men. Again, it is of divine order. "The kingdom of God does not exist because of your effort or mine. It exists because God reigns. Our part is to enter this kingdom and bring our life under his sovereign will." T. Z. Koo

**48. In the hour of ultimate suffering, the Father is present.** Luke 22:42 *Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

§ Leslie Weatherhead tells the story of an old Scot who was quite ill, and the family called for their dominie, or minister. As he entered the sick room and sat down, he noticed another chair on the opposite side of the bed, a chair which had also been drawn close. The pastor said, "Well, Donald, I see I'm not your first visitor for the day." The old man looked up, was puzzled for a moment, then recognized from the nod of the head that the pastor had noticed the empty chair. "Well, Pastor, I'll tell you about that chair. Many years ago I found it quite difficult to pray, so one day I shared this problem with my pastor. He told me not to worry about kneeling or about placing myself in some pious posture. Instead, he said, 'Just sit down, put a chair opposite you, and imagine Jesus sitting in it, then talk with Him as you would a friend.'" The aged Scot then added, "I've been doing that ever since."

A short time later the daughter of the Scot called the pastor. When he answered, she informed him that her father had died very suddenly and she was quite shaken for she had no idea death was so near. Then she continued, "I had just gone to lie down for an hour or two, for he seemed to be sleeping so comfortably. When I went back he was dead." Then she added thoughtfully, "Except now his hand was on the empty chair at the side of the bed. Isn't that strange?" The minister said, "No, it's not so strange. I understand." James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1988), p. 416

**49. The Father will honor every righteous prayer. He is especially pleased to honor prayers that are prayed according to His known will.** Luke 23:34 *Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.* It might have been D.L. Moody who first said, "God hates sin, but He loves the sinner." And so He does. On one level, when men they do not know what they do for sin has been deceptive from the first. There is a German proverb that says, *If God were not willing to forgive us, heaven would be empty.*

**50. The Father waits to welcome the spirit of those who will return to Him.** Luke 23:46 *And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.*

**51. The Father makes and keeps promises.** Luke 24:49 *And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.* The promise to which Christ referred was the sending of the Holy Spirit. When the power of the Spirit comes upon men and women, souls will be saved.

§ In November of 1871 D. L. Moody began to wait before God and plead with Him for power from on high. Moody walked the streets of New York crying out, “*O God, why don’t You compel me to walk close to Thee always? Deliver me from myself! Take absolute sway! Give me Thy Holy Spirit.*” And God did. He answered Moody’s prayer as He answered the prayer of Sara Cooke who had been pleading for him.(d. 1921). So mightily did the Spirit come upon him that he rushed to the home of a near by friend, and asked for a room where he could be alone with God. Oh Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!

**52. The Father has a uniquely “born” Son in the person of Jesus Christ.** John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

**53. The Father cannot be seen.** John 1:18 *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

**54. The Father loves Jesus Christ and has entrusted all things to Him.** John 3:35 *The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.*

**55. The Father anxiously waits for souls to worship Him in spirit and in truth regardless of geographical location.** John 4:21,23 *Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father... But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

§ Many years ago the telephone rang in the office of the rector of President Roosevelt’s Washington church and an eager voice said, “*Tell me, do you expect the President to be in church this Sunday!*” “*That,*” the rector replied, “*I cannot promise. But we expect God to be there, and we fancy that will be incentive enough for a reasonably large attendance.*”

**56. Since the first moment of Creation, the Father has been working to sustain His labors and to bring souls to Himself through the act of redemption.** John 5:17 *But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.*

**57. The Father recognizes the Son as His equal thereby setting forth the doctrine of the Tri-unity.** John 5:18 *Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.*

**58. The Son is not independent of the Father for there is an essential unity between the two.** John 5:19 *Then answered Jesus and said unto them,*

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*

- 59. The Father is able to truly love.** John 5:20 *For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.* There is a theological concept that relegates all of the emotions of God as being an expression of anthropopathism. But man, made in the image of God has genuine emotions. Therefore, there must be something in the Father that corresponds to that facet of his personality. Thomas De Witt Talmage (1832-1902) reminds us that *God is a God of emotion, and if He observes mathematics, it is mathematics set to music, and His fingers are written, not in white chalk on blackboards, but by a finger of sunlight on walls of jasmine and trumpet-creeper.*
- 60. The power of the Father is that of omnipotence.** John 5:21 *For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.*
- 61. The Father has entrusted the ultimate judgment of individuals to Jesus Christ.** John 5:22 *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:* The judgment that Christ passes will be just. The righteousness will enter into everlasting bliss while the wicked shall endless suffering. Consider that thought—endless suffering.

§ An old writer says, Suppose a little bird is set to remove this globe by taking from it one grain of sand at a time, and to come only once in a thousand years. She takes her first grain, and away she flies on her long and weary course, and long, long, are the days ere she returns again. It will doubtless seem to many as if she never would return; but when a thousand years have rolled away, she comes panting back for one more grain of sand—and this globe is again lessened by just one grain of its almost countless sands. So the work goes on. So eternity wears away—only it does not exhaust itself a particle. That little bird will one day have finished her task, and the last sand will have been taken away; but even then eternity will have only begun: its sands are never to be exhausted.

- 62. The greatest way to honor the Father is to honor His Son, Jesus Christ.** John 5:23 *That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.* Many people have set out to discredit Christ only to find themselves converted to Him.

§ Many years ago two infidels sat in a railroad train discussing the life of Christ. One of them said, *“I think an interesting romance could be written about Him.”* The other man replied, *“And you are just the man to write it. Set forth the correct view of His life and character, tear down the prevailing sentiment as to His divineness and paint Him as He was—a man among men.”* The suggestion was acted upon and the romance was written. The man who made the suggestion was Colonel Ingersoll; the author was General Lew Wallace; and the book was Ben Hur. In

the processing of constructing the mss Wallace found himself facing the unaccountable Man. The more he studied the life of Christ and the Lord's character, the more profoundly he was convinced that Jesus was more than a man among men. In the end, like the centurion under the Cross, Wallace was constrained to cry, "Verily, this was the Son of God!"

**63. The Father is eternal. The life He has He will share with others.** John 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

§ Some day you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody, of East Northfield, is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now. I shall have gone up higher, that is all-out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal; a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint, a body fashioned like unto his glorious body. I was born of the flesh in 1837. I was born of the Spirit in 1856. That which is born of the flesh may die. That which is born of the Spirit will live forever. D.L. Moody, *Christian History*, No. 25. (John 3:36; Ps 116:15; Rev 14:13)

**64. The Father has a will that is to be recognized and honored** John 5:30 *I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father, which hath sent me.* The will of God is sovereign. "He sits on no precarious throne, Nor borrows leave to be." He doeth as He wills in the armies of heaven and in the affairs of men.

**65. The Father has sent His Son into the world to accomplish many great works the greatest of which is the redemption of souls from the power and pollution of sin by a sacrificial death at Calvary.** John 5:36 *But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.*

**66. The Father is hidden from the eyes of man.** John 5:37 *And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.* Based on this passage some biblical scholars have suggested that the Father does have a shape or a spiritual body. The implication is suggested that while men have not heard the voice of the Father nor seen His shape, the Son has.

**67. The Father will listen to and evaluate any just accusation brought against individuals.** John 5:45 *Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.*

**68. The Father will secure the salvation of His children** John 6:27 *Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.* "Tis done! The great transaction's done; I am the Lord's and He is mine."

**69. In matchless grace the Father gives to men the Bread of Life that they may eat and live forever.** John 6:32 *Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread*



*from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.*

**70. According to the covenant of grace, the Father has given to the Son souls to be saved.** John 6:37 *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.* When a soul comes to Christ, it must come empty handed in order to receive divine grace. Let every person say, "Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to thy cross I cling."

**71. It is the Father who effectually draws souls unto Himself for salvation.** John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.* "Oh, how sweet it is to believe our names were on Jehovah's heart, and graven on Jesus' hands before the universe had a being! May not this electrify a man with joy, and make him dance for very mirth? 'Chosen of God ere time began.'" (C.H. Spurgeon)

**72. It is the Father who teaches spiritual truth to men.** John 6:45 *It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.*

**73. The Father is invisible to men and can only be known through His Son, Jesus Christ who is the expressed image of the godhead bodily.** John 6:46 *Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.*

**74. The Father is different from all other gods that men have heard of in that He lives.** John 6:57 *As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so*

*he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.*

**75. Election is based upon the divine decree of the Father.** John 6:65 *And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.* "Election is ascribed to God the Father, sanctification to the Spirit, and reconciliation to Jesus Christ... The Son cannot die for them whom the Father never elected, and the Spirit will never sanctify them whom the Father hath not elected nor the Son redeemed." Thomas Manton (1620-1677)

**76. The Father supports the judicial decisions of the Son.** John 8:16 *And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.*

**77. The Father is pleased to bear witness to the Son by giving Him power to perform miracles and by raising Him from the dead.** John 8:18 *I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.*

**78. To know Christ is to know the Father.** John 8:19 *Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know my Father, nor me: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.*

**79. It is not easy for men to know the Father.** John 8:27 *They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.*

**80. The Father has taught the Son those things He wants the Son to teach to others.** John 8:28 *Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he,*

*and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*

- 81. The pleasure of the Father rested upon Christ.** John 8:29 *And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.*
- 82. God the Father stands in contrast to and opposition with the god of this world, Satan.** John 8:38 *I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.*
- 83. The Father is not truly the God of all who claim Him as such.** John 8:41 *Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.*
- 84. Genuine love for the Father can be determined by love for Christ.** John 8:42 *Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.*
- 85. The Father is honored by the person and work of Christ.** John 8:49 *Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honor my Father, and ye do dishonor me.*
- 86. The Father recognizes and respects the work of His Son.** John 8:54 *Jesus answered, If I honor myself, my honor is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:*
- 87. The Father knows the Son.** John 10:15 *As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.*
- 88. The Father loves the Son.** John 10:17 *Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.*
- 89. The Father has given authority to Christ to give up His life but also to raise it from the dead as well.** John 10:18 *No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*
- 90. The security of the believer rests in the hands of the Father.** John 10:29 *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*
- 91. The Father is the Son and the Son is the Father. This doctrine of the Trinity is a great mystery but one that is clearly affirmed in Scripture.** John 10:30 *I and my Father are one.*
- 92. The Father is to receive all the credit for good works that are performed** John 10:32 *Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?*
- 93. It is the Father who sanctifies.** John 10:36 *Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?*
- 94. Good works confirms the presence of the Father in a person.** John 10:37,38 *If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.*

**95. The Father is a prayer hearing God.**

John 11:41 *Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.*

**96. The Father waits to honor those who will honor and serve His Son.**

John 12:26 *If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.*

**97. The Father is the author of the gospel.**

John 12:49 *For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.*

**98. The commandments of the Father led to everlasting life for all that believe.**

John 12:50 *And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.*

**99. The Father waits to fellowship with His Son and all souls that are to be saved.**

John 13:1 *Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. "There's nothing round this spacious earth That suits my large desire; To boundless joy and solid mirth My nobler thoughts aspire."*

**100. The Father is not selfish.**

John 13:3 *Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;*

**101. The Father has ordained an acceptable way into His presence.**

John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

**102. It is possible to see the Father.**

John 14:7-9 *If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Because of this, no part of the gospel should ever be without Christ. C. H. Spurgeon gave his congregation the following advice after listening to a sermon preached without mentioning the name of Jesus from beginning to end.*

§ If you ever hear a sermon of that kind mind that you never hear another from that man. If a baker once made a loaf of bread without any flour in it, I would take good care that he should never do so again; and I say the same of a man who can preach a Christless gospel. Let those go and hear him who do not value their souls; but dear friends your soul and mine are too precious to be placed at the mercy of such a preacher.

**103. The Father enables spiritual work to be performed for His honor and glory.**

John 14:10 *Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.*

**104. A visible manifestation of the Father dwelling in the hearts of men is**

**the good works that they do.** John 14:11 *Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.*

**105. The Father has ordained that the disciples of Christ will do great works like the Lord.** John 14:12 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

**106. The Father is glorified to answer prayers in order to honor His Son.** John 14:13 *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

**107. Because of Christ, the Father has given the Holy Spirit to every Christian.** John 14:16 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Though the Spirit has come to indwell every believer, many do not know it. And because Christians do not know the personal work of the Spirit they know nothing of spiritual power. Dr. Martin-Lloyd Jones recognized this problem and spoke about it one day to his large English congregation at Westminster Chapel in London. He said, "I want to talk to you today about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. You may call it what you want, but I want to know, have you experienced the fullness of the Spirit? I know all of you listening to me come as I do from a Reformed background. But it's not good enough. I know that all of you would want to say to my question about the Holy Spirit, 'Well, we got it all at conversion; there's no need for any more experience.' Well," said Martyn Lloyd-Jones, "I have only one other question to ask you. If you got*

*it all at conversion, where in God's name is it?" Robert L. Roxburgh, "The Right Ambition," Preaching Today, Tape 61.*

**108. One day the Father will reveal the mystery of the Trinity in such a way that all will understand.** John 14:20 *At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.*

~\*~

#### **A Poem on the Incarnation**

*Maker of the sun,  
He is made under the sun.  
In the Father he remains,  
From his mother he goes forth.  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
He was born on earth under heaven.  
Unspeakably wise, He is wisely speechless.  
Filling the world, He lies in a manger.  
Ruler of the stars, He nurses at his mother's bosom.  
He is both great in the nature of God,  
and small in the form of a servant.*

~\*~

Saint Augustine of Hippo, (354-430)  
*Christianity Today*, Vol. 41, no. 14

**109. The Father loves all who love Christ.** John 14:21 *He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.* John 16:27 *For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.* "Whom once He loves He never leaves, But loves them to the end."

**110. The Father loves those who keep the commandments of Christ.** John 14:23 *Jesus answered and said unto him,*

*If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*

**111. It is the Father who sends the Holy Spirit as a Comforter and Instructor of righteousness.** John 14:26 *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

**112. The Father is recognized as greater than the Son during the days of His humiliation.** John 14:28 *Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.*

**113. The Father commanded the Son who always obeyed the Father's will.** John 14:31 *But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.*

**114. The Father is the Divine keeper of the souls of the redeemed.** John 15:1 *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

**115. The Father is glorified when Christians produce much spiritual fruit.** John 15:8 *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

**116. The love of the Father is eternal.** John 15:9 *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*

**117. The Father has spoken to His Son and our Savior who in turn has shared all that the Father has communicated so that believers have the mind of God.** John 15:15 *Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.*

**118. The Father waits to answer prayers prayed in the name of Jesus.** John 15:16 *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. "Heaven is filled with answers to prayers unasked." (Billy Graham)*

**119. The Father can be and will be hated by men.** John 15:23,24 *He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.*

**120. From the Father proceeds the Holy Spirit.** John 15:26 *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

**121. Men indirectly through Christians attack the Father.** John 16:3 *And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.*

**122. The Father patiently awaited the return of His Son from Earth.** John 16:10,16 *Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no*

*more;...A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.*

**123. The things that belong to the Father belong to the Son.** John 16:15 *All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

**124. The Father will not deny any legitimate prayer request asked in the name of Jesus.** John 16:23 *And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.* A German proverb encourages Christians to pray with this reminder, “When in prayer you clasp your hands, God opens His.”

**125. Through the eye of faith the Father can plainly be seen.** John 16:25 *These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.*

**126. The Father has heard the prayers of Christ praying for His own.** John 16:26 *At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:*

§ A traditional Yom Kippur liturgy includes this prayer: *We are your people and you are our God. We are your children and you are our father. We are your servants and you are our master.*

**127. As the Holy Spirit proceedeth forth from the Father so did the Son, and to Him the Son returned.** John 16:28 *I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave*

*the world, and go to the Father. “Far from a world of grief and sin, With God eternally shut in.”*

**128. The Father will never desert His own.** John 16:32 *Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.*

**129. The Father received the prayers of Christ and was pleased with them all.** John 17:1 *These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:*

**130. The Father is eternal in His being.** John 17:5 *And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.* “What peace it brings to the Christian's heart to realize that our heavenly Father never differs from himself. In coming to him at any time we need not wonder whether we shall find him in a receptive mood. He is always receptive to misery and need, as well as to love and faith. He does not keep office hours nor set aside periods when he will see no one. Neither does he change his mind about anything. Today, this moment, he feels toward his creatures, toward babies, toward the sick, the fallen, the sinful, exactly as he did when he sent his only begotten Son into the world to die for mankind. A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)

**131. The Father is bounded by honor to secure the salvation of the those who will be saved.** John 17:11 *And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name*

*those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.*

§ Deep in the Arabian Desert is a small fortress. It stands silently on the vast expanse of the ageless desert. Thomas Edward Lawrence, known as "Lawrence of Arabia," often used it. Though unpretentious, it was most sufficient. Its primary commendation was its security. When under attack, often by superior forces, Lawrence could retreat there. Then the resources of the fortress became his. The food and water stored there were life supporting. The strength of the fortification became the strength of its occupants. When Lawrence defended it, it defended him. As one relying on the garrison, he was the object of its protection. Its strength was his. Old desert dwellers living around there have told me that Sir Lawrence felt confident and secure within its walls. He had on occasion to depend on the fort; it provided his need. He learned to trust it; his experience proved its worth. Like that fort, *"The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him."* Through prayer we enter God's fortress.

- 132. The Father will keep the essential unity of the Church intact.** John 17:21 *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.* Because of all the divisions within the Church this request of Christ for essential unity seems unlikely. But it will be answered as the Father reminds His children to love one another.

§ During the days of the Protestant Reformation, Melancthon mourned the divisions among Protestants and sought to bring them together through the

parable of the war between the wolves and the dogs. The wolves were somewhat afraid, for the dogs were many and strong, and so they sent out a spy to observe them. On his return the scout said, *"It is true the dogs are many, but there are not many mastiffs among them. There are dogs of so many sorts one can hardly count them. And as for the worst of them,"* he said, *"they are little dogs, which bark loudly but cannot bite. However, this did not cheer me so much,"* said the wolf, *"as this: that as they came marching on, I observed they were all snapping right and left at one another, and I could see clearly that though they all hate the wolf, yet each dog hates every other dog with all his heart."* I fear it is true still, for there are many believers who snap right and left at their own brothers, when they should save their teeth for the wolves. If our enemies are to be put to confusion, it must be by the united efforts of all the people of God: unity is strength.

—Charles Haddon Spurgeon,

**133. The Father has not and will not clearly reveal Himself to the unbelieving world apart from the hour of salvation.** John 17:25 *O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.*

§ The story is told of a Chinese Bible woman who was witnessing about Christ to the local scholar of a market town, in the market place. He listened patiently and then said, *Madam, you speak well, but why do you dwell on Jesus Christ? Let Him alone and tell us about God.* And the lady replied, *What sir, should we know about God if it were not for Jesus Christ?*

**134. The Father gives bitter cups to drink.**

John 18:11 *Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?* When the hour of suffering comes, the heart is prone to ask, *Lord, is this the right way home?*

~\*~

*Is this the right road home, O Lord?  
The clouds are dark, and still;  
The stony path is sharp and hard,  
Each step brings some fresh hill!*

*I thought the way would brighter grow,  
And the sun with warmth would glow,  
And joyous songs from free hearts flow;  
Is this the right road home?*

*Yes, child, this very path I trod,  
The clouds were dark for Me;  
The stony path was hard to tread,  
Not sight, but faith can see.*

*But at the end the sun shines bright  
Forever, where there is no night;  
And glad hearts rest from earth's fierce  
fight;  
It is the right way home!*

~\*~

Rosalind Goforth

**135. There is a place where the Father dwells to which Christ went and to which place all Christians shall go.**

John 20:17 *Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*

~\*~

*I've no abiding city here,  
I seek a city out of sight.*

~\*~

**136. It is the Father's will that Christians**

**have peace as they go forth to evangelize the world.** John 20:21 *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.* As Christians go they have as their central message the Person and work of Christ. And for good reason. "A person may go to heaven without health, without riches, without honors, without learning, without friends; but he can never go there without Christ." John Dyer (1699-1757)