



## Father's Day

As we approach this Father's Day, my attention has been drawn to a question. How do we see (perceive) God? After all, many of us do refer to God as "Father." Therefore, what feelings do we have when using the term father? There was a time I would have answered feelings of separation, anxiety, fear of punishment and possible rejection, as I tried to please, beseech, and find acceptance. Thank God this was only a temporary phase; it did not last.

The time came when the concept of God as unconditional love flooded my being as the words took on meaning, and I understood that this is the love God has for humankind, individually and collectively. This is what Jesus was teaching His disciples then, and today, in the opening words of the *Lord's Prayer*, "*Our Father*". The word "abba" was stressed to illustrate closeness and trustworthiness rather than cruelty and vengefulness. Although the concept was used before, its usage carried a rigid formality rather than a trusting relationship. Jesus' term is the equivalent of our word "Dad," and this familiarity with the Father infuriated the teachers around him. In Luke 11:11, he continues this lesson in these words:

*"So I say to you, 'Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find, knock, and the door will be opened for you.*

*For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*

*Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish?*

*Or, if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion?*

*If you then, who are evil (in error), know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit (not materialism) to those who ask him!' "*

They still did not understand that Jesus was referring not only to his relationship with God, but ours also.

So even though we refer to God as Divine Mind, Principle, Source, Origin, etc., Jesus wanted us to understand the intimacy and closeness of our relationship with God by using the parent and child. God's love for us is everlasting. There is no separation between God and offspring, because the child's very being is made of the genetic material or essence of the parents; father (masculine), the begetter – initiator, and the mother (feminine), the brooding, nourishing element of Divine Mind, in which spiritual ideas are brought to fruition. Looking at the role of the father in an idealistic way helps us to see God as not only life-giver, but life-sustainer, too. This idea known and demonstrated by Jesus is contrary to, and supersedes, the understanding displayed by the prophets in the Old Testament. It was, and is, time for man to grow in consciousness about his spiritual identity.

May we look carefully at the archetypal role of the caregiver (father/mother), and learn the lessons that it holds for us as individuals, for our children and families, and our communities. As we grow into a deeper understanding of self, we also understand and see our God accordingly. How awesome it is to be defined by the attributes of the Divine.

## *Affirmations*

*“ I lift my eyes (thoughts) unto the mountains (higher consciousness) for this is where my help abides. ”* (Psalms 121:1)

*“You are now renewing me according to Your highest thought for me. You, Divine Spirit, are radiating Yourself throughout my entire being, making me like Yourself – for there is nothing else but You. I thank you.”* (Emily Cady)

*“The Father and I are one.”*  
(John 30:10)

*~ Gloria Lilly-Holt*