

A person is shown in profile from the chest up, facing right. Their hands are clasped together in a prayerful gesture. The background is a bright, warm sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon. The overall color palette is dominated by oranges, yellows, and soft reds, creating a peaceful and contemplative atmosphere.

Finding Comfort

In God's Everlasting Love

Kevin J. Mullins

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*Discovering the light of the character of God which
shines out of darkness in the face of Jesus Christ
(2 Corinthians 4:6)*

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What do you think of when you read, "God is love." (1 Jn. 4:8)? Do you believe it when the prophet Jeremiah says:

"From afar the LORD has appeared unto me, saying, 'Yea, I have loved you with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn you.'" (Jeremiah 31:3)

Do you trust that God loves His creation with an "everlasting love"? Do not look at this word "everlasting" as meaning from NOW through eternity. Look at it from eternity PAST to eternity future. There has never been a time, nor will there ever be a time, when God does not love you. It doesn't matter what you've done, what you're doing, or what you will do, our Father has always, and will always love you and show loving-kindness to you. Always keep in mind it is "loving-kindness" that God will use to draw you to Him. He never uses fear.

TRUST HIM
WHEN HE SAYS
HE IS LOVE.
TRUST HIM
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"WITH AN
EVERLASTING
LOVE."

"We have come to know and believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and the person who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. This is how love has been perfected among us: we will have confidence on the day of judgment because, during our time in this world, we are just like Him. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has torment. He that fear is not made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us." (1 John 4:16-19)

This love in the Greek is called ἀγάπη (*agápe*) and is displayed by sacrificial, affectionate, selfless, service (or, giving) toward others. In all our contemplations upon the character of God, we must be willing to surrender our own preconceived ideas. God has said, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways." (Isaiah 55:8). We must not put God in a box according to our own ideas and way of life, but instead we need to ...

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not upon your own understanding.” (Proverbs 3:5).

God’s righteousness is forever. It will never be abolished. The life of righteousness is the only life that’s everlasting. When Jesus promises you “everlasting life” He is not merely promising that you will never die. His focus is not to arouse any selfish ambitions to simply live forever but is speaking of a lifestyle that reflects the Father’s righteousness.

“Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but My salvation shall be for ever, and My righteousness shall not be abolished. Hearken unto Me, you that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is My Law; fear not the reproach of men, neither be afraid of their revilings.” (Isaiah 51:6-7)

“LOVE IS PATIENT,
LOVE IS KIND. IT DOES
NOT ENVY, IT DOES
NOT BOAST, IT IS NOT
PROUD. IT DOES NOT
DISHONOR OTHERS, IT
IS NOT SELF-SEEKING,
IT IS NOT EASILY
ANGERED, IT KEEPS
NO RECORD OF
WRONGS. LOVE DOES
NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL
BUT REJOICES WITH
THE TRUTH. IT
ALWAYS PROTECTS,
ALWAYS TRUSTS,
ALWAYS HOPES,
ALWAYS PERSEVERES.
LOVE NEVER FAILS.”
1CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

This righteousness is transcribed for us in His Law (His Torah), as we read above: “Hearken unto Me, you that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is My Law.” When the Law is truly in our hearts, we will “know” (experience) the Father’s everlasting life of righteousness.

But without the righteousness of God, Scripture is clear:

“There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that does good, no, not one.” (Romans 3:10-12)

Notice that “righteousness” and “good” are synonymous with each other. This is a writing style among the Hebrews called Hebraic

parallelism. When Scripture says our heavenly Father is “righteous” it is saying He is “good.” Jesus echoes this by saying: “Why do you call Me good? There is no one good except God alone.” (Mark 10:18).

Now, it would be dangerous for us to simply try to come up with the definition of “good” (righteousness) without using the Scriptures. Mankind defining what good and evil is, in our own fallen minds, is the result of eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. We will only co-mingle good and evil together.

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who turn darkness to light and light to darkness, who replace bitter with sweet and sweet with bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.” (Isaiah 5:20-21)

God is the complete opposite of evil and darkness; for “God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5). The presence of both good and evil is NOT a balanced universe. Since God is perfect love, He only does what is right (righteous) and good. He is absolute truth! So be warned: “There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way that leads to death.” (Proverbs 14:12).



So what is “good” and “righteous”? Well, let’s go back to the beginning where God Himself first used the word “good”—at Creation. You will see in Genesis chapter one that, after every day of Creation week, God called each day “good”, then at the very end of the last day of Creation He said, “very good” and then was able to rest. Paul wrote:

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20)

So, the Father's attributes (His eternal character) are clearly seen in Creation, and we have just learned that Creation displayed goodness.

But what was it about each day that was "good"? Well, what do each of the things He made do? What does the sun do? It GIVES light. It GIVES heat. It GIVES life and vitality to plants, beasts, and humans. What about trees? What do they do? They GIVE resting places and food for birds and other creatures. They GIVE shade. They GIVE oxygen. They GIVE color to the world. How about grass? It GIVES food to the creatures. It GIVES oxygen and cools the air. It GIVES color to the world. How about water? Water GIVES a home for sea creatures. It GIVES us healthy nutrients and cleansing. I think you get the point. The Father's everlasting character, His righteousness, is a life of GIVING.

"The construction protocol on which God built His universe is known as God's law. And this law is the law of love, an expression of His nature and character ... A simple example of this law in action is respiration. With every breath we breathe we give away carbon dioxide (CO₂) to the plants, and the plants give back oxygen to us (the law of respiration). This is God's design for life, a perpetual circle of free giving. It is an expression of God's character of love, and life is built to operate on it. If you break this law, this circle of giving, by tying a plastic bag over your head and selfishly hoarding your body's CO₂, you break the design protocol for life, and the result is death. 'The wages [result] of sin is death' (Romans 6:23). This circle of giving is the law that God constructed life to operate on." (Dr. Timothy Jennings, *The Remedy*, Preface)

The conceptual meaning of "our Father" is that He is the eternal PROVIDER. He is the only SOURCE of LIFE who GIVES to all His creatures what is GOOD and needed for physical and spiritual health. Jesus taught:

"That's why I'm telling you to stop worrying about your life—what you will eat or what you will drink—or about your body—what you will wear. Life is more than food, isn't it, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky. They don't plant or harvest or gather food into barns, and yet your heavenly Father

feeds them. You are more valuable than they are, aren't you? Can any of you add a single hour to the length of your life by worrying? And why do you worry about clothes? Consider the lilies in the field and how they grow. They don't work or spin yarn, but I tell you that not even Solomon in all of his splendor was clothed like one of them. Now if that is the way God clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and thrown into an oven tomorrow, won't He clothe you much better—you who have little faith? So don't ever worry by saying, 'What are we going to eat?' or 'What are we going to drink?' or 'What are we going to wear?' because it is the unbelievers who are eager for all those things. Surely your heavenly Father knows that you need all of them! But first seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all of these things will be provided for you as well. So never worry about tomorrow because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'" (Matthew 6:25-34)

Yes, our Father is a SERVER—our PROVIDER. The Psalmist wrote: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament reveals [displays] His handiwork." (Psalm 19:1); "The heavens proclaim His righteousness, and everyone sees His glory." (Psalm 97:6).

GOD'S GLORY IS
HIS CHARACTER OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS

Did you know God's glory is His character of righteousness? Moses beseeched the Father saying, "Please show Me Your glory" (Exodus 33:18). In verse 19 God replied:

"I will cause all My goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name [glory/character] of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy on whom I will show mercy."

That's what it means to "proclaim the NAME of the LORD." The word "name" in Scripture conceptually means "character." Proclaiming the name of the LORD (or *Yehovah* in Hebrew) is to proclaim His character of goodness, grace, and mercy in every word and action. In Exodus 34 we read:

“And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him [Moses] there, and proclaimed the name [glory/character] of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, ‘the LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and full of goodness and truth.’” (Exodus 34:5-6)

God spoke through the prophet Ezekiel saying, “I had pity for My holy name [character], which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen wherever they went.” (Ezekiel 36:21). Here we have professed followers of God (Israel) profaning God’s character among the heathen. This was not done only by what they did, but also by what they said. The things that they said about our Father’s character were not true, which resulted in their own actions being in opposition to His ways.

“GOD HAS NOT GIVEN
US A SPIRIT OF FEAR, BUT
OF POWER AND OF LOVE
AND OF A SOUND MIND.
SO DO NOT BE ASHAMED
OF THE TESTIMONY OF
OUR LORD ...”
2TIMOTHY 1:7

Their own actions, of not being merciful, gracious, longsuffering, and full of goodness and truth, gave a wrong reflection of whom they claimed as their God. As a result, wrong perceptions of the one true God were held and taught among the nations. His name was profaned, and they all fell short of the glory (character) of God. This is sin; “For all have sinned, and fall short of the GLORY of God.” (Romans 3:23).

Since Scripture tells us, “All unrighteousness is sin” (1 John 5:17), then righteousness is a life without sin. In 1 John 3:4 John tells us, “He who sins transgresses the Law, for sin is the transgression of the Law.” Unrighteousness is sin, and sin is transgression of God’s Law (Torah). Righteousness is living within the protective standards of God’s Law while sin is choosing to wander outside of its protection and healing. Paul wrote, “Owe no man anything except to love one another; for he that loves another has fulfilled the Law.” (Romans 13:8). Then, after quoting a few of the Ten Commandments, to show us exactly what standard he is referring to, he concludes: “Love NEVER does anything

that is harmful to its neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfilling of the Law." (Verse 10).

As you can see, righteousness is an "others-first" life, and this unselfish life only comes from God; for He is the source of all that is good and right in the world:

"Every generous act of giving and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, in whom there is no inconsistency or shifting shadow." (James 1:17)

God has declared: "I am the LORD, I do not change." (Malachi 3:6). Since "God is love", and He does "not change", because in Him "there is no inconsistency or shifting shadow", then you can always trust that He will NEVER do anything harmful to you. Even if you are His enemy.

When Jesus was on the earth, He proclaimed the love of our heavenly Father by saying:

"You have heard that it was said [by false teachers], 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy'; but I say to you, Love your enemies; bless those cursing you, do well to those hating you; and pray for those who take you by force and persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in Heaven. Because He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and unjust. For if you only love those who love you, what reward do you have? ... And if you only greet your brothers, what exceptional thing do you do? ... Therefore, be perfect [completely selfless/merciful], just as your Father in heaven is perfect [completely selfless/merciful]." (Matthew 5:43-48)

Notice that loving your enemies and doing good to those that hate you is being compared to the love of "your Father in heaven." The reason you do these good things is because you have become "children of your Father" and that's how your heavenly Father acts. Our Father loves His enemies and does good to all those who hate Him; "For He is KIND unto the unthankful and to the evil." (Luke 6:35).

As we continue to study this important topic, we will begin to see that Christ died to fix the broken condition of fallen man and to bring us back into harmony with God and His Law.

Comparison Between our Father and His Law		
<u>The Father Is:</u>		<u>The Law Is:</u>
Luke 18:19	GOOD	Romans 7:12
Isaiah 5:16	HOLY	Romans 7:12
Deuteronomy 32:4	JUST	Romans 7:12
Matthew 5:48	PERFECT	Psalm 19:7
1 John 4:8	LOVE	Romans 13:10
Exodus 9:27	RIGHTEOUS	Psalm 19:9
Deuteronomy 32:4	TRUTH	Psalm 119:142,151
1 John 3:3	PURE	Psalm 19:8
John 4:24	SPIRITUAL	Romans 7:14
Malachi 3:6	UNCHANGABLE	Matthew 5:18
Genesis 21:33	ETERNAL	Psalm 111:7,8

All mankind, both Christian and non-Christian, Theologian and Atheist, Lifeguard and Serial Killer, owes their every breath to God; the only One “who made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that is in them, and who in past generations allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways, though, indeed, He did not leave Himself without witness, doing good by giving us rain from heaven and fruit-bearing seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.” (Acts 14:15-17).

NO ONE, SAINT NOR SINNER,
 EATS THEIR DAILY BREAD
 IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE EVERLASTING
 LOVING MERCY
 OF GOD.

After reading this study you may have several questions concerning God's character. If what this study says is true, and that God never harms anyone, including His enemies, how do we reconcile this with the numerous violent stories in the Bible that seem to portray God as a vindictive tyrannical judge whose wrath ignites in furious jealousy against those who disobey Him? What do we do with the stories such as:

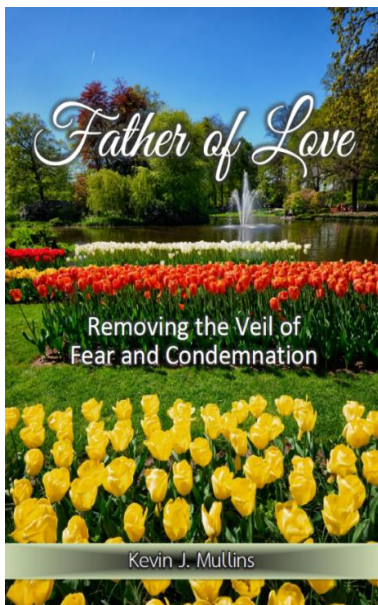
- **The Flood**
- **Sodom and Gomorrah**
- **The Plagues of Egypt**
- **The Slaying of Men, Women and Children**
- **The Statute of Stoning**
- **Torturing People in Hellfire**

To receive clear biblical answers to these questions, please visit the *Questions Concerning God's Character* section at:

lastmessageofmercy.com



This booklet is the first chapter of the book *Father of Love* by Kevin J. Mullins



- Does God condemn and judge others while commanding us not to judge but instead to love others unconditionally?
- Does God torture His enemies for eternity in a lake of fire while at the same time commanding us to love our enemies?
- Does God spitefully send plagues and pestilence upon people who choose not to love Him while demanding we pray for health and happiness to fall upon those who do not love us?

Are we not to live a character like His?

"Be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy." (Leviticus 19:2)

"Be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)

The key is understanding how to read the Scriptures. Do you read it through your carnal understanding or through the Spirit of Christ? As the true character of our heavenly Father is revealed through the Spirit of His Son, we begin to see that God is not a blood-thirsty tyrant who is against sinners, but that God and man share a common enemy who seeks to destroy our faith in a non-condemning Father who loves us with all His heart, and with all His soul, and with all His strength.

To read the entire book for *FREE*, go to:
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