

What's God like to you?



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Summary: How do you “see” God? Is he super formal all the time? Can God be fun? This message shares a few scriptures and insights showing other sides of our wonderful Abba. Enjoy.

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One of my oft-stated goals with this website is to help us all draw closer to our loving Abba and our Savior Yeshua and to come to understand what our God is really like -- better than ever before.

Today I want to show sides of God that maybe some of you haven't heard put together like this before. I hope you'll delight in our Abba – our dear father.

So welcome to Light on the Rock. I'm Philip Shields, host, and founder of our website. It's your website too, and I've dedicated it to God and loving him deeper than ever.

So, when I say, “God the Father”, how do you “see” Him? Really, in your heart of hearts, is God Most High – the Father **and God** of Yeshua even (**Ephesians 1:3, 17; John 20:17**) – someone you see as a *delightful* being, full of joy – or a God who is usually sad or angry or dour?

Would you love to have Him drop in to visit you unannounced? What would you find God to be like in an informal setting like that?

I'm going to throw out a variety of examples of what our God is like.

Don't many of us think of him as usually sitting on a throne with Yeshua on his right-hand side? In our mind's eye, **many believers see God as sitting** a lot. But I assure you, God is busy and active and creative and happy!

For example, do you ever think of YHVH Most High as someone who enjoys life and has FUN riding on a 4-winged archangel called a cherub? 2 Samuel

22:8 -- He rode upon a cherub and flew; And He was seen upon the wings of the wind.” His throne is between the cherubim (**Psalm 80:1**). How fun!

Do you see our magnificent Abba – our father Most High -- **enjoying a feast or wedding party?**

Remember Yeshua said “If you have seen me, you’ve seen the Father” (John 14:9). Hebrews 1 says Yeshua is the exact copy of the Father (Hebrews 1:1-3), so what we see and read about Yeshua can also apply to our Father.

Hebrews 1:1-3

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us **by His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

3 who being the brightness of His glory **and the express image of His person**, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...”

Yeshua obviously enjoyed feasts and nice meals and a glass of wine so much that he was accused of being a wine bibber and a glutton! (**Matthew 11:19**). Since he’s an exact copy of our Father, can you imagine Almighty God enjoying a glass of wine and that it cheers him up (**Judges 9:13**)?

Yes, Yeshua enjoyed a glass of good wine too, and he probably participated in the **dancing** at these parties too. ***God has fun***. How else could the Psalmist claim God is fun to be around as Psalm 16:11 states? Yeshua shows us the Father by being just like him, exactly. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, Yeshua used dancing as an example of the celebrations going on for the son who had returned (**Luke 15:25**).

I love this verse:

Psalms 16:11

“You will show me the path of life; ***In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.***”

Does that sound like the way you would feel when you are in Father’s actual presence? Believe it! It’s going to fun and joyous!

** *** Now let’s look at a variety of other examples.

I've got to get back to something I used to love to do: **PAINTING** scenery. Oil painting. **Do you see God as the supreme greatest artist?** Think of Him every time you see a stunning rainbow or a sunrise or sunset sky. His easel is full of colors.... And the skies he paints change by the minute sometimes. I love admiring his artistic talents! And just look at the various butterflies, birds, animals, trees, flowers, and landscapes – and you've got to see Abba as our superbly talented artist-Father.

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Some of you **collect notes and letters** and keep them stashed in a box somewhere – for forever and ever. Do you know we're told that God knows every tear you've ever shed and in a poetic way, we're told **he stores our tears in his bottle or water-skin?** (Psalm 56:8; it's verse 9 in the Bibles of my Jewish brothers and sisters).

Psalms 56:8 NLT

“You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.”

A dear friend of ours just a few days ago lost her husband to Covid19. On her Facebook page was a graphic of a diary she was writing. The heading said simply, “Dear Lord...” Lower on the page were 3 droplets - - no doubt her tears. I looked at that -- and just wept for her. So did God.

Isaiah 63:9

“In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the Angel of His Presence saved them; In His love and in His pity, He redeemed them; And He bore them and carried them all the days of old.”

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Do you consciously think of God as being polite and gentle? When YHVH told Abraham to sacrifice his son, the son that he loved – Isaac – did you realize that in the Hebrew it isn't a command so much as a request. God didn't tell Abraham, he asked Abraham.

In English, Genesis 22:2 reads quite harshly. “Take now your son...”.

In the Hebrew, there is no “now” there and the Hebrew is very gentle, almost a “please”. Like “please take your son...” A Jewish Hebrew scholar explained this to me once.

In Young's Literal translation we get the essence of the Hebrew better:
Genesis 22:2 YLT

“And He saith, 'Take, I pray thee, thy son, thine only one, whom thou hast loved, even Isaac...”

That sounds a lot more kind and gentle, doesn't it?

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Can you think of God as ever crying? Or mourning? Again, Yeshua was the exact copy, and the shortest verse in the Bible is **John 11:35** -- “Jesus wept”. That was when he went to Lazarus' family after Lazarus died.

If Jesus could weep, I assure you, heavenly Abba weeps. I don't want my failings to continue ever being the reason for him weeping over me though. He also lamented over Jerusalem – saying he wanted to protect its people like a hen does its chicks, “but you were not willing” (**Matthew 23:37-39**). Remember scripture admonishes us to not grieve God's presence – his Holy spirit. (**Ephesians 4:30**). That strongly implies God can be grieved.

Psalms 78:40-41

“How often they provoked Him in the wilderness and grieved Him in the desert! 41 Yes, again and again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.”

I personally think that during and after **the Gold Calf incident**, after all God had done for Israel, I really think God was not only furious, but when you read the succeeding chapters, you can palpably FEEL his sorrow, rejection, and grief. When I **read Exodus 32-34**, I feel some exceptionally low moments going on here with God. God is a very real being who made our emotions and he also has them.

And don't you feel awful when you feel rejected? How do you think God felt watching Israel commit spiritual harlotry with the works of their hands – the golden calf? Do you think God and Christ understand feelings of rejection? We can't read scripture without catching that, over and over. Yeshua – and therefore also his father – know that feeling well. **Isaiah 53:3** says he was “despised and **rejected by men**, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.”

After all, Yeshua's own people, his own tribe of Judah whom he loved, not only rejected him but had him crucified! Yes, God knows rejection. Yeshua was the stone whom the builders rejected (**Psalms 118:22**) but is now the cornerstone!

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Some of you love feeding the wild birds around your home, as I do. Carole chuckles when I speak of the some of the birds as “my red heads” (Sand hill cranes) or “my cardinals”. I love to feed them and being sure they have food. Do you know God loves to feed his birds and animals too?

Matthew 6:26

“Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; **yet your heavenly Father feeds them**. Are you not of more value than they?”

And he knows when every single life dies. Every sparrow dies, God somehow knows it.

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Do you think of Almighty God Most High as your “Daddy”? Paul says over and over that God has given us the spirit of Christ in us by which we can cry out, “Abba, Father”. “Abba” was the Hebrew word of endearment for one’s father, roughly translated in English as either “dear Father” or even “Daddy”.

Yeshua said one of his missions and goals was to reveal the Almighty as our Father. At the time it was surprising to people to have him speak so openly of God as his father or as “a” father. Though God as “father” was mentioned a few times in scripture in the Old Testament, God was mostly the fearsome and awesome God. When Yeshua taught disciples to pray – it wasn’t just to “God” – but to “Our *father* in heaven.”

And Paul certainly learned that well.

Galatians 4:6

“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, **"Abba, Father!"**

Romans 8:15-16

“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption **by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."**

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...”

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Do you men enjoy building homes and structures? God enjoys building little tiny butterflies and speaking into existence entire galaxies of countless stars –

and he says he knows each one by name! What an awesome God and Abba (Daddy) we have.

I loved sharing a hammer and saw with my children as they grew older and watching them cut wood and make things. Someday, our heavenly Abba might offer to let you have your hand at creating something. He let the Word to the actual creating (Ephesians 3:9), and so why not future children of God? I wonder how that could work? I think it could happen though. Maybe he'll invite me to try my hand at making a bird, or a tree, or a monkey – or maybe I'll graduate to creating a new star. I can't wait.

And that's the point. The Abba and God I know is not just LOVE personified, not only justice and mercy and power personified, - he's my God is a fun Abba, a wonderful Daddy. FUN. Oh yes, he can get angry. Oh yes, he can spank and when he does, it hurts! Oh yes, He can get jealous of us giving our worship or adoration to worthless junk of our own creation. But today I hope I'm showing you other sides of our dear Father.

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These verses in Zephaniah are so loving, sweet, and eye-opening about our Abba:

Zephaniah 3:16-17 NKJV

In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

"Do not fear;

Zion, let not your hands be weak.

17 YHVH your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save;

**He will rejoice over you with gladness,
He will quiet you with His love,
*He will rejoice over you with singing."***

Do we ever think of God quieting us with his love and celebrating us with his singing!? When I read that recently as I was studying Zephaniah – I had to stop, read it over and over, tears in my eyes – to have such a powerful Creator who KNOWS me, knows YOU, loves you, and wants to quiet your worries and wants to put your mind at peace as **He gently sings over you and me** with a smile on his face.... That's the Abba – dear heavenly daddy- - whom I know.

This year – 2020 -- has certainly been a rough year when you add up the Covid19 virus, the lockdowns, the riots and burnings and violence, most of the western states on fire, hurricanes coming in rapid succession, the impasse on the Supreme Court after Ginsburg's death, fear of future riots and violence coming .. what else? He will quiet us with his love if we look to him.

Isn't that wonderful? Do you and I EVER think of God as enjoying singing that much that when he is happy about you and me, he rejoices over you with singing? That's what it says!

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AN ETERNITY of discovering more about our God.

One thing I'm enjoying about my wife after being married to her these 45 years, is that I still am discovering more nuances, more talents, more surprises about her I hadn't seen before. That's wonderful. I was probably too self-absorbed in my younger years to notice and learn. So now I LOOK for new discoveries about my wonderful wife.

But that also makes me realize I love discovering new angles and aspects about my beautiful, wonderful Father. He's truly beyond ever being fully grasped or understood.

We're going to be with him for forever and ever – and how exciting to personally discover more and more really heart-warming traits of our Daddy in heaven, God Most High, Supreme King of the Universe.

We could go on and on ... the beauty of our God, the glory of our God, the power of our God, the LOVE of our God... yes, we hear of these things, but I hope in this little blog I've written has caused your mind to expand to see our God as just such a wonderful, wonderful multi-faceted being and I'm looking forward to having eternity to keep discovering more wonderful things about him.

Hasn't this been fun? And again, we could go on and on and on about Him – and for forever and ever we will delight in coming to discover ever more fun facts about our Great God Most High, our Abba.

Hallelujah, praise him and worship him and love him with everything you've got. Your love means something to him too. He appreciates being appreciated. So many don't bother. He wants you to love him with your whole being, your entire soul, mind, heart, and spirit (Deut 6:4). And those who do learn to see him and love him like this will be protected from the awful things coming:

Here's God speaking to us about YOU:

Psalms 91:13-16

“You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

14 "**Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;** I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

15 **He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.**

16 With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation."

I can't wait to meet my Father in person. Every time I pray, and you pray, we are already meeting him... but I look forward to seeing him. When we are changed to spirit, we shall see him as He is.

1 John 3:1-2

"Behold what manner of love **the Father** has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, **but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**"

I can't wait. Will you be sure to be there with me? I hope you will be there. Pray more. Seek him more. I want you there. It will be fun watching everyone's reactions as we each and all come to be personally, visibly, in our Father's presence.

Godspeed that day.

Closing prayer.