

PATEROLOGY: GOD THE FATHER

God the Father, the Eternal Provider: Ephesians 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ;* God the Father is the Great Provider who planned everything in eternity past including the eternal decrees, eternal election, and predestination; the Father planned creation, Gen. 1:3; 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 24, 27; Psa. 102:25; the Father elected us in Christ before the creation of the universe, Eph. 1:3-4; He loves every member of the human race so much that He delivered up His Son for each one (John 3:16; Rom. 8:32); the Father welcomes the prayers of His children, Psa. 89:26; 103:13.

The blessings of our relationship with the Father. The concept and reality of God being our heavenly Father is an indescribable blessing to us who are His children (Matt. 5:16, 45; 6:1, 6, 8-9, 18, 32; 7:11): He cares for us (Matt. 6:25-33; 10:29-31), keeps us (John 17:11), gives us good things (Matt 7:11; James 1:17), fellowships with us (1 John 1:3-7), desires our spiritual maturity (Matt 5:48), disciplines and trains us (Heb. 12:5-11), prunes us (John 15:1-3), makes us His heirs (Rom. 8:16-17), loves us (John 16:27), invites our prayers (John 16:23), speaks to us by His Word (Heb. 1:1-2), sees us (Matt. 6:6), knows us (Matt. 6:32; 2 Cor. 11:31), forgives us (Matt. 6:14), indwells us (John 14:23), sanctifies us (John 17:17; Jude 1), comforts us (2 Cor. 1:3-4), blesses us (Eph. 1:3; Matt. 6:31-34), judges us (1 Peter 1:17), commands us (2 John 4), and gives us a place in His house (John 14:2). How blessed it is to be His children!

The demands of this relationship: Our being children of this heavenly Father imposes upon us certain duties like obeying Him (1 Peter 1:14-15), submitting to His pruning (John 15:2-3) and discipline (Heb. 12:7, 9), sharing our cares with Him (1 Peter 5:6-7), glorifying Him in all that we do (1 Cor. 10:31), walking in His fellowship (1 John 1:5-7), dealing with our sins (Rev. 2:5; 1 John 1:9), serving Him (1 Thess. 1:9), worshiping Him (Eph. 1:3), imitating Him (Eph. 5:1; Matt 5:48), praying to Him (Matt 6:6,9), trusting Him (Matt. 6:25-34), and loving Him with our total being (Mark 12:30).

**In Him,
Pastor Don**