



## CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Abba Father

SPEAKER Elder Leon Oei

THEME Digging Deeper: The Practices of the Church

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

God is our Father. In the Old Testament, we see how God breathes life into Mankind (Genesis 2) and how God declares that Israel is His firstborn (Exodus 4). We are also reminded that God is our Father and creator who made and formed us (Deuteronomy 32). The New Testament demonstrates to us that God as our Abba means we have access to Him (Mark 14), and it means we are beneficiaries of a generous amnesty from God (Galatians 4). With God as our Abba and His Spirit indwelling in us, we have a newfound ability to live right and to cease from sin (Romans 8).

## ABBA FATHER

“Abba!” is a cry of endearment and an intimate call we make as sons and daughters to our heavenly Father. In our intimate identity as sons and daughters of the most high God, Elder Leon shares on how this identity gives us access, amnesty, and ability to live for Him.

### 1) Access to God

In the Garden of Gethsemane, we see one of the most intimate scenes of Jesus’s prayer life where His soul was overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. We have a clear picture of Jesus’ vulnerability and close relationship and access to God. Jesus cries out to God as “Abba!” in the garden, unlike how He usually refers to God as our “Father” in his sermons and ministry.

A parallel can be drawn in how a President or King of the world is referred to as “Excellency” and “Sir” but at home, they are not addressed by these formal titles but just “Dad”. There is something unique and special and intimate about this term of endearment. When the voice of a child cries out “Pa!” or “Dad!” amid a marketplace, that child’s voice can drown out all the other noises clamouring for the father’s attention. The same happens when a Christian prays and cries out to God our Father.

Only a son, not a slave, will have the confidence and boldness to approach the King of Heaven in such a manner. Such was the access that Jesus had to God, especially in His darkest moments, and likewise so do we as sons and daughters of the most high God. We must not neglect this access we have to God because it would be both foolish and fatal. Access to God is not only the better option, it is the only option.

Elder Leon provided the example of refugees fleeing from the death and suffering in a warzone. Only citizens of another country would have access to be rescued out of the warzone and provided safe passage back home. Likewise, as citizens of heaven, Christians have access out of the warzone that is this world and into God's glorious kingdom.

## 2) Amnesty we receive in Christ

God has redeemed us in Christ Jesus, and we belong to Him. We have full rights in Christ as sons and daughters of the most high God. This includes the amnesty we have received because of our adoption as children of God. Amnesty refers to a sovereign act of forgiveness of past acts, granted to all persons (or to certain classes of persons) who have been guilty of crime generally.

In a sense, we have all been caught up in a civil war where the rightful King has His authority challenged by a rebel leader and we were originally part of this rebel army, having been born in a rebel outpost to rebel ancestors. We are therefore guilty of treason and rebellion, but God has offered full amnesty to anyone from the rebel army who would renounce the rebellion, leave the rebel army, repent, and reaffirm allegiance towards the rightful King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

True forgiveness and freedom are found in Christ Jesus.

## 3) Ability to live right for God

Paul emphasises that as children of God, we have the Spirit of God in us and the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives to do good things which we previously could not. The Holy Spirit supernaturally enables us to live a life pleasing to God and not sin.

Without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our lives, the good intentions and acts we have will be corrupted and we cannot do good things. Without God as our Abba Father, we cannot but sin.

We must frequently exercise and strengthen this ability to live right for God.

We must not quench the Holy Spirit.

In the difficult situations, circumstances, and challenges we face, we must cling on to this truth and promise, that we have the power and freedom to not sin and instead live to please God.

## CONCLUSION

Because we have such amazing gifts from the King of the Universe, such as access to God, amnesty in God, and the new ability to live right for God, we are certainly accountable to God for the way we live our lives.

God never stops loving us because we are His children. Even in our worst days when we are not at our best, God always loves us because He is our Father. The proof of God's love is that He sent Jesus to die for us. Nothing we can do can make Him love us more, and nothing we have done will make Him close the door on us. We are children of God, adopted into His family, and we cost Christ too much for Him to forget us. Let us always remember that our identity as children of God can never be shaken.

# QUESTIONS

**1. Reflect on a moment in your life when you have experienced the love of God as your heavenly father. What are you most thankful for in this relationship?**

**2. How has the ability to live for God transformed your life since you came to know Him? In what areas of your life do you hope to exercise and strengthen this ability more?**

**3. Who needs to hear that they are loved by God regardless of who they are or what they have done? How can you bring this message of love to God's beloved?**