

- I. ONE THING—The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

II. RECEIVING AND APPLYING GOD'S WORD:

A. We continually choose to worship something or someone - either the One True God or a substitute. As the Lord continues to reveal idols in your life, take some time to repent and then join Jesus in praying God's word against those idols. (See last week's homework.)

B. "We are all God's children" is a common misconception. Though it seems inclusive and loving it is really a lie. What does the Bible say about becoming a child of God? (John 1:12 and John 3:3,5 &7)

C. Here are some benefits we have from being born again into a Father/Child relationship with God: (adapted from Sylvia Gunter's Prayer Portions)

My father

A: is my Abba Father (Rom. 8:15, Gal. 4:4-7)

B: bears my burdens (Ps. 55:22)

C: is compassionate, chose me (Ps. 103:13, Eph. 1:4-6)

D: disciplines me, delights in me (Prov. 3:11-12, Heb. 12:6-11)

E: exults over me with joy (Zeph. 3:17)

F: fights my battles for me (Ex. 14:14)

G: gives me a spirit of love, not fear (2 Tim. 1:7)

H: honors me (Is. 43:3)

I: includes me (Eph. 1:13)

J: justifies me (Rom. 5:1)

K: keeps his promises to me, knows all my needs (Josh. 21:45, Matt. 6:8)

L: loves me, leads me, lavishes me with grace (Jer. 31:3, Ps. 23:1-2, Eph. 1:7-8)

M: meets all my needs (Phil. 4:19)

N: will not abandon me, will not fail me, no one can pluck me from His hand (Jos. 1:5, 1 Chron. 28:20, Jn. 10:27-29)

P: provides for me, protects me, gives me peace (Phil. 4:19, Ps. 27, Phil. 4:7)

R: redeems my life, rejoices over me, gives me rest, revives me, rewards me  
(Is. 63:16, Zeph. 3:17, Matt. 11:28-30, Is. 40:28-31, Matt. 6:4)

S: is stable, set His affection on me (Mal. 3:6, Jm. 1:7, Deut. 10:15)

T: is trustworthy (Ps. 56:3-4)

V: will vindicate me (Deut. 32:36, Ps. 7:8)

W: wants the highest good for me and is always with me (Ps. 31:19, Matt. 18:20)

Choose two or three ways that your Father God relates to you and praise Him for those this week. Write the verses here, adding more of your own if you'd like.

D. Your Abba Father wants to fill every place in you that didn't receive perfect love from your earthly Father. He allows our earthly fathers to be imperfect so that we will sense our need for Him. Begin to ask the Lord what those places of need are and worship Him as the Father whose love is perfect and meets your every need.

E. As you are aware of sin in your life this week, look to Jesus on the cross. See your sin nailed there with Him, and see it as "Paid in Full". Come freely to your Father's lap then, and envision Him holding you just as you are. If you don't come to him when you are aware of your sin, you will never experience His unconditional love. He has earned your trust. How does he act when you are in His arms? What does He say to you? Put on some praise music and worship Him there.

F. Continue to spend time with God, giving Him your burdens and hearing Him in His word this week. Take notes of these important meetings.