

HEART-TO-HEART

We are reminded that Christ is in our hearts and we are in His and that love connects us all in unity.



"The father who walks with God will always know the way to lead his family."

— D.L. Moody

Celebration of Fathers

Reminder: This year, Father's Day is on June 21st. Here's some fun facts about Father's Day:

- The first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910 in Spokane Washington.
- Father's Day became a national holiday in 1972 under President Richard Nixon.
- The most common Father's Day gift is a necktie.
- The most common meal on Father's Day is barbecue.
- The most common dessert eaten on Father's Day is cake.
- The most common activity for fathers on Father's Day is spending time with their family.

- The official flower of Father's Day is the rose.
- The colors associated with Father's Day are blue and red.

Fathers play a critical role in the family as involved fathers tend to have children who are more confident, more resilient, and less likely to engage in risky behaviors.

Charles Stanley stated, "The father who serves God first serves his family best, for he leads them to the source of all good things."

Thank you to our earthly fathers for teaching us, loving us, and showing us God's grace.

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Reflections of a Father

by Joel Duldulao

This Father's Day will be the last as a father of a child...at least legally. Next year will be the first as a father of 2 men. Where have all the years gone?

As I reflect upon Father's Day this year, I am filled with gratitude and wonder. Come to think of it, I feel the same way I did twenty years ago as Jen and I awaited the birth of Jake. As Jen waddled around the house, I was grateful that God had blessed us with a son who would be born in a few months. Yet I was also filled with wonder - not the good kine wonder, but wondering how we were going to care for and provide for this gift from God.

Then, with the arrival of Jaxon two years later, gratitude and wonder once again filled my heart. Double the gratitude, but maybe quadruple the wonder!

Fast forward to today. Jake is doing well in Arizona as he pursues his goal of becoming an airline pilot. Jaxon just graduated from Kamehameha last month and is already enrolled in the Air National Guard. He's working as a cook at Zippy's while he awaits his boot camp date. I am grateful for what they have accomplished and for the privilege of being their dad. But again, I am also filled with wonder. What will their lives look like as they step into adulthood? Did we teach them enough to make good choices? Did we show them what it means to live a life of obedience to God? Did we show them what it means to be good stewards of what God has blessed them with. Did we do a good job? And on and on the questions go.

Written on a wall in our dining room is a portion of Joshua 24:15: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." This verse has been a compass for our family, always pointing us to Christ. I am a firm believer that "more is caught than taught". By modeling this verse in our day-to-day lives, I pray that our sons will continue to serve the Lord. And as I cling to this verse, I'm learning that being a father means knowing when to release my wondering and entrust them fully into God's hands.

This Father's Day, I want to encourage every dad reading this: Serve the Lord! Serve through prayer. Pray for your family, loved ones, friends, and fellow churchgoers. Serve the church together. We all have talents, treasures and time that God doesn't want us to keep hidden. Serve the Lord by serving others. Have a servant's mindset wherever you go - at work, at school, at the store, wherever! I know, it's tough, but God's grace is endless. We can't be perfect, but we know the perfect Father who will never forsake us.

To Jake and Jaxon: Thank you for enriching my life beyond all imagination! Although I may not always show it, I am so proud of the young men you are becoming, and I pray for God's blessings over your lives.

May the Lord continue to bless every father in our church this Father's Day. May the Lord fill you with gratitude and wonder. The good kine wonder!

Happy Father's Day!

Joel



"Christian fathers plant seeds of faith that bloom in seasons they may never see, trusting God for the harvest."

— Francis Chan

The What, How, and When

by Pastor Gary Lau | gary@LearntheBibleFast.com

Over the past forty+ years of my Christian life I've been involved with five churches, three parachurch organizations, and running my own Bible teaching ministry. At each step of the way I've had to make some major decisions and each time I've prayed for the Lord's guidance.

Although I have not found a surefire way to discern the Lord's perfect will, I have found three things are needed in order to move forward in the right direction. It's called the WHAT, HOW, and WHEN. This idea originally came from my mentor, Dr. Bobby Clinton.

THE WHAT: This is typically an impression I get from the Lord that He wants me to move forward in a certain direction. These impressions usually come over the course of many months although I don't always recognize them. It's like a yearning that rears its head every so often: a solution to a problem, a call to minister in a particular area, a desire to help in some way. But it's incomplete without the next step.

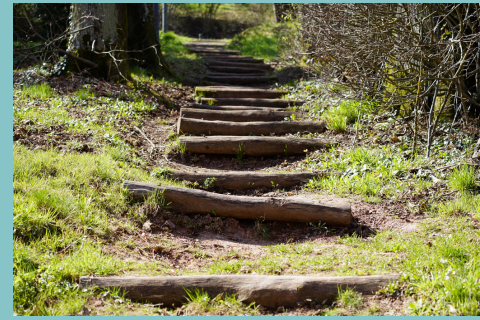
THE HOW: This is how the Lord wants you to accomplish the WHAT. You may have a desire to minister to the youth. Will it be through your church's youth ministry, a parachurch organization, or a missions agency? You may have a desire to be part of a drama ministry. Do you find one that exists or do you start one on your own? How will you accomplish that yearning or impression? You need to pray to discern the HOW. But that's still not enough.

THE WHEN: Timing is crucial. You may know the WHAT and the HOW but not know the WHEN. I've seen leaders move forward with the WHAT and the HOW but then everything crumbles because they moved before the Lord said to move. They assume that because they knew the WHAT and HOW that it's time to move. Not so. Sometimes the WHEN may not come for weeks, months, or years.

Let me give you an example...

Moses knew at an early age he was different from the Egyptians he was raised with; he looked more like the people who were being treated as slaves. He saw the harsh conditions the Hebrews went through and there was a burning in his heart to do something about it.

"One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, 'Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?' The man said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?'" (Exodus 2:11-14)



"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."

Proverbs 16:9

(continued on next page)

The What, How, and When (continued)

So far Moses knows the WHAT - to rescue his fellow Hebrews from the harsh conditions of the Egyptian empire, to bring deliverance to the Hebrews (Acts 7:25). He knows the HOW - by defeating of the Egyptians. But Moses was mistaken when it came to the WHEN. He thought it was when he was 40 years old (Acts 7:23). And because Moses presumed the WHEN, he ended up running away from Egypt and became a shepherd over sheep that wasn't his own.

It would be forty years later, when Moses was eighty, that the timing was right, when the WHEN was right (Acts 7:30). It was at this point, Moses now had the WHAT, the HOW, and the WHEN, and he reluctantly moved forward, bringing deliverance to the Hebrews by defeating the Egyptians, at the right time, through the hand of God.

Here's my encouragement to you. If there's a tugging in your heart, an impression the Lord has put upon you, a desire to move forward, know the WHAT, the HOW, and the WHEN. Dr. Bobby Clinton once taught me, "God's timing is crucial to the accomplishment of God's purposes."



Dear God, I come before You now, humbly seeking Your purpose and clarity in my life. I ask that You grant me the discernment to understand my calling and path. Fill my heart with wisdom and understanding so that I may know the direction in which You want me to walk.

Lord, I surrender my own desires and ambitions to You, trusting that Your plans for me are far greater than I could ever imagine. Guide my steps and illuminate my path, so that I may fulfill the purpose for which You have created me. I pray for Your divine intervention and revelation, that my life may be a reflection of Your glory.

In Your Holy Name I pray, Amen.



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"For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter...."
Ecclesiastes 8:6

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