

# Learning to Engage with Father

How desperate are you to know Father personally? That's the question you need to ask yourself.

'Personally' means: 'as a person'. We can all know him in our head from our Bible knowledge and from the pulpit teaching we've received, but what's our personal experience of him? Even the question I just asked isn't good enough for him.

We can have a personal knowledge of a person, but not know them personally. We can read the autobiography of a person we admire and then read many biographies of them written by people who knew them really well, but that doesn't mean we know them personally.

To know a person personally, you have to spend time with them in person to get to know them. You need to talk to them face-to-face and ask them questions to understand who they are deep inside. You need to do things with them and see how they operate because that will give you a lot more knowledge of their personality and their heart & mind.

I personally know of a married couple who divorced after a few years because they were both on shift work in vastly different types of occupations. Their work hours varied and didn't often coincide, even at night. They spent so little time with each other that they didn't really meld together. Their personal time together was missing and that killed their relationship.

We can be the same with Father. The usual reason for not knowing him personally is that we relegate him to Sunday morning meetings and spend the rest of the week ignoring him. Sure we can read the Bible, but that's not good enough to get to know him as a person.

Children don't bond with their dad unless he spends quality time with them. We know this is a truism. It's the experience of really good fathers and it's been backed up by studies. Why is it then that we don't bond with our Heavenly Father?

Father God is a perfect father and he's not unapproachable. Religious teaching (especially OC ideas) cause us to be estranged from him, but that's not what he wants. He created us for relationship, just like the Trinity's relationship. He's a relational spirit-being, not an inaccessible despot. He really wants a personal relationship with each of us.

How do we get that personal relationship with Father? Well, we have to do the work because he's already waiting for us.

Because we have lost our connection with him since we were born, due to our constant focus on life and the natural realm, we don't know where to start. Religion has tried to do it without any real understanding of him personally and made a hash of it. This has corrupted our knowledge of how to go about it since we've been in the church system and come under its teaching. Our indoctrination has been that's he's located in "unapproachable light", that he can't be known or seen, and that our attitude is to fear him so we don't "fall into his hands". This theology is all based on the Bible, of course.

The Father Heart movement and teaching has liberated us from this misconception of him. We've discovered that he really wants to get to know us. We've also discovered that "know" is an intimate word (like a husband and wife know each other) not a knowing based on head knowledge.<sup>1</sup> Not only that, but we know that he wants to be one with us – oneness like a husband and wife can have.<sup>2</sup>

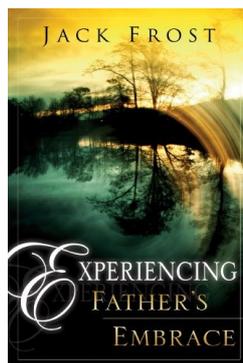
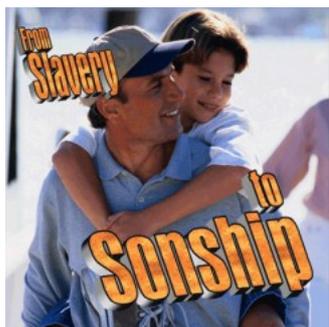
I am where I am in my intimate relationship with each member of the Trinity, and in my growing oneness

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1 – Luke 13:27

2 – John 17:11

with them because I listened to Jack Frost's teaching on Father's heart.<sup>3</sup> His teachings "From Slavery to Sonship" and "Experiencing Father's Embrace" delivered me from the religious, legalistic idea I had of Father as a cosmic policeman who was always looking to whack me with his big stick whenever I make a mistake. I formulated this erroneous concept of Father from the Bible, from my dad and from my male teachers.



Jack's materials are for sale on his Shiloh Place website<sup>4</sup> and his ebook "Experiencing Father's Embrace" is available at Amazon.<sup>5</sup>

I took Jack's advice and started practising being in his presence in Heaven. I would sit in the quiet of my lounge room very early each morning and picture in my imagination that I was in his throne room. I'd sit on his lap every day and sometimes I'd sit on my throne next to his and talk with him. On other occasions I felt that it was OK to sit on his throne. I'd just sit there and experience his presence and basked in his acceptance.

When I learnt about and experienced 'soaking' it took away any apprehension I had as I was experiencing coming into his presence a different way. Sometime later a prophetic word was given to us that Father wanted us to experience his love pouring over us like a person standing under a waterfall. So I began imagining myself under the waterfall of his love every day and soon I was experiencing it. This is when I 'took off' in my intimacy with Father.

Then I started a love affair with Jesus. I initiated this by imagining myself hugging him in a strong embrace. I'd wrap my arms around my body and imagine it was him. I'd stay that way for a short while and then experience his love flow to me.

Later, I listened to some teaching on the person of the Holy Spirit and embarked on intimacy with him. Reading "The Shack" gave me the greatest progress in the area as it made him more realistic in my heart.

In my relationship with the Trinity I have now changed the way I address them because I know them intimately. I talk to Father, not "The Father". I talk to Holy Spirit, not "The Holy Spirit". I changed my vocabulary from a religious one to a relational one.

Unfortunately, I could have been in this place 15 years earlier. Back in 1987 when we were running a spirit-filled house church we were going into the presence of God after worship just like the churches have learnt to do this century. At that time a staunch bible-believer in our group said that what we were doing was the meditation that the New Agers did, so we stopped. Later she told us that our imaginations that our heart produced were corrupt,<sup>6</sup> so we stopped using our imaginations. Why, oh why, do we listen to people and not the Spirit?

To help you on your road to intimacy with Father – your perfect daddy – here's some help from Mike Parsons. It also includes a practice session in the form of an audio (MP3) which you can listen to. It will

3 – Get them here: [shilohplace.org/product-category/audio-cds-and-mp3-downloads](http://shilohplace.org/product-category/audio-cds-and-mp3-downloads)

4 – [shilohplace.org/store-2](http://shilohplace.org/store-2)

5 – [www.amazon.com.au/Experiencing-Fathers-Embrace-Jack-Frost-ebook/dp/B0051GN8XO](http://www.amazon.com.au/Experiencing-Fathers-Embrace-Jack-Frost-ebook/dp/B0051GN8XO)

6 – Jeremiah 17:9

help you move away from your Western, Greek thinking and engage Father with your heart.

*“Let’s practice the first of those now with an activation based on a story Jesus told. We can all encounter the loving Father just as the prodigal son did, be accepted and given a ring of sonship.*

*I call these practice exercises ‘activations’ because they activate our imagination, which is the ‘screen’ on which we ‘see’ what is happening in the spirit. In all activations, relax, breathe deeply, loose your body from tension and loose your mind from over-analysing. Focus your conscious thoughts on whatever you are seeking to engage, but don’t strive to see visually; just go with what forms in your imagination when it is focused on the Father (or at other times it might be on Jesus or on the Holy Spirit)...*

*Relax. Focus on the Father, who has been waiting for you to come to Him. Close your eyes if you can (read through the following paragraphs first, or [listen to the audio version](#)<sup>7</sup>).*

*Now think of Your loving heavenly Father running towards you, welcoming you with open arms to embrace and kiss you. That is what God longs to do with you! Let that image form in your imagination.*

*But there may be some obstacles in the way, some issues that come between you and prevent you engaging the Father in that way. Allow any obstacles, any negative thoughts or negative emotions, to come to your mind. Take sin, guilt, shame, condemnation, disappointment, inadequacy, worry, anxiety, fear, disapproval, whatever; put them in a bag and hand them all over to Him.*

- *Let Him embrace you in His arms of love.*
- *Let Him speak words of life over you; words of forgiveness and blessing.*
- *Feel His love penetrate deeply into your heart.*
- *Let Him clothe you with His love.*
- *Let Him put a ring of sonship on your finger.*
- *Feel the joy and pleasure of His heart for you.*
- *Let Him release His love, joy and peace to you.*
- *Let Him draw you deeper into His heart.*
- *Let Him reveal more of His love for you.*

*Stay there as long as you want. If you fall asleep in any of these engagements, don’t worry! The best place to be is in a place of rest, and sometimes when you drift into that edge-of-sleep condition your spirit becomes more open.”<sup>8</sup>*

Laurence

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7 – [freedomtrust.org.uk/downloads/Sons%20Arise%20Engaging%20the%20Father/Prodigal%20Son%20Engagement%20from%20SA1ETF.mp3](http://freedomtrust.org.uk/downloads/Sons%20Arise%20Engaging%20the%20Father/Prodigal%20Son%20Engagement%20from%20SA1ETF.mp3)

8 – Mike Parsons (6-9-2019) “267. Engaging the Father” [freedomarc.blog/2019/09/06/267-engaging-the-father](http://freedomarc.blog/2019/09/06/267-engaging-the-father)