

Devotional: The Father Heart

Christian Devotion on the Father's Love

Read: Hosea chapter 11 (NKJV)

We read here how deeply God loved Israel, and how He was drawing Israel to Himself. He spoke of Ephraim as a loving Father speaks of his own son. Though Israel had committed 'spiritual adultery', God still loved them and longed for them to come back. Hosea's marriage with a wife who was unfaithful is directly related to God's messages to Israel through him. Hosea must have felt the agonizing pain that God felt with unfaithful Israel. How often in our own lives have we not been completely faithful to God? How often have we not been obedient? Many of us, from time to time, have struggled in these areas. We may make the wrong choices and may even turn away for a time. But God's love for us remains the same. He will always be faithful, even though we may not be. 2 Timothy 2:13 says, "If we are faithless [do not believe and are untrue to Him], He remains true (faithful to His word and His righteous character), for He cannot deny Himself."

He is longing for us to come back to Him. "How can I give you up, O Ephraim! How can I surrender you and cast you off, O Israel! How can I make you as Admah or how can I treat you as Zeboiim [both destroyed with Sodom]! My heart recoils within me; my compassions are kindled together" (v.8 AMP). You can just feel the love and the longing that was in Father God's heart, wanting to draw Ephraim up in His arms, as a Father would do with his child.

If you are struggling in your Christian walk, or if you have turned away, come back to your 'first love'. Let Him draw you up into His arms. He longs to have relationship with you. He loves you with an everlasting love. Come back to Him today!

For I am persuaded beyond doubt (am sure) that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things impending and threatening nor things to come, nor powers, Nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 8:38-39 (AMPC)

Lord, I've not been faithful,
I've wandered now and then,
Draw me back with loving arms
To yourself again.

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Devotional: Remember Your First Love

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