The Father Who Welcomes You

Resting in the Father's Love · Andy Douglas

Scripture

"He arose and came to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion, and ran, fell on his neck, and kissed him. (Luke 15:20 · WEB)

Reflection

One of the clearest pictures Jesus gives us of the Father's heart is found in the story of the prodigal son.

After wandering far from home and making many wrong choices, the son finally decided to return. He expected rejection, shame, and distance. Instead, he was met with compassion, embrace, and love.

Before the son could even reach the house, the father was already running toward him.

This is the kind of love the Father has for us.

God's heart is not cold or reluctant. He does not stand at a distance waiting for us to prove ourselves worthy before welcoming us close again. His desire is always restoration, relationship, and grace.

Sometimes we can feel spiritually distant because of failure, disappointment, or simply the distractions of life. At other times, we may wonder whether God is disappointed in us or whether we have wandered too far away.

Yet Jesus tells this story to remind us that the Father's heart remains full of compassion.

He welcomes His children home.

The father in the parable did not focus on the son's mistakes. His focus was on the joy of relationship restored. In the same way, the Father delights in drawing us back into His presence.

Today, let yourself rest in this truth: the Father welcomes you with love. His arms remain open, His grace remains available, and His desire is still to walk closely with you each day.

Prayer

Father, thank You that Your heart toward me is full of compassion and grace. When I feel distant, discouraged, or unworthy, remind me that You welcome me with love. Help me rest in the assurance of being Your child and draw me closer into Your presence each day. Thank You that Your grace is greater than my failures and that Your love for me never changes. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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