

Where do we get our ideas and images of God?



**What you feel about God
is the most important thing about you!**

**“Most of us developed our concepts
and feelings about our heavenly Father
from our earthly mothers and fathers,
and these feelings become
intertwined and confused.”**

Rev. Dr. David Seamands
Healing for Damaged Emotions

None of us has lived in a perfect family.
As a result, we may see the God of the Bible
through distorted lenses of our feelings

Often our images (feelings) of God
influence us more powerfully
than do our ideas or formal convictions.

Our images (feelings) of God
often lay buried deep within us.

Healing from our distorted images of God
requires that we do the “vigorous search”
to “unearth and expose” those feelings.

Because our distorted images of God
are often rooted in
painful emotional experiences,
identifying them and pursuing healing
can be an emotionally challenging experience.

Children have a tremendous need for approval from their parents and other important adults in their lives. Unfortunately, some adults, for whatever reason, withhold encouraging words and speak only to correct and criticize

When children are unable to win the approval they seek, they may take in negative messages, not only about themselves but also about God.

A low-angle, upward-looking perspective of a wooden ladder against a bright blue sky filled with fluffy white clouds. The ladder's rungs and side rails are clearly visible, creating a strong sense of height and aspiration.

Climbing the Ladder

That's not quite
good enough!

A black and white photograph showing several palm trees against a bright, clear sky. The trees are silhouetted, with their fronds clearly visible. One tree in the center is particularly tall and slender. The overall mood is tropical and serene.

America's
got

What would it be
like to work with
someone, or live
with someone, who
rarely seemed
pleased with you?



The God of Impossible Expectations Versus the God of Compassion

Psalm 103:1-22 NLT

Psalm 103:1-22 ^{NLT} A psalm of David.

- 1 Let all that I am **praise (Bless)** the LORD;
with my whole heart, I will **praise** His Holy Name.
- 2 Let all that I am **praise** the LORD;
may I never forget the good things He does for me.
- 3 He **forgives** all my sins
and **heals** all my diseases.

4 He **redeems** me from death (grave)
and **crowns me** with love and tender mercies.

5 He **fills my life** with good things.
My **youth is renewed** like the eagle's!

6 The LORD gives **Righteousness & Justice**
to all who are treated unfairly.

7 He revealed **His character** to Moses
and **His deeds** to the people of Israel.

- 8 The LORD is **compassionate and merciful**,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.
- 9 He will not **constantly accuse** us,
nor remain **angry forever**.
- 10 He **does not punish us for all our sins**;
He **does not deal harshly with us**, as we deserve.
- 11 For His unfailing love toward those
who **fear Him** is as great
as the height of the heavens above the earth.

12 He has removed our sins as far from us
as the east is from the west.

13 The LORD is like a father to His children,
tender and compassionate
to those who **Fear Him**.

14 For He knows how weak we are;
He remembers we are only dust.

- 15 Our days on earth are like grass;
like wildflowers, we bloom and die.
- 16 The wind blows, and we are gone—
as though we had never been here.
- 17 But the love of the LORD remains forever
with those who **fear Him**.

His salvation extends to the children's children
18 of those who are **faithful** to His Covenant,
of those who **obey** His Commandments!

19 The LORD has made the heavens His throne;
from there He rules over everything.

20 **Praise (Bless) the LORD**, you angels,
you mighty ones who carry out His plans,
listening for each of His commands.

21 Yes, **praise the LORD**, you armies of angels
who serve Him and do His will!

22 **Praise the LORD**, everything He has created,
everything in all His kingdom.
Let all that I am **praise the LORD**.

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