

That's My Daddy

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want (Psalms 23:1).

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name (Matthew 6:9).

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him (Luke 11:13)?

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father (Romans 8:15).



This is a picture of my Daddy, James Alfred Cole. He stood six feet five inches tall. One of his hands was the size of both my hands. My Daddy was a cement contractor, and could strike off a four-foot sidewalk without moving from one side to the other. I remember playing in our back yard one day with Stevie H., Arlan and Brian G., and a few other guys in the neighborhood.

They heard Daddy's work truck coming down the street, and they exclaimed "Mr. Cole is coming!!!!" They all scattered, afraid of this ominous figure. I was left standing alone in the backyard of my home, thinking "I'm not afraid, cause "***THAT'S MY DADDY!***"

Far too much, far too often we picture God as this unreachable, untouchable God who sits perched on His throne waiting to exact punishment on these poor misguided human beings of His. There is no denying that God is God, but the scriptures lend an entirely different vantage point of who He is and what He desires to be for each of us. There was no question that James Cole could be a very intimidating man. He was rugged, and forceful when he needed to be. But for all those who *knew* him, he was sweet, full of laughter, giving to a fault, and was defiantly protective to those he loved.

With no attempts to change scripture or its context, in reading verse one of the popular Psalms 23, these words can be heard "*The Lord is my Daddy, and I have everything I need!*" As much as Jesus came to establish the Kingdom of God here on planet earth, he was efficacious in His efforts of sharing God **as** Father. When He taught us how to pray, He did not say "O big God sitting on the throne." He lovingly taught us to approach Him as "Our Father. "**Cole-ism**-*Your perspective determines your performance.*" Far too often our approach to our Father is from the perspective of Him being this lightning-bolt yielding God waiting to strike us down. Even when we recite the Lord's prayer, it is with these factors of intimidation which can minimize our ability to receive His heart and His Word.

The Heavenly deliverable that comes to us in the person of the Holy Spirit come because our Daddy knows exactly what (or who) we need even before we ask (Matthew 6:8). James Cole knew what his kids needed, and it frustrated him to no end when he was unable to deliver. Our Heavenly Daddy not only knows, but has all the resources of heaven and earth to apportion what we need. One of His greatest desires are to relinquish His children from the factors of fear that can bind and withhold us from walking in the path of greatness. Through the adoptive process of salvation, we become heirs and joint-heirs with Jesus. There is a resident cry that develops from this relational standing. The bondage of fear is subverted by our Daddy. Any situation that would try to intimidate us and keep us from being all that He created us to be changes because it must answer to our Daddy. No matter who it is, or what the problem may be, we can face it because we are heirs to the Kingdom of God; we are joint-heirs with our Big Brother Jesus. We can stand

strong and resilient because we can declare THAT'S MY DADDY!!! As you journey through the situations of life, you no longer must fear. When something attempts to minimize or cause to think less of yourself; stop...look each circumstance squarely in the face, and decree, "I can face this because THAT'S MY DADDY!"