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FATHERS

For the next several minutes, think about your father. Meditate on what that one man contributed to your life. Think about his influence over you, his investment in you, his insights to you. Study his face...the image now indelibly etched in your mind. Listen again to the echo of his voice...that infectious laugh...those unique expressions that emerge through the miracle of memory. Feel his hand wrapped around yours...his strong, secure, arm across your shoulders. Remember his grip that once communicated a balanced mixture of gentleness and determination...compassion and masculinity.

Best of all take time to recall his character – especially if he was a man of integrity. As you read this, pause and remind yourself of just one or two choice moments in your past when he stood alone as he stood by you...when he stood against insurmountable odds...when he provided that shelter in your time of storm. When he chose to say, ‘I forgive you,’ instead of, ‘You ought to be ashamed!’”

In the wake of such a legacy which time can never erase, give God thanks. Thank the Giver of every good and perfect gift for the meaningful marks your dad has branded on the core of your character.

He is far from perfect. Painful thought that fact is, he would be the first to admit it. Nor is he infallible, much to his own disappointment. Nor altogether fair...nor always right. But there’s one things he is – always and altogether – he is your dad....the only one you’ll ever have.

Take it from me, the one thing he most needs to hear you say is, “Dad, I love you.” If he is still living or accessible, call him and tell him. If he’s no longer here, tell the Lord. Amen.

~ Dr. Charles Swindoll

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

