



Daddy

(originally written in 2012)

A few years ago, I attended a lady's church conference in Mustang, Oklahoma. At that conference we were given a small card with this question, "How would your life be different if you knew (on a gut-level, not superficially) that you were always, forever, completely and lavishly so-loved every minute of your existence?" We were to write our answers on the back of the card. My answer was, "I would never ever have to feel insecure again." I keep this card on my bulletin board right above my desk so that I can see it every single day, because since that day that I wrote my answer on that card, God has done some miraculous things for me showing me that He does love me "always, forever, completely and lavishly every minute of my existence!"

My perception of an earthly "Father" couldn't be any more perfect than daddy. Growing up daddy was the hugger, the kisser and the affectionate parent. Daddy knew how to love each one of us kids so much that we all thought we were his favorite. Now momma loved us just as much, but her personality was just different than daddy and she wasn't as outwardly affectionate.

I can honestly say when I think of the expression "my daddy" it gives me such a feeling of immeasurable love in my heart. ♥ I have no images in my mind or feelings in my heart, of the neglect, hurt, and abuse of an unloving Father, but they are images of someone who loved me unconditionally, who knew how to show love, who felt my pain when I hurt, who forgave me completely when I messed up (and I have a LOT), who, without even blinking an eye, would grab me and hug me and make me feel "so loved". I have never, not even for the smallest amount of measurable time, had ANY doubts that my daddy loved me and would have given his own life for mine if it ever came down to that.

Daddy gave us the best example we could have ever asked for to show what the "love of a Heavenly Father" is really like. He helped us so much to understand what it really feels like to have those arms of "a Heavenly Father" wrapped around us. He showed us a true example of unconditional love. And because of the love I feel for my earthly father, it has given me the ability to love "my Heavenly Father" and to truly understand that he loves me in ways that are immeasurable!

Now..... I know that not every person has been blessed with a good or even a present earthly father. Some of you may not even know your father. Some of you may have been the one that actually suffered the abuse, neglect and pain from your earthly father. Some of you may not have even seen your earthly father for years. Some of you may not have ever felt that paternal kind of love from your father and therefore it makes it difficult for you to relate to your "Heavenly Father."

For those of you, I would like to share a story.

Many years ago, I had a friend of mine, I'll call her Linda, who shared with me her story about her father. She has been abused as a child by her father, physically and sexually. Therefore, her image of a daddy was not a good one. As she grew into adulthood, she was a very, very insecure person, doubting that there was anyone alive on the planet that could truly love her. But there was one special man that God gave her as a husband that helped her to understand.

She wasn't a Christian when they married although her new husband was. As he tried to explain to her his relationship with his "heavenly Father" it became next to impossible for her to be able to empathize. To her the only image of a "father" that she had was one of pain, hurt and not of love. However, as time went by, she began to seek out the truth of God's love and did eventually become a born again Christian. But it wasn't until she was blessed to attend a Christian Ladies Conference in the mountains of Colorado that God's true "Fatherly Love" was revealed to her.

The theme of that Ladies Conference I remember dealt with "Our Heavenly Father", but although Linda was a born-again Christian the one area of her Christian Walk that she struggled with the most was fully being able to believe and "feel" the true love of a "Heavenly Father" because of the relationship she had with her earthly father. She would walk out of each workshop and hide in her hotel room because each one seemed to deal with things that just brought horrible images to her memory.

But then..... In her hotel room was a large picture window that looked out at the huge mountain range there in Colorado. It seemed like the mountains went on forever and the beauty of it was absolutely breathtaking. That afternoon Linda knelt in her hotel room below that window and cried out to God to reveal to her how He as a Heavenly Father could love her so much when her only image of a father was so painful. Then it was as if the window became a giant vision with nothing else in her view but the expanse of the mountains. She began to cry uncontrollably and couldn't see anything but the view from her window. She began to feel a warmth flood her body from her head to her feet and heard God speak to her and say, "Linda, do you see the expanse of this mountain range? Do you see the beauty of it? Do you see the size of it? Do you see that the borders of this range seem to have NO END? THAT, Linda, is how much that I as YOUR HEAVENLY, FATHER LOVE YOU!"

And at that same moment the door of her hotel room opened and some of her friends that she has gone to the conference with, and the speaker in the workshop that she ran out of, came in and knelt down surrounding her. One of the ladies said, "Linda, God sent us here right at this exact moment to tell you that he is YOUR FATHER and that HE LOVES YOU beyond what you can even comprehend and said for us to wrap our arms around you and hug you so that you can PHYSICALLY FEEL HIS LOVE and to NEVER DOUBT IT AGAIN! And they did! ♥

If your relationship with your Heavenly Father is something you haven't been able to quite grasp because of your relationship with your earthly father, then I want to encourage you to look out the window! GOD is a FATHER like no other and HE LOVES YOU BEYOND MEASURE! And you father's out there, please understand that YOU could be molding the very image of GOD in their minds.

I am so beyond grateful for the kind of daddy that I had, and I will miss him every single day of my earthly life. But because of my Heavenly Father, I know that I will see my daddy again.