

Focus Verse: Malachi 3:16-18 "Then those who feared Yahweh spoke one with another; and Yahweh listened, and heard, and a book of memory was written before him, for those who feared Yahweh, and who honored his name. (17) <u>They shall be mine," says Yahweh of</u> <u>Armies, "my own possession in the day that I make, and I will spare</u> <u>them, as a man spares his own son who serves him.</u> (18) Then you shall return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him who serves God and him who doesn't serve him."

In "<u>Getting To Know God- Part 1</u>" we started unwrapping the character traits of the God we love, and Who loves us. We will continue the journey of exploration of our Heavenly Father. Again, these facts will not provide the relationship we seek, but it will tell us about the One we are seeking a relationship with. In this, we find encouragement and motivation to press on to know God. He wants us to know Him and be known by Him. So, be encouraged and start the lifelong process of getting to know your Heavenly Father- He is waiting for you! Let's look into His actions!

<u>Our Father God Is For Us</u>

➡ God Has Called Us His

Romans 9:25-26 "As he says also in Hosea, "I will call them 'my people,' which were not my people; and her 'beloved,' who was not beloved." (26) "It will be that in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'children of the living God.'"

John 6:44 "Jesus Said "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up in the last day."

God Has Loved, Comforted, and Established Us!

2 Thessalonians **2:16-17** "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, (17) comfort your hearts and establish you in every good work and word."

God Has Begotten/Bore/Birthed Us

1 Peter 1:3-5 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that doesn't fade away, reserved in Heaven for you, (5) who by the power of God are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

➡ God Has Made As Alive

Colossians 2:13-15 "You were dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh. He made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, (14) wiping out the handwriting in ordinances which was against us; and he has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross; (15) having stripped the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it."

God Has Reconciled Us

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 "But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ, and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not reckoning to them their trespasses, and having committed to us the word of reconciliation."

God Has Redeemed Us

Galatians 3:13-14 "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us. For it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree," (14) that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Christ Jesus; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

Clarification: Paul Also Said-

Romans 3:31 "Do we then nullify the law through faith? May it never be! No, we establish the law."

1 Corinthians 9:21 "to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law."

ightharpoonup God Has Delivered Us

Colossians 1:12-14 "giving thanks to the Father, who has made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. (13) For He has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son; (14) in whom we have redemption through His blood, the remission of sins."

🏓 God Has Saved Us

2 Timothy 1:8-10 "Therefore don't be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner; but endure hardship for the Good News according to the power of God, (9) who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before times eternal, (10) but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the Good News."

🏓 God Has Given Us Eternal Life

1 John 5:11-12 "The testimony is this, that God gave to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) He who has the Son has the life. He who doesn't have God's Son doesn't have the life."

🏓 God Has Anointed Us

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 "Now he who establishes us with you in Christ, and anointed us, is God; (22) who also sealed us, and gave us the down payment of the Spirit in our hearts."

🏓 God Has Sealed Us

Ephesians 1:13-14 "In him you also, having heard the word of the truth, the Good News of your salvation—in whom, having also believed, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, (14) who is a pledge of our inheritance, to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of his glory."

🕈 God Has Given Us Understanding

1 John 5:20 "We know that the Son of God has come, and has given us an understanding, that we know him who is true, and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."

<u>Our Father God's Hands</u>

🕌 It Is A Saving Hand

Psalms 17:6-8 "I have called on you, for you will answer me, God. Turn your ear to me. Hear my speech. (7) Show your marvelous loving kindness, you who save those who take refuge by your right hand from their enemies. (8) Keep me as the apple of your eye. Hide me under the shadow of your wings,"

🕌 It Is An Upholding Hand

Psalms 37:23-24 "A man's goings are established by Yahweh. He delights in his way. (24) Though he stumble, he shall not fall, for Yahweh holds him up with his hand."

🕌 It Is A Protecting Hand

Psalms 21:7-8 "For the king trusts in Yahweh. Through the loving kindness of the Most High, he shall not be moved. (8) Your hand will find out all of your enemies. Your right hand will find out those who hate you."

4 It Is A Judging Hand

Psalms 75:7-8 "But God is the judge. He puts down one, and lifts up another. (8) For in Yahweh's hand there is a cup, full of foaming wine mixed with spices. He pours it out. Indeed the wicked of the earth drink and drink it to its very dregs."

🕌 It Is A Correcting Hand

Psalms 32:4 "For day and night your hand was heavy on me. My strength was sapped in the heat of summer. Selah."

Hebrews 12:6 "For whom the Lord loves, he chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives."

🕌 It Is A Delivering Hand

Psalms 144:7-9 "Stretch out your hand from above, rescue me, and deliver me out of great waters, out of the hands of foreigners; (8) whose mouths speak deceit, Whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood. (9) I will sing a new song to you, God. On a tenstringed lyre, I will sing praises to you."

4 It Is A Righteous Hand

Psalms 48:9-10 "We have thought about your loving kindness, God, in the middle of your temple. (10) As is your name, God, so is your praise to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is full of righteousness."

🕌 It Is A Creating Hand

Psalms 95:3-7 "For Yahweh is a great God, a great King above all gods. (4) In his hand are the deep places of the earth. The heights of the mountains are also his. (5) The sea is his, and he made it. His hands formed the dry land. (6) Oh come, let's worship and bow down. Let's kneel before Yahweh, our Maker, (7) for he is our God. We are the people of his pasture, and the sheep in his care. Today, oh that you would hear his voice!"

🕌 It Is A Supplying Hand

Psalms 104:27-28 "These all wait for you, that you may give them their food in due season. (28) You give to them; they gather. You open your hand; they are satisfied with good."

🕌 It Is A Helping Hand

Psalms 119:173-176 "Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts. (174) I have longed for your salvation, Yahweh. Your law is my delight. (175) Let my soul live, that I may praise you. Let your ordinances help me. (176) I have gone astray like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I don't forget your commandments."

🕌 It Is A Leading Hand

Psalms 139:10 "Even there your hand will lead me, and your right hand will hold"

Our Father God's Arms And Hands

🕌 It Is A Saving Hand & Arm

Psalms 98:1-2 "Sing to Yahweh a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand, and his holy arm, have worked salvation for him. (2) Yahweh has made known his salvation. He has openly shown his righteousness in the sight of the nations."

🖊 The Arms & Hands Of Everlasting Sovereignty

Ezekiel 20:33-34 "As I live, says the Lord Yahweh, surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out, I will be king over you. (34) I will bring you out from the peoples, and will gather you out of the countries in which you are scattered with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out."

<u>Our Father God's Arms</u>

4 The Arms Of Everlasting Power

Jeremiah 32:17 "Ah Lord Yahweh! Behold, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for you,"

4 The Arms Of Everlasting Salvation

Isaiah 52:9-10 "Break out into joy, sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem; for Yahweh has comforted his people. He has redeemed Jerusalem. (10) Yahweh has made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God."

4 The Arms Of Everlasting Redemption

Psalms 77:13-15 "Your way, God, is in the sanctuary. What god is great like God? (14) You are the God who does wonders. You have made your strength known among the peoples. (15) You have redeemed your people with your arm, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah."

4 The Arms Of Everlasting Protection

Exodus 15:16-18 "Terror and dread falls on them. By the greatness of your arm they are as still as a stone— until your people pass over, Yahweh, until the people you have purchased pass over. (17) You shall bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance, the place, Yahweh, which you have made for yourself to dwell in; the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands have established. (18) Yahweh shall reign forever and ever."

4 The Arms Of Everlasting Judgment

Isaiah 51:4-6 "Listen to me, my people; and hear me, my nation: for a law will go out from me, and I will establish my justice for a light to the peoples. (5) My righteousness is near. My salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples. The islands will wait for me, and they will trust my arm. (6) Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look on the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish away like smoke, and the earth will wear out like a garment; and its inhabitants will die in the same way: but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will not be abolished."

<u>Our Father God & Jesus' Desire For His</u> <u>Children</u>

To Rejoice Over His Children.

Zephaniah 3:17-20 "Yahweh, your God, is among you, a mighty one who will save. He will rejoice over you with joy. He will calm you in his love. He will rejoice over you with singing. (18) I will remove those who grieve about the appointed feasts from you. They are a burden and a reproach to you. (19) Behold, at that time I will deal with all those who afflict you, and I will save those who are lame, and gather those who were driven away. I will give them praise and honor, whose shame has been in all the earth. (20) At that time I will bring you in, and at that time I will gather you; for I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says Yahweh."

• To Rescue His Children.

Psalm 18:19 "He led me to a place of safety; he rescued me because he delights in me."

For His Children To Rejoice In Him.

Psalms 149:1-5 "Praise Yahweh! Sing to Yahweh a new song, his praise in the assembly of the saints. (2) Let Israel rejoice in him who made them. Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. (3) Let them praise his name in the dance! Let them sing praises to him with tambourine and harp! (4) For Yahweh takes pleasure in his people. He crowns the humble with salvation. (5) Let the saints rejoice in honor. Let them sing for joy on their beds.

For His Children To Praise Him.

Psalms 40:16 "Let all those who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let such as love your salvation say continually, "Let Yahweh be exalted!"

To Bless His Children.

Psalms 146:5-10 "The LORD God of Jacob blesses everyone who trusts him and depends on him. (6) God made heaven and earth; he created the sea and everything else. God always keeps his word. (7) He gives justice to the poor and food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free (8) and heals blind eyes. He gives a helping hand to everyone who falls. The LORD loves good people (9) and looks after strangers. He defends the rights of orphans and widows, but destroys the wicked. (10) The LORD God of Zion will rule forever! Shout praises to the LORD!"

He Does Not Want Any Of His Children To Perish.

2 Peter **3:9** "The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some count slowness; but is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

What Pleases Our Father God

\blacksquare To Make Us His People.

1 Samuel 12:21-22 "Don't turn away to go after vain things which can't profit or deliver, for they are vain. (22) For Yahweh will not forsake his people for his great name's sake, because it has pleased Yahweh to make you a people for himself."

\blacksquare To Save Those Who Believe.

1 Corinthians 1:21 "For seeing that in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom didn't know God, it was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of the preaching to save those who believe."

🗹 To Reveal Jesus To The Jews & Gentiles.

Galatians 1:15-16 "But when it was the good pleasure of God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me through his grace, (16) to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I didn't immediately confer with flesh and blood,"

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ, because it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes; for the Jew first, and also for the Greek."

To Make The Believers (Jews/Gentiles) One Body.

Romans 10:12-13 "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, and is rich to all who call on him. (13) For, "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

1 Corinthians 12:18-20 "But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body, just as he desired. (19) If they were all one member, where would the body be? (20) But now they are many members, but one body."

Ephesians 2:13-22 "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off are made near in the blood of Christ. (14) For he is our peace, who made both one, and broke down the middle wall of partition, (15) having abolished in his flesh the hostility, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man of the two, making peace; (16) and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, having killed the hostility thereby. (17) He came and preached peace to you who were far off and to those who were near. (18) For through him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. (19) So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, (20) being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone; (21) in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord; (22) in whom you also are built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit."

🗹 To Give Us Resurrected Bodies, Just Like Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:42-49 "So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown perishable; it is raised imperishable. (43) It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. (44) It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body and there is also a spiritual body. (45) So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam became a lifegiving spirit. (46) However that which is spiritual isn't first, but that which is natural, then that which is spiritual. (47) The first man is of the earth, made of dust. The second man is the Lord from heaven. (48) As is the one made of dust, such are those who are also made of dust; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. (49) As we have borne the image of those made of dust, let's also bear the image of the heavenly."

That We Also Bear His Image Today and Please Our Father.

1 John 3:1-10 "See how great a love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God! For this cause the world doesn't know us, because it didn't know him. (2) Beloved, now we are children of God, and it is not yet revealed what we will be. But we know that when he is revealed, we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is. (3) Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, even as he is pure. (4) Everyone who sins also commits lawlessness. Sin is lawlessness. (5) You know that he was revealed to take away our sins, and in him is no sin. (6) Whoever remains in him doesn't sin. Whoever sins hasn't seen him and doesn't know him. (7) Little children, let no one lead you astray. He who does righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. (8) He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. To this end the Son of God was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil. (9) Whoever is born of God doesn't commit sin, because his seed remains in him; and he can't sin, because he is born of God. (10) In this the children of God, neither is he who doesn't love his brother."

We have covered some of God's actions- the things He has done for us. We also covered His mighty and powerful Hands & Arms that reflect His intent and actions. We then finished up with what God desires and what He takes pleasure in. These points of interest reveal to us the heart of our Heavenly Father. As we move forward with having a relationship with Him, these can be our signposts to keep us on the narrow path. They will raise our confidence and faith that the effort is worth it and the relationship will be held strong through God's character and love. All we have to do is lovingly obey Him in faith through Jesus our Lord.

TO BE CONTINUED....