

Father, You love me...

*Inspired by 1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

*"...God is love." (1 Jn 4:8)*

**Father, You are large and incredibly patient with me.**

- You are slow to get angry with me and slow to punish me
- You don't lose heart with me but persevere and patiently bear my offenses & mistakes.
- You have new mercies for me every moment of every day because of Jesus' redeeming blood.

**You are gentle and consistently kind to me.**

- Your instinct is to be good to me.
- You are infinitely better than I can currently imagine or have experienced You so far.
- It is your kindness & goodness that lead me to repentance, to the changing of my mind  
[Rom 2:4]

**You don't boil with envy, hatred, or anger towards me.**

- As a New Creation in Christ Jesus, you have no anger, no wrath towards me, because you poured out all your wrath on Jesus when He became Sin and took all my sin upon His own body on the cross [2 Cor 5:21, 1 Pet 2:24]
- I now have complete peace with You and am able to receive Your goodness & blessings...every good & perfect gift is from You...and Your goodness & mercy follow me all the days of my life!  
[Romans 5:1, James 1:17, Psalm 23:6, Deut 28:2]

**You're not arrogant or boastful (though You have every right to be!), but rather, You are**

- gentle (meek and mild of disposition),
- humble and
- easy to please
- I find refreshment and rest in You, for all that You require of me (Your yoke, i.e. the obligations You lay on me) is manageable & pleasant (not harsh, hard, sharp, or bitter), light in weight & easy to bear. [Matt 11:29, John 14:9]

**You're never rude, Father.**

- You don't force me, but invite me into fellowship with You.
- You don't act unbecomingly or unseemly.
- You don't operate in shame or disrespect. You never make me feel ashamed or embarrassed.

**Father, You're not selfish or self-seeking. You're never "me first."**

- You don't demand, insist, or strive for that which is rightfully Yours, or what benefits or profits You, but rather, You seek my well-being, like a Good Father.
- You are FOR ME, setting me up to walk into all the good works You've prepared for me and, through obedience, become all that You've destined and called me to be according to Your perfect will for my life: victorious, more than an overcomer, prosperous in my soul and abundant in every area of my life.  
[Rom 8:31, Eph 2:10, Rom 12:2, Rom 8:37, Rev 12:11, 2 Jn 1:2, John 10:10]

**You're not easily irritated with me nor are You quick to get offended by my mess-ups and shortcomings.**

-You're not annoyed with me

-You don't get angry with me.

-You don't have a short temper, Father, but a loooooong fuse. 😊

-You are quick to listen (eager to hear me out), slow to speak, and slow to anger. [James 1:19]

**Father, You don't think evil...it's just not who You are!**

-You don't keep score of my sins, offenses, or failures.

-You don't nag and scold me.

-You never hold a grudge against me.

-Your mercy & grace triumph over Your judgment. [James 2:13]

-As far as the East is from the West, You have separated me from Sin and the sins of my old man; You don't remember them because You've cast them all into the depths of the sea [Micah 7:19]

-You don't look at me to find my faults, but you rejoice over me with gladness & singing [Zephaniah 3:17]

-You discipline & correct me because I AM YOURS, because You love me, cherish me, and receive me as Your son. [Heb 12:6]

**Father, it's not in Your nature to rejoice or find any pleasure in injustice.**

-You find no delight in what is wrong.

-You don't get any satisfaction or pleasure in my groveling (if I abase myself and I creep & crawl with my face to the ground).

**You rejoice with the Truth.**

-You take pleasure and delight in the flowering of Truth [of Jesus!] in my life.

-You're excited WITH ME, Father, when I'm victorious...my victory is Your victory and it brings you great delight when I overcome in an area of my life...You celebrate with me! You're exceedingly glad and congratulate me!

**You bear all things for me, Father.**

-You protect me, You preserve me by covering me...you defend me from any bully or accuser...You keep secret, hide, conceal my errors and faults before others.

-You cover me to keep off whatever is threatening me...You hold out against it, bear up against it, endure it for me, until it passes...and then You restore my soul [Psalm 23].

**You believe all things about me and see the best in me.**

-From Your eternal perspective, Father, You're persuaded & convinced about my righteousness.

-You're convinced about my victory and ability to overcome because I am Your Righteousness in Christ Jesus my Lord, a New Creation, filled with Your very power & love.

[2 Cor 5:17, 21; 2 Tim 1:7]

-You see the end from the beginning and are absolutely convinced that I am more than a conqueror in any circumstance. [Is 46:10]

-You think thoughts of peace (shalom) towards me, and not of evil. You desire to give me a future & a hope, an expected end, a future I hope for. [Jeremiah 29:11]

-You have given me Your perfect peace, Shalom:

- Completeness, soundness, welfare, peace
  - completeness (in number)
  - safety, soundness (in my body)
  - welfare, health, prosperity
  - peace, quiet, tranquility, contentment
  - peace, friendship (of human relationships & with You, Father)
  - peace from war

### **You hope all things for me, Dad.**

-You have a joyful confidence and expectation about my life and destiny.

-You expect good for me and always look for the best in me.

-You joyfully anticipate Christ being formed in me, with no doubts about my progress & transformation...You cheer me on, confident that I CAN do all things through Jesus who gives me all the strength I will ever need!

[Philippians 4:13, Rom 5:5, Rom 15:13, 1 Cor 2:9, Eph 1:18, Col 1:27, 1 Jn 3:2]

### **You endure all things.**

-You never take a failure of mine as defeat, as the end of the story...You never give up on me! It's never a hopeless situation with You, Father!

-You never look back at what my record has been in the past, but You anticipate my future.

-You persevere without any weakening.

-You never run away, Father, but bear everything bravely & calmly...because You know that though I may fall seven times I will rise again [Proverbs 24:16]!

### **And all this is True, because YOU NEVER FAIL, DAD!!!**

-YOU CAN NEVER STOP LOVING – IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

-YOU CAN NEVER STOP LOVING ME!

-You can never be driven off course or lose Your sense of direction & purpose for my life

-YOU NEVER LOSE!

-YOU NEVER STOP LOVING!

*You are overflowing with Joy (You're a happy father!), infinitely abundant in Peace, unendingly Patient, relentlessly Kind, unceasingly Good, Faithful forever, wonderfully Gentle, and Infinitely Powerful!!! That's my Dad! Perfect in all of His ways!!!*