

Pastor Dolapo Lawal



HOW GOD FATHERS

Transcribed and Published by LivingSermons.com

How God Fathers

Pastor Dolapo Lawal

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Foreword

There are revelations that comfort the believer, and there are revelations that completely reshape the believer's identity. How God Fathers belongs to the latter.

In this deeply illuminating teaching, Dolapo Lawal brings the Church back to one of the most foundational truths of the Christian faith: God did not merely save us from sin—He brought us into sonship.

Through Scripture, personal experiences, practical illustrations, and Spirit-breathed insight, this message confronts the orphan mentality that many believers unknowingly carry into their walk with God. It reveals the difference between serving God as a slave and relating with Him as a son.

Within these pages, you will discover that the Fatherhood of God is not a poetic concept or a motivational idea. It is the very framework through which Jesus revealed God to humanity. The cry of Heaven is not merely for believers who know doctrine, but for sons and daughters who know the heart of their Father.

This book will challenge fear-driven Christianity. It will confront anxiety, performance-based acceptance, spiritual insecurity, and the exhausting burden of trying to earn what Christ has already secured. More importantly, it will lead you into the rest that comes from truly knowing God as Father.

One of the most striking strengths of this message is its honesty. The teaching does not present sonship as softness or escapism. Rather, it reveals the depth of divine love—a love strong enough to discipline, refine, prepare, and preserve purpose. The same Father who comforts His children also forms them into the image of Christ.

As you read, you will notice that this message carries both theological depth and practical clarity. It explains profound spiritual realities in a way that touches everyday life: relationships, prayer, purpose, provision, suffering, service, anxiety, and rest. It reminds us that many believers are not struggling because God has failed to father them, but because they have not yet learned how to live as children.

At LivingSermons.com, our burden remains to preserve and amplify Kingdom voices for believers across the nations. We believe this message is one that deserves to be revisited repeatedly, prayed through carefully, and shared widely.

Our prayer is that as you journey through these pages, every orphan mindset will break, every fear-driven approach to God will dissolve, and your heart will come into the deep rest of sonship.

May you encounter not merely a doctrine about God, but the Father Himself.

— Wisdom Epsi
Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com

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Publisher's Note

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

The live sermon from which this message was transcribed can be accessed here: [Live Video](#)

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Our commitment is excellence without dilution.

Our standard is reverence for the Word of God.

Our daily goal is to transform powerful live sermons into polished PDF and ebook editions for the edification of the Body of Christ.

It is our prayer that as you read, the same grace, conviction, clarity, and impartation present in the live service will minister to you afresh.

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A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship

Main Message

Begins Here:



Living Sermons

The Fatherhood of God

Praise God.

We just finished learning *Who Is Jesus?* Yesterday, we learned about tongues and who Jesus is. Now, I want to share another very important aspect.

This morning, as I prayed, the Holy Spirit laid it strongly on my heart to speak about this:

The Fatherhood of God

This is a very foundational revelation that every believer must have.

Let us read:

John 14:6 (KJV)

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

Notice carefully: Jesus did not say, “No one comes to the Spirit.”

He did not say, “No one comes to a god.”

He said:

“No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

The way Jesus made for us is the way of sonship.

That is very important.

We are not going to meet an oracle.

We are going to meet a Father.

No wonder Jesus said:

“I will not leave you comfortless...”

(John 14:18)

The word there can also mean *orphans*.

Because there are many believers who, although saved, still behave like orphans. Many people carry wrong ideologies about God because of earthly experiences.

And let me say this carefully and sensitively.

If you had a bad father growing up—whether absent, harsh, wicked, abusive, or irresponsible—I am not saying this lightly. You did not choose him. God allowed that circumstance.

But one thing you must never do is this:

We were made in the image of God.

We must not make God in our image.

Do not import your experience with your earthly father into your relationship with your heavenly Father.

And even if you had a good father growing up, I assure you—God is better.

God wants us to know Him as Father.



From Only Begotten Son to Firstborn

Christ, before His resurrection, was called the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:14–16 (KJV)

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son...”

Many people misunderstand the word “so” in that verse. That “so” is not merely an adjective. It is a comparison. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness and everyone who looked upon it was saved, in the same manner God loved the world and gave His Son.

That is the emphasis.

Now notice this carefully: before the resurrection, Jesus was called the *only begotten Son*. But after the resurrection, something changed.

Romans 8:29 (KJV)

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Do you see the difference?

Before the resurrection, He was the only begotten Son. After the resurrection, He became:

“The firstborn among many brethren.”

That means you and I have now become sons of God. But do not miss the implication. If the First Son ended on a cross, then sonship is not merely about blessings—it is also about responsibility.

The Cost of Sonship

1 John 3:16 (KJV)

“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

If He gave His life for us, then we too must be willing to give our lives. This is why the revelation of sonship cannot be separated from sacrifice.

God adopted us.

And adoption is deep. Biologically, a child comes as he is. But adoption involves deliberate choice. When the Bible says God adopted us, it means He intentionally chose us as children. And He proved that desire by coming down from glory to experience our pain firsthand.

That is why the Christian worldview is beautiful.

Jesus stood before Lazarus' tomb knowing fully well He would raise him from the dead, yet He wept first.

Why?

Because we do not have a High Priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities.

God does not merely help us mechanically. He understands us.

Understanding the Anointing

Many people misunderstand the meaning of the anointing. They think the anointing is enjoyment, popularity, influence, or material success.

No.

The anointing is often a call into affliction for the sake of others. Imagine all of us are trapped in a room while hungry lions wait outside. If we remain inside, we die. If we go outside, we may also die. Now imagine a few people decide:

“I would rather risk my life than allow all of us perish.”

They step outside, fight the lions, and win. Because of their sacrifice, everybody else now enjoys freedom. The people who fought are the anointed ones. That is what many do not understand. If God anoints Moses, Moses spends forty years in the wilderness to lead others. The anointing is not comfort. It is sacrificial responsibility.

Look at Jesus—the prototype of sonship. God killed His Son to make His enemies sons. Every son is a lamb. And God was intentional about this from the beginning.

When Jesus came, where was He born?

In a manger. Why?

Because He was the Lamb.

Tough Love and Divine Purpose

So when we say God is Father, do not imagine a fantasy version of love that merely pampers you. God's love is deeper than that. Sometimes, love says "No."

Sometimes, people who love you can unknowingly protect you out of destiny. Peter once tried to stop Jesus from going to the cross out of love. Yet Jesus responded:

"Get thee behind me, Satan..."

(Matthew 16:23)

Why?

Because purpose was greater than comfort. When I first gave my life to Christ, the Holy Spirit impressed it upon my heart to do a three-day dry fast. By the second day, my mother was banging on the door:

"Come out! You mean you will not eat for two days?"

By the third day, she kept checking if I was still alive. But had I listened to her, I would have stepped out of what God was doing in me. Love can protect you out of God's will if you are not discerning. So I am not speaking about some imaginary "La La Land" version of God's love.

We are talking about the Fatherhood revealed in Scripture.

How You Know God Is Father

One of the ways to test whether the revelation of God as Father has truly dawned on you is this: Are Christians children of God?

Yes.

Then they are your siblings. So if you truly understand God as Father, it will affect how you treat other believers.

You cannot claim God is your Father while constantly dishonouring, deceiving, or mistreating His children. We are connected not by biology, but by the eternal blood of Jesus Christ. Another way to test yourself is this:

Are You Behaving Like a Child?

Imagine a five-year-old sitting alone, refusing to eat, sighing heavily in deep worry.

You ask:

“What’s wrong?”

The child finally responds:

“School fees.”

Immediately, you know something is wrong.

Why?

Because children are not meant to carry that burden.

Children are provided for.

So when believers live constantly in anxiety and fear, it reveals a contradiction in mindset.

A child is as rich as his father.

If a little child steps out of a Range Rover, he may personally own nothing, yet he lives from his father’s wealth.

What if believers truly thought like that concerning God?

Inheritance, Not Wages

A child receives inheritance, not wages. So if your relationship with God is built on earning His love, then you are still thinking like a servant instead of a son.

We do not act so that God will act. We respond because He has already acted. We love because He first loved us.



Living Sermons

The Difference Between a Son and a Slave

Some years ago, after my daughter Darimi was born, the Lord impressed it strongly on my heart to intensify my prayer life.

I decided to pray additional hours at midnight. The first day, I slept off after thirty minutes. The second day, the same thing happened.

Then condemnation began to creep in. I kept hearing in my spirit:

“Could ye not watch with me one hour?”

(Matthew 26:40)

I felt terrible.

On the third night, I was carrying my daughter, trying to make her sleep. Finally, she slept peacefully in my arms. As I laid her down, the Holy Spirit spoke to me:

“When your daughter slept in your arms, you were happy. But when you slept, you thought I was angry.”

That exposed a slave mindset. When my child slept in my arms, I interpreted it as safety and trust. But when I slept while praying, I assumed God was angry. Many Christians live like this. They cannot experience freedom in God because they approach Him with condemnation instead of sonship.

Serving From Love

John 1:18 (KJV)

“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”

Jesus came to reveal God as Father. And when this revelation truly enters your heart, your service to God changes completely.

You will still labour.

You will still pray.

You will still serve.

But it will no longer feel like slavery. I remember one day I woke up very early, drove to buy ingredients, prepared breakfast, and drove thirty-five minutes just to surprise my wife. After delivering it, I drove back home feeling fulfilled and joyful.

Then the Holy Spirit asked me:

“Were you stressed?”

I realised I was not stressed because I acted from love, not obligation. But imagine if we were quarrelling and she commanded me to do the exact same thing. The action would be identical, yet the mindset would change everything. That is how many believers serve God. Some serve from love. Others serve from pressure.

People burn out because they are working *for* God instead of working *from* God. The mindset changes everything. That is why some believers say:

“After all I have done for God, how can this happen to me?”

That statement reveals the mentality behind their service.

Jesus Reveals the Father

John 1:18 (KJV)

“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”

The word “*seen*” there means more than physical sight.

It means to perceive or truly experience.

Jesus was saying:

“The God you have always known from afar, I have come to reveal to you as Father.”

It takes a Son to reveal a Father.

That is why Jesus came.

And yet, despite this invitation into sonship, many believers still behave like orphans.

John 14:18 (KJV)

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”

Now, how do orphans behave?

Pay attention carefully, because if you identify these patterns in yourself, you must make the correction quickly.

Characteristics of the Orphan Spirit

- Orphans feel abandoned.
- They live with insecurity.
- They think no one truly cares.
- They struggle with trust.

They lack confidence in belonging and are quick to suspect rejection. An orphan spirit does not know the difference between discernment and suspicion. When people are kind to them, instead of receiving love freely, they begin to wonder:

“What do they want from me?”

As a pastor, I speak to many people, and I have discovered that some people genuinely do not know how to enjoy being loved.

I have seen someone break up with a person simply because they feared that the person might eventually break up with them.

That is a real-life story.

I had to tell the person:

“What could have been postponed, you have brought near.”

Eventually, she went back, apologised, and today, to the glory of God, they are married and living happily in Maryland. When she gave birth, I called her jokingly and said:

“You see? I saved your life.”

The orphan spirit is quick to anticipate rejection before rejection even arrives.

Fighting for Survival Instead of Resting in Provision

People with an orphan mindset constantly fight for survival instead of resting in provision. They interpret discipline as punishment rather than love. The moment correction comes, they immediately think:

“It’s because they don’t like me.”

Many people with this mindset become people-pleasers. And if you are a people-pleaser, hear me carefully:

People will use you.

People will abuse you.

One day, a young lady called me crying. She had helped organise her friend’s proposal. She planned the surprise, assisted during the introduction ceremony, even helped prepare food and small chops—all for free.

So I asked her:

“What is the problem now?”

She said:

“When they were selecting bridesmaids, she didn’t pick me.”

At that moment, I had two options as a pastor. I could validate her feelings and make her temporarily feel better, or I could tell her the truth so she could grow. I asked which one she wanted. She said:

“Tell me the truth.”

I asked again:

“Are you sure?”

She said yes.

So I told her:

“You deserved it.”

She was shocked.

I explained:

“If you truly did all those things from love, you would not have cared whether she picked you or not. You were trying to earn acceptance.”

That is what many people call “*pick me syndrome.*”

“Please like me.”

“Please notice me.”

“Please choose me.”

Many people bring this mentality into church. They do things nobody asked them to do, hoping people will validate them later. Then, when recognition does not come, they complain that they were used.

No.

That orphan spirit was looking for acceptance.

Independent but Weak

Another sign of the orphan spirit is this: They live independent of help even when weak.

Their mentality is:

“It’s me against the world.”

Really?

Do you truly think you can win against the world alone?

Orphans interpret silence as rejection. They struggle to call God “Father” with confidence. And if you live like this, you cannot fully enter the revelation of God as Father. You will constantly live beneath what belongs to you in Christ. You will always feel as though you are begging for crumbs falling from the table.

You will beg for healing.

You will run everywhere searching for prayer.

You will constantly feel spiritually inadequate.

That is the orphan spirit.

Learning to Rest in the Father

Matthew 6:25–34

The problem is not whether God can father us.

The problem is whether we know how to be children.

God has already proven Himself as a good Father. We saw how He handled the life of Jesus, and it ended in glory.

So the issue is not His faithfulness. The issue is whether we can calm down enough to trust Him.

The Yoruba people would say:

“Bùrùkú.”

Calm down. Rest.

Jesus said that if you decide for God—living a life centred on Him—you should not live anxiously about food, clothing, or survival.

There is more to life than food.

More to existence than outward appearance.

There is a dimension called:

The Peace of God

Philippians 4:7 (KJV)

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

When you begin to operate in that peace, people may think you are irresponsible.

You may have serious problems, yet still possess joy.

I once had a friend who was deeply in debt, yet he took me out to eat at Red Lobster in America.

At that time, I myself was extremely broke.

As he explained the amount of debt he owed, I quietly started wondering:

“Who is paying for this meal?”

He noticed my concern and laughed.

Then he said something I will never forget:

“No matter how in debt I am, I will still eat.”

The moment he said that, I relaxed.

That is rest.

Some of you are in houses and do not yet know how you will pay the next rent.

But worrying before the deadline arrives only doubles the suffering.

That is the evil of worry.

Sometimes, the problem has not even arrived yet, but anxiety drags it into today and begins tormenting you ahead of time.

Alignment and Answered Prayer

Many believers misunderstand prayer.

James 1:6–8 (KJV)

“For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed...

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

Notice: the Bible does not say God cannot give to a double-minded person. It says the person cannot receive. There is a dimension of prayer where answered prayer is actually alignment.

Many people are asking God for things He never planned for them. So what they call “unanswered prayer” is often God redirecting them toward His actual will. I remember a particular lady who had been faithfully attending online prayers and services. She had been searching for a job in Houston for nine months without success.

We prayed together, and instead of praying specifically for a job, I felt led to tell her:

“Pray for God to open your eyes.”

Later, she told me she kept seeing Chicago in prayer.

Eventually, she began applying for jobs there.

Within two weeks, she received an offer.

But that was not all.

She had also been praying for a husband.

When she relocated to Chicago, she met a man there. During their conversation, they discovered they both followed the same ministry online.

The rest is history.

She was praying for a job in Texas, but God had prepared both a job and a husband in Chicago.

The prayer was already answered.

She simply needed alignment.

Sometimes we are too preoccupied with what we want that we miss what God is actually giving.

If you are Peter, you cannot pray to become Paul. You cannot invent a calling God never designed for you. God often has something exceedingly abundantly above what you can ask, think, or imagine.

Sometimes God’s delays are not demonic delays at all. Sometimes it is simply stubborn attachment to our own will. The moment you keep knocking on the wrong door, you miss the right one.



Rest Opens the Door to Revelation

Let me give you an example from my own life. One day, someone donated land to the church. I asked God:

“What do You want us to do with this land?”

The Lord said:

“Build a free primary school.”

Immediately, I began thinking:

“But I know nothing about education or schools.”

Then the Holy Spirit reminded me:

“That is why I gave you your wife.”

My wife has a Master’s degree in Education.

God had already planned ahead.

Do you see what I mean?

I received what God gave me.

If I had forced my own desires, I could have married someone else and entirely missed the divine purpose connected to my assignment.

God's voice is often found in rest.

Eve did not come out until Adam slept.

Let me say that again:

Eve will not come out if Adam does not sleep.

Your need often emerges from a place of rest.

Psalm 30:5 (KJV)

“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”

What connects night and morning?

Sleep.

There is a dimension of faith that knows how to do nothing and trust God.

When the storm arose on the sea, Jesus was sleeping.

He was not even planning to rebuke the storm. The disciples woke Him up in fear.

Mark 4:38–39 (KJV)

“Master, carest thou not that we perish?”

And he arose, and rebuked the wind...”

Then He asked them:

“Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?”

(Mark 4:40)

Jesus already knew how His story would end. He knew He would die on a cross—not in a storm. So He slept through the waves. Some of you need stillness again. If there is no stillness, you will not hear God clearly.

And when anxiety becomes loud, there is a high chance the voice you hear will not even be God.

Resting in God’s Track Record

Many people move from one worry to another.

First it was school fees.

Then it became rent.

Then marriage.

Then children.

Yet God has carried you through every previous season. Why not remember His faithfulness and allow remembrance produce rest?

Sometimes I look at a problem and tell it:

“I have passed your type before.”

The Rest of Sonship

Matthew 11:28–30 (KJV)

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me...

And ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

The burden Jesus referred to was the burden of striving under the law.

Then He said:

“Learn of Me.”

What was He teaching?

The Father.

Matthew 11:27 (KJV)

“Neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.”

The Son reveals the Father. And that revelation produces rest. The rest Jesus promised is found in discovering the Fatherhood of God. You receive rest for your soul when you truly receive God as Father. When this revelation enters your heart, you begin to think differently:

“God cannot mismanage my life.”

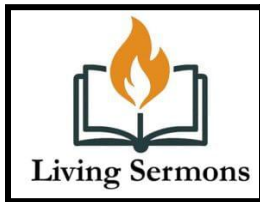
You realise that your life carries His name.

Psalms 23:3 (KJV)

“He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”

If your life becomes a wreck, people will not only question you—they will question the God you serve.

So He leads you well because His name is attached to your story. God cannot watch you drown. He cannot abandon you. He is your Father. And when this truth settles deeply within you, your soul finally enters rest.



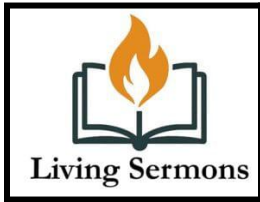
About the Speaker

Pastor Dolapo Lawal is a teacher of God’s Word with a clear, practical, and uncompromising voice. His ministry is marked by biblical accuracy, spiritual depth, and direct application to everyday life.

He is committed to raising believers who are grounded in Scripture, mature in character, and intentional about growth. His teaching addresses real issues—faith, relationships, purpose, leadership, and personal responsibility—without exaggeration or sentimentality.

Pastor Dolapo Lawal is known for clarity, accountability, and balance. He challenges listeners to look inward before looking outward, to embrace process over shortcuts, and to pursue transformation rather than appearance.

His desire is simple: that believers grow into stability, wisdom, and Christlike maturity through the uncompromised teaching of God’s Word.



About Living Sermons

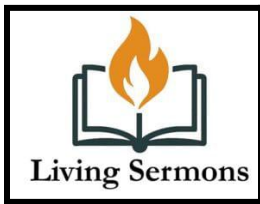
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Our mission is simple: to preserve the wisdom, revelation, and anointing carried in the preached Word and make it accessible in formats that can be studied, shared, and revisited for generations. By turning sermons into high-quality Christian books and eBooks, we extend the life and influence of each message far beyond the pulpit.

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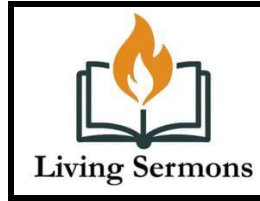
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