

# Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”  
Isaiah 40:31*



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## God the Father

The New Testament concept of God as “father” is not an archaic relic from a patriarchal past. It is an accurate and meaningful description of the important role God plays in our lives.

*“Yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.” (1 Cor. 8:6).*

*“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” (1 Jn. 3:1).*



One of the distinctions we notice in comparing the Old and New Testaments is the use of the word “Father” to describe God. Despite their strong emphasis on family life, the Jews rarely used that term to describe God—only fifteen times in the entire Old Testament. But in the New Testament that label is applied to God hundreds of times. Clearly, the concept of God takes on a new meaning in the New Testament.

In today’s politically correct culture, of course, the designation of God as Father is considered sexist. Several modern Bible translations have sought to replace this patriarchal language with more gender-neutral alternatives, such as “God our Parent.”

Why does this terminology make such an abrupt shift in the New Testament? And what difference does it make whether we stick with the original language or modify it to fit modern standards of gender inclusivity?

Throughout history, fathers have been recognized as the linchpin of stable family life, and ultimately of civilization itself. Fathers take on the responsibility of bringing us into this world, provide for their families, and train their children to grow up into responsible adults. It is primarily from fathers that children learn the meaning of authority and how to respect it. The fact that some fathers have abused their role by mistreating or abandoning their families does not alter this historical norm.

So what does this have to do with God? Everything!

First, in a metaphysical sense, God is the progenitor of all life. We owe our very existence to Him.

Second, God is the ultimate provider. All that we need to sustain life—sunshine and rain, food and water, air to breathe, raw materials that make

possible our clothing and shelter—come from His generous hand.

Third, God desires what is best for us, and guides us with the firm hand of discipline. That’s why He allows us to experience adversity in our lives. These hardships are God’s way of teaching us patience, strength, and responsibility.

Finally, God’s fatherhood is demonstrated in His self-sacrificial love. He has the power to do whatever He wants for Himself, but He has harnessed that power to the service of those much weaker than Himself. Our eternal salvation is entirely the gift of a Father who has expended so much of Himself for those He loves. This is the great story of the New Testament.

Mothers provide their own essential contributions to the raising of children, but the attributes described here better fit the role of a father. It is no coincidence that the current push to erase God’s identity as Father is happening at the same time that fathers in general are being denigrated as unnecessary. Both are symptoms of a spiritual disease that threatens to destroy our society.

– David King