



Growth Ministries Inc.

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happy  
**FATHER'S**  
day

**DADS GET A BAD RAP. WATCH ANY TV SITCOM AND THE DAD IS PORTRAYED IN A SILLY/BAD LIGHT. MAYBE THAT IS DESERVING OF SOME. MEN, YOU ARE THE EXAMPLE THAT YOUR DAUGHTERS WILL LOOK TO IN PICKING THEIR FUTURE MATE. YOUR KIDS WILL BECOME GREAT FUTURE CITIZENS BASED ON YOUR GUIDANCE AND LEADERSHIP. FATHERHOOD IS SERIOUS BUSINESS. YOU CREATE THE FOUNDATION FOR US TO BUILD FROM. THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE, GUIDANCE, SUPPORT, AND TIME.**

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*Do not give  
your past the  
power to define  
your future*

*Food for Thought: A father is someone you look up to no matter how tall you grow.*

## The 12 Disciples of Jesus Christ – Philip by Alywin Mitchell



Over the past few months, we have been looking at the lives of Jesus' disciples. We began with Peter, then James, John, Andrew and last month we learned about the infamous, Judas Iscariot. Our next disciple we learn about is Philip.

There are four different men named Philip mentioned in the Bible. Philip was the name of two of King Herod the Great's sons by different wives (Luke 3:1 and Matthew 14:3). The other two Philips in the Bible were servants of Christ and instrumental in the early church: Philip the disciple and apostle of Christ, and Philip the evangelist. The name Philip means "warlike" or "one who love horses".

There is really not much know or that we can say about Philip the disciple without speculating. The Bible doesn't tell us very much, and even some of the most dependable early church writers and historians were confused about who he was.

Philip is described as a disciple from the city of Bethsaida. The disciples Andrew and Peter were from the same town. Philip was the third disciple Jesus called to follow Him. John's Gospel tells us, "The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow Me'" (John 1:43). Philip wasted no time calling others, like Nathanael, to follow Jesus also. He was among those with John the Baptist when John first pointed out Jesus as the Lamb of God. (John 1:29)

Philip was one of the people who was closest to Jesus, he witnessed his miracles, and heard his teachings. He saw many demonstrations of Jesus' divinity. In John's account of the Feeding of the Five Thousand, Philip may have been in charge of the supplies and food.

Jesus posed a question to Philip as the crowd gathered: "Where shall we buy bread that these may eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. (John 6:5-6) Philip responded, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little" (verse 7). But remember, Philip was among those attending the wedding at Cana. He had seen with his own eyes the water turned into wine. Yet he didn't have faith that Jesus could feed the five thousand. But we can't judge Philip too harshly, he isn't the only person to have a short memory. We all can have short term memories when it comes to miracles Jesus Christ has performed in our lives. He may not have had mountain moving faith at that moment, but he was a follower of Jesus who was used by God.

During the Last Supper, Philip asks Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus replies, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!" Philip provides Jesus the opportunity to teach his disciples about the unity of the Father and the Son.

## The 12 Disciples of Jesus Christ – Philip Continued

by Alywin Mitchell

Philip plays a larger role in the Gospel of John than he does in the other three Gospels. Even though there is little known about him after the ascension of Christ. What we do know, Philip certainly held an important role in the early church, and he likely played a key part in spreading the gospel somewhere in ancient Eurasia.

Most Bible historians and scholars believe Philip preached the gospel in Phrygia, in Asia Minor, and died a martyr at Hierapolis.

Later legends and stories about Philip's life can be found in the anonymous book Acts of Philip. This non-canonical book portrays the preaching and miracles attributed to Philip. The story goes, that following the resurrection of Jesus, Philip was sent with his sister Mariamne and Bartholomew to preach in Greece, Phrygia, and Syria. Also, according to this book, Nicanora, the wife of the proconsul of the city of Hierapolis, had been lying in her bed suffering from various diseases, mainly of the eyes. She had already heard of Jesus, but, through the preaching of Philip, she had called upon the name of Jesus and was released from the diseases that tormented her; she believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and was saved. This infuriated the proconsul, and he had Philip, Bartholomew, and Mariamne all tortured. Don't forget the proconsul and his wife were Romans. Romans were not exactly friendly to Christians. Especially the proconsul. Philip and Bartholomew were then crucified upside-down, but even then, Philip preached from his cross. Eventually Mariamne and Bartholomew were set free. Bartholomew went on to preach the Gospel in India. Mariamne, after burying the body of her brother Philip, preached the Gospel at Lycaonia. She died there in peace. Another legend is that Philip was martyred by beheading in the city of Hierapolis. We must remember, these stories are all hear-say and have no bases found in scripture.

One thing we know for certain, Philip's search for the truth led him directly to the promised Messiah.

The last words I wrote about the disciple Andrew also fit here...Even though the information about Philip is very sparse, we can summarize that you don't have to be of great importance to be used by the Lord. We can be encouraged to serve quietly and without large crowds. Our acts of worship and kindness are not meant to impress others. They are to honor the heart and character of God. If we do what we do to be seen by others, that's all the reward we're ever going to get. He rewards us openly when we operate quietly on His behalf. So, from this day forward, we should ask the Lord to help us find ways to minister to others, that will bring them closer to Jesus, allowing us to give Him glory, honor and praise!

## *Let Him and Let Her Know!*

**Anthony J. Butler-CEO/Founder-The VIP (Violence "I" Prevent) Movement, LLC  
Multigenerational Speaker-Author-Poetic Presenter-Creative Thinking Consultant**

Your confinement will not alter my assignment to love you unconditionally...I love you!

You made some mistakes. However, you took responsibility and decided to be a forever father. I love you!

Maybe your son or daughter is behind bars...no barriers...no distance, no amount of concrete will keep you from being there for them...daughter...son...I love you!

My letters will let him and let her know that even though we have some challenges my actions will make the best of this relationship and love will overcome and balance this...

My letters carefully crafted and combined with vowels and consonants will be a constant...It's my heart that will be touched by you and...Your confinement will not alter my assignment to love you unconditionally...I love you!

You made some mistakes. However, you took responsibility and decided to be a forever father. I love you!

Maybe your son or daughter is behind bars...no barriers...no distance, no amount of concrete will keep you from being there for them...daughter...son...I love you!

My letters will let him and let her know that even though we have some challenges my actions will make the best of this relationship and love will overcome and balance this.

My visits in your mind...My visits virtually...My visits face to face will resonate and may this Father's Day be every day because my words...composed of my letters will let him and let her know...I love you!

Every year when this time of year rolls around, there is an American pastime in full swing across our country and that pastime is baseball. From the pick-up games in the neighborhood sandlot and the little leagues in small communities to the big leagues in the large cities, baseball is being played everywhere. Summertime and baseball go hand in hand. It is also this time of year that often reminds me of my father. My father was a huge baseball fan. As one of five boys in my family, many of our evenings were spent playing baseball with each other, listening to the Cardinals on the radio with our dad, or being coached the game by him. Those are bittersweet memories. My dad was able to coach and attend our games, but he was not able to actively participate in the game itself. Reason being my father was one of those men who landed on the beaches of Normandy on D Day. He was a staff sergeant in the US Army and spent 15 months in France and Belgium during World War II. He was injured three times in combat with the last injury resulting him losing his left leg that sent him back to America. He was awarded numerous medals including the Purple Heart and Silver Star. He came home a hero, but he also came home a broken man. The loss of a limb drove him to depression and alcohol. Growing up I knew my father as someone who drank in excess often and mentally abused my mother during those times when he was drinking. Living in this dysfunctional environment most of my childhood years negatively influenced me too. There were many days I resented my father because of who he was and how he acted when he drank. In the latter years of his life, his drinking slowed down quite a bit, but he still had those occasions that he went back to the bottle and the ugly side of him would come out. I always loved my dad, but even after he was gone there was a part of me that resented what our family dealt with because of his drinking.



My father passed away on my birthday, July 6th, 1988 and it wasn't until several years later in November of 1997 when I was able to let go of the resentment and offence, I have been carrying because of him. It was then I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. It was then I realized no one is perfect and everyone makes mistakes, even a father. It was also then I found out we have another father and that is our Heavenly Father. Our Heavenly Father is a Father that will never leave you or forsake you. He never disappoints and is always there waiting and ready to have fellowship with you. There is not anything that you may be going through right now that your Heavenly Father cannot help you to the other side. Put your trust and confidence in your Heavenly Father and his comfort, guidance and love will help you through the difficult times. My Heavenly Father helped me through those trying times and he can help you through yours too. My prayer for you this Father's Day season, is for you to have that relationship your Heavenly Father so desires. God Bless.

First - set aside time and Pray, Pray, Pray!

THERE'S POWER IN PRAYER. God, through prayer, opens eyes, changes hearts, heals, delivers, and gives wisdom, knowledge and understanding. When we trust God, our lives can become joyful despite the circumstances.

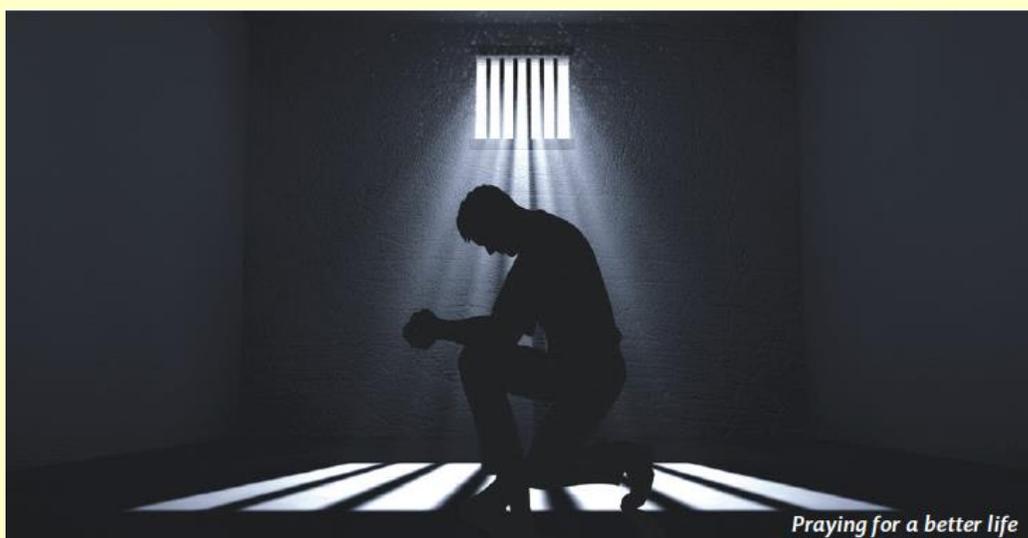
See, life is full of twists and turns and sometimes we fall upon hard times. But no matter the circumstance we can rest assured that God is always faithful. Even when we aren't deserving. Thank God for HIS mercy and grace!

Keep your head high and never cease to praise. 1Thessalonians 5:18 - give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Sometimes we're just one praise away from our breakthrough. Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Be reminded that the four walls that surround you can never take away your freedom. Your freedom lies inside you - despite what the world or anyone says. It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from - the ability to be victorious begins with you!

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

My prayer is that you be encouraged. I pray you keep praying and never stop praising!



*Praying for a better life*

## RECIPE FOR A *GREAT FATHER*

- ✓ 1 Gallon of Good Memories
  - ✓ 6 Cups of Joy
  - ✓ 2 Cups of Hugs
  - ✓ 3 Teaspoons of kisses
  - ✓ 5 Cups of Enthusiasm
  - ✓ 1 Barrel of Laughter
  - ✓ A Dash of Faith
  - ✓ No Regrets
- ✓ An Assortment of family and friends

Take good memories and joy, mix it with faith. Blend in hugs and kisses. Leave out any regrets but, add as much laughter as it takes to get the proper atmosphere. Sprinkle with enthusiasm. Garnish with family and friends. Bake with love-makes enough for a lifetime.

## A Father's Day Card from GMI



## Hidden Figures

Women will be hidden no more.  
We will not remain hidden figures.  
We have names.  
It was woman that gave us Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
It was woman that gave us Malcolm X.  
And according to the Bible, it was a woman that gave us Jesus.  
Don't you ever forget it!

## *Words to Grow By - by Linda Lewis*

### God's Got You!

Trust the past to  
God's Mercy,  
The present to  
God's Love  
and  
The future to God's Providence.

The Lord your God is with you.  
He is mighty to save.  
He will take great delight in you,  
He will quiet you with  
His love,  
He will rejoice over you with singing. *Zephaniah 3:17*

**Never stop believing that God's got you.**

**Wait on Him! *Psalms 27:14***

Happy Father's Day!

## GMI Father's Day Word Search

A G M O T I V A T I N G D P Y N  
P R S U P P O R T I V E D G Q J  
P A P E Q E L D N E T Y E W A P  
R N V O N R M A I R A N A P A P  
E D D D P C M O A A E C Y R M Y  
C F R Y E D O E S R R D H D Z X  
I A V E L T H U O D D F A E T V  
A T P O H R C U R A N D A M R Z  
T H G A E T S E D A D A N N L Q  
E E F D R M A G P I G G H A U N  
D R N U A E I F O S R E Y R G D  
A E Y N N B N N X A E O R Z Q Y  
T D L G N N J T M B L R C O O L  
T Y A J Z T Y P L Y Y N W Y M N  
T B N D Y M S V Y B M T N K Y Q

Father

Loyal

Papa

Motivating

Pop

Old Man

Paw

Appreciated

Gramps

Funny

Dada

Supportive

Teacher

Daddio

Generous

Parent

Manly

Cool

Handsome

Tenderhearted

Unafraid

Respected

Grandfather

Encourager

Big Daddy

## Dad Stuff

Being a great father is like shaving. No matter how good you shaved today, you have to do it again tomorrow.

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Science teacher: When is the boiling point reached?

Science student: When my father sees my report card!

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I'm lying in bed reading a book when my dad walks in with a tape measure. About five feet away from me he stops and starts pushing the tape out to me. It gets closer and closer until it eventually smushes against my cheek. I ask him, "What are you doing?" He responds, "I'm measuring your patience."

---

What do you call your dad when he falls through the ice?

A POPsicle!

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Father's Day is just like Mother's Day, except on Father's Day you buy a cheaper gift.

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Bugs "Dad, are bugs good to eat?" asked the boy. "Let's not talk about such things at the dinner table, son," his father replied. After dinner the father inquired, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy said. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."

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A small boy was at the zoo with his father. They were looking at the tigers, and his father was telling him how ferocious they were.

"Daddy, if the tigers got out and ate you up..."

"Yes, son?" the father asked, ready to console him.

"...Which bus would I take home?"



## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Well so much for expecting a Fathers Day gift this year.



Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu .. offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them. **Lev 10:1-3**





### God of Another Chance

How many times have you messed up? Does this sound familiar? “God I promise that if you get me through this one, I will never do it again”...or “Lord I am sorry, this is the last time. Please forgive me one more time.” These may not have been your exact words, but I am sure you can relate to saying something similar. And not just once, not just twice, but more times than you can probably count.

I am so glad we serve a God that has more mercy and forgiveness than we have mistakes. John tells us in 1 John 1:9, **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.”** It does not ask how big or how bad the sin is. It does not ask if it is the 15<sup>th</sup>, 43<sup>rd</sup> or 99<sup>th</sup> sin. It just says to confess the sin.

God loves us so much that He gives us chance after chance so that we can eventually get it right. He knows your weaknesses, but He also knows you can do it. He designed you to succeed. He has given you everything you need to live right. Once we step into a relationship with Jesus we receive His Holy Spirit and that is all that we need. We just have to have faith in Him and depend and trust in the Holy Spirit to get us to where we need to be. No matter what our challenges are, no matter if it is drugs, incarceration, sexual addictions, or financial woes, God’s Spirit can transform us from *being bound* to *being victorious*. We **can** live a holy life. It’s actually a promise found in God’s Word. **2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.**

So no matter how many mistakes you’ve made, He still loves you. No matter how many times you have messed up, you are still His child. No matter how low you think you have sunk, the Lord’s arm is long enough to reach you and pull you out.

Now, I must say this. God is by no means a fool. He cannot be hustled. He knows all and sees all. He knows every man and every woman’s heart. If you are not sincere when you repent, if you are just providing lip service when you ask for forgiveness, then this will not work. **Galatians 6:7 says Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.**

I said all that to say this. It doesn’t matter if you have slipped a little bit or if you’ve fallen all the way back to your old lifestyle, God is waiting on you to come back home. Nothing would make Him happier. Just like the story of the father and the prodigal son. Don’t let the enemy lie to you and tell you that you have messed up too bad “this time”.

You are not condemned no matter how bad you mess up. That is also a promise from God’s Word. **Romans 8:1 “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”.**



## What must I do to be saved?



If you've never accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, or if you've turned away from Him for a life of unrighteousness, then take a moment and say this prayer:

**Lord, I confess that I am a sinner and ask your forgiveness. I believe that your son Jesus died on the cross for my sins and was resurrected with all power. I invite Jesus to be the Lord of my life and your Holy Spirit to come into my heart to guide me for the rest of my days. Amen."**

*Romans 10:9 says that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

If this is you, please write Growth Ministries and we will gladly help you start your new life in Christ.

Growth Ministries, Inc., Attn: Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 4375, Olathe, KS 66063

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### Write Us



We would love to hear from you. If you have a testimony, a prayer request, or a question about your walk with the Lord, send us a letter. We would love to pray or rejoice with you. Maybe you are a writer and you have a spiritual word of encouragement for the readers of our newsletter. We would love to review your article to see if we can use it in our newsletter. We also like to share poems from you more artistic sisters and brothers.

We also ask that you be mindful of what you send to us as there are some things that are prohibited for print:

Inappropriate Verbiage/Profanity

Sexually Explicit Verbiage/Images

Political Opinions

Opinions regarding Social/Systemic Injustices

Demeaning or Offensive Views

**Photographs**