



# Calvary Family News

March 2025

## Abba Father

To me, one of the most fascinating things about our Lord is that He is at the same time both transcendent and immanent. If you don't know, those are big, fancy, theological words that we use to help us try to understand who God is. His transcendence means that God is beyond our reach. He is so exalted, all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect, and sinless that, on our own, we can't know Him or understand Him.

But God loves us so much that He has also made Himself immanent. Which means that He is present and can be felt, that He is knowable. We use terms like "I have a personal relationship with God." And that is true, He has condescended, made Himself understandable and relatable.

A while ago I was praying and I started my prayer the same way that I always do, by addressing the Lord as "Father." It kind of hit me that by being allowed and even told to refer to God as Father is the ultimate sign of His immanence.

### ***Matthew 6:7-9***

*7 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*

God doesn't respond to our prayers because we keep pestering Him. He listens to us and acts because He is our loving Father. That brings us to the verse you were probably expecting when you read the title.

### ***Galatians 4:4-7***

*4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

If you didn't know, "Abba" is a very non-theological word which basically means "Daddy." That is how close of a relationship God the Father wants to have with each of us. One where we can know Him as our perfectly loving Dad.

**In His Love,  
Pastor Karl**

# The Fear of the Lord

By Burk Parsons

One of the most severe indictments the Apostle Paul ever leveled against humanity is that **“there is no fear of God before their eyes” (Rom. 3:18)**. This statement has always been true of sinners who openly deny Christ, however, it is also increasingly true of many professing Christians. This is partly because many pastors not only avoid talking about the fear of God, but they also avoid talking about anything that would give people a reason to fear God. They avoid any mention of sin, hell, and condemnation. What’s more, they avoid all talk of the holiness, wrath, and sovereignty of God. This is happening not only in many mainline churches that abandoned the Word of God decades ago but also in churches that claim to affirm the historic confessions of the faith.

People don’t want a god of holiness and wrath, they only want a god of love and peace. They don’t want a god who hates their sin, they want a cuddly, teddy-bear god who’ll be their buddy. The reality is that people don’t want to fear God because they don’t want God in their lives. Some professing Christians don’t fear Him because they don’t actually know the God of Scripture, while they presume upon His grace to save them.

The gospel is the difference between being afraid of God and fearing God.

If we know the Lord, we fear the Lord, because He has put the fear of Himself into our hearts (Jer. 32:40). As Christians, we don’t have a servile, cowering, slave-like fear of the Lord. Rather, we have a filial, reverential, humble fear of the Lord. The gospel is the difference between being afraid of God and fearing God. It’s only when we come to fear the Lord that the Lord tells us to fear not. For when we know the love of God in Christ, the Spirit casts out all fear and instills in us love and adoration, that we might work out our salvation with fear and trembling and worship the Lord, *Coram Deo*, before His face, with reverence and awe.

(Submitted by FS)



## March Birthdays

9<sup>th</sup> Terrie Evarts

18<sup>th</sup> Shari McGuire

29<sup>th</sup> Carlin Smith

## Celebrating Yvonne’s Life

On March 22, 2025, at 2 pm, here at Calvary Baptist Church we will get a chance to celebrate Yvonne’s life with family, and have a punch and cookie reception. Please contact Tamera if you would enjoy bringing cookies to share.

## Pillars of the Faith

### Jonathan Edwards

(1703-1758)

Known as an American theologian, philosopher, and preacher. His intellectual capacity, along with his passionate commitment to the Reformed view of theology left a mark on Christian history. A renowned scholar, the Encyclopedia Britannica went so far as to declare that Jonathan Edwards was the greatest scholarly mind America has ever produced.

Born in East Windsor, Connecticut, Edwards showed an astonishing intellect early on. By the time he was 17, he had already graduated from Yale College. He took over for his grandfather, Solomon Stoddard, as pastor for the First Congregational Church of Northampton, Massachusetts. From this pulpit, his strong emotional preaching would ignite an intense religious revival that spread across the American colonies. This became known as the Great Awakening of the 1740s. His sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" remains a masterpiece of his preaching proficiency.

Edwards had a deep theological insight. He defended the Calvinistic doctrines of God's sovereignty and predestination; which emphasized human dependence on divine grace for salvation. His treatise "Freedom of the Will" is a landmark in arguing that true freedom consists in choosing according to one's strongest desires, which are ultimately determined by God.

Apart from his sermons and writings, Edwards himself was a deeply spiritual man. He made a set of resolutions, 70 in number, which practically and spiritually became a guiding light in his quest for grace.

Although he was rejected from his Northampton church for having strict views on membership, Edwards labored as a missionary to Native Americans and was a pastor in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Finally, he was appointed president of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) shortly before dying from a smallpox vaccination in 1758.

Jonathan Edwards left many marks on the American religious landscape. He may well have been America's foremost shaper of religious identity, influencing generations of theologians and pastors. His writings are still widely read and debated today, providing insight into the nature of God, humanity, and Christian belief.

(written by Kevin Haye)



### Upcoming Events for Next Month

Alan Miller's Celebration of Life will be April 12<sup>th</sup>, at 1pm here at the church with cookies, coffee, tea & punch afterwards.

April 13<sup>th</sup> is Palm Sunday

April 20<sup>th</sup> is Easter

2Q Business Meeting April 27<sup>th</sup> right after Worship time, just a short meeting with a quick update on where we are.

[April Newsletter information due March 25<sup>th</sup> please. This is a great time to let Our Calvary Baptist Church Family know Your News.](#)

# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery	24 6pm Ladies' Bible Study 6pm Men's Bible Study 7:07pm YoungLife @ BMS Cafeteria	25	26 5:30pm Prayer & Dinner in Browning Hall	27 5-6pm Community Dinner— <i>Taco Soup!</i> 6pm Celebrate Recovery	28	1 
2 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery	3 6pm Ladies' Bible Study 6pm Men's Bible Study 7:07pm YoungLife @ BMS Cafeteria	4 10:30a-1:30p CBC Serves Lunch at Senior Center 	5 5:30pm Prayer & Dinner in Browning Hall	6 5-6pm Community Dinner— <i>Spaghetti Pie!</i> 6pm Celebrate Recovery	7 9am All Ladies' 1st Friday Breakfast at Truck Corral	8 
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery	10 6pm Ladies' Bible Study 6pm Men's Bible Study 7:07pm YoungLife @ BMS Cafeteria	11	12 5:30pm Prayer & Dinner in Browning Hall	13 5-6pm Community Dinner— <i>Delicious Dinner!</i> 6pm Celebrate Recovery	14	15 
16 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery	17 6pm Ladies' Bible Study 6pm Men's Bible Study 7:07pm YoungLife @ BMS Cafeteria 	18	19 5:30pm Prayer & Dinner in Browning Hall	20 5-6pm Community Dinner— <i>Fiesta Chicken Pasta &amp; Salad!</i> 6pm Celebrate Recovery	21	22 2pm Yvonne's Celebration of Life here at church with Cookie & Punch Reception
23 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery	24 6pm Ladies' Bible Study 6pm Men's Bible Study 7:07pm YoungLife @ BMS Cafeteria 	25 April Newsletter Items	26 5:30pm Prayer & Dinner in Browning Hall	27 5-6pm Community Dinner— <i>Excellent Entree!</i> 6pm Celebrate Recovery	28	29 7:30 am Men's Breakfast
30 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery	31 6pm Ladies' Bible Study 6pm Men's Bible Study 7:07pm YoungLife @ BMS Cafeteria	1 yaD s'looF lirpA   <b>NO Fooling:</b> 10:30a-1:30p CBC Serves at Senior Center 	2 5:30pm Prayer & Dinner in Browning Hall	3 5-6pm Community Dinner— <i>Good Eats!</i> 6pm Celebrate Recovery	4 9 am All Ladies' 1st Friday Breakfast at Truck Corral	5 