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Abba Father Galatians 4:1-7

Need to go back for context of next chapter 3:26-29 -- Child of God by faith an heir to all of God's promises. But a child is under tutors—a guardian until mature son. Child related by law to Father but Son in relationship to Father by faith. Paul describes the differences—**child under law like a slave. Son thru faith enjoys freedom.** If a son why would you want to go back to old life of slavery

1 Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father.

Child is a minor under guardians, **child directors** who guides & disciplines. Also manages & look after estate, personal property to be inherited when child matures. A child is w/o liberty but is like a slave until becomes of age.

3 So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.

Bondage to elementals – **spirits of universe**—vs 9 **weak** & **worthless** or **beggarly**. **Weak**-laws have no power to save--**Beggarly**-have no riches to bless w/--Rituals, ceremonies, human religion of laws & duty to gain divine approval have no power to bring us to God or save from sin.

*4 But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 in order that He might **redeem** those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*

Fullness of time-**prophesied**--S of G born of woman-**all God** & **all man** born under the Law & fulfilled requirements of law (**sinless life**) died on cross redeeming those under law-Adopting those of faith. From sinner to saint.

Job asked the question Job 25:4-6 How can mere man stand before God and claim to be righteous? Who in all the earth can boast that he is clean? God is so glorious that even the moon and stars are less than nothing as compared to him. How much less is man, who is but a worm in his sight?

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Insulting our image driven culture some people will take **offence** at Job calling us a worm. People spend a lot of time & money getting things tucked & lifted & lipoed & transplanted & implanted to look attractive-Now Job calls us a worm?

Plus It's really hard to teach your kids self-esteem-to tell them how wonderful & marvelous they are, no matter how bad their behavior. That, my little genius belongs on the honor roll no matter how bad their grades are & if school doesn't see it, I do--so I buy a bumper sticker saying *my child is an honor roll student*. Now Job is **ruining** my little precious self-image by calling him a **worm**. God has a way of getting our attention & giving us a reality check thru His word.***** *Actually God is closer to the truth than we'd like to admit.*

After biologist announced that for the first time they had deciphered the full genetic programming of an animal, the microscopic roundworm Caenorhabditis elegans, Bruce Alberts, president of the National Academy of Sciences said *'We have come to realize humans are more like worms than we ever imagined.*

How does one go from worm to worshiper? Sinner to son? Lawbreaker to? Truthkeeper?

Gal 4:6-7 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

First of all it is unheard of to call God your Father. No Jew would be so presumptuous. It's an incredibly intimate term, filled w/ feelings of close relationship & fellowship, which Jews felt God would never allow. How can a worm be so close to God? They felt friendship w/ God was reserved for a select few--such as Abraham, Moses or Samuel & the likes, but never ordinary man. But it is exactly what the bible says. No longer slaves but friends Jn15:15

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It is amazing how people settle for a **worm-like existence** when God has offered so much more. He says you can go from worm to worshiper, sinner to saint, child to son....

Prior to our encounter w/ God we were somewhat like the worm Jacob, **God's term not mine**. *Isaiah 41:14 'Do not fear, you worm Jacob...I will help you,' declares the Lord, 'and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel'*

Jacobs name means '**heel-catcher**', one who trips up others to get ahead. Stole his brother Esau's blessing by deceiving his father Jacob--**exploiting his blindness**. Later took advantage & accumulated his father-in-laws wealth & left secretly in middle of night w/ family.

Jacob lived up to his name, even surpassed his name. **He was a worms worm**--until he had an encounter w/ God in a wrestling match where he won by surrender—dislocated hip--God changed his name by changing his character—heel catcher **to** prince w/ God--ISRAEL.

The root of the word worm means to rise up, exalt oneself. It is how God sees man in his attempt to live apart from God-independent of his creator. We glory in ourselves- '**Worlds strongest man**' '**Miss world beauty pageant**' People Mag '**Sexiest man alive**'. From God's point of view it's not all that impressive. To God it's the '**World's strongest worm**' '**World of worms beauty pageant**' People Mag '**Sexiest worm alive**'.

A different Heb word is used for **worm** in the Messianic psalm describing Jesus crucifixion. *Ps 22:6 But I am a worm and not a man, a reproach of men and despised by the people.*

Towla—worm--also means **scarlet, crimson**—The red dye used to color the garments of kings was extracted by crushing the body of the coccus ilicis-towla worm.

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Isa 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

When the worm is ready to give birth, she firmly attaches her body to the trunk of a tree, so resolutely and permanently that she never leaves again. After giving birth her body protects her young until they enter their own life cycle. As the mother dies, the crimson fluid stains her body and the surrounding wood. From the dead bodies of such worms, the commercial scarlet dyes were made, used to color the robes of royalty.

Vivid picture of what Christ has done for us, giving birth to us & church by

Phil 2:6-8 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Became a **towla**, worm, w/o sin, red, His blood shed as a means of taking us from worm status to worshiper—from sinner to saint, child to son & heir.

Heb 9:12 Through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption... 2:10 bringing many sons to glory...

2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Jesus became what we are, that we might become what He is—a son & heir of all things thru God. What does it mean to be a son, an heir, a worshiper?

First inheritance is a changed life. *Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you--*

Metamorphoo – artist who shapes--fashions, clay--altering the form of a thing. To change the inward, the heart of a person. A permanent change lasting eternally. **Caterpillar**

The inward has an outward look. Character & conduct corresponds to our inward, spiritual life—**Christ image in us**. God's work on the inside begins to show on the outside. **Jn 9:8,9-blind man healed – Moses face shone w/ glory of god 2cor 3:7**

2 Cor 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

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Demoniac- naked, violent, driven, living among tombs, chains, strong, crying, gashing, attacking, legion. *Mark 5:15 They came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had the legion and they became frightened.*

Another inheritance—we've got a **new father**--**Abba Father**—
Jesus said when you pray don't use meaningless repetition—**Matt 6:8**

*“Therefore do not be like them; for **your Father** knows what you need, before you ask Him. 9 “Pray, then, in this way: ‘**Our Father** who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.*

John 17: 21 that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may **be in Us**; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me.

Greetings ‘Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ 1Cor 1:3; 2Cor 1:2; Gal 1:3; Ehp 1:2; Phil 1:2; Phm 1:3

Ps 27:10 For my father and my mother have forsaken me, But the LORD will take me up. Those w/o a father (to Bud you're the son I always wanted to be)

*Lk 15: 20 **Prodigal** “got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his **father saw him**, and **felt compassion** for him, and **ran and embraced him**, and kissed him. 21 “And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 “But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly bring out the best **robe** and put it on him, and put a **ring** on his hand and **sandals** on his feet; 23 and bring the **fattened calf**, kill it, and let us eat and be **merry**;*

We often feel like the prodigal-sinner, unworthy, not called son—but we are & an heir not by works of law but believing in faith—He runs to embrace us.

Phil 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. Under construction!