

# Worship 2 Witness: Everlasting Father

*Isaiah 9.6*

**MPS:** Christians bear a faithful witness of Jesus when we live in His perfect love, rejoice in his perfect provision and walk in his perfect rule.

**OBJ:** Every person should trust Jesus as Eternal Father because of three blessings.

**INTRO** We are in a series entitled Worship to Witness, considering how our awe-filled worship of Jesus as God's promised Messiah moves us to faithful witness. We are working through the four titles for Jesus as God's promised Messiah in Isaiah 9:6: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and today, Everlasting Father. [The titles for Jesus as God's promised Messiah reveal an increasing glory as they move from grand supremacy to close, personal intimacy.](#)

**TRANS** **God is with us in Jesus.** And today we consider Jesus as *Everlasting Father*...

## Word Study

**'ad** Everlasting: The promised Messiah is eternal without reference to time: "*he who lives forever.*" Isa 57.15b

**Get this: God is eternal.**

- 1. He has always been.** "*In beginning, God*" (Gen 1.1; John 1.1) The Bible begins with Moses speaking from within time of God's essence as the One who is eternally existent.
- 2. He is.** "*I am (haya) WHO I am.*" Ex 3:4 God is the defining presence of all reality.
- 3. He forevermore shall be.**

*...from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90.2*  
*Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever. Psalm 45.6*  
*For this God is our God for ever and ever; Psalm 48.14a*

**God is eternal and His work is the same as His being.** This distinguishing characteristic as 'eternal' sets Christ apart and establishes an incomparable value and unmatched quality that is rivaled by none other. We can be confident in Jesus because He has stood the test of time. We know Jesus is competent because He is beyond time.

**'ab** Father: **The title "Father" reveals how Christ will function as ruler.** This is not a reference to the Trinity, the relationship between God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. [Jesus rules as a loving father to lead God's children.](#)

**"Father" is the title for one in authority** (II Kgs 2:12).<sup>1</sup> At the end of Elijah's life he asked Elisha what he can do for him (at the end of his life) to bless him. Elisha asks for a double portion of his spirit to rest on him. Elijah tells him that if Elisha can see him when he is taken, it will be granted to him. 2 Kings 2:11-12 records that the two were separated by chariots of fire and horses of fire and Elijah was taken up. Immediately Elisha cries out, "My father, my father!" Elisha recognized that Elijah held authority over his life. Elijah was like a father to Elisha. We do not live life in this world by our own authority. But Christians live by the authority of God in obedience to his commands and for the eternal glory of his majesty. [Jesus as Eternal Father holds authority over the Christian's life.](#)

## Functions of a Father ('ab) in scripture

**1. Protector & Provider** – father to the poor/need.

*I was a father to the needy, and I searched out the cause of him whom I did not know. Job 29.16*

A faithful father protects and provides, first for his family as his immediate responsibility, but also to any who are found in need as he is able. Protection and provision almost always flow naturally out of a life of sacrifice and service, and never from self-serving motives.

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<sup>1</sup>J. Barton Payne, "4 אבה," ed. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 5.

**2. Advisor** – Joseph says he became a father to Pharaoh as he explains to his brother,

*So it was not you who sent me here, but God, He has made me a father to Pharaoh,  
and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Gen 45:8*

A faithful father provides wise counsel. Sometimes this means giving the right answer, while at other times it means giving the needed knowledge to discover the right answer. At the heart of a father's counsel is the enrichment, growth and maturity of the person.

**3. Defender of the helpless** – father to the fatherless, poor and afflicted.

*Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. Psa 68:5*

*Do not rob the poor, because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate,*

*for the Lord will please their cause and rob of life those who rob them. Prov 22:22-23*

A father's heart refuses to deny help to one in need. A faithful father holds an inclination to help the helpless, whether his own or not.

**4. Compassionate** –

*As a father shows compassion to his children, the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. Psa 103:13*

Compassion is an inward unction demonstrated through an outward demonstration of kindness and forgiveness. A father leads by demonstrating what forgiveness and kindness looks like to and for his family. He doesn't have to be perfect at it. He must, though, remain committed to humble himself in order to show compassion.

**5. Father/Son relationship** –

The Lord uses the relationship of father and son to describe how he will relate to David.

*I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. 2 Sam 7:14*

*He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.' Psa 89:26*

A faithful father orients himself relationally in this way to all people, whether his own children or not. He cannot hold the same relationship with every person, but the way in which he relates to people demonstrates a sense of deeper responsibility than only an outward action.

**6. Teaches & Instructs** –

*Hear, my son, your father's instruction, Prov 1:8*

*My son, keep your father's commandment (teaching) Prov 6:20*

*A wise son hears his father's instruction, Prov 13:1*

The faithful father instructs, commands and teaches as a natural expression of his heart for others.

**ILLUS** Bo Tissue, affectionately referred to as our own "Andy Taylor", always had a story to teach a lesson.

**7. Guides** –

*Behold, I and the children whom the Lord has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the Lord of hosts,  
who dwells on Mount Zion. Isa 8:18*

A faithful father remains aware of his influence, and intentionally uses his influence to guide others to remain faithful in following the Lord.

**8. Giver of good gifts** –

*If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in  
heaven give good things to those who ask him! Matt 7:11*

A faithful father knows what is good, and gives good gifts to those he loves. He understands that a good gift rightly given in this life demonstrates a greater goodness that is far beyond this life. He is care to make sure that any gift given, or received, can actually demonstrate that greater good, or does not allow it to be given or received.

**9. Comprehensive knowledge of need** –

*Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Matt 6.8*

A faithful father maintains a concern to remain aware of the needs of those whom he is responsible for. Though neither perfect nor complete, an earthly father's knowledge is constantly working to identify and best meet the needs in the lives of others.

#### **10. Disciplines –**

*Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him. Prov 13.24*

A faithful father remains highly committed to discipline that demonstrates godly love. He may not like or enjoy it, but he values what it produces in a child's life more than the pain it immediately causes in their life or his life.

#### **11. Molds his children –**

*But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Isa 64.8*

A faithful father holds a vision for his children's life, and shapes and molds their life toward living to fulfill that vision. This vision is not birthed by the father's desires, but by God's eternal purposes, will and commands set forth in His word.

**TRANS** But we are talking about Jesus as Eternal Father. *What do these have to do with Him as Messiah? Jesus is Everlasting Father who leads us in perfect love for eternal glory.*

**MPS: Christians bear a faithful witness of Jesus**

**when we live in His perfect love, rejoice in his perfect provision and walk in his perfect rule.**

**The promised Messiah relates as a faithful father in every inclination, affection and action.** *Everlasting Father promises that Messiah will rule with grand supremacy and close, personal intimacy.*

**Jesus perfectly demonstrates every characteristic in the way he related to people.** What remains distinctive about Jesus, though never an earthly father, was that just as an earthly father acts in a limited scope of time, Jesus acts in behalf of eternity as everlasting / eternal. Eternal does not begin when temporal ends. Eternal has always been, is and forevermore shall be. *Jesus, the One who is wise beyond imagination and mighty beyond comprehension – who knows what is best and has the strength to carry it forth – is the one who cares most intimately for you and acts most compassionately to you.*

**The promise of “Immanuel, God with us” is distinct because of the way the One who is God, Jesus, will rule.**

Jesus is not a disconnected dictator, an out-of-touch legislator, or an ignorant heir that ascends regardless. Jesus is the mighty and greater David who conquered his enemies and opponents, but never caved to his personal, perverse pleasures. Jesus is the greater Solomon who is humble and wise, but never gave his heart away to competing, lesser idols. He is the faithful Joseph who, when hearing the Father's will, humbled himself and obeyed as God said at great personal sacrifice, paying the ultimate sacrifice in obedience to the Father. Though He is Ruler of all, his attention is as if each individual is his only concern. Ruler of all and yet never inconvenienced or disturbed when one child calls on Him. *Jesus Christ is the ultimate and supreme Messiah, who with all wisdom, power and authority rules sovereignly while intimately caring for each person as his own child.*

**Jesus is affectionately called Eternal Father not just by the One who named him, but also by those who are ruled by him.** EF is a testimony of his grace and loving kindness to the people who trust in him. As a faithful leader, he embraces and takes up the cause of his people as a father. He is a ruler worthy of complete trust because He rules with all love and compassion, bringing good to life and all things in life. *Jesus is known as EF to his people because He rules and reigns as a perfect, loving father.*

**TRANS** Jesus is worthy of your trust and desires to be your Eternal Father. I encourage you to place your faith in Jesus because of three blessings.

## Three Blessings of Jesus as Eternal Father

### Blessing #1: A perfect love; fatherless no more.

**The fatherless syndrome has cursed our nation for generations.** My generation's culture watched fathers en-mass check out of their children's lives. Today's culture de-values the home and family altogether for personal convenience and pleasure. Some fathers disappeared while others are still in the house, but completely disconnected. Emotional baggage and wounds, questions of love, security and provision rage without a father's influence, driving people to live out of their reactions to the void without recognition of why they live that way. [Jesus as Eternal Father breaks into the dark void of absent, checked-out dormant fatherhood in our world with everlasting hope.](#)

**ILLUS Fatherly influence through generations.** I was blessed to know the depth of faithful, godly fathers on earth through three generations, and the breadth as wide as every brother, uncle, cousin and in-law that encouraged me to follow Jesus. And, not one of them was perfect like Jesus. But all encouraged me to follow Jesus.

1. Pa Mason – enjoy life
2. Papa Mason – work hard, play hard
3. Papaw Harrison – (Itrs to Mamaw @ love & theology)
4. Father – stand strong, be wise, trust God, love God's word.
5. Brother – influence unto faithfulness
6. countless other godly men at church

**TRANS** I mention my heritage out of humble gratitude and only as a testimony of praise to God. Many today live without a faithful, earthly father influence. Others have an earthly father they'd love to forget or get beyond, but can't get beyond the negative impact he made on your life. At best, all earthly fathers are imperfect. If you are a first generation Christian man, you are fighting a battle that only Jesus can bring victory to. [Because of Jesus, no one has to be left without a faithful father that is for your good.](#)

**Jesus knows the void of the "fatherless".** He had no earthly father, but it didn't make him incomplete in any way. He was adopted. And Joseph's sure imperfections didn't make him such damaged goods that God didn't love and accept Him, and wouldn't use Him for eternal glory. [The narrative of Jesus' birth is the story of the fatherless being fatherless no more.](#) Jesus as Everlasting Father makes the story of "fatherlessness" a point of faithful testimony of the love and power of our perfect, faithful heavenly Father.

**Since the 'beginning' of Gen 1:1 that confesses eternity, Jesus longs to fill your life with the eternal, love of a faithful Father.** What you may have missed by the absence of earthly father, EF will redeem more than you could imagine and many times over. You will not be left wanting or without. He will not leave you nor forsake you. (Deut 31:6; Jos 1:5; Heb 13:5) [Jesus as Everlasting Father brings the influence of faithful father to the reality of life.](#)

**When by faith Jesus becomes your Eternal Father, you are no longer fatherless.** His eternal rule redeems the years on this earth, the pains, heartaches and wounds that you endured without a father. His eternal rule forgives the imperfections and shortcomings of an earthly father, of which we all have in ample amount. [Jesus as Everlasting Father brings people by faith to the Heavenly Father so that He becomes "Abba, Father"!](#)

**Jesus as Everlasting Father makes orphans into children.** IF you've felt orphaned all your life, empty of the blessing of a loving father, Jesus as *Everlasting Father* means you can 'feel as an orphan' no more. Jesus as Eternal Father says, "You are eternally loved and wanted. You BELONG with me and my people." Jesus sacrificed himself to make you what you could never achieve without Him. Jesus as Eternal Father promises, "You are so accepted that you BECOME family." [Jesus adopts the orphans and makes them a child, the fatherless are no more with Jesus.](#)

The invitation to trust Jesus as God's Messiah is that you receive the blessing of becoming family.

? **Do you want to join the family and know the blessing of Everlasting Father in your life?**

God, our Heavenly Father, makes His child every person orphaned by sin that turns from self and sin to trust in Jesus.

**Blessing #2: A perfect provision; every father role fulfilled.**

**When by faith we trust in Jesus, He becomes the perfect father to us.** He is the combination of perfect wisdom, perfect strength, perfect provision. Jesus was never an earthly father, but he is the perfect *Eternal Father*. Jesus fulfills every function of a father perfectly. His love redeems our lives for glory. **Jesus is sufficient for us, perfect for us in every way.**

**No man will ever be the perfect earthly father, but we can influence others and show them the Eternal Father.**

You don't have to be a father to be influential. Men must learn to be godly men before they can ever be a godly influence for any means. Let us model, encourage, build, teach, train and pass on godliness to men and boys alike. The world is in desperate need to know Jesus, the Eternal Father. **God never intended for an earthly father to perform perfectly. A godly, earthly father is the first to say to his children, "I am not your hope. Jesus is."**

Jesus perfectly provides by fulfilling every fatherly role that you need in life.

**Blessing #3: A perfect rule; Lord that rules with a father's love.**

Jesus' rule and authority is as intimate as the perfect father. His care is personal and intimate. His provision for life is tailor-made, customized for each person. Jesus' kingdom is not of this world, but is fully sufficient for this world. He rules the deepest aspects of life with perfect provision and care. His promise is that he will rule all. His invitation is for you to allow him to be Ruler of all. His glory and majesty are worthy of all your faith and hope. **Trusting Jesus as *Eternal Father* means we surrender our life to a faithful Lord who perfectly rules us with a fatherly love.**

**CLOSE Do you hear the call of loving Eternal Father?**

Some hold secret fears of God –Jesus– because of a 'father wound'. Some hold skepticisms that a father could be this good. Jesus is better than any good you can imagine. He invites you to trust Him today. **Trust Jesus today and receive the blessing of knowing and calling on Him as *Eternal Father*.**

Jesus is *Everlasting Father*.

**Christians bear a faithful witness of Jesus when we live in His perfect love, rejoice in his perfect provision and walk in his perfect rule.**