


God's mother heart

In Genesis 1 we find an important note about God's being.

What do you find out about God in the following text?

 *Gen 1:26,27*


The text tells us that we are made in the image of God, both male and female. Especially the New Testament speaks about God the Father. In Genesis however we read that God also has a female side. God therefore has both a male character AND a female character.

On the male side we think of DOING. Men enjoy creating, discovering and knowing things. They like to provide answers, suggest solutions and are adventurous.

The female side is different. They are protective and caring. Intimacy, sharing your heart, feelings and thoughts is often important for a woman, more than bodily love. Looking deep into the other person and resting together is an important need of women. This aspect is particularly important in the character of God.


Being

What is so special about God?

 *1 John 4:7-9, 16-19*


Here God's being is described: God is love. This is talking about a very special love. The original word agape, which is used in this text, means: a giving love between God and man.

Which aspect of love do we read about in this Psalm?

 *Ps 22:10,11*

A small baby drinking at its mother's breast exudes peace and contentment. The mother provides food and trust. The child lends itself to the mother's caring protection. A bond is established between mother and child. Scientists have even proven that an enzyme is released during breastfeeding which encourages bonding between mother and child. Love, a sense of belonging and being valuable become a stable base in the life of a child.

This picture tells us something of God's love. God loves us as a mother does, and what a baby experiences by its mother, we can experience with God. Read also:

 *Is 66:11-13*

 *Luke 13:34*

Storgé love

It was God's intention to give a child a father and a mother. The couple form a source of love. If a father and mother love each other, then the child will get an impression of God's love through this. This is also called storge love or family love. If there is good communication between the parents then the child will also desire to communicate well. The mother plays an important role in this, especially in the first years of a child's life. A baby will experience her tender, loving touches. He will see acceptance and love in her eyes. He shall hear her words of affirmation, encouragement and comfort. She communicates peace, it is alright, you can just BE.

War against intimacy and motherly love

The enemy of God shall try and prevent us from feeling God's motherly love. He does this by breaking up families, by hurting our mothers or taking them away from us through divorce or sickness, so that they are not in a place to give the necessary motherly love. Because of this a child will lose that feeling of security and misses the intimacy with the mother.

Maybe you had a mother who could not give you that love and attention you needed. Maybe your mother was even absent, due to death or divorce. How can you deal with such a thing?

God's promise of restoration



Is 49:15,16 Ps 27:10

In these texts we see that even if your mother has not been present or has hurt you, God wants to take the place of your natural mother.



Ps 16:11



Ps 68:5,6,7



Ps 71:6





Ps 147:3


God has a restoration plan for you. God will, even though you are now older, care for you as a mother.


God comes to you with healing and care for your wounds were afflicted upon you in your childhood.


EXERCISE:

 Discuss with your mentor which experiences with your mother you cherish and thank God for these. Bless your mother. Think of something practical you could do to thank her (if she is still alive). Which good characteristics do you appreciate about her?

 Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any painful situations with your mother which still need healing..

 Discuss these painful memories. Pray together for healing if needed..

 **Ask God to reveal His mother heart to you today**

 Search for the comfort which God as a mother wants to give you. You will find it!
It can be fine to take some time for yourself. Seek out a quiet place and put some quiet worship music on. Try to be quiet and calm down. You don't have to tell God lots of things, just give yourself over to Him. Maybe God wants to plant some thoughts in you which are for you. Write these thoughts down for yourself. Try doing this more often in the future.

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing, spanning the right side of the page.

Texts part 2 lesson 3

Gen 1:26,27

26 Then God said, Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

1 John 4:7-9, 16-19

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.

Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is

how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 19 We love because he first loved us.

Psalms 22:10-11

10 From birth I was cast on you; from my mothers womb you have been my God. 11 Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Isaiah 66:11-13

11 For you will nurse and be satisfied at her comforting breasts; you will drink deeply and delight in her overflowing abundance. 12 For this is what the Lord says: I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. 13 As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.

Luke 13:34

34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.

Isaiah 49:15-16 Ps 27:10

49:15-16

15 Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not

forget you! 16 See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.

27:10 10 Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.

Psalms 16:11

11 You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalms 68:5-7

5 A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. 6 God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land. 7 When you, God, went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

Psalms 71:6

6 From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mothers womb. I will ever praise you.

Psalms 147:3

3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.