

## UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but this is my one aim: to forget everything that's behind, and to strain every nerve to go after what lies ahead. I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God*

**IN KING JESUS.**

(Philippians 3:13-14)

#11-1704

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

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### ***Father—the Name of the One True God***

During the night of January 26, 2017, as I slept, someone appeared in a dream and kept asking me this one question: ***What is the name of the only one true God?*** It seemed as if all night long this one question was repeated over and over again. When I woke, my first reaction was to think of all the names of God that we discover in the old testament, such as *Yahweh* and all the names beginning with *El*, such as *Elohim*, *El Shaddai*, or *El Elyon*. Then there is *Jehovah* and *Adonai*, also translated as *Lord*. Of course, the religious Jews won't even pronounce or spell out the name of God for it is too sacred to them, almost to the point of superstition. However, none of these registered in my spirit as the answer to the question.

The key to searching for the answer is in the phrase *only one true God*, which is a compilation of three expressions found in scripture, which are *only true God* (John 17:3), *one God* (1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Timothy 2:5), and *true God* (1 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 John 5:20). As I sought for the answer, it became clear that the answer comes directly from our Lord Jesus as recorded in His prayer to the Father in John 17.

These things speaks Jesus, and lifting His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, come has the hour. Glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son should be glorifying Thee, according as Thou givest Him authority over all flesh, that everything which Thou hast given to Him, He should be giving it to them, even life eonian." Now it is eonian life that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Him Whom Thou dost commission, Jesus Christ." I glorify Thee on the earth, finishing the work which Thou hast given Me, that I should be doing it." And now glorify Thou Me, Father, with Thyself, with the glory which I had before the world is with Thee." I manifest Thy name to the men whom Thou givest Me out of the world. Thine they were, and to Me Thou givest them, and Thy word they have kept." (John 17:1-6 CLV)

The *Concordant Literal Version* has been selected, for it more accurately uses the expressions *eonian life* and *life eonian*. Other translations use similar expressions, such as *life age-abiding*, *life age-during*, or *Life of the Ages*. It is in the life of the ages, our present one and the ones to come, that we come to know God the Father. Another way to state this is that ages are set so that we may know the Father, for *through Whom* (the Son) *He* (God the Father) *also makes the eons* (ages) (Hebrews 1:2). In other words, the ages have been and are made by the Son so that we may know the Father who is the only true God.

Now, verse 6 is critical to our understanding the answer. Jesus prayed that He manifested or revealed the name of His Father, but nowhere in the gospels does Jesus ever refer to His Father using any of the Hebrew names of the Old Testament. The only name or expression He uses is *Father*. How do we explain this? It is simple when we realize that names have meaning. In the Hebrew language, as well as in most all languages, names mean something, often referring to character or life. So, when Jesus declared that He manifested the name of God, He was stating that He revealed the character of His God, and that character is discovered in the expression *Father*.

This is proven by the fact that the word *Father*, as referring to the only true God, is used in the new testament about 278 times. Of these, Jesus used it about 183 times, 133 of which He referred to *the Father*, and Paul used it about 44 times. This alone proves that the name that must be manifested of the only true God is *Father*.

We could rephrase Jesus' words as: *I have revealed Your character as the Father.*

In dying for the sin of the world, Jesus' mission was to do the will of His Father and, in doing so, to reveal or manifest through His life the very character and will of His God and Father. He spoke of *My Father* about 49 times, which

personalizes its significance. So, if we want to know the character of the Father, we must know the life of the Son, for only in Him and through Him do we know the only true God whose character is made known as *Father*; and the word *father* speaks of a familial, love relationship.

O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them. (John 17:25-26 NASB)

Paul picks up this same familial truth in several places: *For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name* (Ephesians 3:14-15). *For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him* (1 Corinthians 8:5-6). There is one body and one spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:4-6).

The real issue is the heart of the Father who is love. In praying to His Father, Jesus said: *You loved Me before the foundation of the world* (John 17:24). In writing about the one true God, as Paul bowed the knee to the Father, he desired that the saints be *rooted and grounded in love and comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of God's love in Christ* (Ephesians 3:17-18).

*God is love* is one of the most, if not the most, profound truths in all the universe or creation and beyond. Love is the very essence of God. Love is the sum total of who and what God is. The Father who is love speaks of relationship, beginning with His Son before the disruption of the world and extending to all humanity, even all creation.

True love—as opposed to many other types of love displayed among the first Adam's race, such as self-love or avarice love—starts with the Father and continues throughout the ages and beyond with the Father and Son. *For thus God loves the world, so that He gives His only-begotten Son, that everyone who is believing in Him should not be perishing, but may be having life eonian* (John 3:16). God loved the world 2,000 years ago, and He loves it today, for God was in Christ, conciliating (i.e., making peace with) the world to Himself, not reckoning their offenses to them [not counting their trespasses against them] (2 Corinthians 5:19). And now, all things on the earth and in the heavens have been reconciled, that is, been brought into complete friendship and harmony being fully restored to God through Christ, for *God has made peace through the blood of His cross* (Colossians 1:20). What a gospel of love! *Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends* (John 15:13). This is the true definition of God's love, and God's Son displayed this love of His Father on the cross.

For some time now, I have had two images of the universe (i.e., creation). One is that the universe is the womb of God, which I have written about elsewhere. The other is that the universe is the beating heart of *God is love*. The universe beats with the love of God.

Behind everything in creation, both seen and unseen, in history, science, and any other thing we might name, is a Father who is over all and in all and through all, and our Father is a beating heart of love for all that has been created by and through His Son and is now in His Son, for in Him were all things created (Colossians 1:16).

No greater love was manifested by Jesus the anointed Son of God. He alone has manifested the name of God. There might be many gods, but there is only one true God. What is the name of the only one true God? **FATHER!** The essence of this name is **LOVE!** Father is love, and He loves everything that has been created in His Son, none excluded.

This is the truth of the good news, and soon the world will come to progressively know it until it breaks forth as the full glory of God.