



THE FAITH OF A FATHER:

Hebrews 10:38 says "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." As a child, I watched my dad walk by faith when he could have drawn back from overwhelming circumstances. Watching him was such a spectacle. I often wondered what was the reason for his persistence. In Psalm 19:1-5 and in John 3:19-29, the Bible paints a picture of faithfulness as bridegroom leaving his chamber and as a strong man running a race. About five years ago, I wrote about my observations from watching my Dad to celebrate him and other faithful fathers on Father's day:

David explains how the heavens declare God's conspicuous presence, authority, availability, stability, and faithfulness in Psalm 19. In this day of planetary science and analytical methods of predicting trajectories of spacecraft, it is easy to presume, or to forget about how the Lord provides for us. Every morning we are given opportunities to start anew (Lam 3:22,23). Creation has a language of its own that speaks to us. The piercing rays of the Sun stretch out like a line revealing the presence of God (Psalm 19:4). Just imagine how the Sun's rays stretch across the sky at daybreak. David then compares the language of the Sun to a bridegroom coming out of his chamber and compares the Sun to a strongman who runs a race with joy. He says the Sun makes its trek across the sky from one end of the earth to the other and nothing is hidden from its conspicuous presence (19:4 -5). [John 3:19-36 is providing the same imagery of the Sun and the Bridegroom.](#)

Clockwork and Unrelenting Persistence

For years this comparison of the Sun to a bridegroom and to a runner stumped me. How is a man that is married (bridegroom) related to the Sun's movement across the sky? Why is the Sun like a man that runs a race with joy? Running is grueling and makes you tired. Why would this be joyful?

This year, I taught a class in Physics and we studied the fundamental units of time, distance, and weight or mass. The text book explained how we used the Earth Sun time clock as our fundamental time piece up until the 1967 when the atomic clock was introduced. I stumbled upon a reference that explained why the Earth Sun time clock is of considerable value. Here is an excerpt from the publication:

“As we have observed, the spin of the Earth on its axis and its rotation around the Sun provide the ingredients for a clock—a very fine clock that we can certainly never get along without. It meets many of the most exacting requirements that the scientific community today makes for an acceptable standard:

AVAILABILITY- It is universally available. Anyone, almost anywhere on Earth, can readily read and use it.

RELIABILITY- It is reliable. There is no foreseeable possibility that it may stop or “lose” the time, as is possible with manufactured clocks.

STABILITY- It has great overall stability. On the basis of its time scale, scientists can predict such things as the hour, minute, and second of sunrise and sunset at any part of the globe; eclipses of the Sun and Moon, and other time-oriented events hundreds or thousands of years in advance.

In addition, it involves no expense of operation for anyone; there is no possibility of international disagreement as to “whose” Sun is the authoritative one and no responsibility for keeping it running or adjusted.”

From Sundials to Atomic Clocks, page 15

<https://archive.org/details/FromSundialsToAtomicClocksUnderstandingTimeAndFrequency>

As I reflected upon the Earth Sun clock, I came to realize that this is what we celebrate about our faithful fathers. They are available, reliable, stable, and authoritative. My biological mother died when I was around ten years old. My dad was overseas serving on assignment. I watched him gather our family together and provide for us when times were very difficult. To be honest, I don't know how we made it. Later, during this gloomy time period, he was given an assignment at the Da Nang air base in Vietnam where his barracks were bombed nightly. He wondered if he would survive the frequent onslaught of explosions. He prayed continuously for us at home. He sent his pay check home to family of eight children who desperately needed it. Now that my dad is retired, he is finally sharing his experiences with me. He never really did when I was younger. In the last two years, our family has been through some tough times. It is assuring to have my dad explain how it is the Lord, not our own strength and wisdom that sustains us.

To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. [Hear my voice, O God](#), in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy. Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity:

(Psa 64:1-2)

Clockwork and Unrelenting Persistence

This is a message to all of our dads (and moms). Your availability, reliability, stability, and authority and conspicuous presence are why we appreciate you. Your sacrifices are not unnoticed. Thanks for allowing the Lord to shine through you.

“...And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to [faithful men](#), who will be able to teach others also. **Share in suffering as a [good soldier](#) of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.** An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is [the hard-working farmer](#) who ought to have the first share of [the crops](#)...”

(2Ti 2:2-7)