

ATLANTA WEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
MESSENGER

**JUNE
2026**



IN HIS IMAGE



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BY: PASTOR DARRELL JOHNS

DNA is a powerful force in determining our physical and mental makeup. Recently, during a meeting at the church office, my sister said, "You look just like Dad when you are thinking." I am still trying to decide if that was a compliment or a criticism, but there is not much I can do about it either way. Pictures prove that I look a lot like my dad and mirror his mannerisms.

I have heard a phrase all my life that is used to describe a child who looks a lot like their parent. It sounds a little unsophisticated, but it goes like this: "You're the spitting image of . . ." This idiom emerged in various forms from the 19th century and morphed into the current phrase that means that a person looks almost exactly like someone else – usually a parent or other close relative.

The Lord formed man from the dust of the ground. We are not told whether moisture was added to the mix, but the Bible is clear that we are the spitting image of our Heavenly Father. We were created in His image and after His likeness (Genesis 1:26-27). Since God is a Spirit, the words "image" and "likeness" denote the moral nature of God. In the New Testament, believers are instructed to put on our new nature "which after God is created in knowledge, righteousness and true holiness" (Colossians 3:10, Ephesians 4:24).

As we observe the character and nature of our Heavenly Father, we can see how to reflect His image in our role as fathers. To better understand, we will explore several characteristics of our Heavenly Father.

Love

The greatest attribute of a godly father is unconditional love. Fathers love their children and do not disown them even when the children are wayward, disobedient, and disrespectful. The attribute of love is most reflective of our Heavenly Father (1 John 3:1). The glory of children is their fathers (Proverbs 17:6). Children are most secure and successful when they are affirmed in a father's love.

Love is demonstrated by other attributes we will discuss, but it is important for fathers to express love often through words of affirmation and by appropriate physical affection.

Discipline

The Bible is clear that the Lord disciplines us out of love and that if God does not discipline us, we do not belong to Him (Hebrews 12:5-11). Therefore, godly fathers discipline their children. Discipline should not be done out of our anger towards a child. Discipline must be administered out of love, appropriate to the child's actions, and for the child's ultimate benefit, guiding the child's behavior and development.

In administering correction, fathers must avoid being overly harsh in ways that provoke or discourage their children (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21).

Fathers should correct their children while there is hope (while they are young) and not spare them when they seem pitiful (Proverbs 19:18).

Protection

Our Heavenly Father watches over His children in the same way shepherds care for their sheep (Psalm 23). A good, godly father protects his children spiritually with prayer and by his godly character. Like the strong man of a house, fathers are alert to dangers on any front, including physical, emotional, mental, relational, and ungodly influences. Godly fathers are the gatekeepers to keep evil out (Luke 11:21).

Provision

Godly fathers provide for their children just as our Heavenly Father provides for our material needs (Matthew 6:25-26). The material concerns are many, but include shelter, food, clothing, health care, and a quality godly education.

Scripture states that if we do not provide for our families, we have denied the faith and are worse than an infidel (1 Timothy 5:8).

Promise-keeper

Our Heavenly Father is the original promise-keeper. His promises are exceeding great and precious (2 Peter 1:4). They are yes and amen, meaning that God does not break His promises to us (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Godly fathers reflect the fidelity of our Heavenly Father. Fathers who are married honor their marriage vows wholeheartedly - physically, spiritually, and emotionally. They are committed to their families and do not run under the heat of pressure. A godly father is a rock of stability for his family in the face of relational conflict, no matter how difficult a situation may be or feel.

Prepare

Our Heavenly Father has goals for us. We are to grow up into the stature and fullness of Jesus Christ, our perfect example (Ephesians 4:13-15). God's goal for us is spiritual maturity as He prepares us for a future in Heaven with Him. When we reflect the image of our Heavenly Father, we prepare our children for adulthood. We nurture our children to become mature. We train our children up in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). We tackle the full contact sport of parenting with the following goal: we want to see our children become godly, mature adults who are ready to make a positive difference in our society and especially in the Kingdom of God.

As a father raising three boys (with my amazing wife), I drew insights from the example of my father. I wanted to pass on what my father taught me. Hopefully, being made in the image of my father went deeper than my appearance, mannerisms, and hairline. Like every human father, my dad had imperfections - as do I. However, each of us can look to the perfect Father and pray that His image would be reflected in us.

Happy Father's Day 2026. May the Lord help each of us fathers reflect the image of our perfect Heavenly Father.

June Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1
Nicole Jones
Naddy Esuzor | 15
Aubrianna Austin
Camden Johns
Elijah Richardson
Tobias Onuoha |
| 2
Debra Sartin | 16
Annie Green |
| 3
Brenda Wells
Lisa LaPrade
Aylee Lin Burdett
Caroline Kimani | 17
Cody LaPrade
Tannah Patton
Courtney Baisden
Laiken Burgess
Theresa Huff
Gilda Thompson
Luke Wade |
| 4
Landon Marsh
Andrea D'Aguilar | 18
Adelaide Austin
Billy Deatherage
Michael Amore |
| 5
Gabriel Davis
Liliana Barnett
Miriam Rodriguez | 19
Theresa Brothers
Debi Frazier
Danny Schooling
Brandon Swart |
| 6
Tiffani Holbrook
Reyna Villa | 20
Danielle Smith
Nila Rose
Jaya Bonner
Vivienne Hind |
| 7
Adaeze Iyemeake
Isaac Ilunga | 21
Katherine Jones, Jr.
Keith Island, Jr.
Erik Sundberg
Afi Ahovi |
| 8
Jason Hall
Bowen Strahan
Gideon Best Iyemeake | 22
Marie Nelson
Henry Runkel
Hannah Sweeney
Rosaline Ahovi
Yvonne Compton
Lance Adkins
Jaxon Turner |
| 9
Helen Steinman
Rachel Hernandez
Ryland Johns | |
| 11
Emma Mulkey | |
| 12
Bro. Louis Clark
Jack White
Marcileen Bailey
Oaklee Turner | |
| 13
Sophia Rodriguez | |
| 14
Elver Lopez
Gunner Polk | |

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| 23
Tempest Hardigree
Carleigh-Jo Hall
Bro. Mathew Cottrell
Arinze Okoli |
| 24
Crystal Jones
Phyllis Earls
Louise Scott
Barbara Palmer
Asher Rubin |
| 25
Richard Coca |
| 27
Luis Marin
Angela Boyd
Andrew Sweeney
James Towns
David Willis |
| 29
Jessenia Jones
Axel Menera
Nevin Quinn |
| 30
Victoria Jones |

June Anniversaries

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| 1 | TJ & Missy Stubelt |
| 2 | Jack & Debi Frazier |
| 2 | Barry & Janice Abernathy |
| 2 | Tate & Kayla Cole |
| 2 | Bro. Mathew & Charlotte Cottrell |
| 4 | Jimmy & Theresa Brothers |
| 4 | Justin & Natalie Austin |
| 6 | Amire & Tori Billups |
| 8 | Gary & Edith Floyd |
| 9 | Jason & Bethany Jones |
| 10 | Billy & Cindy Barnett |
| 10 | Kevin & Jennifer Pomerinke |
| 11 | Andrew & Christina Puckett |
| 12 | Tim & Angela Cheek |
| 12 | William & Crystal Jones |
| 14 | Paul & Jacque Hortenstine |
| 14 | Jaiah & Louise Scott |
| 18 | Phil & Desiree Massey |
| 21 | Sinclair & Ingrid Beckles |
| 22 | Bob & Ellie Neumann |
| 22 | Mark & Marie Brandon |
| 23 | Matthew & Stephanie Plunkett |
| 25 | Thomas & Renee Seeney |
| 25 | Kenny & Brittanie Davis |
| 26 | Leo & Laura Tillman |
| 27 | Nathan & Laurie Kufchak |
| 27 | Danny & Judith Schooling |
| 27 | David & Julie Taylor |
| 28 | Adam & Jeanie Nelson |
| 28 | Nich & Moli Davie |
| 30 | Shane & Tara Crabtree |
| 30 | Ben & Kara Phillips |

What's With the Party?
April 20 - May 24

Filled with the Holy Ghost
Ethan Austin
Wyatt Carwell
Ashae Chambers

Baptized in Jesus' Name
Yasmin Hamilton Duke Robinson
Rachel Hernandez Virginia Williams
Da'veon Jenkins



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 7 pm 301 Meeting Online	3 7:30 pm Ch.I.P.Z. 7:30 pm CrossOver CROWD Canceled	4	5	6 6 am HOPE 7:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners Team 1
				GA District HYPHEN Retreat		
7 Missions Sunday Ch.I.P.Z. Small Groups Semester Begins	8	9	10 7:30 pm HYPHEN CROWD Canceled	11	12	13 6 am HOPE 7:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners Team 2
			GA District Teen Camp			
14 Ch.I.P.Z.	15	16 Ladies' Prayer Canceled	17 7:30 pm Ch.I.P.Z. 7:30 pm CrossOver CROWD Canceled	18	19	20 6 am HOPE 7:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners Team 3
			GA District Senior Camp			
21 IMAGINE Father's Day No Ch.I.P.Z.	22	23	24 HYPHEN Canceled CROWD Canceled	25	26	27 6 am HOPE 7:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners Team 4
	Vacation Bible Camp: Bro. Josh Combs					
28 Ch.I.P.Z. Guest Speaker: Bro. Nathan Harrod	29	30	<h1>JUNE 2026</h1> <p>Ch.I.P.Z. - Children in The Power Zone</p>			