

# **ENDURING FATHERS**

**Romans 3:10-12**, There is no one righteous, not even one...All have turned away...there is no one who does good, not even one.

## **GOD UNDERSTANDS PARENTAL PAIN.**

**Isaiah 1:2-3**... "I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows his master...but Israel does not know, my people do not understand."

**Luke 15:11-13**, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country..."

- **Prodigals become INCREASINGLY self-centered.**
- **Prodigals think they know all the ANSWERS.**
- **Prodigals demand IMMEDIATE gratification.**

**Luke 15:13-16**, "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything."

## **HOW DO WE REACH OUR PRODIGALS?**

### **1. WITH UNWAVERING PRAYER.**

**Colossians 1:9-10**... we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you... And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way

### **2. WITH UNENDING PATIENCE.**

**Galatians 6:9**, "Let us not become weary in doing good." Don't get weary, "for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

**Luke 15:20**, "But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him."

### **3. WITH UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.**

**1 Cor. 13:1-3**, Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. [2] And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. [3] And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profits me nothing.

**Luke 15:20**...his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

**2 Timothy 4:7**, I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.

**Isaiah 30:18**, But the LORD still waits for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion. For the LORD is a faithful God...