



2 Cor 12:7-10

2 Cor 12:7 But to keep me from being puffed up with pride because of the many wonderful things I saw, I was given a painful physical ailment, which acts as Satan's messenger to beat me and keep me from being proud. 8 Three times I prayed to the Lord about this and asked him to take it away. 9 But his answer was: "My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak." I am most happy, then, to be proud of my weaknesses, in order to feel the protection of Christ's power over me. 10 I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

BLANK

We've come here today to celebrate fatherhood. What makes a good dad in the 21st century? Probably the best way to start is maybe to look at a few famous fathers – are they good or bad dads?

WHAT SORT OF DAD? BECKHAM – widely believed to be a good dad.

MICHAEL JACKSON – a strange dad

GADAFFI AND SONS – sons are a bunch of psychos like dad!

THE KING OF SWAZILAND - 24 children from 14 wives! Who's son are you??

MALE HEROES I can't ever remember wishing my dad were someone else, but I know for some kids, dad can be an embarrassment, or is just never around, or lets them down. What would children like dad to be most like? David Beckham or some other football hero? Here are a few stars, real and fictional for you. The thing most heroes usually have in common is that they are successful, usually in some sort of physical or talented way. But either them or the characters they portray are successful heroes – but sometimes the real men behind them aren't quite like that.

ACTION MAN One favourite toy is Action Man. What is he? He's the muscular hero. The makers got rid of the guns a few years ago but action man is still the muscular all action hero, with the scar face that beats the baddies up. You can get action hero toys these days in all shapes and forms. Here's a Japanese action man model of Barack Obama! OBAMA

WHAT IS REAL STRENGTH But is that what being a man and a dad is all about, being an action hero? Or should a man's strength as a real dad be something else?

PAUL The words that were read to us this morning were written by Paul. He was I guess one of the action men of the New Testament. He went where no apostle had gone before and he was always getting into scrapes but like Rambo, Doctor Who, or whoever, he seemed to get out of them and he was off again.

PAUL - ACTION MAN? If you think calling him Action Man is a bit fanciful, then of course you'll be disappointed to find out that the Americans have already made an All-American Action Paul which you can buy on Amazon! That said his life was exciting. But was it because he was the self-sufficient action hero? No. Paul actually had a problem of some sort (we don't know what it was) and he asked God to take it from him. This was God's reply.

VERSE *"My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak."* One of the great men of the Bible was only strong because God made him like that. We'll come back to that in a minute.

I LIKE MY DAD BECAUSE Some dads are brilliant, some are not so good and some are never there. So let's work out what makes a great dad from our own experience? Let's have a bit of a brainstorm.

GREAT DADS HAVE BIG HEARTS, NOT (NECESSARILY) BIG MUSCLES

TWO DADS! For a large chunk of my life I had two dads. I started off with one, got another and then lost one. How come? It's because I came to a point in my life where I realised that the most important thing in my life was that God should be a part of it and that he had sent Jesus to die for me so that I could know God. And having decided to follow Jesus, I found that God had done something else. This verse sums it.

VERSE

John 1:12 ..To all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

God has made me His son. For everyone who trusts and follows Jesus, they get a second dad – God. And God wants to be a dad to us. And He's a dad in every way. He's strong and powerful and His Holy spirit can do some very powerful things in our lives if we allow Him to work through us. But God is all those other things we value in our dads. He's a God who loves and cares for us, He cherishes us and has promised to be with us day by day and for all eternity. He wants to make a real difference to our lives if we allow Him to. He wants to be a Dad to us – for some of us He can be the Dad we maybe never had.

Calling God Dad, can we really do that? Yes, that's in the Bible too.

VERSE

For the Spirit that God has given you does not make you slaves and cause you to be afraid; instead, the Spirit makes you God's children, and by the Spirit's power we cry out to God, "Dad! Dad!"

Romans 8:15

TWO DADS?

Is God dad to you? Today He can be your dad too, all you have to do is start to follow and trust Jesus

*Preached by Mark Reid
Based on CVM Materials
MRBC Felixstowe 19/6/11
(c) Mark Reid 2011*

Finding Form
being a father in today's world



What sort of dad?

Finding Form
being a father in today's world




Finding Form
being a father in today's world




Finding Form
being a father in today's world




Finding Form
being a father in today's world




Finding Form
being a father in today's world




Finding Form
being a father in today's world




Finding Form
being a father in today's world



What is real strength?

Paul:
"Action Man?"



Finding Form
being a father in today's world



What is real strength?

"My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak."

Finding Form
being a father in today's world



I like my dad because....

Finding Form
being a father in today's world



Great dads have big hearts, not (necessarily) big muscles!

Finding Form
being a father in today's world



TWO DADS!

Finding Form
being a father in today's world



The Bible says this about Jesus:
To all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. (John 1:12-13 NLT)

Finding Form
being a father in today's world



For the Spirit that God has given you does not make you slaves and cause you to be afraid; instead, the Spirit makes you God's children, and by the Spirit's power we cry out to God, "Dad! Dad!"
Romans 8:15

Finding Form
being a father in today's world



TWO DADS?