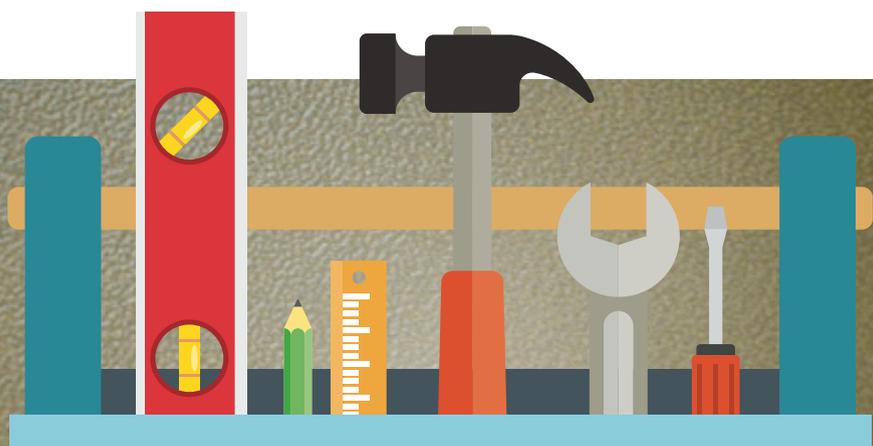


MADE IN HIS IMAGE



DEVOTIONS
for FATHERS

IN HIS IMAGE

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

GENESIS 1:27

How close must God have been to Adam, to actually breathe into his nostrils? What a tender moment that must have been, as Adam took his first breath, opening up his eyes only to see the loving gaze of his Father calling him to life. We are not gods, nor will we ever be gods, but we were made in the image of our Creator.

We are God's children, and we have been created to reflect his image. When I look at my own three children, I can see a little of myself in each one of them. It brings me great joy to see a part of me reflected in them. What joy it must bring to the Father's heart when he can see his own likeness being mirrored in us.

Jesus was the exact representation of his Father (Hebrews 1:3) and came to show us what his Father was really like. We have the privilege of having the fullness of the Godhead dwelling in our mortal bodies too! What character traits of the Father do you have in your life? Do you have his smile? His touch? His laugh? The next time you look in a mirror, look for the Father in your reflection, for he created you in his own image.

**Father, I thank you that I was created
in your image. Help me to see the reflection
of your beauty in my life. Amen.**

HANDCRAFTED

*Then the LORD God formed the man of dust
from the ground... GENESIS 2:7*

We often think, “I am who and where I am because I’ve worked hard to get here.”

Genesis 2 tells a different story. It says that we are dust and that God’s breath animated that dust into life. We are who we are, first of all, because of the life-breath of God. Our very breath depends on him. God is the constant source of our being, not us. At the same time, God sees our vulnerabilities and the challenges of being human. Psalm 103 tells us that God remembers we are dust. God calls us to remember too. When we do, gratitude happens. “Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name” (Psalm 103:1).

Amazingly, God not only sees our vulnerabilities, he also has experienced them in the flesh. When Jesus, who is fully God, lived on this earth, he fully took on the limitations and vulnerabilities of being human. What gives us hope is that Jesus, clothed with our own flesh, died, rose to new life and is now ruling with God in heaven. The dust from which we were made has entered the heavenly throne room on our behalf. Praise the Lord, indeed!

**With gratitude in our hearts we thank you, living
God, for your breath of life. Make us ever grateful.
We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

GOD'S WORKMANSHIP

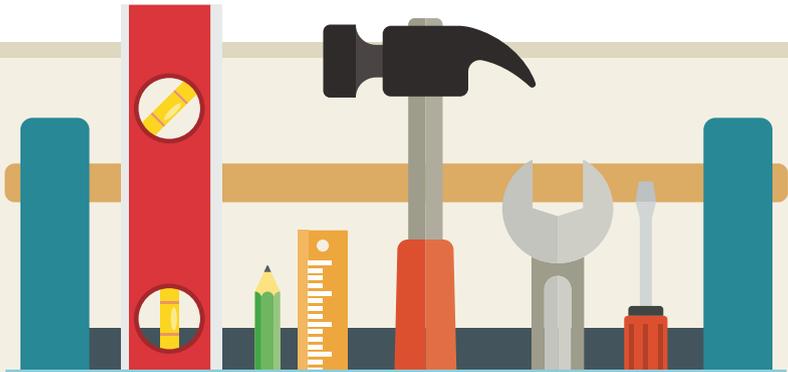
*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. **EPHESIANS 2:10***

Ephesians 2:10 says that we are God's handiwork. If you've ever spent time making something by hand, you may appreciate in some small way the ownership and pride that God has in you, his handmade workmanship. Our Creator sees me as something special and something to be cherished. Certainly not ordinary, not boring, not ho-hum. Nor does he see my life like that. God has given me a family to care for, a job to use my skills, people to connect with and so much more.



Sometimes we get lost in the daily shuffle of life. We might see ourselves as not that great. But God sees so much more. God sees us as special. He has special things for us to do today and every day. He's personally connected to you, his workmanship.

I thank you, Lord, that I am your workmanship, your one-of-a-kind masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus. Help me understand that you are continually shaping, forming, molding and polishing me to walk in your ways for your glory. Amen.



*For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus
for good works, which God prepared beforehand,
that we should walk in them.* **EPHESIANS 2:8-10**

Receive encouragement as a faithful father, grandfather, stepfather, caregiver with this handy two-week devotional prayer booklet. The twelve reflections in *Made in His Image* provide much needed scriptural assurance that our Heavenly Father has hand-crafted us to be loved as his child and to share that fatherly love in our families.

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