



*Asking  
for a  
Friend*

# What do I do if I feel abandoned by God?

*Asking  
for a  
Friend*



## “My Father’s Chair”

Sometimes at night I'd lie awake  
Longing inside for my father's embrace  
Sometimes at night I'd wander downstairs  
And pray he'd returned, but no one was  
there.

Oh, how I'd cry, a child all alone  
Waiting for him to come home.

*Asking  
for a  
Friend*

My father's chair, sat in an empty room  
My father's chair, covered with sheets of gloom  
My father's chair through all the years  
And all the tears I cried in vain  
No one was there in my father's chair.

*Asking  
for a  
Friend*

My father's chair sits in a loving room  
My father's chair, no matter what I do  
My father's chair, through all the years  
And all the tears I need not fear  
Love's always there in my father's chair.

*Asking  
for a  
Friend*

Exodus 4:22

Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Israel is My son, My firstborn.”’

Deut 32:6b, 10

Is not He your Father who has bought you?  
He has made you and established you.  
He found you in a desert land,  
And in the howling waste of a wilderness;  
He encircled you, He cared for you,  
He guarded you as the pupil of His eye.

*Asking  
for a  
Friend*

1 Chronicles 17:13

I will be his father and he shall be My son; and I will not take My lovingkindness away from him.

Psalm 68:5-6

A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, Is God in His holy habitation. God makes a home for the lonely; He leads out the prisoners into prosperity, Only the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

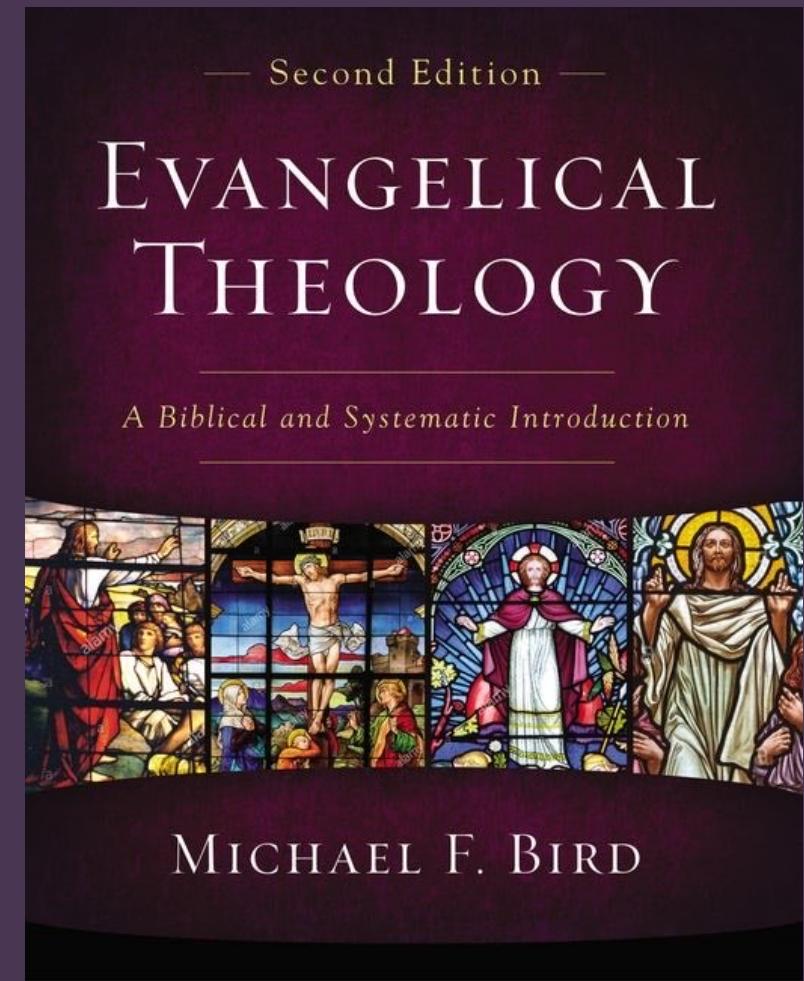
*Asking  
for a  
Friend*

Isaiah 64:8

But now, O Lord, You are our Father,  
We are the clay, and You our potter;  
And all of us are the work of Your  
hand.

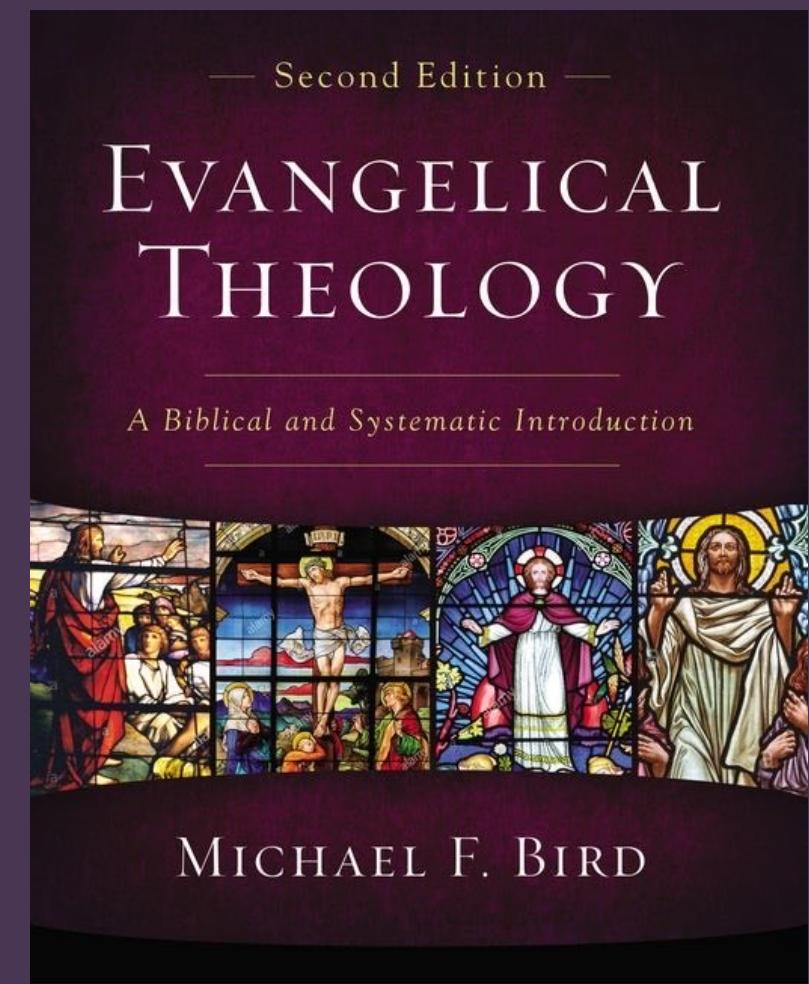
*Asking  
for a  
Friend*

“Like it or not, we have to accept that God is revealed in Scripture as the Father of Israel, of Jesus, and of Christians. The notion of God as the Father is attested in Israel’s Scriptures and is a distinctive feature of New Testament theology and prayer...Fatherhood is a part of God’s revelation of himself...we cannot abandon this image of God as Father without serious injury to our doctrine of God.”



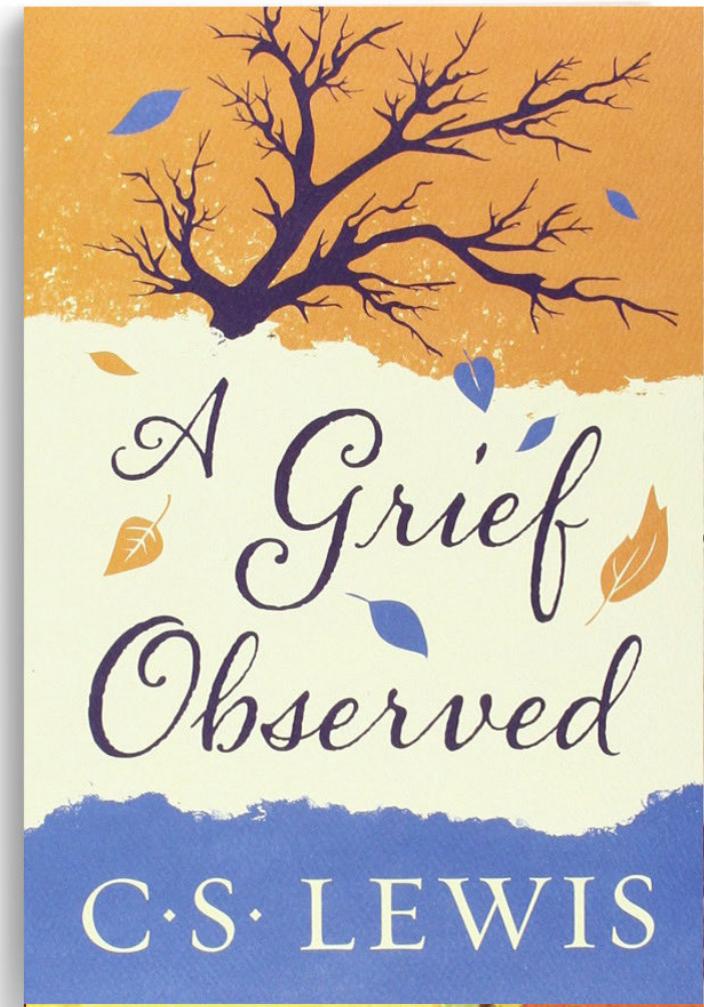
*Asking  
for a  
Friend*

“When we believe in Jesus, we are grafted into the Father-Son relationship within the triune Godhead. Jesus’s Father becomes our Father, and we become children of God. God’s fatherhood is a part of the particularity of God’s self-disclosure; God reveals himself as Father, the Father of Israel, the Father of Jesus, and even the Father of believers. God as Father is not a dispensable category.”



What we do when our EXPERIENCE  
doesn't match our THEOLOGY?

*Asking  
for a  
Friend*



“Meanwhile, where is God? This is one of the most disquieting symptoms [of grief]. When you are happy, so happy that you have no sense of needing Him, so happy that you are tempted to feel His claims upon you as an interruption, if you remember yourself and turn to Him with gratitude and praise, you will be—or so it feels—welcomed with open arms...



*Asking  
for a  
Friend*

But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence. You may as well turn away. The longer you wait, the more emphatic the silence will become. There are no lights in the windows. It might be an empty house. Was it ever inhabited? It seemed so once...Why is He so present a commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent a help in time of trouble?"



*Asking  
for a  
Friend*

God doesn't leave us, God  
doesn't abandon us, God is  
not absent in our grief.

*Asking  
for a  
Friend*

## Mark 14:35–36

And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. And He was saying, “Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.”

*Asking  
for a  
Friend*



Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit.

*Asking  
for a  
Friend*