

The following is a rough summary of a post from my blog originally published in 2015:

*The heart of this pastor longs to worship and lead worship. Nothing tops praising and thanking God for the hope of the resurrection through faith in Jesus Christ. Worshipping with my family, though, especially my 22-month-old daughter (now 5 years), is always a joy. I say that because this pastor's heart was touched by his little girl just recently in worship. I had just finished presiding over a baptism where I was carrying the cute little baby up and down the aisle to show her off and introduce her to the congregation. I then handed the baby off to her mother and sat down. Just then, from a couple rows back, I heard my little girl crying,*

*"I want my daddy! I want my daddy!"*

*The next thing I notice is my little girl coming up to me in tears. I picked her up and set her on my lap as we listened to scripture being read. I wiped the tears from her eyes and kissed her gently on the cheek; whispering,*

*"I love you, sweetie."*

*My little girl just sat there with me very quietly; simply wanting to be near me (my guess is that she was jealous of me carrying the newly baptized baby up and down the aisle and not her). During the final reading I brought her back to mommy and all was well.*

My heart simply melts when one of my children says, "I want my daddy", but my heart has been forever transformed because my heavenly Daddy has said, "I want my child". Through faith in Jesus Christ, God has claimed me. Through baptism I am forever sealed and marked with the cross of Christ. God carries me in His arms and proudly shows me off as His own. On Sunday, I get to proclaim these promises to a 10-year-old boy who asked to be baptized. My heart melted when I learned of this request and my prayer is that this boy's heart is captured by his heavenly Daddy as he grows to learn what it means to be claimed by Him; "I want my child".

As a pastor, there are few things I enjoy more than baptizing someone in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. To think that God is saying, "I want my child", warms my heart causing me to shout in joy as I worship our awesome God. This is the Good News in a bad news world; God is

a gracious and loving God, and through faith in Jesus, He calls and claims His children, saving them from sin, death and the power of Satan. On Sunday, I get to proclaim that Good News to a 10-year-old boy. Today, know that this Good News is for you as well. To God be the glory. Amen.