One of the highest compliments that a Bolivian could give the mother or father of a newborn baby is to say they look just like you. I remember once after our youngest daughter was born a young lady at church looked at Rachel very closely and then looked at me and said those famous words... At that point, being a bit of a practical joker, I said "Oh no. I hope not. Girls just don't look good in beards." That, of course, created a great deal of laughter. In the spiritual realm how wonderful to have some one say to us... you are like your "Father" or you are like your "Lord". Let's look at these verses together.

I John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, <u>because we love our brothers</u>. Anyone who does not love remains in death. (NIV)

Matthew 6:7-8 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. [8] Do not be like them, for <u>your Father knows what you need before you ask him.</u> (NIV)

A Godward Life Vol. 1 "Having facial features of your earthly father does not make you his child, but IT SHOWS you are his child. So it is with love. It does not make us children of God. Love is the way people act, who are born of God. ...let us be children of God. How? Trust God as your Father to take care of you in all the risks of love..." (Piper 272) After all He does know what we need even before we ask. So we can Love others freely and without expecting any return simply because we are loved by our Father in Heaven.

PRAYER: Lord God, help me to Love others, even those who are hard for me to love. Help me to trust You for power to live as Your representative. Help me to be your hands and feet, your voice of Love.

Pastor Mark Kieft