

The responsibilities of a spiritual father to a son

Every natural father has a desire to see his natural son(s) do better than he. Every natural father wants to point to his natural son and brag on him. It delights his heart to say; "My son the doctor, or lawyer or whatever". As Christians we are delighted to say; "My son or daughter loves the Lord."

This proper pride has come from a heart of love and affection. Even though the son may wince, **he enjoys the father bragging on him. He knows the father loves him and is proud of him.**

In today's society not too many fathers even care what their sons do. They shrug their shoulders and say; "Oh well!" The same is true with most Christians. Most adult children despise what the father is doing. They realize, he says one thing to his Christian friends but acts entirely different at home. **Generally the man acts like an orphan and is only concerned about his own interests. He has learned how to run, hide and shift blame. His motivation is to possess, acquire and control.**

Most Christian fathers have had a poor relationship with their natural father and pass this attitude along to their children. Almost all of them have not had a spiritual father to help them mature in the Lord. Today in some societies almost 67% of children are being raised in single parent homes (mostly by mothers).

Just think about the Christian people you know. How many of their children are strong believers? How many know who they are and are pursuing their destiny in the Lord.

We have learned how to complain about the ills of our society. We accept the condition of orphans leading orphans with their limited or non-existence knowledge of the Kingdom of God. We have stepped into the trap of thinking if we can get our children to pray the prayer at least when they die they will go to heaven.

It is and always has been God's intention to pass along the blessings of the father to the son. Abraham blessed Isaac (see Gen 25:5). Isaac blessed Jacob (see Gen. 28:1). Jacob blessed his twelve sons (see Gen 49). The Bible shows us of other situations where the father paid little attention to his son or gave up entirely on him. Each of these examples resulted in tragedy, where the son rebelled or even killed the father (see 1 Kings 12).

It has always been God's plan to pass the blessings of the father to the son(s); and from the son to his son. In this way the purposes of God will increase and mature. For example; when the ancient builders of cathedrals in Europe would begin the work, they first planted acorns. They knew their grandsons would need to harvest the oak trees to complete the roofing on the great buildings. This is looking ahead and making decisions for the blessings of future generations.

This is the concept of generational blessings we have so sadly lacked in this generation. However, God is in the process of changing this.

Each of us, therefore, needs to take the necessary steps to migrate into the New Season. The grace for the old season is no longer available. The things we enjoyed in the last season now have become wearisome. God is about to bring order to his fractured body. He is looking for a Bride without spot or wrinkle and He will not be denied.

Let's take a look at some of the issues of migration that must take place in every believer.

In order to become a spiritual father you must first become a spiritual son. We are not spiritual fathers because we are older or have a church position. We are not a spiritual father because our natural father is a churchman, or in church leadership. To become a son we must first submit to The Son of God.

John 1:12

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
KJV

The Son of God will assign a mature man to walk with you as a spiritual father. This man is not perfect but has chosen to accept the discipline of God to move from a position as an orphan to a place of becoming a fully mature son of God. He should be a man who is more mature than the son although age is not important. He should be a man who is gifted with a parental responsibility for the spiritual son. He will be available to the spiritual son with his time and council. He is a man who is a spiritual son to a spiritual father.

Most importantly he is a man who has heard from The Father to accept you as a spiritual son. He must be a man of consistency and who possesses incredible patience.

He is not a mentor who will only impart information to you, but he will mentor you. He is not an advisor among many of which you can choose what seems best. He will advise you but his advice needs to be received in the light of the gift of God he is to the son. He is not a Life-Coach who will encourage you and cheer you on, although he will encourage you greatly with prophetic words of great substance.

He will be a father to you. As such, he has many responsibilities and goals for you. He has been commissioned by The Father to give an account for you (see Hebrews 13:17). He is to see to it you grow through the stages of sonship to a mature man or woman, putting away childish things.

He will pray for you like Paul did for the Ephesians.

Eph 1:15-19

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. NIV

He will warn you, like Paul did for the Corinthians.

1 Cor 4:14-17

¹⁴ I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. ¹⁵ Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶ Therefore I urge you to imitate me. ¹⁷ For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. NIV

He will command and encourage you.

1 Tim 1:18-19

¹⁸ Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, ¹⁹ holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. NIV

1 Tim 1:3-7

³ As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer ⁴ nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work – which is by faith. ⁵ The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. ⁷ They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. NIV

Paul had taken the responsibility for his son(s) maturity and growth in the Lord. He was not laid-back and he was not overbearing.

1 Thess 2:7-8

⁷ But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. ⁸ So, affectionately longing for you, NKJV

A spiritual father will do all these things in the course of the relationship with a spiritual son. He will take the responsibility to expose the son's destiny and urge him to fulfill that destiny. He will brag on him, draw him forth, give him opportunities to mature and stand by him when he makes mistakes. The spiritual father will help the son with his confidence to hear and obey The Father.

The spiritual father will rejoice when his son does greater things than he has done. He will be delighted to say; this is my son in whom I am well pleased. He will take responsibility for the son to see him mature and take his place as a mature son to the delight of The Father.

He will train and encourage the spiritual son to possess the attributes of Christ, who gave His life for us, not counting the shame of a life laid down. The spiritual father will insist on a life of love and humility toward all men demonstrated first through the spiritual father because of his walk with The Father.

As we migrate into the New Season we will find the joy of walking with a spiritual father. He will help us receive the inheritance The Father has intensioned in His heart for all His sons.