

Fathers & Mothers With Spiritual Insight At The End of The Age

I. 6 Biblical Characteristics of Godly Fathers & Mothers

- a. First and foremost, we have to acknowledge that though you may not be a natural father or mother you are called to function as a spiritual father or mother. You might be currently functioning as a spiritual father or mother but if not, you're in preparation to be a Godly spiritual father or mother. Your current natural circumstances do not disqualify you from being a spiritual father or mother. Also, being a spiritual father or mother doesn't give you a license to control and abuse people.

(1 Peter 5:1-3 NASB), "Therefore, I urge elders among you, as your fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and one who is also a fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not with greed but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock."

- b. Second, we need to understand that fathers' and mothers' greatest influence takes place not in an instant on a giant platform, but over decades in the midst of mundane life. Just because the calling to be a father or mother takes time and happens in the mundane does not mean it's not relevant, it means it's precious and valuable. I've identified 6 biblical characteristics of Godly fathers and mothers that will help us to "parent" well both naturally and spiritually.
- c. **Fathers & Mothers Lay Down Their Lives** - Paul, as a spiritual father was ready to lay down his life for his spiritual children. Good fathers and mothers lay down their lives for their kids. They surrender their time, schedule, and energy for the sake of love.

(2 Corinthians 12:14-15 NASB), "Here for this third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden to you; for I do not seek what is yours, but you; for children are not responsible to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. 15 I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls."

- d. **Fathers & Mothers Are Examples To Imitate** – The lifestyle that Paul lived was one worth imitating. He walked righteousness and modeled whole-hearted devotion to Christ. Godly mothers and fathers are a good example to their children.

(1 Corinthians 4:14-16 NASB), "I am not writing these things to shame you, but to warn you as my beloved children. 15 For even if you had ten thousand others to teach you about Christ, you have only one spiritual father. For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you. 16 So I urge you to imitate me."

- e. **Fathers & Mothers Instruct & Impart** – Elijah functioned as a spiritual father for Elisha. He helped instruct Elisha as a prophet and imparted a double portion to him. Fathers and mothers must instruct, train, and impart wisdom to their kids.

(2 Kings 2:12 NASB), "And Elisha was watching it and he was crying out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" And he did not see Elijah again. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces."

- f. **Fathers & Mothers Have Hearts That Embrace** – The father had every right to reject his prodigal son and harshly rebuke him. However, his first response when seeing his son was to run toward the son and embrace him and defend him from the shameful consequence of death that he deserved. Our first response as fathers and mothers should be to embrace our children first.

(Deuteronomy 18:21 NASB), "If any person has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father or his mother, and when they discipline him, he does not listen to them, 19 then his father and mother shall seize him, and

bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his hometown. 20 And they shall say to the elders of his city, ‘This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he does not obey us, he is thoughtless and given to drinking.’ 21 Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; so you shall eliminate the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear about it and fear.”

(Luke 15:20 NASB), “...But when he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.”

- g. **Fathers & Mothers Lovingly & Gracefully Discipline** – Discipline is an important part of godly parenting. If we do not teach our children healthy boundaries, we do them a disservice. With much love and grace we must discipline our children (*Colossians 3:21; Ephesians 6:4; Hebrews 12:11; Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 22:6; Proverbs 29:15; Proverbs 29:17*).

(Hebrews 12:11 NASB), “For the moment, all discipline seems not to be pleasant, but painful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

(Proverbs 13:24 NASB), “He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.”

- h. **Fathers & Mothers Store Up Riches** – Beyond saving up an earthly inheritance for their children, Fathers and mothers should save up gold refined in the fire, and wisdom for their children. Purity and wisdom are a valuable inheritance that we can store up for our children.

(2 Corinthians 12:14 NASB), “Here for this third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden to you; for I do not seek what is yours, but you; for children are not responsible to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.”

II. Storing Up Spiritual Insight (Skill To Understand)

- a. Daniel’s prophetic ministry was the result of a lifestyle of prayer and fasting. In Daniel 9, while Daniel was fasting and in intercession, Gabriel brings Daniel insight with understanding (skill to understand NKJV). Immediately after, Gabriel gives Daniel the “Seventy Weeks Prophecy”, which is one of the most important scriptures for you and I today related to discerning the urgency of the hour.

(Daniel 9:22 NASB), “And he instructed me and talked with me and said, “Daniel, I have come now to give you insight with understanding [skill to understand NKJV].”

- b. The Hebrew word translated “to give insight, or to give skill” is “šākal”. Šākal means to wisely understand; to be prudent, or circumspect. To have that type of skill to understand means we have a high regard for the future and we’re motivated with resolve and intent to rightly approach circumstances before us and yet to come.
- c. In Colossians 1, Paul calls this type of skill to understand, “spiritual wisdom and understanding (insight)”. He further says that spiritual wisdom and understanding are what lead us to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord; our lives become like a pleasing fragrance to Him as we bear fruit in the works of God and increase in intimacy with Him. Simply put, skillful insight enables us to walk confidently in our eternal purpose in this current age.

(Colossians 1:9-10 NASB), “For this reason we also, since the day we heard about it, have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”

- d. Without spiritual understanding, we lack vision for the hour we live in, and the significance of our role in that hour, and as a result we wander aimlessly. Without God’s grace and skill to understand, we might

find ourselves on the wrong side of the Psalm 2 crisis where we're casting of the "restraint of God's ways". In David's prescription for the Psalm 2 crisis, he uses the word, "sākal". He instructs the kings of the earth to "be wise, or use skillful insight" so that they won't be caught up in the rage.

(Proverbs 29:18 NASB), "Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is one who keeps the Law."

(Psalm 2:1-3 NASB), "Why are the nations restless And the peoples plotting in vain? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers conspire together Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 3 "Let's tear their shackles apart And throw their ropes away from us!"

(Psalm 2:10 NASB), "Now then, you kings, use insight; Let yourselves be instructed, you judges of the earth."

III. The Church at the End of the Age

- a. At the end of the age, we will be a fully mature bride that has made herself ready, not clinging on to her own life in the midst of unprecedented shaking and persecution. She will be fiercely faithful to the One she loves because she knows Him and knows who she is. She will be strong, take action, and fulfill her end time role. The praying church will have insight and instruct many in the most extraordinary time in history.

(Revelation 12:11 NASB), "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death."

(Daniel 11:32-33 NASB), "but the people who know their God will be strong and take action. 33 And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for many days."

- b. Currently, God is raising up the church to operate in the spirit and power of Elijah. The hearts of both natural and spiritual fathers will be turned to their sons and the sons back to the fathers. The spirit of Elijah will take the Church from functioning as an organization to functioning as a family.

(Malachi 4:5-6 NASB), "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. 6 He will turn the hearts of the fathers back to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and strike the land with complete destruction."

(Luke 1:17 NASB), "And it is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers back to their children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

- c. One of the most important things we can do in this hour as both natural and spiritual fathers and mothers is to "parent" well. Your impact on the one or two that God has called you to disciple, mentor, or train is more significant than we often realize. We often think that our greatest influence is when God finally gives us the right job, platform, or opportunity, but your current life circumstance is an opportunity function as a wise father or mother. In light of the current shaking and the coming end time shaking, we must be fathers and mothers that "parent" with spiritual wisdom and skillful insight.

(1 John 2:15-18 NASB), "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues to live forever. 18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour."

Questions For Discussion

- 1) Did you realize you're a spiritual father or mother? After tonight's session, do you feel empowered to walk in that calling?
- 2) Which of the 6 characteristics of Godly parents sticks out to you the most? Why?
- 3) What are practical ways to store up spiritual wisdom for the next generation?
- 4) What type of emotions or thoughts do you have when you think about the fact that you could be one of those who is persecuted or "falls by the sword" for having end of the age insight?