**Our Treasured Fathers**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**1 Kings 2:1-4**

**Sunday Morning**

**June 19, 2022**

**1 Kings 2:1-4**

1 Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: 2 "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man.

3 And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn;

4 that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

Saints, the final words of a father to a son are profoundly significant, especially when a transfer of divine purpose and responsibility are involved.

King David had some advice for his son Solomon as he lay dying. When his time drew near, he charged his son Solomon to be spiritually strong, obedient, and faithful. This advice that still resonates thousand years later.

**Newspaper columnist Abigail Van Buren wrote,** "If you want your children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders." Responsibility isn't a curse, it's a blessing.

**Booker T. Washington said,** "Few things help an individual more that to place responsibility upon him and to let him know that you trust him."

Saints, to become a man means your willing to take responsibility for how you live your life. Irresponsible people run away, make excuses or blame others,

and those who do run away never learn to become men or women of integrity and proven character, nor do they know the joy of the Lord or inherit the promises He gives to the faithful.

Saints, King David became a real man, because he was a man after God's own heart. Yes, he had his warts and blemishes, but he became a man of God, and received promises from God like few others ever have.

David determined not to run away from his difficulties and sins but to faced them and thus he learned what it takes to become a real man.

**Do we men still need such advice today?**

Saints, fathers are too significant not to learn to become real men. Saints here are some startling statistics on how incredibly important is the Dad's role for children to become well-adjusted adults.

**43% of US children live without their father**

**SOURCE: US Department of Census**

**63% of teen suicides are from fatherless homes. That's 5 times the national average.**

**SOURCE: U.S. Dept of Health H.S., Bureau of the Census**

**71% of pregnant teenagers lack a father.**

**SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

**90% of all runaways and homeless children are from fatherless homes. That's 32 times the national average.**

**SOURCE: US D.H.H.S., Bureau of the Census**

**80% of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes. 14 times the national average.**

**SOURCE: Criminal Justice & Behavior, Vol 14, pp. 403-26, 1978**

**85% of children with behavioral problems come from fatherless homes. 20 times the national average.**

**SOURCE: Center for Disease Control**

**71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes. 9 times the national average.**

**SOURCE: National Principals Association Report**

**75% of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes. 10 times the national average.**

**SOURCE: Rainbow's for all God's Children**

**85% of all youths in prison come from fatherless homes. 20 times the national average.**

**SOURCE: U.S. Dept. of Justice**

**Daughters of single parents without a Father involved are 53% more likely to marry as teenagers, 711% more likely to have children as teenagers, 164% more likely to have a pre-marital birth and 92% more likely to get divorced themselves.**

**SOURCE: Teen Challenge**

**85% of youths in prisons grew up in a fatherless home.**

**SOURCE: Texas Department of Corrections, 2021**

**Fatherless boys and girls are: twice as likely to drop out of high school; twice as likely to end up in jail; four times more likely to need help for emotional or behavioral problems.**

**SOURCE: US D.H.H.S. news release**

**Proverbs 23:22-25**

22 Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old. 23 Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding. 24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise child will delight in him. 25 Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her who bore you rejoice.

Saints, what do you imagine our heavenly Father does each day? Perhaps create, reign, control, or judging comes to mind. Most people probably wouldn’t add the verb nurture to their list. But they should.

**Nurture**: as defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, means “to supply with nourishment; to educate; or to further the development of.”

Scripture reveals a God who is a tender Parent, gently nudging us towards maturity in Christ. Let’s look at some of the ways the Father nurtures believers.

**1. Our Heavenly Father nurtures us by comforting us when we are troubled.**

Saints, we serve a God who comforts the depressed and gives supernatural peace to those who feel troubled

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

**2 Corinthians 7:6**

"Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast..."

Saints, what is one practical way believers can experience God’s comfort?

**2. Our Heavenly Father nurtures us through His tender care.**

Saints, often we think of the Lord as having the qualities of a good father. Did you know He also cares for us as tenderly as a mother?

**Isaiah 49:15-16**

15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. 16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

Saints, how does it make you feel to know that God has compassion on you?

**James 5:11**

11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

**3. Our Heavenly Father nurtures us by providing for our needs.**

Saints, what did Jesus promise that the Father will supply if believers seek God first?

**Matthew 6:25-31**

25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

28 So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

**Philippians 4:19**

"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

**4. Our Heavenly Father nurtures us through encouragement.**

Unlike some authority figures, God never tries to motivate us through shame, criticism, or conditional acceptance. Instead, He directs our attention to who we are in Christ, our positive traits and abilities, and our unique role in His plan.

Saints, what is one of the primary ways the Lord encourages us?

**Romans 15:4**

"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope"

**5. Our Heavenly Father nurtures us through loving discipline.**

One final way God parents us is by correcting us when we are deliberately sinning. He may allow us to experience hardship, failure, or disappointment. Or He may simply allow us to get “caught.”

**Hebrews 12:1-8**

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:"My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

**6. Our Heavenly Father nurtures us through personal instruction.**

Saints, several verses in the New Testament indicate that our Heavenly Father Himself desires to teach every believer.

**John 14:26**

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you..."

**What did God teach the Thessalonians?**

**1 Thessalonians 4:9**

9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

Saints, do you have spiritual issues that need direction, instruction, or guidance from the Holy Spirit? Write your questions here and trust Him to reveal the answers in His timing.

**7. Our Heavenly Father nurtures us through encouragement.**

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**In Closing:**

**Proverbs 20:7**

"The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him."

**A Father's Love**

A father is respected because He gives his children leadership...

Appreciated because He gives his children care...

Valued because He gives his children time...

Loved because He gives his children the one thing they treasure most - himself...

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let's Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**