

FOREWORD BY BISHOP WESLEY ARIJE

THE
Mystery
— OF —
SPIRITUAL
FATHERHOOD

UNLOCKING THE TRUE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE TO FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIP



ISAIAH MICHAEL WEALTH

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DEDICATION



I dedicate this book to every person who has served in my life as birthing fathers and mentoring fathers, but above all, to my covering father, Bishop Wesley Arije. But if you do not know the difference between birthing fathers, mentoring fathers and covering fathers, read this book.

I also dedicate this book to all my sons within and sons without who have stood with me in ministry all these years. May the Lord continue to bless you all.

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Dedication	iv
Table of Contents	v
Foreword	vi
Introduction	ix
CHAPTER ONE: The Father of all Flesh	1
CHAPTER TWO: The Responsibility of Fatherhood	14
CHAPTER THREE: The Birthing Father	21
CHAPTER FOUR: The Mentoring Father	29
CHAPTER FIVE: The Covering Father	36
CHAPTER SIX: The Authority of a Covering Father	58
CHAPTER SEVEN: Honouring Fathers	77
CHAPTER EIGHT: Fatherhood and Discipline	114

FOREWORD



In all ages, God always identifies His generals, divinely sets them up and positions them not to only be a voice but also a living epistle of His intent.

Dr. Isaiah Wealth, one of God's generals, has laid his entire life on the pages of this book as he paints on the canvas of his sonship to me and the billboard of his fatherhood to the host of sons and daughters he covers.

Having spent so many years with him, this General has committed with absolute abandonment his entire life to his covering father.

The Lord instructed me that as his covering father, I am a catalyst to him. A catalyst is a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change. It accelerates the process of already existing chemicals.

In other words, all the ingredients for what God wants in his life are already present, but as a covering father, the anointing in my life and his submission is like yeast to a bread.

Therefore, honouring his covering father to the extent that moves the heart of God, accelerates the process of his blessings. Thus, what would have taken years will only take months, and even days, because the oil that flows on my head accelerates the process to destiny.

It is this kind of anointing that causes the earth to bring forth in one day and a nation to be born at once. And by this anointing, he has reaped sons and daughters with reckless obedience and commitment who recognize that he is a template of divine origin.

With the precision of a theological surgeon, he has fully explored and explained the three different kinds of fatherhood.

A thorough explanation of a covering father was also unveiled because the understanding of fatherhood is the prerequisite to paternal blessings.

He has therefore succeeded in showing us the key to the paternal blessings through subjection to appropriate discipline.

Equipped by the Holy Spirit and resting on his foundational anointing as a teacher of teachers, my beloved son has rhapsodized the essence of fatherhood taking cues from the father of fatherhood, God.

It is amazing that God guided His name and did not share Adonai, Elohim, Shaddai or Yahweh with men but only the name "Abba" (father) did he generously share with mankind. His divine nature as a giver demonstrated in John 3:16 is shown when He gave man the privilege to be like Him.

We therefore have the greatest opportunity to give part of what we have (rib) to another to enable them to become what they must be.

This rightful endowment opens a door for us to develop progeny and invest in the growth and development of God's kingdom on earth.

INTRODUCTION

Why should a son curse his own father?

There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

Proverbs 30:11-12, 17.

Before a generation comes to cursing, it must have failed to recognize fathers, yet the father-son relationship is a special relationship ordained by God to bring about a blessing on the earth.

When sons no longer recognize their fathers, it brings a

curse.

*The eye that mocketh at his father,
and despiseth to obey his mother,
the ravens of the valley shall pick it
out, and the young eagles shall eat it.*

Proverbs 30: 17.

It is important to know that the authority to bless has been given to fathers. Thus, whatever a father blesses is what God blesses and whatever a father curses is cursed. This is God's system.

*And Noah awoke from his wine, and
knew what his younger son had
done unto him. And he said, Cursed
be Canaan; a servant of servants
shall he be unto his brethren. And
he said, Blessed be the LORD God of
Shem; and Canaan shall be his
servant. God shall enlarge Japheth,
and he shall dwell in the tents of
Shem; and Canaan shall be his
servant.*

Genesis 9:24 ~ 25

The curse that Noah released on his son Canaan is still evident today as the generation of Canaan are still struggling, thousands of years later. Another example that we see in scriptures is that of Jacob when he made pronouncements over his children in Genesis chapter 49. These were his words:

Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.

Genesis 49:3-4

And later we see in 1 Chronicles Chapter 5, that Reuben lost his birth right to Joseph. His father demoted him by the words spoken over him.

Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he was the

firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright.

1Chronicles 5:1

So just as his father Jacob prophesied, he did not excel. We see that no judge, prince, prophet or any one of renown ever came from the tribe of Reuben except for Abiram and Dathan, known for their rebellion against Moses. The tribe of Reuben was left a small and secluded tribe as they inherited an area on the other side of Jordan. It however took the blessing of Moses, another father to revoke the curse upon Reuben.

Let Reuben live, and not die; and let not his men be few.

Deuteronomy 33:6

On the positive, Jacob blessed Judah as we see in the scripture below;

Judah, thou art he whom thy

brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

Genesis 49:8-10

Judah's blessing became true of the tribe of Judah as Judah's descendants became the rulers of the tribe of Israel including King David. Jesus also came out of the tribe of Judah.

For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler;

1Chronicles 5:2

Upon further study, you would see that the exact words

Jacob spoke over his children is what happened to them and their generation. This is why you need to understand fatherhood. Sadly, however this is one of the most misunderstood subject matters in our day, and the reason why we see sons cursing fathers in the name of reformation, activism, etc. It is important to know that the Bible warns against this, and I think it is high time we went back to the scriptures and understood where God has set the limits in terms of dealing with fathers.

Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.

1 Timothy 5:19

Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;

1 Timothy 5:1

This goes to show the place of elders, and by extension fathers with God. Fathers have a place with God and it is in

our interest to understand that place. There is no better time to understand these things than now especially as we anticipate the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Malachi 4:5-6

This book is coming in the spirit and power of Elijah to restore fathers to sons and sons to their fathers, so that fathers can understand their responsibilities towards their sons, and sons to understand the role and place of their fathers, so that we can activate the spiritual blessings needed on the earth before Christ comes.

I have written this book to help the church gain understanding and be positioned to both receive and release the blessing of fatherhood.

CHAPTER ONE

THE FATHER OF ALL FLESH



The beginning of the scriptures as we see in the book of Genesis shows us explicitly the creation of all living things by God.

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that

creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 1:21-27

The latter part of the scriptures above show us that God created man after His image and likeness, both male and female. Thus all men both male and female were created on the day God created man, making God the father of all flesh.

Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? ...

Malachi 2:10

Furthermore, the prophet Isaiah reminds us that God is our father because we are the works of His hands

But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

Isaiah 64:8

Again Ephesians chapter 4 vs 6 reveals that we have one God who is the father of all.

One God and Father of all.

Ephesians 4:6

It is therefore without doubt that all men including yourself were created by God in the first man called Adam.

Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.

Luke 3:38

After the creation, God formed man from the dust and breathed into him the breath of Life.

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Genesis 2:7

And from him, God made the first woman. She was made or formed with a rib taken from man.

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Genesis 2:21-23

However, she was already ‘created’ in Adam as we previously saw in Genesis chapter 1,

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 1:27

Regardless of the many theories about the origin of man like the Darwin's theory of evolution which claims man evolved from apes, the word of God shows us clearly that God is the father of man because He created man in his own image and likeness. Thus, God is creator and father of all men who have, are and will ever live on this planet, saved or unsaved.

And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth.....

Acts 17:26

The Nature of a Father

As the father of all flesh, God has made all resources equally available to all men. His goodness extends to creature as he makes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good.

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5:45

His mercy and grace extends even to the wicked and the unthankful.

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Luke 6:35 -36

He is good to all and his great love is towards all even those who do not deserve it.

The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his

works.

Psalms 145:9

Did you see that? His mercies are over all his children or works. He takes no pleasure in the death or suffering of any including the wicked and those who despise and profane his name.

Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live:

Ezekiel 33:11

However, He desires that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

1Timothy2:4

And the greatest proof of this love for man is sending His son Jesus to die for the sins of the world and to give man Eternal Life.

For God so loved the world, that he

gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 3:16-17

That is worth celebrating! Not only did He create man and made available all that he would need for life, He also made the provision of salvation that none may be lost and separated from him. So great is this love of God for His creature that it reveals to us a perfect example of Fatherhood.

The Privilege of Fatherhood

Just as we mentioned above, Adam was the first son of God as the scriptures reveal.

Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the

son of Adam, which was the son of God.

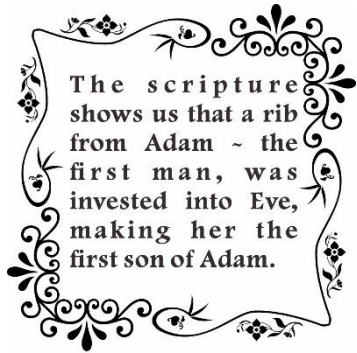
Luke 3:38

This was the case because everything that he had came directly from God, as he had no mother. No other person was involved in his creation or had the opportunity to invest in his life. This is unlike what we see in the making of the next human being after him, which was Eve.

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Genesis 2:21-23

The scripture above shows us that a rib from Adam - the first man was invested into Eve, making her the first son of Adam according to this understanding. Although this rib belonged to God, it was in Adam's possession, making it his. Therefore, when the rib finally got into Eve, she was a son of God but also a son of Adam. And since Adam, every one born on the earth has had to come through and be raised by a father.



And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

Genesis 4:1

This explains the concept of fatherhood, a privilege and opportunity God gives someone to give a part of what he has to another, to enable him become what he must be. This is heaven's order, clearly revealed in the fact that everyone on earth has a father. This means that at a point, you would

be a son to someone, and at another point, you may become a father to some other person(s).

Spiritual Fatherhood

Just as we have established the principle of fatherhood in the flesh, the same applies in the spirit. Just as every man has a biological father, the Bible shows us that we also have spiritual father(s) in Christ.

For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

1Corinthians 4:15

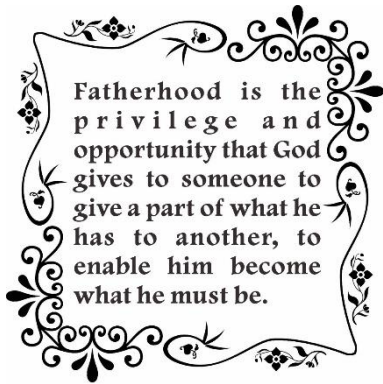
*To Timothy, my dearly beloved son:
Grace, mercy, and peace, from God
the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*

2Timothy 1:2

Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Timothy 1:2

In the scriptures above, we see Apostle Paul stating his spiritual role in the life of Timothy and of that of the Corinthian church. This is spiritual fatherhood. It is birthing and raising sons in the faith or through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.



CHAPTER TWO

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF
FATHERHOOD



According to the Cambridge dictionary, fatherhood refers to the state or time of being a father. It also refers to the spirit of being a father. However, the free dictionary gives us deeper insight into the word. It defines fatherhood as the state, quality, or the responsibility of being a father. Thus we see that fatherhood is more than a state of being but also a quality and most importantly a responsibility.

We all know that it is not enough to give birth to a child, there are responsibilities that accompany fatherhood. In the same way, spiritual fatherhood is not only about birthing someone into the Kingdom of God. It also includes

involvement in the investment for the growth and development of that person. It is not an opportunity to put another under tribute or to usurp authority over others, but a call to serve and develop progeny and a great responsibility.

Fatherhood and Inheritance

The primary responsibility of a father is to invest into the life of his children. God, the father of all flesh, shows us the perfect example by giving His son Jesus to save all men.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

Again, Jesus teaching, reveals in his parables this primary responsibility of fathers;

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he

give him a serpent?

Mathew 7:9-10

If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

Luke 11:11-12

The above scriptures underscore the role of the father in giving as Jesus asks repeatedly “will he give him?”. Thus we see that fatherhood is not about taking but giving the children the necessary support for their growth and development.

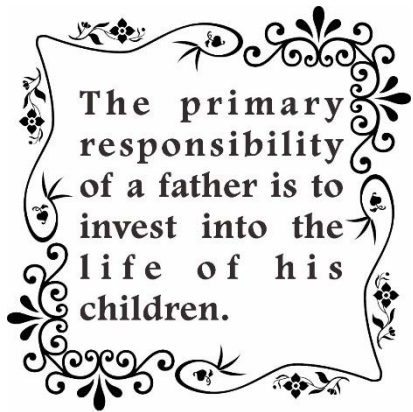
A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

Proverbs 13:22

The scripture above also shows us the characteristic of a good father. He is one who leaves an inheritance for his

children's children. Sadly, the opposite is what obtains today where many fathers instead are dependent on their children for sustenance. This is not God's standard. A father ought to be big enough to support not only his children, but their own children also.

As a biological father myself, I am certain that my children would be greater than me. However, based on this revelation, I am determined never to depend on my children in my lifetime. I want to be big enough for my children and their children to call me Papa (i.e to glory in my wealth).



Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

Proverbs 17:6

In like manner, the spiritual father is to provide support, mentorship, training, guidance, direction, counselling etc. for his children so that they can achieve God's purpose and plans for their lives. This is the will of God and the joy of fatherhood.

Fatherhood and Lifting

It is also the responsibility of the father to lift the child. By lifting, I mean to equip the child with the tools and the platform to stand and to rise.

Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

Proverbs 17:6

The latter part of the above scripture shows us something quite unusual. It says that glory of the children are their fathers. Not vice-versa. Glory here refers to a state of high renown, pride, honour, fame, splendour and prosperity. So we can translate it this way "the pride or high renown, fame, honour, splendour and prosperity of children are their fathers."

Thus, fathers are supposed to set the platform for their sons to rise. For instance, I am a spiritual father to many, and my passion is to lift my sons and daughters, equipping them with the needed resources, wisdom and counsel, and also giving them the platform to manifest all that God has given to them. This is the heart of a true father.

A spiritual father has the responsibility of lifting up his sons until they reach the fullness of their potential. To understand this more, let us consider the types of spiritual fathers.

Types of Spiritual Fathers

There are three types of spiritual fatherhood modelled in scriptures. I have highlighted them below, and I will begin to elaborate on them from the next chapter.

1. The Birthing Fathers.
2. The Mentoring Fathers.
3. The Covering Fathers.

CHAPTER THREE

THE BIRTHING FATHERS



Birthing fathers like the name implies are fathers of birth. That means those who are responsible for birth. In this case, it refers to those who bring persons into salvation or those that birth doctrines, movements or ministry.

Birthing fathers are not chosen or selected as a matter of choice, they are given by divine selection.

*For though ye have ten thousand
instructors in Christ, yet have ye not
many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I
have begotten you through the*

gospel.

1Corinthians 4:15

Types of Birthing Fathers

1. Soul winners

Just as we see in the scripture above, birthing fathers come by as a result of the spiritual birth or salvation of a soul. This is because you automatically become a birthing father to whosoever you lead to Christ. Thus, every man can only have one birthing father. The Apostle Paul alludes to this when he declares his place as a birthing father having led Onesimus to Christ in his jail cell.

*I beseech thee for my son Onesimus,
whom I have begotten in my bonds:*

Philemon 1:10

This means that anyone who leads a soul through the process of genuine salvation is that soul's birthing father. This soul winner might or might not have any further influence on that soul after that time, but he or she forever remains the birthing father.

My Joy and My Crown

Soul winners are special in the sight of God and they will receive a special reward on their crown in heaven for every son they birthed into the Kingdom.

Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

Philippians 4:1

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Daniel 12:3

Also, soul winners will be honoured in heaven as their crowns will have stars for every soul that they have birthed into the Kingdom. Thus, it is important to win souls and to know that though many of the souls you would win may not remain in direct contact with you as they may proceed

to other ministries, under other ministers as covering fathers (we will discuss about covering fathers later in this book), your reward is already in heaven as there remains a record before the LORD for the souls that you birthed into the Kingdom.

So be spurred by this understanding to do more in fathering more souls to Christ in hope of receiving that glorious crown on the last day.

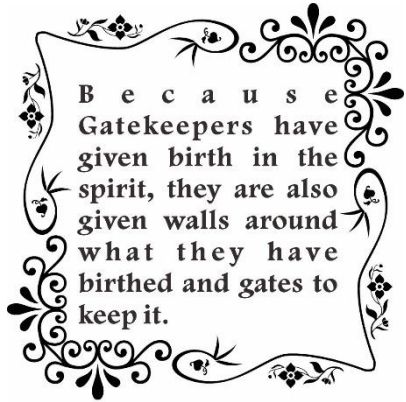
2. Defenders or Gatekeepers

These are those who have given birth to movements, doctrines, or who have been given territorial powers by virtue of birthing the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ within a territory or a place.

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 16:19

Because Gatekeepers have given birth in the spirit, they are also given walls around what they have birthed and gates to keep it. Walls and gates become necessary because they have birthed something new that the enemy will fight to annihilate.



Based on this definition, we have:

- i. Gatekeepers of Movements: They are authorities in their fields who exercise great influence by stirring up and leading a movement to bring about reformation in the Body of Christ. An example of gatekeepers of movements is Martin Luther whose reformation efforts gave birth to what is known today as the Protestant movement in the Body of Christ.
- ii. Gatekeepers of Doctrines: These are given new or uncommon revelations to birth on the earth, which is evident in their teachings that move

the Body of Christ into another level in specific areas of faith. Some popular examples of gatekeepers of doctrines include Smith Wigglesworth whose teachings and demonstrations of faith healing encouraged the Body of Christ, and Kenneth Hagin who deepened believers' understanding of faith all around the world.

- iii. Gatekeepers of Ministry within a geographical area: These are given territories in the spirit, thus they are able to birth and propagate ministries across cities and nations with little or no resistance. These having subdued territorial principalities possess spiritual keys to cities and nations, and are otherwise referred to as gatekeepers over territories. I believe this is the key to the explosive church growth some ministries have experienced. In Nigeria for instance, we had Arch Bishop Benson Idahosa who led a nationwide revival of faith in his days. He is a perfect example of a birthing father who we can refer to as defender or gatekeeper.

It is worthy of note that the influence of defenders or gatekeepers often cuts across denominational boundaries and as such, they are able to effect the will of God on the body of Christ at large.

However, the enemy many times has been able to break through the walls and the gates when the gatekeepers pass on without proper handover. The keys or authorities of these gatekeepers are supposed to be transferred to others in different generations to both maintain and expand the established territory.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE MENTORING FATHER



A mentoring father is one chosen by the necessity of submission. He is the father you submit to for mentorship or to be trained in a specific area. Therefore, a mentoring father can be more than one per time and they can change dependent on your present spiritual need or as the Lord would lead you. But remember that even if for example, God is no longer mentoring you through such a person, he remains a father in your life. It is just like your biological father; though the season passes where he pays school fees, houses and clothes you, he remains a father for life.

*For though ye have ten thousand
instructors in Christ, yet have ye not*

many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

1Corinthians 4:15

I want you to notice that the scripture above never said ye have one father as some would assume, it says ye have ten thousand instructors but not many fathers. Not many means few fathers. So though we have ten thousand instructors, we have few fathers.

Also in the continuation of that verse, the Apostle Paul says I have begotten you in Christ.



For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

1Corinthians 4:15

I want you to also notice in the scripture above that Paul was talking about two kinds of fathers. The mentoring fathers which he refers to as instructors and the birthing father. So for ten thousand mentoring fathers or instructors, you would just have few birthing fathers. This is because few people are into birthing while many are into mentoring.

It is important to note that anyone can become a mentor even without giving birth. For instance, everybody is a son, but not everybody is a father. Everybody will surely be given birth to, but not everybody will give birth. Again, many people are not married, and many will not give birth before they die, but everybody must be born, making the results of birthing far more and thus creating more mentors than fathers.

An example of this is our birthing biological fathers who send us to school to be fathered or mentored in mathematics or physics etc. things they may, and in most cases may not have knowledge about. Birthing therefore does not automatically give the ability to mentor. So someone may be a birthing father and yet lack the ability to mentor.

Types of Mentoring Fathers

Under mentoring fatherhood, we have two kinds of fathers:

1. The Training Father: This is the father you follow and one who trains you, and because you follow, you glean from him. This father trains you in the direction of your calling.

*Be ye followers of me, even as I also
am of Christ.*

1Corinthians 11:1

In this kind of mentorship, close contact is necessary because following someone requires ardent attention to observe every step they take. This close contact many times does not mean you may meet them in person if such opportunity does not exist, but to engage their resources to tap into what they carry. This cannot be seasonal but a day to day, hour to hour determination as their steps may change, causing the follower to veer off.

Not as though I had already attained,

either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12

2. The Influencing Father: The influencing father is a special case of mentorship with kingdom culture authority. These fathers greatly influence kingdom culture or way of life. The authority that is given to them in the realms of the spirit makes the situation such that you do not have to follow them for them to influence you. They just influence you as long as you exist within the sphere of their authority. For instance, there are men of God that just influence the kingdom or churches in a particular region or for a particular period of time, and their influence is beyond their own congregation. You suddenly notice that many are just beginning to pattern their ministry after them, even unconsciously. These are given great success, and because they have succeeded, they are automatically copied, consciously and unconsciously. Somehow, they mentor whole generations without those people being in

their own congregation, or having a direct will to follow them. These are influencing fathers.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE COVERING FATHER



These fathers are chosen based on current ministry affiliation. When you join a church or when you submit to a ministry, the founder of that ministry automatically becomes your covering father. This means that as soon as you change your ministry affiliation, your covering father has changed. A covering father is therefore not more than one per time. It is this kind of father that is principal in your life because he directs your life day to day. He carries the title of father more personally. It is this person that people refer to as their spiritual father. Although like we have seen, other fathers may exist in one's life, but the covering father is the

principal whose life and ministry you glean from. His theme or word for the year becomes yours.

Regardless of who led you to Christ or who has taught or mentored you at different points in time or still mentors you, your spiritual father is the covering father.

And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

2Kings 2:3

Did you see that? The sons of the prophet asked Elisha, if he knew that the Lord would take away his master from his head. But his master Elijah was not on top of his head. If Elijah was not literally on his head, what did they mean? Let us look at how some other translations of the above scripture put it.

...do you know that the lord will take your master away from over

you today..

*2Kings 2:3 (English Standard
Bible)*

*...do you know that the lord will
take your master away from over
you today..*

*2Kings 2:3 (American Standard
Bible)*

*..... Know ye that the LORD will take
away thy master from over thy head
to day?*

2Kings 2:3 (King James 2000)

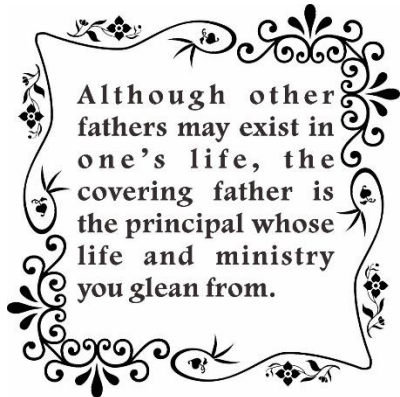
Did you notice the phrase “over you”? This prophetically connotes covering. These men being prophets in training were using prophetic language to alert Elisha about how that God was going to take away the covering over his head, that is his master, Elijah. However, the word ‘Master’ can be misleading. This is because when Elijah was taken up to heaven, we see Elisha calling him his father.

And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

2Kings 2:12

Therefore, we see that though Elijah was his mentoring father, he was also his covering father. The word covering according to the Wikipedia is an object used to preserve protect, shield, envelop, engulf or surround. This gives us a clearer picture of what Elijah was to Elisha. He was the one placed over him to preserve, shield, and protect him. This is also the place or position of the covering father over his son.

Also the covering father is one who has responsibility over you, watches over your soul and would present you before the Lord in heaven.



Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Colossians 1:25-29

Nevertheless, various forms of this kind of fatherhood can be seen in the scriptures.

Kinds of Covering Fathers.

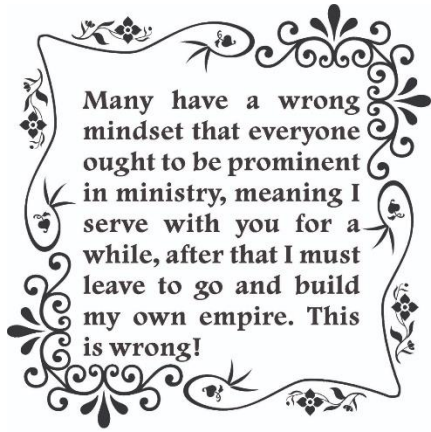
1. Silent Father, Prominent Son (The Supportive Father)

In this case, the father is silent and the Son is prominent. An example of this is Joseph the father of Jesus. He was a silent father with a prominent son. He was the father that brought Jesus into the scene. He covered Jesus, but he was not as prominent as him, but instead served as a support. This is why I refer to this kind of fatherhood as a supportive covering.

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Matthew 1:23-26

We see that even the scriptures never spoke much about him after the birth of Jesus. This also happens today in ministry, where fathers are silent, and their sons are prominent. There is



no error in this. Such fathers should be wise and humble enough to continue to father their sons in silence. Also sons in this kind of relationship should be able to cope with such fathers because your father does not need to always be more prominent than you. Sometimes, this kind of arrangement could be because the son carries a greater destiny or has a greater responsibility by calling, yet it is important for such to stay submitted to their silent father, because God in His wisdom may have positioned a silent father to help that kind of son fulfil his ministry.

The role of this kind of father – supportive father, is magnifying the son. John the Baptist is a perfect example

of this. Although John came on the scene before Jesus and even baptized him, which gives him a fatherhood status, he knew his role was to magnify the ministry of Jesus.

Also, when John was questioned about the fast growing ministry of Jesus compared to his, he was not jealous, threatened or intimidated. His reply was, ‘he must increase but I must decrease’.

Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him. John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the

bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.

John 3:25-30

Just like John the Baptist, a supportive covering has the responsibility of magnifying the office of his son. We see that even after he baptized Jesus, John the Baptist continued to magnify the person and ministry of Jesus Christ though he was older than him, started before Him and even baptized Him.

Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

John 1:35-37

It was even in John's ministry that Jesus got filled with the Holy Spirit.

Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

Luke 3:21-22

2. Silent Son, Prominent Fathers (The Absorber Father)

This is the reverse of the supportive father. It is what I refer to as the absorber father. In this case, the father is well known but his sons are not. In other words, the sons are absorbed or swallowed up in their father's prominence. This is not because the father seeks to be more prominent, but this is destiny determined. Here the sons do not have the destiny or calling for prominence.

This type of covering fatherhood is mostly found in church membership where the pastor or church leader is well

known and the members are not. Here the absorber father being the prominent one becomes the model and example that all follow. He is the prime factor that leads the church movement. An example of this is Apostle Paul and Timothy.

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope; Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

1Timothy 1:1-2

This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy.

1Timothy 1:18

The Bible did not record much about the works or ministry of Timothy, but it had volumes to say about the impact of the ministry of Apostle Paul who was his spiritual father.

In much the same way, God brings sons to help the Absorber father achieve what He has sent him to do. This

was the case in the Ministry of Moses, where God brought skilled men to help him build the tabernacle that he had been commanded to build.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee;

Exodus 31:1-6

As with Bezaleel and Aholiab, sons to absorber fathers should accept their responsibility to help promote the absorber father, seeing the greatness of his assignment or destiny. We see a perfect representation of this in Timothy, a silent son who faithfully served with Apostle Paul, his prominent father in the Gospel.

But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

Philippians 2:19-22

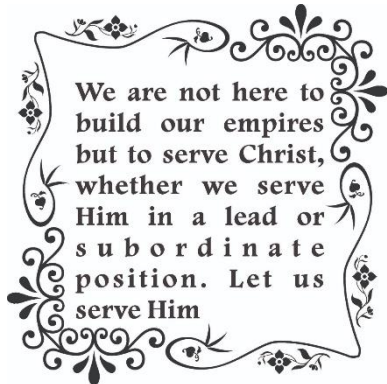
Apostle Paul here attests to three attributes of Timothy.

- i. He was a likeminded son: Timothy did not have a mind of his own. Instead, he subscribed to

the persuasion of his spiritual father insomuch that he cared for the same things that his father cared about. This is an important discipline for sons in relation to their absorber fathers.

- ii. He was focused: While others thought on serving their own purposes and pursuing their own ambitions, Timothy focused on the things which are Jesus Christ's, submitting himself in ministry.
- iii. He served with him in the Gospel: In order words, Timothy waited on Apostle Paul and carried out his instructions to the letter, helping him to fulfil his calling with Christ.

These are necessary attributes that a silent son ought to imbibe and continue to exhibit in relating with his absorber father. Many have a wrong mindset that everyone ought to be



prominent in ministry, meaning I serve with you for a

while, after that I must leave to go and build my own empire. This is wrong! Not everyone is called for prominence. This is the reason why we have small ministries that cannot withstand the test of time, because they are just another human effort to gain prominence. This has also led to embarrassing situations where pastors have to lie or depend on fetish means to grow their churches as they lack the grace for such prominence. This has led also to many breakaways, failures, disappointments and embarrassments in the body of Christ. It is important that we stop hearing voices and instead follow the scriptures. Lay down your pride if you are called to be like Timothy and serve with joy.

Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.

1Corinthians 7:21

Also, it is important to sound the same warning to fathers who feel they are the only ones called to prominence. If the LORD is calling a son to

prominence, the father must be happy to push such son into such place at the right time. We should not use each other, neither should be jealous of positions that people have received from the Lord. Just like the words of the Apostle “art thou called being an associate, care not for it”.

Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.

1Corinthians 7:21

We are not here to build our empires but to serve Christ. Whether we serve Him in a lead or subordinate position, let us serve Him. Let us remember that one day very soon, we will all give account of our work.

My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

James 3:1

Do not be carried away by the wealth and fame that go with those called to prominence, that you then conjure a call out of your own lust. Remember that all these

things will pass away and the true honour will come from the Father on that day. It is then we would know how rich we really are.

Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

1Corinthians 4:5

Many have started ministries because they wanted to have their own control and money. They wanted to be as rich as those they served under. So they received a call out of their own ambitions. Such ministries no matter how many people or members they have, will not receive the reward that they would have received if they had remained in the right place. Many will not even make heaven because Satan will lure them with all kinds of lust. And when you build by your own power, you would have to sustain what you have built. If you build by the flesh, you sustain by the flesh. This multiplies flesh and destroys the builder in the realms

of the Spirit. Let us therefore take heed and ensure that we serve exactly where God wants us to be.

Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.

1 Corinthians 7:21

3. Prominent Father, Prominent Son (The Raiser Father)

Unlike the other two cases above, this kind of fatherhood is a very sensitive type. In this scenario, both father and son are prominent, however, the father uses his greater prominence to elevate his son. Though the son is already prominent, he rises further with the prominence of the father; the father's prominence thus enhancing his. This is the most difficult type of fatherhood-sonship relationship. An example of the raiser father is King David and his son king Solomon. David was very prominent and wealthy and he made provisions for his Solomon to build the temple.

Furthermore David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and

the work is great: for the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God. Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for things to be made of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and the brass for things of brass, the iron for things of iron, and wood for things of wood; onyx stones, and stones to be set, glistering stones, and of divers colours, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance

1 Chronicles 29:1-2

Although Solomon was the one who eventually built the temple, it was David, his raiser father that made the provision in Solomon's name. Also as we in scriptures, Solomon was also a prominent man, so much that he was known and sought after even more than David.

So King Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for

wisdom. And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.

1Kings 10:23-24

Despite his fame and riches, it was recorded that his father David set the platform for his prominence. This is the role or responsibility of the raiser father. Sadly, this is not what we see in many places today as we see fathers competing with their sons or even worse trying to bring them down instead of raising them. Raiser fathers like King David use their wealth, influence and prominence to elevate their sons.

The uniqueness of this kind of relationship requires the son to already be prominent or at least have a promise or destiny for it at the point of meeting the father or from the point of commencement of their relationship, or else it will be prominent father-silent son situation.

However, there are two different kinds of raiser fathers based on the timing of prominence:

- i. Same Time Prominence: This is where both the raiser father and the son have a seemingly

equal measure of prominence and at the same time.

- ii. Succession Prominence: This is where the raiser father is the first to attain prominence and then climaxes, after which the son becomes prominent and continues to rise like we see in the case of David and Solomon.

If this kind of arrangement has been set up by God, it is important for the father to use his climaxed prominence to enhance the son's prominence, and for the son to be wise to continue to submit to the father and not be tempted to believe that he no longer needs the blessing of his raiser father.

We will discuss more about the authority of covering fathers and the scriptural way to relate with them in the next chapter.

CHAPTER SIX

THE AUTHORITY OF A
COVERING FATHER



So far in this book, we have established the different types of spiritual fathers a believer may have, namely the birthing father who birthed you into the Kingdom by leading you to Christ, the mentoring father who trains you in the things of the spirit, and the covering father who you are connected to by ministry affiliation and who continues to nurture you in the word.

And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, What is this that is come

unto the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets? And one of the same place answered and said, But who is their father? Therefore it became a proverb, Is Saul also among the prophets?

1Samuel 10:11-12

In the scripture above, when Saul was found doing ministry among other ministers, the first question that was asked by the onlookers was, ‘who is their father?’ In other words, who is covering them, licensing or authorizing their ministry? So it is important to know that when we minister and do the things of the Spirit, that we take advantage of the covering system that God has provided so that somehow according to God’s design, everyone is still answerable to someone.

However, these differ in terms of their specific roles and levels of authority, and to further understand how the different types of fathers differ in their operation spiritually, let us try to consider a physical example.

A man has a birthing father in the village who has sponsored him to school, where he sat under teachers and

professors who trained him as mentoring fathers. Then after his graduation, he has begun to work at Microsoft under Bill Gates as the Chief Executive Officer to whom he reports directly, and from whom he earns a living. Now, we see that this man has a biological father who can be seen as the birthing father. He also has teachers who we can refer to as the mentoring father, and a CEO whom he now works for whom we may consider as his covering father. If his biological father in the village and his professor from the college are requesting to see him on the same day during his work hours, while his CEO requires his attention at the same time, who do you think has more authority over him on that day? His father in the village, his university professor, or his CEO? Bearing in mind that his present place of training, development and physical livelihood is Microsoft under his CEO, we all know that he would not disregard his CEO's instruction. Thus, we see that though he recognizes these three kinds of fathers mentioned above, he cannot respond to all three the same way as they do not bear the same level of authority over him at this point in time.

It is therefore important to understand the place and the authority of the different types of fathers that you have. Your birthing father may have led you to Christ and may still be a blessing to you once in a while, yet he may no longer be the one responsible for your daily spiritual growth and development. The same thing applies to the mentoring father who may also have imparted your life through resources, TV broadcasts, etc. but it is the covering father who God recognizes as being responsible for your soul, and it is to him God gives the word that you must follow. He is the one who sits over you to teach you the word day in day out, who is responsible for your day to day well-being, counselling, equipping, training etc. Your spiritual growth, development, function and participation in the Kingdom of God is under his ministry. Thus, you need to pay attention to covering fathers and understand their specific roles in your life.

Should you be in a branch chapter of a ministry, the chapter or branch pastor is not your covering father because he can be transferred from one chapter to another at any time. Although the branch pastor provides the immediate pastoral care and training you receive, you

must remember that somebody sent him to do so. It is that person, the overall leadership who determines the direction of the ministry that is your covering father.

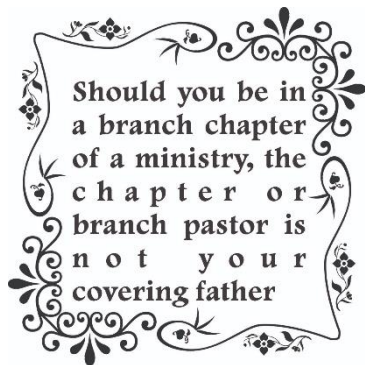
Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

Galatians 4:1-2

So it is important that you do not misplace the role of the tutor/governor for that of the father as the tutors and governors merely represent the father's will to you.

Submission to a Covering Father

Why must we submit to covering fathers? Without submission, you cannot benefit from the covering father in your life. Submission is crucial in the relationship with your



covering father because of the responsibilities that God has given him in your life. Your covering father has the following responsibilities towards you;

1. Covering Fathers labour over your soul, especially in the word and doctrine: This is because the covering father ministers the word of God to you day in day out, helping you to mature in the things of God, taking you from one level to another in ministry, and helping you to walk in the path of your destiny.

Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and

*teaching every man in all wisdom;
that we may present every man
perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I
also labour, striving according to his
working, which worketh in me
mightily.*

Colossians 1:25-29

He labours to put scriptures together line upon line to help you to understand it. Many times, it takes him years to put together what you receive in a 45 minutes sermon. This is labour.

*Let the elders that rule well be
counted worthy of double honour,
especially they who labour in the
word and doctrine.*

1Timothy 5:17

2. Covering Fathers rule over you: This refers to their authority as government over your soul. It is the covering father who God uses to bring heavenly

direction to you and one whose instructions you should follow.

Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

Hebrews 13:7

3. Covering Fathers watch over your soul: This sensitive role has to do with their responsibility to account for your soul before the LORD.

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

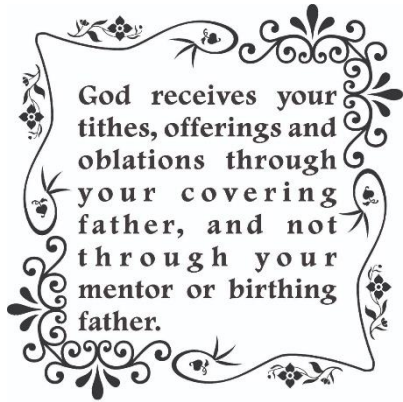
Hebrews 13:17

Looking closely at the scripture above, we see that the Bible requires that you submit yourself to a covering father that

has the rule over you. This call for submission reflects the authority that has been bestowed on their office.

This is why for instance God receives your tithes, offerings and oblations through your covering father, and not through your mentor or birthing father, except in the case where your birthing father or mentor is also your covering father. But it is the covering office that gives him the right to do that. That means you cannot lead someone to Christ and then begin to ask him for his tithe. This is not a scriptural order.

There was a classmate of mine who followed and believed in my ministry, and he also works in an oil firm. One day, I was shocked when he brought his tithe to me after lectures. I had to correct him that his tithe belonged in his local church which was responsible for his welfare, weekly worship, intercession, pastoral cover, etc. Anyone can bless you



or mentor you, but not everyone can care for you. It is that pastoral care that gives the covering father a greater responsibility and authority in your life before God.

However, the nature of the sonship submission to the covering father would be based on the level of authority which is dependent on whether he is a son within or a son without.

- i. Sons Within: This is when the son is fully immersed in the ministry of the father, as a member, leader or pastor who is fully under the authority of the father. All the authority of the son within comes from the covering father.
- ii. Sons Without: This is a situation where the son to a covering father is one who has pioneered his own ministry already. In other words, he has fulfilled the two important criteria for pioneering a ministry, which are that he has received an apostolic calling from the Lord Jesus and functions in the pastoral office.

Based on this understanding, the son without has a level of authority with the Lord Jesus by virtue of his pioneered

work. He therefore has a pseudo kind of submission in that he has a level of authority with the Lord Jesus and at the same time submits under the authority of his covering father.

For example, if a covering father has declared a 40 day fast, the son within has no option than to comply fully, whereas a son without may adapt that partially based on what the Lord has instructed him to do in his own ministry.

Though sons without have their own ministries and hear from God, they must do their best to take advantage of the authority of their covering fathers. We see an example of this kind of submission in Romans 11 regarding Apostle Paul. He received the apostleship to the gentiles.

*For I speak to you Gentiles,
inasmuch as I am the apostle of the
Gentiles, I magnify mine office:*

Romans 11:13

*Whereunto I am ordained a
preacher, and an apostle, (I speak
the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a*

teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

1 Timothy 2:7

He received this apostleship after an encounter with the Lord Jesus.

And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to

*turn them from darkness to light,
and from the power of Satan unto
God, that they may receive
forgiveness of sins, and inheritance
among them which are sanctified by
faith that is in me.*

Acts 26:14-18

After this commission, he went around pioneering churches in Gentile cities. But in Antioch, questions arose with regards to the circumcision and the salvation of the Gentiles.

*And certain men which came down
from Judaea taught the brethren,
and said, Except ye be circumcised
after the manner of Moses, ye
cannot be saved.*

Acts 15:1

But despite Paul's apostleship, he resolved to take the matter to the elders and leaders of the church in Jerusalem.

*When therefore Paul and Barnabas
had no small dissension and*

disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

Acts 15:2

And when they had rehearsed all that happened to the elders, James stood up and gave the conclusion on the matter.

And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from

blood. For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

Acts 15: 13-14,19-21

So we see Apostle Paul did not make the decision despite his apostleship, but left it to Apostle James. This is because Apostle James was the covering father or authority over the church in that time and his sentence pleased the apostles and they sent with Paul and Barnabas chosen men to go back to inform the church in Antioch.

Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

Acts 15:22

I want to you remember that Antioch was the first Gentile church and it was at Antioch that Paul started his ministry.

Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Acts 11:26

However, when it came to this sensitive issue, Apostle Paul and the church was still submitted to the sentence of the covering father of the church in Jerusalem. And when they came back to the churches of the Gentiles to relay the conclusion, I want you to notice their words.

For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

Acts 15:28

The sentence or decision of the covering father was considered the will of the Holy Spirit. Such is the place and authority of the covering father. He speaks the will of the

Spirit about his sons and the church for which God has given him oversight.

Double Honour in Fatherhood

Furthermore, the Bible talks about honouring fathers.

Honour thy father and thy mother...

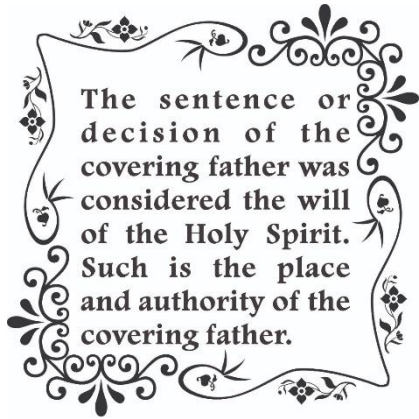
Exodus 20:12a

A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts...

Malachi 1:6

The above scriptures show us that fathers are meant to be honoured. However, since there are different types of fathers who have varying degrees of authority over you, wisdom demands that you give the commensurate measure of honour to each.

There is a measure of honour that is due to birthing fathers, and another measure of honour due to mentoring fathers, and yet another measure of honour due to covering fathers who we



already established have the superseding authority over you. The Bible speaks about giving them double honour because they labour in the word and doctrine.

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

1 Timothy 5:17

We will discuss more about this in the next chapter.

CHAPTER SEVEN

HONOURING FATHERS



The reward for fatherhood is honour. This is a commandment from the LORD.

*Honour thy father and thy mother,
as the LORD thy God hath
commanded thee; that thy days may
be prolonged, and that it may go
well with thee, in the land which the
LORD thy God giveth thee.*

Deuteronomy 5:16

Again in the Book of Ephesians, we see an emphasis laid on this instruction.

*Honour thy father and mother;
(which is the first commandment
with promise;) That it may be well
with thee, and thou mayest live long
on the earth.*

Ephesians 6:2-3

Take note that this verse lays the emphasis on the blessing that accrues from the honour of fathers, which is the promise from the LORD that you would have long life and that it may go well with you.

*Honour thy father and thy mother,
as the LORD thy God hath
commanded thee; that thy days may
be prolonged, and that it may go
well with thee, in the land which the
LORD thy God giveth thee.*

Deuteronomy 5:16

This suggests the weight of the act of honouring fathers as commanded by the LORD. It is a practice rooted in

obedience which qualifies one to receive the father's blessing.

The Father's Blessing

Though fatherhood starts by making provisions for the son's growth and increase, fathers also have the ability to chart the course of a child with the declaration of the blessing. We see this in



God's order of creation where he first made all things that man would need even before he made man and placed him amidst those resources He has divinely provided.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing

that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 1:26-27

After this, the Bible records that God blessed man.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:28

Thus, we see that the father's blessing is the father's right and ability to empower a child to prosper. This is so because whatever a father blesses is what God blesses as we see in God's covenant with Abraham.

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country,

and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 12:1-3

The Abrahamic Blessing

The blessing that God released unto Abraham is the fundamental blessing. This is where all other blessings derive their source. And this blessing is transferable from one generation to another. This same blessing is what fathers carry and also possess the ability to transfer to their sons.

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt

be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 12:2-3

Abraham operating in that blessing blessed Isaac, and we saw the resultant effect.

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him.

Genesis 26:12-14

Also Apostle Paul speaks of Abraham's blessing being transferred to Gentiles, showing that the blessing still exists and is still potent today.

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:13-14

It is therefore important for us to consider how the father's blessing can be transferred to sons.

How to Receive the Father's Blessing

1. Desire the Father's Blessing

The ultimate responsibility of a father is releasing the blessing upon a prepared son. The father can only give the blessing when the child understands the value, not just because he wants to give it. It is when a son wants it that it can be released. Thus, the father's blessing can only be released when the son desires it passionately.

For instance, we see in scriptures the tenacity with which Elisha followed Elijah, desiring the blessing before his departure.

And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.

2 Kings 2:1-2

And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

2 Kings 2:9

To be worthy of the blessing therefore, you have to understand what the blessing is, that the blessing is on your father, that you have to be desperate to serve for it.

Also, Isaac's desire to bless his son Jacob was not enough to release the blessing. In fact, the blessing could not rest on Jacob until he proved that he wanted it.



And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I. And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death: Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison; And make me

savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.

Genesis 27:1-4

On his death bed, Isaac makes an ultimate declaration of his ability to bless or empower his first son Esau. This blessing was not just mere talk because we see his son Esau setting out immediately to do his father's bidding.

And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it.

Genesis 27:5

The actions of his mother Rebecca, and the extent to which she went to position Jacob to receive it shows us that she understood the significance of the blessing.

And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying, Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the LORD before

my death. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee. Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth: And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death

Genesis 27:6-10

Did you see that? She instructs Jacob to quickly bring the venison so that he would receive the blessing in his brother's stead. Her actions were a product of her understanding of the value of the father's blessing.

Furthermore when Jacob brought the venison, I want you to also take note of how Isaac transferred the blessing to Jacob.

And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau. And he

discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him. And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am. And he said, Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought it near to him, and he did eat: and he brought him wine, and he drank. And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son. And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed: Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to

thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.

Genesis 27:22-23

Isaac transferred the blessing to Jacob with words; potent words that empowered him to succeed. And when Esau came back, the blessing had already been given to his younger brother.

And Isaac his father said unto him, Who art thou? And he said, I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau. And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed. And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father.

Genesis 27:32-34

The scriptures above shows us that Esau cried bitterly when he discovered this. But why did he cry so bitterly? Note that Isaac did not will any landed or valuable property to Jacob. He only spoke words over him, yet Esau wept because he knew he had lost the most valuable thing in his life - a father's blessing. By those words of blessing, Isaac had made Jacob the younger one Lord over Esau his older brother.

And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son?

Genesis 27:37

Esau was so desperate for the blessing that he wept asking for just one blessing.

And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father?

*bless me, even me also, O my father.
And Esau lifted up his voice, and
wept.*

Genesis 27:38-39

Thus we see that the blessing of a father is not something to make light of but what every child should desire and value.

2. Minister to Your Father

One other important requirement for receiving the blessing of your father is to minister to him. Let us consider the example of how Elisha ministered to Elijah, his covering father.

*So he departed thence, and found
Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was
plowing with twelve yoke of oxen
before him, and he with the twelfth:
and Elijah passed by him, and cast
his mantle upon him. And he left
the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and
said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my
father and my mother, and then I*

will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee? And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

1Kings 19:19-21

The same was said of Joshua in relation to Moses. The Bible referred to him as Moses' minister, showing that he did not just follow Moses, but he also served him.

Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to

them, even to the children of Israel.

Joshua 1:1-2

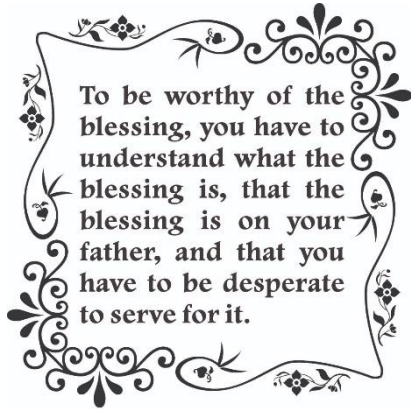
Serving one's covering father in this way positions one to receive his blessings and function with the same anointing upon him. This was the testimony of Elisha after that he served Elijah.

But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah. Jehoshaphat said, The word of the LORD is with him. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

2Kings 3:11-12

From the scripture above, we see that Elisha began to function as a prophet just like his covering father who he ministered to faithfully, showing us another important way to contact the father's blessing.

If you are the founder of a ministry and you have submitted to a covering father, you have to minister or serve your covering father. To minister to someone means to ease that person's work. What can you do that can bring ease to him? Find a way to ease the work of your covering father.



Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

Philippians 2:25

Also, for someone who is a member of a church and your founding pastor is your covering father, you should also seek ways to minister unto him. You may want to say, 'my church is very large and I may not be able to minister to

my covering father one on one like Elisha did to Elijah', but distance is not a barrier. You can also minister to your covering father in another way, just as we see some persons in the time of Jesus Christ did:

And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him, And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.

Luke 8:1-3

We see that these ministered to Jesus out of their substance. I want you to see other translations of the above scripture;

*And Joanna, the wife of Herod's
Household Manager Chuza,*

Susanna and many others. These women continued to support them out of their personal resources.

Luke 8:1-3 (International Standard Version)

And Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's business manager, Susanna and many others who provided for them out of their means.

Luke 8:1-3 (English Standard Bible)

Johanna, whose husband Chusa was Herod's administrator; Susanna, and many other women. They provided financial support for Jesus and his disciples.

Luke 8:1-3 (God's Word Bible)

So it is clear that they ministered out of their income or money, and the Bible says money answereth all things.

A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money

answereth all things.

Ecclesiastes 10:19

This means that by ministering your money to your covering father, you can as well ease his ministry and get a blessing from him.

Many times, sons find fathers just to take from them. It is true that I have stated how that fathers build up sons, yet it is important for you to know that the heart of a true covering father is to extend his cover over many more. Therefore, it is also the instinct of fathers not only to invest but to expect some to mature to become partners. The hallmark of every true matured son is serving together with his father like Timothy did.

*But ye know the proof of him, that,
as a son with the father, he hath
served with me in the gospel.*

Philippians 2:2

This means the son is no longer a baby that the father feeds, but a partner in building the vision of the father. Sons at this point become extenders of the cover, bringing

consolation to the father's heart as they become under fathers in supporting their fathers "nursing business".

And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 4:36-37

The training and investment made by the father comes back as expansion to the father, making the cover wider and the family bigger. A father that does not expect this will not be able to make the family grow in the next generation. A son that does not know this is spoilt and a shame.

A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Proverbs 10:1

This wisdom is what expands the cover and further builds the family.

*Through wisdom is an house
builded; and by understanding it is
established:*

Proverbs 24:3

Therefore, serving is wisdom for a son, joy to a father and glory to the family. This is the stage where matured sons become princes, and it is from these princes that another father will arise for the next generation.

Children of a king do not all become kings, it is the matured ones who become princes and it is among the princes that a king emerges.

I want you to see this in the sonship of Jesus our master with his Father. Not only was he a son that enjoyed investment from God, we also see him maturing to where he could harmonize with the Father in bearing the responsibility for expanding the kingdom. God the Father did not die for us, it was his son who paid for us to join the

family. We became sons because he was a responsible son, so now God has placed him as heir of the world.

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Hebrews 1:1-3

Others like Lucifer, Adam and many more who we might not know had opportunity for sonship but they squandered it and never came to the point of walking with God.

The beauty of service therefore is a declaration of maturity, the understanding of fatherhood and the willingness to pay the price in playing one's role in perpetuating this heaven's concept.

3. Connecting through Obedience

Another important way to connect into the blessing of your covering father is through obedience. This is in no way a lesser requirement as the scriptures make us understand that obedience carries more weight in pleasing God, and by extension a covering father more than sacrifice.

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

1 Samuel 15:22

The scripture above says obedience is better than sacrifice. In other words, obedience can unlock and release the father's blessing in your life even faster than your sacrificial giving or service can. Therefore, it is important

to understand what obedience really is, and to ensure that you live in obedience with your covering father.

So what is obedience? To understand what obedience is, let us consider this parable that Jesus gave.

But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first.

Matthew 21:28-31

So we see from the parable of Jesus that obedience is not just in saying yes or in giving assent to the instruction of your covering father. It is submitting oneself to the instruction of the covering father and doing exactly what he has said.

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Hebrews 13:17

Submitting oneself to the covering father through obedience releases the blessing.

Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

As the scripture above shows us, if you would live in obedience to your covering father, you would receive the blessing in return.

4. Connecting with Substance/Offering

Again, in receiving the blessing of a father, it is important to connect with substance or offering. This is a show or declaration of your honour.

Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Proverbs 3:9-10

The above scriptures instruct us to honour God with our substance and shows us the resultant effect of this act. However, it also reveals an important component of honour which is substance.

Substance is a very important way to show honour, as honour is more than acknowledgement, praise or mere appreciation. It is mostly accompanied with substance.



Therefore to receive a father's blessing, you should honour him with substance. This was why Isaac called for the venison so that he could bless his son. The venison was the substance component required to release the blessing.

Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison; And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.

Genesis 27:2-4

We see another example of this in Malachi chapter 1.

A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

Malachi 1:7

Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.

Malachi 1:6

Here, God measures their honour by their offerings to him. The people claimed to honour God but their offering did not reflect it. Thus we see that there is no honour without offering or sacrifice.

Therefore as spiritual son, if you want to partake of your father's blessing, honour him consistently with offerings

and substance. This is not a way to meet His need or to help him like Paul says in Philippians chapter 4;

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Philippians 4:10-13

It is a great privilege and opportunity for you to connect with your father's blessing. Isaac was great man that was not in need, so he did not ask his son for venison because of lack or hunger or because he had no one else to prepare it.

And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death: Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison; And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.

Genesis 27:1-4

At the end, what Jacob brought deceitfully prepared by his mother, was it not from his father's yard? This shows that he was not in lack. But he sought a means for his son to fulfil a requirement for the release of the blessing.

You therefore need to make it a culture to connect your father's blessing with your offerings as this act of honour is a currency by which you can activate and connect to a father's blessing.

5. Connecting through Reverence

Reverence is another important requirement for receiving the blessing of your covering father.

For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, is found a truth. And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him.

2Corinthians 7:15

The scripture above talks about how the Corinthians Church received Titus with fear and trembling, obeying his words. And we see that the heart of Titus was drawn towards them in return. And since the blessing comes from within, we can be certain that Titus did not hesitate to bless them.

It is possible for a son to obey his father half-heartedly, or to even honour him with his substance from time to time out of compulsion when reverence is not in place.

Reverence refers to the act of receiving and responding to the father in fear and trembling out of a heart of understanding.

And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him.

2Corinthians 7:15

Reverence also means sanctifying the place of your covering father. This means giving him a regard that is reserved only for him. We see from scriptures how that Reuben, the firstborn son of Jacob suffered for his error of taking that which belonged to his father.

Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.

Genesis 49:3-4

This is an error you must fight to prevent. Like Jesus Christ showed us, you can keep your reverence for your covering father by constantly meditating on his place as a covering over you and reaffirming to yourself your place with him, lest you forget and be tempted to usurp his authority like Reuben did.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

John 13:16

Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

John 14:28

You can also keep the reverence for your father by ensuring that you constantly keep him at least a step ahead of you.

CHAPTER EIGHT

FATHERHOOD AND
DISCIPLINE



In the previous chapter, we focused on how to receive a father's blessing. However there is one thing that can stop one from partaking of a father's blessing, and that is the inability or refusal to accept discipline.

Regardless of how much a father wants to bless you, if you do not subject or submit yourself to be disciplined, you will not be blessed. This is an important consideration in the father-son relationship. Many sons desire the wisdom and blessing that comes with having a father but will not subject themselves to be trained by discipline. The true sign of sonship is the ability to stay under subjection and submission to your father whether it is comfortable or not.

You will find sons who can serve and stay under authority when the going is good but when a father disciplines them, they cannot bear it. Also you will find fathers who cannot discipline their sons for fear of losing them. However, both fathers and sons need to realize that fatherhood comes with discipline. The father should be able to wield the rod whenever necessary and the son should be able to bear it.

*The rod and reproof give wisdom:
but a child left to himself bringeth
his mother to shame.*

Proverbs 29:15

*Withhold not correction from the
child: for if thou beatest him with
the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt
beat him with the rod, and shalt
deliver his soul from hell.*

Proverbs 23: 13-14

Furthermore, a lot of people claim to be submitted to authority but will not submit to discipline; they are deceived. Fatherhood is not laughing and joking all the time. There must be times of discipline, which is a tool the

father uses to train his son. Also, authority is vested by virtue of spiritual promotion, which comes from subjection or submission to spiritual authority through discipline. That is how you get promoted in the realms of the spirit.

Promotion is therefore a product of spiritual subjection, and subjection to discipline determines the level of power that will be given to you. This is why you need to understand what discipline is and the necessity of submitting to be disciplined.

The Three Levels of Discipline

1. Correction: Correction simply means to put right, rectify, or set right. The Cambridge dictionary defines it as an effort to show or tell someone that something is wrong and to make it right. The purpose of correction is to make someone free of error. This is the first and lowest level of discipline a father should ideally employ in training a son.

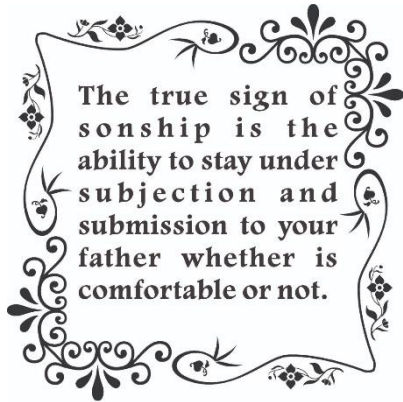
Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we

*not much rather be in subjection
unto the Father of spirits, and live?*

Hebrews 12:9

The scripture above shows us that it is the responsibility of a father to correct his son. But it also shows us the right response to correction which is reverence and subjection.

Reverence refers to honour, regard and esteem. In other words you should regard, honour, and esteem the correction in such a way that you begin to practice it. Also, Subjection here refers



to receiving the correction without arguments and complaints. This is the act or process of bringing oneself under the control of another which in this case refers to a father. Therefore if the right response to correction is reverence and subjection, this invariably means the wrong response to correction is to exalt oneself above correction. To exalt yourself above a father's correction is to esteem,

elevate, glorify or raise yourself or your opinion above his own.

It is subjection to the correction of the father that drives the foolishness that leads to mistakes and errors out of the son's life.

Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him

Proverbs 22:15

Foolishness is tied or attached to the heart, thus as long as you are still growing, there is foolishness in your heart. And if this foolishness is not handled with the rod of correction, it may lead to death.

Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.

Proverbs 15:10

Therefore, sons ought not to just heed but also love the correction of their fathers because the correction of a father is the key to life, joy and success.

*Behold, happy is the man whom God
correcteth: therefore despise not
thou the chastening of the Almighty:*

Job 5:17

Furthermore, fathers must be skilled in the constructive use of the rod of the mouth. They must not withhold it because of sentiment.

*Withhold not correction from the
child: for if thou beatest him with
the rod, he shall not die.*

Proverbs 23:13

*But with righteousness shall he
judge the poor, and reprove with
equity for the meek of the earth: and
he shall smite the earth with the rod
of his mouth, and with the breath of
his lips shall he slay the wicked.*

Isaiah 11:4

Like the scripture above says, correction will not kill a child. Thus, a father must not fear to use it to correct his

son. He must not be like Eli who could not correct his sons even when they erred against God.

For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

1 Samuel 3:13

And because of this, God judged him and his generation forever because he honoured his sons by failing to correct them. Sons honour their fathers by accepting corrections. If the father fails to correct his children, he is honouring them more than God. Take a look at the scripture below:

Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people? Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father,

should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

1 Samuel 2:29-30

And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

1 Samuel 3:14

Fathers have been given spiritual authority over their children and those who refuse to correct their children will be judged by God.

2. Rebuke: This is the second level of discipline. To rebuke is to criticize or express sharp disapproval or criticism because of someone's behaviour or attitude. It also means to scold or reprimand someone for wrong done. It often involves a raise in one's tone of voice and a tough demeanour.

*.....My son, despise not thou the
chastening of the Lord, nor faint
when thou art rebuked of him:*

Hebrew 12:5

When a father employs the tool of correction on a child and he refuses to change, the next step is to rebuke him. However, the scripture above shows us that when we are rebuked, we should not faint. To faint is to stop or cease from doing the right thing. This is the wrong response to rebuke. Sadly, this is what happens when many sons are rebuked. They cease from carrying out their delegated responsibilities, thinking that they are doing the right thing. This is mostly because they listen to the wrong people who incite them towards disobedience.

*It is better to hear the rebuke of the
wise, than for a man to hear the song
of fools.*

Ecclesiastes 7:5

But as the scripture above says, it is better to listen to the rebuke of the wise than to the hear people who may be saying nice things but do not care about and are not responsible for your spiritual growth and welfare.

Open Rebuke

Sometimes, a father may rebuke his son before people as the Apostle Paul instructs.

Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

1Timothy 5:20

Many sons may find this embarrassing, but there is no reason to be embarrassed or faint. The purpose of this open rebuke is so that others can learn and fear.

Also, some sons faint because of their inability to differentiate between the rebuker and the rebuke. This right response of continuity is only possible when the son understands that the rebuke is not a show of anger or a result of hate but a show of a father's love to position him in the right direction.

More so, a father should not delay to rebuke a son when he steps out of line, especially if he has previously been corrected about the same issue. Jesus himself rebuked his disciples when they spoke foolishly.

And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

Luke 9:54-55

He did not let fear of desertion stop him from rebuking them. This is how a responsible father acts. He rebukes with all authority.

These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

Titus 2:15

He is instant and quick to correct and rebuke, but with patience and the word of God.

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

2Timothy 4:2

He does this so that his sons may be sound and grounded in the faith.

This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

Titus 1:13

3. Chastening: According to the online dictionary, chastening means to inflict suffering upon for the purpose of moral improvement. It also means to bring down, subdue, bring low, demote or to humiliate. It simply refers to punishment. This is the third and highest level of discipline usually applied when the child has failed to respond to correction and rebuke.

And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

Hebrews 12:5

However, the scripture above warns us not to despise chastening, this is because it is the greatest show of a father's love and acceptance.

For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Hebrews 12:6

But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Hebrews 12:8

If a father loves you, he will do anything to ensure you do not go out of God's plan for your life even if it means chastening or punishing you.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Revelations 3:19

Responding to Chastening

If you are a person that the father cannot chasten or punish, then you are not a son but a bastard. True sons are able to take the punishment given by their fathers, but bastards rebel at chastening. This chastening can be a delay in promotion, demotion, withdrawal of access or certain benefits etc. However, the wrong response will be to despise the chastening.

And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord .

Hebrews 12:5

*Behold, happy is the man whom God
correcteth: therefore despise not
thou the chastening of the Almighty:*

Job 5:17

To despise according to the Cambridge dictionary is to have a strong dislike for something or someone because you think that the person or thing has no value. It is to hate something or someone and have no respect for them. It also means to detest, and to regard with contempt. This gives us the idea that to despise chastening is to hate your punishment because you have no respect for the giver of the punishment and you think and feel the punishment has no value.

Another wrong response to chastening is to grieve or be pained.

*Now no chastening for the present
seemeth to be joyous, but grievous:
nevertheless afterward it yieldeth
the peaceable fruit of righteousness
unto them which are exercised*

thereby.

Hebrew 12:11

There is a difference between grieving and godly sorrow.

Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

2Corinthians 7:9-10

Did you see that? Grief or being pained works death but Godly sorrow leads to repentance. While you are expected to have Godly sorrow which is self-reflection that quickly leads to repentance, you are not to grieve, which is a long lasting feeling of pain or depression about your mistakes or past or the consequences of your mistakes or even the disciplinary measure itself. This is the wrong response to chastening.

The tendency to grieve or be pained often arises because of the burden, discomfort or shame that accompanies the punishment and sometimes because of the feeling of disappointment in one's self. But at the end, according to the scripture above, it will produce peaceable fruits of righteousness.

This is why Apostle Paul admonishes the church not to grieve because of the severity his letters to them but to consider it a sign of his love for them.

For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.

2Corinthians 2:4

Having this understanding, the right response to chastening is to endure it.

If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son

*is he whom the father chasteneth
not?*

Hebrews 12:7

And this chastening does not and should never be carried out from anger or offence or to give a father pleasure. Instead, it is done to the end that sons may be partakers of the father's blessing.

*For they verily for a few days
chastened us after their own
pleasure; but he for our profit, that
we might be partakers of his
holiness.*

Hebrews 12:10

Another important reason we are chastened is so that we will not be condemned with the world.

*But when we are judged, we are
chastened of the Lord, that we
should not be condemned with the
world.*

1Corinthians 11:32

When a good father sees that you are heading towards destruction, he will chasten you so that you can recover yourself from the snare of the enemy and be restored.

And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

2Timothy 2:26

A father's chastening is thus a sign that he has not given up on you and given you over to Satan and death.

The LORD hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.

Psalm 118:18

This is the worst thing that can happen to a son; when your covering father who is supposed to watch for your soul gives you over to Satan for the destruction of the body.

To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1 Corinthians 5:5

Your father does not have to literally hand you over to Satan, he does this by allowing or leaving you to go the way that seems right in your eyes and the end of that way as the scripture says is death.

*There is a way which seemeth right
unto a man, but the end thereof are
the ways of death.*

Proverbs 14:12

*There is a way that seemeth right
unto a man, but the end thereof are
the ways of death.*

Proverbs 16:25

Do not forget that he is your cover and his absence in your life will leave you exposed to Satan and his demons.

This is why your spiritual or covering father should have the liberty to discipline you as he is led by the Spirit, and you are to submit or subject yourself to that chastening as his way of training, leading and guiding you.

More so spiritual fathers must not withhold chastening when necessary. They must not allow sympathy or tears stop them from chastening their sons when it is required.

*Chasten thy son while there is hope,
and let not thy soul spare for his
crying.*

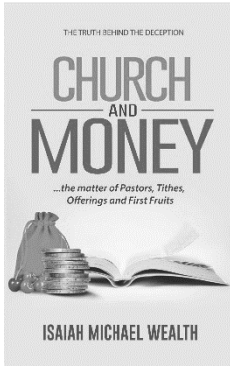
Proverbs 19:18

Many times in my ministry, I have had to chasten some of my sons when they erred. It was not sweet or pleasurable for me because I love them. Many times I hurt for them but as their spiritual father I had to chasten them because I could see that they were headed in a wrong direction that could cost them their destiny and most importantly their eternity. And all those who endured the chastening are better, stronger and have greater impact today. But many who were too proud to submit or subject themselves and left are still struggling to find their footing today. It is my heart's desire and prayer that the Lord would help them.

We can therefore see that discipline moves from correction to rebuke, and then to chastening. The covering father should be able to wield the necessary disciplinary tool to ensure that his children become all that God has ordained

for them. The sons likewise should be able to endure whatever level of discipline he dishes out, having the understanding that it is for their good.

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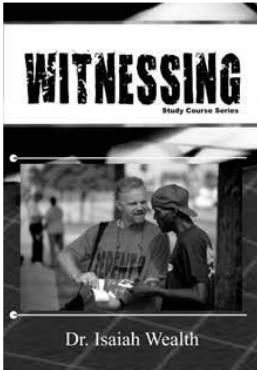
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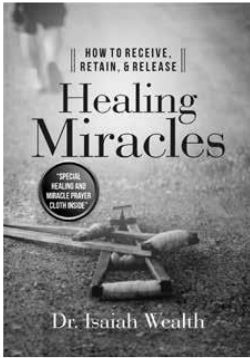


The church world over has been involved in countless outreach programmes to win the lost. As beautiful as this is, it remains evident that a vast majority of the world is far from won. As if to worsen matters, many churches and their leaders are in a state that we can almost consider “near lost”. What is the solution? We can’t keep preaching and preaching and evangelising, because if you know the statistics, you can see that even when our programmes project to infinity, winning a greater percentage of the lost is not in view, though it remains our assignment to take the gospel to all the world (Matthew 24:14). Could there be a better way, or rather have we neglected a principle that might be plaguing our results?

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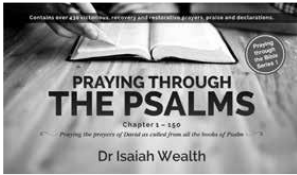
The problem of sickness and disease is one that has plagued man from time immemorial; after the fall of Adam till date. It is a phenomenon that is common to all. Although Man in his wisdom has constantly tried to evolve ways and techniques to deal with sicknesses and diseases as they arise. His efforts though worthy of note has not been able to answer the questions of many or cater for the needs of all because so many persons still die of incurable diseases like aids and leukaemia daily. This is not the perfect will of God. There is a realm where you can receive healing for any disease or sickness plaguing your body and enjoy perfect health on the earth. This is what this book intends to reveal to you. It covers the subject of healing and divine health in its totality. It will show you God's will for your health, how to receive your healing, retain your healing, release healing to others and ultimately how to live a sickness and disease free life.

God has placed in my heart a great compassion for the sick and a great desire to see his people live in divine health. He is sending this book your way because he wants to heal you and teach you how to live in perfect health. I implore you to read this book with

absolute concentration because it contains the answer to your questions.

You do not have to remain sick. The doctors may have given up on you, but God has not. Your healing may have evaded you for a long time, but your time has come. It is now and you will testify!

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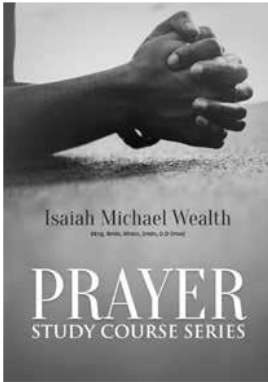
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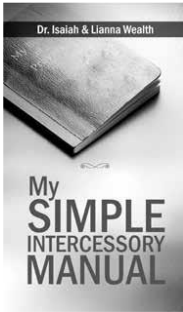
For hundreds of years, the subject of prayer has been one with divergent views, opinions and ideologies, one that has engendered great dissention in the body of Christ with respect to its methodology and practices. However, what cannot be denied is the timeless passion and ageless desire in every man to communicate with a higher power and to initiate changes in every area of life. This desire in man can be expressed in and through prayer but, what is prayer? Is prayer just talking to God as popularly defined? If prayer is simply talking to God, what would we call casting out devils and binding Satan? Despite the fact that many people seem to pray, why are so few getting the results? Are there principles or rules that guide prayer? Are there factors that hinder effectivity in it?

This book does not only seek to answer these questions above but to introduce new concepts in prayer that will create new prayer experiences. It also seeks to explore the concept of prayer with the intention to break previous erroneously established boundaries that hinder its effectiveness and to equip the end time believer with the necessary understanding and light required for

an effective prayer life and to ultimately equip the church in enforcing its rights and privileges in the place of prayer.

My heart desire for you as you read this book is that a fresh understanding and passion for prayer will be birthed in your spirit and that you will take your place in prayer for the body of Christ, thus fulfilling the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ on the earth. Amen!

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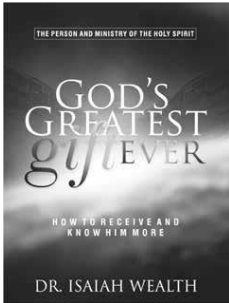


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3. Core intercession: This occurs when a believer by desire attains to the desire of the Spirit of God and by synchronization possesses strange abilities of God to supply sufficient quantities of eternity. This kind of praying can be initiated at any time by a believer. It is its absence however that is responsible for all mishaps on planet earth.

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The believer is supposed to be the example and a standard to the world because we have the Holy Spirit in us—the maker and beginning of all things. He is the best that the father has given to us.

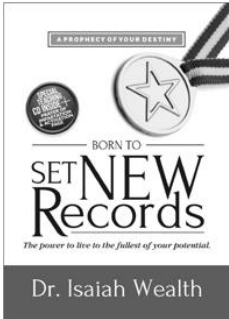
But sadly most believers have become the laughingstock of their world, living in shame and without help.

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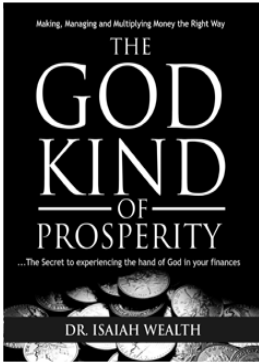


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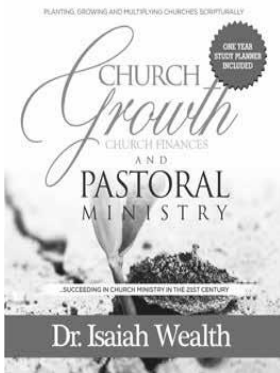
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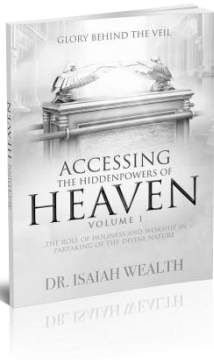
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- 149. Accessing True Freedom
- 150. Overcoming The Works of the Flesh Series
- 151. Overcoming the Works of the Flesh
- 152. How to Be Spiritual
- 153. Understanding Adultery & Divorce
- 154. Understanding Fornication
- 155. Understanding Idolatry
- 156. Overcoming Covetousness
- 157. The Power of a Praying Church.

About Isaiah Wealth Ministries



Isaiah Wealth Ministries is an apostolic ministry with the mandate to prepare the way for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This ministry is working hard in motivating and preparing the individual believer to be involved in reaping the harvest of the last days. It runs several networks, programmes and crusades backed with the supernatural signs and wonders and manifestation of the tangible glory of God. The outstanding revelatory grace given to Dr. Wealth has provided great resources that have been of immense blessing to the body of Christ. The ministry is active in church planting in almost every continent of the world through its Missions Assisted Project. (MAP)

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About The Author



Since the Lord Jesus first appeared to Dr. Isaiah Wealth and called him to Ministry in 2004, his love for his Lord has been the driving force behind the heart of this servant of God whose ministry is touching lives all around the world.

Called a prophet to the nations coupled with his great love for people, he continues to lead an Apostolic Movement that is shaping the sphere of Christianity today and characterized by many supernatural manifestations, healing miracles, signs and wonders.

As a pastor and sought-after financial adviser, he has mentored many beyond his congregation into financial freedom and helps many more in business development and strategy for wealth creation as he facilitates in the Royal Pillars Money Academy. His expository teachings sandwiched with great illustrations and the power of the Holy Ghost has carved him a niche as an outstanding revelator of scriptures.

His passion to reach the lost with the Gospel drives all his initiatives, programs and efforts which include the recently

established International Bible School and Seminary (IBSS) where he serves as Chancellor.

Dr. Wealth has authored several books, including *The God Kind of Prosperity*, *Church Growth*, *Church Finances and Pastoral Ministry*. He has also composed and recorded several songs including the famous 'Jesus My Everything'. The focus of his message and mission is to equip the individual believer in living and witnessing for the Lord.

He is the Founder and Senior Pastor of the Gospel Pillars International Churches with Headquarters in Lagos Nigeria. He is the president of the Isaiah Wealth Ministries which is active in church planting and charity work in more than three continents of the world. Also, his 24hour TV network, Spirit & Bride Network continues to impact many with life-transforming programmes on several internet platforms.

Together with his wife Lianna, they pioneered The Isaiah Wealth Initiative (TIWI) which caters for the needs of women, children and destitute. Also their Devotional Box is the first of its kind multi- version devotional tract that now reaches several thousands of people daily. They live in Lagos with their son Joash.

If you have been blessed by this book, you can write

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