

The Whole Church #22 – The Fatherhood of God, Part 7

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Monday:

These last few weeks we've been talking about fatherhood, and how it affects our identity. I would encourage you to go back to our Facebook page and catch up by reading the AT Snacks.

Please keep thinking about these strong characteristics (DNA) of our house:

The Kingdom of God Our relationship with the Father Grace Our Relationship with One Another Equipping the Saints Signs and Wonders The Poor

It's the adventure, the incredible journey of learning to relate to God as Father. This isn't talked about very often out there, especially in Bible Belt religion.

In the Bible Belt, many depend on this guy standing up here, and a few others, doing most of the ministry. That isn't even biblical.

God is depending and trusting the entire spiritual well being of the whole planet on you and people like you, so you can be a functional contributor to the move of God that's happening.

The Kingdom is coming with or without you. That's why we make it a high, high priority to listen to what God is saying.

This awakening that is happening will be primarily advanced by sons and daughters, believers who know and understand who they are, and who are learning to walk that out.

Tuesday:

These are some of the elements that happen when you learn to relate to God as Father:

- **Security:** As you deepen in your relationship with God, you start to become free from worry.
- **Validation:** There is an empty spot in you that nothing or nobody can validate except the Father. If you don't start the process of learning to relate to God as Father, you're going to live your life unvalidated.
- **Contentment:** Even when you're going through maybe some of the hardest things you've ever gone through, you just know that everything is going to be okay.
- **Peace:** When you're going through the hardest thing in your life, and you're getting tested to the core, underneath there's this abiding peace, if you are relating to God as Father.
- **Joy:** In knowing Him, we have the same kind of joy that Jesus had as the only begotten Son of God. It will remain no matter what kind of circumstances you are going through.
- **Purpose:** Many people live their lives without purpose. They just wander around out

there. We have a reason to live if we have given ourselves to this process.

I'm amazed at how easy it is to focus on the Kingdom, and how few people really do it. Giving time to God, spending some time listening, enjoying and going to Him with no agenda. Just enjoy the presence of the Lord.

The things that God says to you form you and shape you into who you're really supposed to be. So if you're going to know who you are, you've got to do that. There's no other way.

Wednesday:

All things work together for the good of those who are called, for those who love God. Because of this awakening that's taking place, a lot of people are going through some of the hardest things they have ever been through in their life. And, see what God's doing; He's working to do a quick, but thorough, work in you.

God is determined to see you mature into an obedient son or daughter. That's why He allows you to go through such trying, challenging times, to prove to you that you're more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus.

The people who are going to be out there doing the heavy lifting in this great move are going to be people who've been through the fire, who aren't going to cut and run at the first sign of trouble. Whose faith has been nurtured and are ready to go.

All you really have to do to be fully engaged in what God's doing is cooperate.

The church is the only organism on the whole planet that God is entrusting to tell people who He is, how He works and what He does. That's why I'm always talking about the church. I love the church, even in it's current state.

We are living in a time where you're going to see some persecution, greater maybe than has been seen since the first century. If you are paying attention to the news, the Christians are already becoming the enemy.

It's time to saddle up, get off the bench, get moving with the Lord and finding out what your part in this is. Let's get it on.

By His Spirit, He directs us through all of life's joys, heartbreaks, challenges, failures and victories, mountains and valleys.

If you don't think you are God's favorite, you haven't been spending much time with Him lately.

You have THE measure of God's faith. What you do with it is going to dictate whether your faith grows or it lies there dormant. So don't walk around complaining, "*Well, I don't have much faith*". You have all you need, but you have to activate it.

God isn't looking for people that can do something. He's looking for people He can do something in and through.

Thursday:

The Orphan Spirit is a normal condition, for anyone who doesn't have an intimate connection with God the Father. It's just normal for you to have these orphan characteristics. It's evidenced by insecurity and a false

sense of identity.

As you deepen in your relationship with the Lord, a natural thing happens. Your characteristics as a son or daughter go up and your characteristics as an orphan go down.

Here are some characteristics of the orphan spirit:

Unwilling to submit to authority Demanding, usurping or disrespecting authority
Jealousy, strife or envy Always wanting attention Self promotion
Victim mentality Always have to prove your point Emphatically defending your doctrine
Defending yourself Wanting the credit Criticism of others Manipulation
Distrust of authority figures Insecurity Gossip Pride Lack of patience
False Humility Arrogance Poor self esteem Unwilling to open up and be transparent
Judgmental spirit Controlling spirit Ungenerous Worry Rejection
Always pushing your personal or corporate agenda Dominating conversations
Shifting blame Cycle of broken relationships Bragging Putting others down
Constantly talking about oneself Drawing attention to yourself Fear
Too many words Embellishment of personal achievements Knowing everything
Trying to validate yourself Thinking more highly of yourself Name dropping
A complaining spirit Whining One-up-man-ship Gotta tell a bigger story than the last guy
Demanding to have the last word

Friday:

You can all the right biblical information, but if you don't have a relationship with the Father, you're still an orphan. And for leaders, it's a lot worse, because you are still an orphan, and what you're doing is you're training more orphans.

In any church where the Father is not talked about and people are not encouraged to engage in relationship with Him, that church has become an orphanage.

The Bible is not the end-all; it's to lead you into an encounter and into further encounters with the Creator of the universe, Who wants to be your DAD.

The only solution and cure for the orphan spirit is to abandon yourself in an interacting relationship with the Father.

The most important thing I'm doing in my life right now is listening. So, listen and see what it is

that God is saying to you.

Start to get into the flow of what God's doing in your life; little children, young men and fathers. That's the progression of how God wants to bless you,, nurture you and bless you. It's through the little children stage, the young men or women stage, and on to mature fathers and mothers.

You are not hearing this by accident. You are hearing this because God believes you will do something with it.

Saturday:

Religion produces orphans. The modern church has become an orphanage, but the Kingdom produces sons.

Some son versus orphan characteristics:

- Orphans operate out of jealousy and insecurity. Sons operate out of love and acceptance.
- Orphans are jealous of the success of brothers and sisters. Sons are committed to the success of brothers and friends.
- Orphans serve to earn the Father's acceptance. Sons serve out of a sense of understanding they are already accepted.
- Orphans are driven by the need for success. Sons trust the Spirit to lead them in their calling and destiny.
- Orphans are driven. Sons are lead.
- Orphans use people to fulfill their goals. Sons serve people to bless the Kingdom.
- Orphans are always in competition with others. Sons are in competition with the enemy.
- Orphans have a lack of self esteem and confidence. Sons are anchored and walk in their love and acceptance of the Father.
- Orphans underestimate their value to the Father in His Kingdom. Sons understand their value.
- Orphans are never completely at peace. Sons abide in the peace of the Father.
- Orphans need to be in control, even if it's through domination, manipulation or intimidation. Sons understand the channels of leadership and seek to be led by the Spirit.
- Orphans often feel left out, isolated and abandoned. Sons feel secure and at peace in relationship with the Father.
- **Orphans have a message. Sons are the message.**
- Orphans have all the Bible stuff, but sons produce more sons.

Orphans as leaders can have all the correct scripture information of God as Father, but if they are

not engaging, interacting and growing as sons, they still operate and function as orphans.

There's a vacuum right now, for mature fathers in the Lord.

Like Father, like son. As you spend time with the Father, you start to become like Him because you're engulfed in His love. That's what you'll notice if you go to God with no agenda.

You sit down on your porch like I do, or you do it in your car or when you get up. It doesn't matter as long as you are spending time with Him. If you just do it, the one thing you can't miss is how much He loves you. HE IS LOVE!

PLEASE MAKE IT A PRIORITY TO TAKE SOME TIME TO BE WITH THE FATHER.