

The Fatherhood of God #13

AT Snacks- June 23, 2024

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Monday:

Please read 1 Corinthians 4:14-21. This will give you a much better understanding of what Andy is bringing out in this word.

“I lead so and so to the Lord”. I don’t like that terminology because if you’re not careful, you can get over in the ditch on that. I’ve personally never led one person to the Lord, but I have been there quite a few times as God led them past me.

Spiritual Fathers:

- They are mentors and guides in the faith who provide personal guidance and care, much like a father does for his natural children. Unlike a teacher, who primarily imparts knowledge, a spiritual father is involved in the spiritual growth and well being of their sons and daughters, offering emotional support, discipline, and life advice. This relationship is marked by profound personal connection and commitment to the son’s and daughter’s overall development and their faith journey.
- A spiritual father is someone who accepts responsibility for another’s spiritual life.
- They are vital in the kingdom, to provide guidance, foster spiritual growth, offer support, affirming identity, and ensuring the legacy of faith.
- Fathers help sons and daughters through the challenges of life.
- All fathers are teachers, but not all teachers are fathers.
- A seasoned father has been through the fire. He limps a little. I’m not talking about in the natural, but he limps a little indicating that like Jacob, he’s wrestled with God.

Tuesday:

1 Corinthians 11:1 says, *“Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ”*. So, part of that is to maintain consistent spiritual DNA.

Personal contact and personal interaction is the best way to connect with a spiritual father, but that’s not always practical. It can also come in the form of a letter or other types of communication.

A lot of what a fathers pass along is taught, but most of it is caught.

There is an awakening going on, on the planet. It’s a spiritual awakening. I’ve been believing for a time coming like this and now I’m seeing it manifest at a rate that I’ve never seen before. It’s really happening all over.

If you don't get anything else that I say today, get this. What the world is experiencing right now is it. This is what the Bible has pointed to. There's an awakening happening.

Every person in this room has seen things that you thought you'd never ever see in your lifetime. Darkness, licentiousness, sin at a rate that we've never seen before. And if that's all you're looking at, you'll get discouraged.

God is doing more, but you have to look to see it with kingdom eyes, and pay attention to what God is doing, to experience the presence, the power, the manifestation, signs and wonders, miracles and agape love. This generation has a chance to see it like no other generation has ever seen before.

It's time for leaders to lead and fathers to father. If the church is going to be the church that the Bible is talking about, those things have to happen. It's non negotiable and it has to happen.

Wednesday:

If God has your heart, He can get your feet where they belong.

God is testing us in the natural to see if He can trust us with the supernatural.

Good, strong, wise, thorough teachers are needed, but fathering is much more preferred. Heads up: there's much more responsibility concerned when you're talking about spiritual fathering.

We were in a meeting in Mineral Wells, Texas three plus years ago, and there were several leaders on a panel, fielding questions. This question was asked, "*What would you do differently if you had all to do it all over again*"? Peter Lord answered, "*Well, I probably wouldn't be preaching. Preaching is highly overrated. I'd find me 12 men, and pour my life into them*".

Jack Taylor and Myles Munroe are among a few of the foremost authorities on the whole planet who are great at talking about and communicating about the Kingdom of God. "Cosmic Initiative", by Jack Taylor, is a great entry level book on the Kingdom.

Besides a relationship with the Father, nothing can validate you.

The church, in a lot of cases, has become an orphanage of people who don't know who they are, because they haven't engaged or embraced the relationship with the Father.

What do we do when we run into something in the Bible that appears to be a contradiction? Here is the rule of thumb: the problem is not what the Bible says. The problem is your understanding of what the Bible says. Because, God cannot lie, and He can't contradict Himself. That's why He can be trusted in every situation.

Are we living in a time where religion has become about what we do rather than who we know? Are we in that time? Yes, we are. If there's not a relationship with God, it becomes lifeless, and void of changing you or the world pretty quickly.

Thursday:

The only people you see Jesus taking a hard stance with is the religious leaders who refused to come into relationship with Him. It's the same with leaders right now. In the last 2-3 weeks, some widely known, highly respected leaders have gone down.

Differences between teachers and fathers:

- Teachers are motivated by students receiving their input. Fathers are motivated by personal transformation.
- Teachers have students. Fathers have sons and daughters.
- Teachers love academic success. Fathers enjoy life success.
- Teachers have an intellectual connection with their students. Fathers have a heart connection with their children.
- Teachers desire the opportunity to teach. Fathers foster their sons and daughters to ministry.
- Teachers have little responsibility. Fathers understand and accept that responsibility.

Friday:

(Please read 1 John 2: 12-14 to gain some understanding of what Andy finishes up with in this word.)

You can read all three of John's letters in like 5-10 minutes. In them, John mentions the word love (agape) 42 times. If you want to learn some more about agape, I suggest we read these three chapters.

"I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning". Because you have known Him. Not who He is. You have known Him from the beginning.

Your childhood is just like a natural childhood, only spiritual. You are getting acquainted with spiritual things, starting your journey to maturity. We come into the kingdom as a child, doesn't matter how old you are.

The key, or the magic happens, when you are in the process of knowing Him. It always concerns me of how many people say yes, and agree with that, but then don't do it. A lot of times people leave the most important thing undone. This is one of those things that we can't leave undone. It's a non negotiable principle.

This is a warning. We talk so much about relationship that I think a lot of times people in our household, our family, we put the written word of God on the back burner, and that never needs to happen. We need to be people of the word.

Things will never get boring if you decide to be a learner. Be a learner and you'll love your life more.

We'll get skilled in spiritual warfare, **because in them**, young men are not prone to waver in

doctrine. They are on their way to becoming spiritual fathers.

Young men and women in that stage are the doers and are putting their hands to the plow. They're the ones in the battle. They're getting knocked down and getting back up.

Saturday:

Do I need a spiritual father? Does that take the place of my natural father? Absolutely not. In fact, it could be your natural father. Those of you who are growing up to be fathers, father your own first.

Here's one way to become a spiritual father. You get knocked down and slapped around a lot by life. But you keep getting back up. You're committed to God's process.

Another way to become a spiritual father is to become aware of those that the Father is bringing in around you.

How do I know if someone is a son? More often than not, they will be the ones to initiate the conversation. As a father, I may see it and have a strong conviction about it, but when someone else initiates it, I know. There also needs to be a witness by the Holy Spirit, that there's a supernatural connection.

A lot of people are going through some of the toughest things they've ever been through in their life. If that's you, God has you on the fast track. Look for God in your situation, whatever it is that you are going through. Look for God in your situation.

God needs people like you, who have been through the fire. People whom He can trust, with what He wants to do, who don't have their own agenda, but only have His agenda.

The very thing you're going through right now is probably necessary, maybe even vital for you to get to where God wants you to get, because the clock is ticking. This thing is happening right now. God needs you, not in the future, but He needs you now.

He needs people who've been through the fire, who don't cut and run at the first sign of trouble, who trust God, even when it doesn't look like anything is going their way. They trust God.

You can just say, "*Lord, I'm submitting to the process*".