

A portrait of Niyi Makinde, a smiling man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored collared shirt. The background is a solid teal color.

NIYI MAKINDE

# SPIRITUAL FATHERHOOD

Enjoy the blessings and covering of a spiritual father



NIYI MAKINDE

# Spiritual Fatherhood

*Enjoy the blessings and covering of a Spiritual Father*

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*To the Lion of Zimbabwe – Bishop Tudor Bismark – for your impact in  
Christianity globally. Your teachings unlocked the giant and genius in me.  
You are a dispensational father figure!*



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## Preface

On the 16th of April, 2017, I saw in a night vision “Carriers of generational blessings, transferors of generational blessings and harvest of the Father’s fathers into the kingdom.” Having seen this, I wrote it in my notepad. Three years after, I read through my notes and saw this vision. I remember, I was bothered that morning and just decided to read through all my notes, though many. Eventually, I came across this vision I wrote in my note and I heard the Lord spoke to me, it is time for the harvest of the Father’s fathers. God is raising fathers today who will become fathers to other fathers and the next generation.

It is easy to lose spiritual heritage when fathers are few and don’t pour out into the next generation. One of the reasons we have desolate spiritual estates is because spiritual fathers don’t transfer heritage to the future owners of those heritage. The fact is that anybody can give gifts but only parents can give inheritances. You don’t receive spiritual inheritances from a minister, you get inheritance from a father. Many may argue this, but that is the truth. For example, can a secondary school student inherit the property of his teacher? That is not possible. If such student get the property of his teacher, such is not an inheritance but a gift. The word inherit can only be used when there is a strong connectivity which has to do with parents and their children.

Gifts are different from inheritance. There are abandoned spaces of dominion in the realm of the spirit because the real owners of those spaces don’t transfer it to others behind them. Gifts are given, but inheritances are inherited. Until you are connected to a father, you

cannot have an inheritance. The only exception to this is that in a case where someone doesn't have a father figure from which such can receive an inheritance, God will have to exile the person into hiding to train and equip the person on how to possess inheritances through learning, prayers and fasting. Such person must be ready to fight many warfare in order to possess what he wants.

A teacher or mentor can teach you, but fathers will teach you and also bless you. Mentors share knowledge, fathers share blessings. Spiritual fathers are empowered to pronounce blessings over their children. If you are only taught but not blessed, you cannot go far. Our speed and advancement in the kingdom is dependent on the blessings upon our lives.

Spiritual fathers are spiritual programmers. They are always programming the lives of their sons for something. The reason sons are not the same is because they are not programmed the same way. Every time a father speaks to his son, such is doing a programming. The fact is that teaching or knowledge may not make you go or grow ahead of others, it is blessings that makes men grow ahead of others. The way a father programs who will rise above others is by the blessings he pronounced. When you are blessed by your spiritual father, you are programmed for rising.

You can be older than your spiritual father in age. Age is not what qualifies a spiritual father. It is God that makes people fathers. When God desires to make a person a spiritual father, He will put grace, anointing, wisdom, and other spiritual elements on that person. God also administers certain dealings that will furnish character and unusual experiences in that person. This is how God makes the spirit of a man older than his age. Spiritual fatherhood is not a title but a role and responsibility to shoulder. Genuine spiritual fathers don't brag about being fathers. They understand the parameters of their role that it must supply provision, promotion and protection to those connected to them.

People don't cherish the need to have a spiritual father because they don't understand the importance of spiritual fatherhood. Every minister will not be a father but God raises people who end up becoming spiritual fathers to some others.

This book in your hand will revolutionize your perspective about spiritual fatherhood. It will teach you how to connect and relate with your spiritual father appropriately. You will learn how to be a good son and learn how God raises a spiritual father.

If you sense that God is raising you to become a spiritual father to some people or next generation, then this book is for you. Those who are already father figures have a lot to learn from this book. The roles of fathers are clearly explained here. Many fathers have gone to the extreme to do what should not be done. This book will bring clear perspective your fatherly role.

This book also clarify the arguments over spiritual fatherhood whether it is right to have a spiritual father or not. I recommend that all spiritual fathers (who truly want their sons to become father figures) should give this book to their sons to read. This will furnish depth of understanding in them to know what God intends to do with them.

I pray that your understanding will be enlightened as you read. May the Lord in His mercy opens you up to dimensions that logical minds cannot access. Be blessed as you read.



## WHAT JESUS MEANT WHEN HE SAID CALL NO MAN YOUR FATHER

**T**here has been lots of argument over the years in the body of Christ either to call another man your father. The defense by most anti-exponents was that Jesus commanded in scripture that you should call no man your father. One day, I heard a pastor who said that it is African culture that made believers to call another man of God a father. The assumption and conclusion of that pastor is that calling a man of God your father is erroneous and human worship.

One time, a man approached me to question if it is right to call a man of God your spiritual father. I thought he wanted clarity, only for me to discover later that the reason he questioned was because he wanted to test me. You see, such action was wrong. He wanted to know my view about Jesus' statement that you should call no man your father. It was later I discovered his scheme. But thanks to God for supplying understanding from scriptures. Let's break it down.

*Matthew 23:9* says ***"Do not call anyone on earth your father, for One is your Father, He who is in heaven."*** A person who lifts the verse without the application of biblical interpretation will conclude that it is wrong to call another man your spiritual father or father in the Lord. A principle

in hermeneutics is that you must always consider these three factors before you give your interpretation. The three factors are – Pretext, text and Post text.

The Pretext refers to several verses before the text while the post text refers to several verses after the text. If you don't read the verses before the text verse, you will not understand the discussion that leads to this text and will eventually give a personal interpretation that is totally different from what is being discussed.

Let's examine eight verses before the text in *Matthew 23:9*.

- 1 "Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples,**
- 2 "saying: 'The Scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat,**
- 3 "Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that**  
**observe and do, but do not according to their works; for**  
**they say, and do not do.**
- 4 "For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear and lay them**  
**on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move**  
**them with one of their fingers.**
- 5 "But all their works they do to be seen by men. They**  
**make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of**  
**their garments.**
- 6 "They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the**  
**synagogues,**
- 7 "greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men,**  
**'Rabbi, Rabbi.'**
- 8 "but you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your**  
**Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren."**

*Matthew 23:1-8 (Pre text to Matthew 23:9)*

*Let's examine the text:*

**"Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your**



**Father, He who is in heaven.”** Matthew 23:9

Let's examine post text (eight verses after the text)

**10 “And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher,  
the Christ.**

**11 “But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.**

**12 “And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he  
who humbles himself will be exalted.**

**13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For  
you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you  
neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are  
entering to go in.**

**14 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you  
devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long  
prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.**

**15 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you  
travel land and sea to win one proselyte and when he is won,  
you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.**

**16 “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, “Whoever swears by  
the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of  
the temple, he is obliged to perform it.**

**17 “Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the  
temple that sanctifies the gold?”**

Matthew 23:10-17

## LET'S BREAK IT DOWN

Verse one reveals that Jesus talked with His disciples and multitudes of those around Him.

Verse two to seventeen reveal that Jesus was simply talking about the Pharisees and Scribes. He exposed the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and Scribes.

Verse seven reveals that the Pharisees and Scribes love to be called Rabbi (teachers) by men.

The understanding of the above reveals that, what Jesus simply mean in *Matthew 23:9* was that the disciples and multitudes should not call any of the Pharisees and Scribe a teacher or father.

When Jesus said, do not call anyone on earth your father, He simply meant that you should not call any of the Pharisees or Scribes your father. Why? He didn't said that because they are not qualified to be called fathers, but because of their hypocrisy.

Jesus couldn't have meant that you should not refer to anyone on earth as your father because He identified three kinds of father on earth Himself. He only meant that you should not refer to any of the Pharisees or Scribes on earth as your father because they lacked the qualities of fathers.

I have long discovered that proud and arrogant believers and ministers use *Matthew 23:9* to justify their independence and arrogance.

## THREE KINDS OF FATHERS JESUS IDENTIFIED

**1. Biological fathers:** Male individuals who are responsible for the natural procreation of fellow human beings are scripturally referred to as fathers.

Jesus said, "**Honor your father and your mother...**" *Matthew 19:19*. This He said was a reference to *Exodus 20:12*. He was referring to earthly

fathers here. If Jesus actually meant that no human should be called a father on earth, why then, did He reiterate that children should honor their father and mother? For Jesus to command that you should honor your father suggests the fact that He recognized some people as fathers.

In another place, He said, ***“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?”*** Luke 11:11. Do you see that Jesus acknowledged that there are fathers?

**2. The Devil as a father:** Jesus clearly identifies that the devil is also a father to some kind of people. Anyone that does contrary to what God said is of the devil.

He declared ***“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”*** John 8:44

**3. Our Heavenly Father:** Jesus reveals that we have a Father in heaven. He taught His disciples to pray by saying ***“Our Father in heaven...”*** Matthew 6:9. We can safely say, God is Father to those who have faith in Christ.

***“But as many as received him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, to those who believe in His name.”*** John 1:12.

He also acknowledged God as His Father. John 20:17 says ***“Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’”***

## THE CONCEPT OF SPIRITUAL FATHERS

Identifying men as fathers neither start in the Old Testament neither did it start in the New Testament. It all started way back before the Old Testament. It is needful to know that the Old Testament started with the children of Israel in the wilderness. All the times they were in Egypt, they were not in the Old Testament but in the dispensation of the fathers. What brought the Old Testament into existence was the law God gave Moses. The receiving of the Law by Moses was the beginning of the Old Testament. My intention here is not to discuss biological fathers, but spiritual.

When Joseph went into Egypt, he told his brothers that God had made him a father to Pharaoh. *Genesis 45:8* says ***“So now it was not you who sent me here but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.”*** It must be noted that Pharaoh was older than Joseph, but how could Joseph say that God has made him a father to Pharaoh? It is obvious from scripture that Joseph wasn't the biological father of Pharaoh. Evidently, we can see that some individuals saw themselves as fathers to others regardless of their age. For Joseph to call himself a father to Pharaoh, that couldn't have been biological but spiritual.

God Himself called some people fathers. In other words, He recognizes some people as fathers. Let us get it straight that there are some people whose identity in heaven is not that of a prophet to nations like Jeremiah. If God was to talk about Jeremiah, He would say he (Jeremiah) was a prophet. But if God was to talk about some people, He would call them fathers. There are father figures whose fatherhood dimension is recognized in heaven. When God looks down from heaven, He doesn't see them as men or human, but sees them as fathers. Other people on earth may see them as human, but God sees such as fathers.

In *Exodus 3:6*, God said to Moses, ***“I am the God of your father – the God***

**of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”** God didn’t say the God of your fathers, but father. In other words, He saw each of these individuals as a father figure to Moses. Abraham wasn’t the biological father of Moses, but God told Moses that “*your father Abraham.*” The question is that if God recognizes some people as fathers who are you not to recognize fathers?

God told Abraham that He shall be a father of many nations (*Genesis 17:4*). God didn’t say Abraham shall be a father to many sons and daughters but a father to many nations. It is needful to see that the fatherhood dimension of Abraham was a covenant. God told him that his covenant was with him. *Luke 16:24* reveals that even in Hades, Abraham was still referred to as a father. The rich man in hell called him “father Abraham.”

Elisha said to Elijah, “***my father, my father...***” *2 Kings 2:12*. Elisha was the biological son of Shephat (*1 Kings 19:19*), but the spiritual son of Elijah. While other contemporary sons of the prophet in the class of Elisha saw Elijah as a master or senior prophet, Elisha on the other hand saw Elijah as a father. Learning from Elisha, when God connects you to a spiritual person who others see as a pastor, boss, master or mentor, you should be able to discern if such hasn’t been made your father.

When you see a father figure as your spiritual father, God will raise up people who will see you too as a spiritual father too. The king of Israel also called Elisha his father. He said “***... My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?***” *2 Kings 6:21*. Evidently, Elisha wasn’t the biological father of the king. So, you see that kings also acknowledged a prophet as a father. Which kind of father is that then? That is definitely a spiritual father. A President, governor or monarch can call a man of God a father. When you hear such, you just have to know that such is referring to spiritual fatherhood. One time, I heard a preacher criticized the president of a country for calling a man of God a father. When I heard that, I concluded that that preacher was limited in scriptural knowledge. He

wasn't enlightened that kings in Israel called prophets their fathers.

## THE MAKING OF SPIRITUAL FATHERS

In *Genesis 45:8*, we see that Joseph said God had made him a father to Pharaoh. It wasn't something Joseph worked out by himself, but God did and made happen. Obviously, God built a strong capacity in Joseph that would empower him to be able to do for Pharaoh what fathers do for their children. Being a father like Joseph is not a strategic thing. You don't put any strategy to work to emerge a spiritual father to kings, God has to make it happen. If God didn't make you a father, there is nothing you will do in the flesh that would authenticate you as a father.

It takes capacity, credibility and character to become a father. Anyone God will make a father should be ready to go through rigorous process of training and dealings that will furnish the needed capacity, credibility and character that is needed by every father. This is where submission comes in. Until a person submit to the Lord, such cannot be made into a father. If you can impregnate a woman or adopt a child, you will become a biological father, but to become a spiritual father, you have to be made by the Lord. It was God that made Joseph a father to Pharaoh. When you see anyone a ruler or leader refer to as a father, you must know that such has been made a father by the Lord.

Nobody learned to be a spiritual father, God just made some people that. Many people think that being a father is about title but failed to realize it is a responsibility. Some are fond of calling different people their sons and daughters, but deep down in the heart of those they refer to as sons and daughters, they don't see those people as their spiritual fathers. You may go about calling everyone your sons and daughters, which may work for a while, but when those people grow, they will abandon you. Until God made you a father, the heart of people cannot be

with you forever and ever.

God said to Abraham that “...***for I have made you a father of many nations***” Genesis 17:5. Do you see that? It was God that made Abraham a father of many nations. Anyone that God made a father will always have people submit to the fatherhood and authority of such. When God pronounce to someone that I have made you a father, right from that moment, there will always be a witness in the heart of different kind of people that that person is their father. It is futility to attempt to do some activities to be seen as a spiritual father, it takes God to make you one.

One thing you will always see with everyone God has made a father is that they have all it takes to produce sons and daughters. These rare individuals will always have the ability to train and nurture people. God will always impart the anointing, gifts, grace, knowledge and experience on anyone He wants to make a father, so such can reproduce sons and daughters that will be able to carry whatever he has. In every generation, God will always make a father that will produce many fathers..

## FATHERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

In the New Testament, the concept of fatherhood is very much relevant as it was before and during the Old Testament. Just as we saw fathers before and during the Old Testament, it is needful to know that there are fathers in the New Testament. Let's identify few fathers in the New Testament in scriptures.

## 1. JESUS

In the scripture, there was nowhere Jesus was called a father. When He was on earth physically for thirty three and a half years, He was called Master, Lord, Rabbi (Teacher), Rabboni (Teacher of teachers) and so on. He had disciples who followed Him everywhere. And for people to follow Him proved that He was a leader.

In *John 15:15*, Jesus said told His disciples ***“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing, but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”*** This scriptures reveals that the twelve were not just called disciples but servants. Jesus Himself revealed that He called them servants but He has decided to call them friends. So, those who followed Jesus were known as disciples, servants and friends.

Jesus also referred to his disciples as children. When He resurrected, He appeared to them and said ***“...Children, have you any food?...”*** *John 21:5*. How could Jesus called them children if He didn't see Himself as a father to them? For Him to have called them children meant that He saw Himself as a father to them. And for them not to argue that but answered Him meant that they also saw Him as a father. A mere theologian or 21st century preacher may argue that Jesus was never seen as a father to his disciples. Well, such person is only blinded to the fact that Jesus trained His disciples and training is a parental responsibility. To be blinded to see the impact of Jesus' training on His disciples is a sign that you are ignorant of spiritual fatherhood.



## 2. JOHN THE APOSTLE

In 1 John 2:12, John said ***“I write to you little children...”*** in verse 13, he said, ***“I write to you, fathers...”*** Obviously, there were those John saw as children to him while he also saw some believers as spiritual fathers like him. Some people said, we should not call believers fathers. But we see clearly that John referred to some believers as fathers. He even wrote to the fathers. These fathers were not biological but spiritual.

3 John 4 says ***“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”*** Do you see that now? He personalized the children here. He said ***“my children.”*** Those children were his spiritual children. For John to have said ***“my children”*** meant that some people recognized him as a father. John was a spiritual father in the New Testament as revealed in scripture.

## 3. PETER

Peter was also a father figure. He said ***“She who is in Babylon, elect together with you greets you; and so does Mark my son.”*** 1 Peter 5:13. Peter called John Mark his son. That shows Peter was a father. It must be noted that Peter dictated the book of Peter to Mark who wrote it. Since Peter wasn't educated, it was Mark that helped him put his words into writing. Mark wrote as dictated. That shows that Mark also saw Peter as a father because he didn't argue the statement when Peter dictated to him.

#### 4. PAUL THE APOSTLE

Paul said ***“My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you”***Galatians 4:19. Do you realize that he referred to the whole believers at Galatia as his children? Definitely, he was the father to them. In 1 Corinthians 4:15, he said ***“you don’t have too many fathers...”*** He saw himself as the father to the believers at Corinth.

#### DISCIPLESHIP VERSUS FATHERHOOD

Matthew 28:19–20 says ***“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen”***

A critical look at these verses reveals something clear. Jesus commanded His disciples and apostles to go make disciples of all nations. It must be noted that Jesus’ disciples were also apostles. In other words, while they were Jesus’ disciples, they were also known as apostles. In fact, immediately Jesus appointed the twelve, He named them apostles (Luke 6:13). It should be noted that after Jesus resurrected, He appeared to His disciples and called them *children* (John 21:5).

John the Baptist had his disciples just as the Pharisees also had their disciples. The word *disciple* wasn’t a coinage from Jesus neither was it an import from Judaism. It was an import from the Greek. In ancient world, disciples were found outside of the Bible. Many Greek Philosophers were disciples to some others. This will lead us to find out who a disciple is.

### *Who is a disciple?*

A disciple is a follower or learner of another. He is such that imitate both the life and teaching of his master. A disciple will not see whoever he learned from as a mentor but a master. The reason being that a mentor expects you to learn his knowledge but not necessarily his lifestyle. A master who has a disciple will on the other hand expect his disciple to learn his knowledge and imitate his lifestyle. If you find it difficult to imitate the lifestyle of whoever you follow, you cannot be identified as a disciple.

The concept of discipleship is about apprenticeship which suggests that a disciple should end up becoming a direct and living copy of his master. A disciple is one who engaged in learning through the instruction of another. You can't claim to be a disciple if you are not ready to imitate the teacher's way of life. Anyone who is known as a disciple must readily desire to learn not only the teaching of the teacher but imitate the practical details of the teacher's life.

In Christianity, a disciple is a believer who follows, learns and imitate Christ. The insight is that you have to believe in Jesus and confessed His Lordship, afterward, begin to learn about the doctrine and lifestyle of Jesus. In Christianity, the person through whom a disciple learned about following Christ is known as a discipler.

### *Who is a discipler?*

A discipler is the Christian whose teachings and lifestyle mirrors and models Christ teaching and lifestyle to a disciple. The whole work of anyone known as a discipler is to teach you about Christ. Definitely, you need not be told that there will be direct relationship between the disciple and his discipler.

The discipler in Christianity will not attempt to make a disciple follow him but to follow Christ. The message of a genuine discipler to his disciple will make the disciple to be an imitator of Christ. Such can then say like Paul that, ***“imitate me just as I imitate Christ.”***

## ESTABLISHED FACTS:

You will never see a place where the word *disciple* is mentioned in the epistles. Epistles are letters. The book of Romans to Jude are epistles written to believers and ministers. Paul, Peter, James, John, and Jude wrote the epistles and none of them use the word *disciple* in their writings. I wondered why such would be so. But thank God for clarity from the scripture.

Let's assume that since Paul wasn't among the earthly disciples of Jesus, he didn't like to use the word *disciple*. The question then is that what about others? After all, some of them were earthly disciple of Jesus. Why did they not use the word in their writings?

As I studied the scripture, I see that the reason for such was because they didn't want Christians to see themselves as followers of Christ alone but as believers in Christ. The fact is that right from the time Jesus resurrected, it was no longer about following Him but about getting into Him. In Christ, you are not a disciple, you are a new creation.

The right perspective that should be sustained is that a Christian is not another disciple attempting to follow Jesus but a new creation inside Christ Jesus. A believer in Christ doesn't need to be an apprentice attempting to be like Christ but is already a new creation made in the image of Christ. So, with this insight, it will be confusing to refer a new creation in Christ as just a disciple (notice the word “just”).

Someone may say that but the believers were called disciples in the book of Acts. But such a person needs to know that the book of Acts

is a historical account of the early church not a doctrinal book like the epistles. Some people still refer to believers as disciples today which I am not against. But it is needed we see the light from scriptures that believers today are no longer disciples trying to follow Jesus but new creation in Christ Jesus. Salvation doesn't make you a disciple of Jesus, but a new creation in Christ Jesus.

It should be noted that those who wrote the epistles in scripture never refer to any believer as their disciple or disciple of Jesus. Peter never refer to anyone as a disciple of Jesus, the same with John. The reason for such was because they understood testamental approach. They understood that in the New Testament, believers are not disciples, they are new creation. Am I against discipleship? Absolutely no! All I am trying to communicate is that in the New Testament, we should not see ourselves as disciples of Jesus, but as new creation in Christ. A new creation can never be a disciple. A disciple is not born of God, they only follow to learn from their master. But believers in Christ Jesus are born of God. As long as you are born again, you should not just see yourself as a disciple, but a son of God and new creation in Christ Jesus. I just want you to see something unique. Let's discuss about fatherhood.

## Fatherhood Dimension

It is amazing to see from scripture that those disciples that followed Jesus when He was physically present on earth never refer to anyone as their disciple in scripture. They rather referred to those who followed them as their sons and co-workers. And they never refer to any believer as a disciple. Well, it is not wrong to call a believer a disciple of Jesus, but that tag or identity will only limit the understanding of who we are and limit the expression of divine life in a person. When the twelve followed Jesus on earth, the life of God and Spirit of God was not in them. But right

from the time, the salvation of man was completed, they had access to the life of God.

Peter referred to Mark as his son. He said “Mark my son.” He didn’t say “Mark my disciple.” The fact is that in the New Testament, you can call a person your disciple or son. The reason being that there is nowhere it is written in the bible that you should not call a believer your disciple or son. But the clear approach we see in scripture is that apostles like Peter, John and Paul referred to people as their children, sons and they never call anyone their disciple. Paul never call Timothy or Titus his disciple, but he called them his sons. In fact, he referred to both of them as his true sons.

I believe we should follow the patterns we see in the Bible. Since the men that were called disciples of Jesus on earth physically didn’t call anyone their disciple, but rather referred to those they trained and taught as their sons and children, then, it is wisdom and clear example for us to follow the patterns we see in scripture. Personally, I don’t see anyone under my spiritual tutelage as my disciple, I see them as children and sons. That is the pattern we see in scripture and learned from the early apostles. Those connected to me don’t see me as a discipler but as a father. In fact, the pattern of fatherhood and sonship is the clear ministry pattern for raising men. To me, I believe that fathers should not just raise sons, they should raise fathers who will raise other fathers.

Let’s get further insight. The concept of discipleship is about apprenticeship and learning. It is a relational approach between someone who teach and another that learns. Unlike the fatherhood approach where the father and son have a deep relationship and affection for each other. In fact, Jesus at a point told his disciples that he no longer see them as servants but as friends. Why did he say that? The reason is because, discipleship, being a concept of learning from a teacher, may not afford you that deep intimacy. The fact is that a disciple cannot inherit the heritage of his discipler. But a son has the privilege to inherit the heritage

of his father. There are spiritual heritages that cannot be taught, it can only be imparted. Discipleship is about training your mind with right knowledge, but fatherhood goes beyond that. Spiritual fathers can impart spiritual gifts like Paul did for Timothy and Paul intended to do for the Roman believers. Discipleship doesn't impart spiritual gifts like that. The focus for a disciple is to learn how to live and behave right.

Jesus called his disciples, he gave them power over unclean spirits and to heal those who were sick, but he never impart them with any spiritual gifts. Elisha demanded for the double spirit of Elijah and he got it. He said "my father, my father..." Elisha didn't say, "my mentor, my discipler..." No! You don't get the double spirit of a mentor or discipler. You can only get the double spirit of whoever you look up to as a father. The reason is because getting the spirit of a man is about inheritance. And inheritance is only with fathers not with teachers. Can you inherit the house of any of your secondary school teacher? Absolutely no! But you sure can inherit the house of your father. That is it! It is only in a father-son relationship that you can get spiritual heritage. Heritage here refers to graces and anointing your spiritual father has. When you see someone as your father, you can carry the grace and anointing such carries.

## WHO IS A FATHER

**T**he fatherly role cannot be overemphasized. It is needful for us to know who a father is. In Greek, the word “father” is “Pater.” In Aramaic, the word father is ‘abba.” Let’s examine a few words in English that clearly explains the word “Pater.”

- Sustainer (one who make everything ready and available)
- Trainer (one who transfer his knowledge, understanding and skills)
- Protector (one who guides and guards)
- Upholder (a lifter and one who pulls to the top)
- Nourisher (the person supplies food, items and substance)
- Progenitor (This refers to antecedents or ancestors)

Our world is filled with many father figures (both biological and spiritual). It must be well accepted that fathers are master builders while mothers are co-builders.



## SEVEN KINDS OF FATHERHOOD

### 1. *Biological Fatherhood*

This is our earthly father. Every man since the world began has a biological father except for three people who are Adam, Eve and Jesus. That is why Jesus was called the son of Mary. Mary once said to Jesus, **“...Look, Your father and I have sought you anxiously.”** Luke 2:48. Jesus corrected Mary indirectly by saying, **“Why did you seek Me? Did you not know I must go about My Father’s business?”** (Luke 2:49). That is trying to correct the statement of Mary that Joseph wasn’t his father. Some people even referred Jesus to be the carpenter’s son.

The first year of Adam was not as a baby but as a mature man. God had the plan that His Son would come into the world without the sperm insertion of any man. That is why He said in *Genesis 3* about the seed of the woman. Nobody has the right to choose who will be his biological father. That is why robbers gave birth to some people and presidents gave birth to some others. There is no equality in biological fatherhood. Some have rich parents, while some others have poor parents. Adam and Eve had a maker not a father.

### 2. *Divine Fatherhood*

*Hebrew 12:9* refers to God as the Father of spirits. Divine Fatherhood is the fatherhood of God. God became Father Himself and became a Father to His Son and eventually became a Father to Jesus’ brethren. God was everything to the children of Israel except one. This is the highest level of fatherhood. God is the Highest (*Luke 1:35, 76*). Jesus is called the Son of the Highest. That shows that all His brethren are now sons of the Highest too. All believers have access to divine fatherhood. To those in

the world, He is God but to us He is a Father. What made you a son of God and made Him your Father is your belief in Jesus (remember that as many as received Him to them He gave the power to become sons of God). This divine fatherhood makes us relate and communicate to God in a unique way. We understand deeply that God dwells in us but not as God but as a Father (1 John 3:24). God is our Father. If God was the Father of Jesus, then, He is your Father too.

When did God give birth to you? The truth is that when you resurrected with Christ, you were born of God. Resurrection was the opening of your birth. The divine fatherhood of God is to the new creation. God is the Father of New Creation. Adam didn't know the dimension of God's Fatherhood. Christ gave us access to God's Fatherhood.

### *3. Satanic or Anti-Divine Fatherhood*

*John 8:44* shows that the devil is a father. He is a father to all liars and murderers. He is the father of all in the world. Anyone who is not saved has Satan as his father. Paul calls Satan the god of this world, but from Jesus' perspective, he is a father. Our God is God and Father to us. Satan is also a god and father. Now, everyone on earth belongs to the fatherhood of either God or the devil. But glory to God for all believers belong to the fatherhood of God.

### *4. Spiritual Fatherhood*

This is when a spiritual man serves as a father over another. Sometimes, a biological father can be your spiritual father, but it is rare. It is a privilege to have a person serve as a spiritual father to you. Paul was a father to Timothy, Titus, Onesimus, Philemon and so on. Peter called

Mark his son. Mark was a cousin to Barnabas, a ministry partner to Paul but a spiritual son to Peter. You can be a co-worker with a man of God and have another as your spiritual father.

### ***5. Apostolic or Prophetic Fatherhood***

This is almost similar to spiritual fatherhood. It is a kind over a group of people. This kind is a trainer who raise people and oversee them to see that they come to maturity. There's nothing like apostolic fatherhood in the Old Testament but we see prophetic fatherhood. Prophetic fatherhood started in the days of Samuel. It didn't start in the days of Moses. How it started was that Samuel started the school (otherwise known as the company) of prophets in Israel. This was where prophets were trained. So, instead of calling them students of the prophets, they were called sons of the prophets. The company of prophets is actually a form of the sons of prophets. If you see sons, it means there's a father. People like Samuel, Elijah, Elisha are prophetic fathers. They have what it takes to father prophets. They have the spiritual resources to raise, equip, and nurture prophets.

These apostles and prophets are those who trained others for the work of ministry. They are individuals that trained ministers and leaders. They often give oversight over ministries, churches, and networks. They are not fathers to one person but a group of people. They are pioneers, reformers, and founders of the new. They stand for revolution to birth something new into the kingdom. They shift paradigms and methods of operations.

## 6. *National Or Continental Fatherhood*

The word *national* suggests a nation. Samuel was the national father of Israel. Elisha grew to be the father over Israel. The king of Israel called Elisha *a father*. Kings are compelled to submit to them. In a structured nation, the president is compelled to submit to such. There was a time in Nigeria Arch. Bishop Benson Idahosa was the national father over Nigeria. But as of today, the person God has raised for that is Pastor E.A Adeboye. Whether you like it or not, he is the spiritual authority over Nigeria. It is God that raises such people. You can't make yourself a father over an entire nation. Before you can be a father over a nation or continent, God has to take you through a lot of process. There can't be two national fathers over an entire nation at once. Whoever God makes the national father figure will command the attention and submission of other father figures in that nation. They may not all like him but none can argue and deny the spiritual authority God has given to such. That is the reason that regardless of what every other father figures or leaders in a nation have said concerning a matter, everyone in that nation still wants to hear the views and opinion of whoever is the national father about such. Arch. Bishop Williams Duncan is the national father of Ghana. It's such a pity that some nations don't have such a father because it takes stature to rise to that level. It takes a high level of commitment to get to that level.

## 7. *Generational Fatherhood*

Some people refer to these patriarchs as dispensational men. These are fathers that father an entire generation. For example Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, Kenneth Hagins, Morris Cerullo, E.A Adeboye, Arch. Bishop Williams Duncan. It's just that we don't value people when they are alive.

Different nations will always call for them. These people have mantles generation can contact. If you want to enter certain dimensions you have to listen to those people. These rare individuals have what it takes to produce leaders for the next generation.

Generational fathers are those whose impact covers the whole leaders and fathers in an entire generation. Such people have what it takes to empower others. They are those who come with certain dimensions of the Spirit in a generation to supply what is lacking. In the 80s, the messages and books of Kenneth Hagin were read all over everywhere and that becomes the strong foundation and bedrock for the emergence of great preachers, teachers, and fathers in the faith. When God raises a generational father, heritage are restored.

## THE ROLE OF BIOLOGICAL FATHERS

Fatherhood is all about responsibility. Fathers are to bring their children in the nurture and admiration of the Lord. The fact is that if you permit your children to do what they like today, they will show you what you don't like tomorrow. You have to know that the younger the children, the more penetrating the training. You must never be afraid or ashamed to correct your children. The children you pamper today will shame you tomorrow.

As a biological father, you don't advise your children, you instruct them. God didn't make you an adviser to your children. He made you an instructor to them. Some parents are loosed that they never invest instruction into their children early. They permit them to do whatever they like. What they forgot to know is that the time will come that the children will grow old and they will not be able to talk to them anyhow again.

In the book of Proverbs, what was said is that *"you should listen to*

*the instruction of your fathers.*” In other words, the father should give instruction not advice. You give counsel when they grow older. But at their early stage, you must invest instruction into them. All fathers should be instructors. Children loves to be instructed.

Most fathers prefer beating their children always. Well, you can beat. But you need to know that what you do to their mind is the most important, not what you do to their body. When you beat your children, you are only torturing their body and inserting fear in their mind. It is essential you know that it is the quality of information you put in their mind that really matters. Even after you beat them, you still have to talk to them. Your duty is to train their mind not just torture their bodies. If you beat them but failed to talk to their mind, they will not change.

The way you train your child is to talk to his or her mind. You must be diligent to know the kind of information that enters the mind of your children. What they hear today will affect their decisions and actions tomorrow. You have to tell them what is right early. You must repeat words to their hearing regularly. Sometimes, children need to be reminded more than they are instructed. Whatever good things you want them to do always, you should repeat it to their hearing always.

All biological parents should bear in mind that their children today will be their parents tomorrow. If you don't teach them the right things today and feed them with the right education, they will not be able to move into the next level of their lives. The quality of information you put in the brain of your children today will determine the quality of their personalities tomorrow. Therefore, be intentional to train your children.

## SPIRITUAL FATHERHOOD

**A** generation that doesn't know about spiritual fatherhood can never grow to become spiritual fathers. Spiritual fatherhood is not an office or a title. It is a responsibility God raises certain people to take. Any generation that despises spiritual fatherhood will eventually lose the opportunity to receive rich spiritual heritage. Fathers are mantle carriers. The word *mantle* is not just a cloth. In the spirit, the mantle of a man represents the angelic systems that works with that man. Connecting with a spiritual father is connecting with the angelic systems that work with such. In other words, any angel that work with that man will work with you.

Until you know about spiritual fatherhood, you may not enjoy the benefits of it. Don't mind many of those who go about claiming to be fathers to some people when they have not invested in those people. They think that being a spiritual father is just a status that add some accolades and honor to a person. I remember a man who used to call me his son when he didn't even know anything about my spiritual life. That is funny! My spiritual father wasn't even bragging about it, yet, that man would claim he was my father. What I know is that every son knows his father and all genuine fathers know their sons. It was later I

discovered that the man would go around calling everyone his son and daughter. The fact is that such man lacked the right education about spiritual fatherhood. May be if such understand the complexities and responsibilities attached to it, he wouldn't have claimed such. Let's journey to find out what spiritual fatherhood is.

When you listen to old time preachers or pastors who are fifty years and above, those elders, you will observe that these individuals work in the miraculous and great things happen in their life. But if you check ministers and preachers who are forty-three downward, though not all, but many of them, you will realize that you don't see the miraculous at work in their life. What you tend to see often is teaching that comfort the heart of men and preaching that makes men feel good. When real spiritual issue comes up, they often lacked capacity to attend to it.

How far the bullet of a gun can go has been determined from the factory by the manufacturer, but the distance an arrow can reach is not determined by the manufacturer but by the person shooting the arrow. The strength of the archer will determine the distance the arrow can reach. Your spiritual father is your Archer. If I know your spiritual father, I will know who is shooting you. All spiritual sons are arrows in the hand of a mighty man. Your archer that can launch you far. Scriptures says ***"as arrows are in the hand of a mighty man, so are children of one's youth."*** Your spiritual father is the mighty man with arrows and all his children are the arrows in his hand. If you are an arrow, but you don't have anyone shooting you, you can't reach anywhere. When your spiritual father instructs you to do something or send you a message, what do you think he is doing? The simple fact is that he is trying to shoot you.

The issue is that in the body of Christ, we have replace fatherhood with mentoring. A father can mentor but not all mentor can father. Many contradictions here and there that people seemed not to understand what is what and who is who.

Spiritual fatherhood is not forced, it grows organically. Spiritual



fathers don't emerge overnight. They are people who have gone through certain experiences and God has permitted them to go through certain issues so they could raise mature sons and daughters. Spiritual fathers are spiritual covering. The essence of spiritual covering is first, for protection, second, for provision, third, for promotion. When you have a cover over your life, you are protected easily.

## HOW WE CAME ABOUT THE WORD "MENTOR"

There are certain things that people are ignorant of. Most arrogance is a product of ignorance. There are certain words that many don't know are actually the names of people. Lexicographers (those who wrote dictionary) only inserted those words into language word bank because of their consistent usage.

There was a man whose name was *Mentor*. This man was knowledgeable and highly intelligent. He was known to understand royal code and conduct. He was not much of a thinker but a reader and observer. His knowledge and exposure spans through what he learned through reading and stories told to him. Eventually, his brilliance was known to others – his contemporaries and sages.

At a time, the Greek warrior known as Odysseus wanted his son to be trained about the behaviors of the royals. He wanted him trained about how kings and rulers were expected to behave and make judgment. This prompted him to call for a teacher known as *Mentor* to train his child. Mentor eventually trained Odysseus's child and within a short time, the child became highly knowledgeable about decision-making and behaviors of kings. So, when people got to know about the courtesy and behavior of Odysseus's child, they wondered how a young boy like him could be knowledgeable that much. Eventually, everyone got to know that Mentor trained him. And the saying went round the empire

that if you want your child to be trained too, call *Mentor* to train him.

Subsequently, when Mentor died, some of the people he had trained took up his teaching role and began to teach others. So, everyone began to refer to the new teachers as new Mentors. Since Mentor had trained many people, it was expected that many would take up his role after he died.

Centuries later, some scholars who had learned about the story of Mentor and the people he trained who took up his role after he died concluded that everyone need to have a mentor and be a mentor to others. They believed that if you can teach others what you know and help them grow, you are like Mentor. As time went by, the words change from “you are like Mentor” to “You are a Mentor.”

The fact is that anyone that can speed up people’s growth to maturity, increase their desire to learn, excel and assists them to correctly recognize and develop their gifts and talents is a mentor. The whole thing about mentoring is about teaching.

### **Established Fact**

*It must be established that spiritual fathers are more than mentors. Mentoring people is different from fathering people. You must avoid the trick to assume that both are just a play on words. No! All spiritual fathers can mentor but not all mentor can father.*

*A mentor is a teacher. Imagine your primary or secondary school teacher. Will you call your school teacher your biological father? That is absolutely not possible! Yet, we know that a son could have a father who is also a teacher in his school or even be his class teacher. In that case, the man becomes a father at home and teacher in school to the son. Also, we must accept the fact that those who mentor may not necessarily be spiritual fathers.*

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MENTOR AND SPIRITUAL FATHERS

1. Mentors share knowledge. Fathers share more than knowledge, they share blessing.
2. Mentors give insight. Fathers give authority.
3. Mentors are for seasons. Fathers are forever.
4. Mentors train us. Fathers birth us, train us, and birth ministry and things in us
5. Mentors prepare our minds for what is ahead. Fathers impart our spirit for what is ahead
6. Mentors see us as students, learners, mentees. Fathers see us as sons and daughters
7. Mentors seek to impart the mental part of us. Fathers seek to impart the mental and spiritual part of us.

## WHO IS A SPIRITUAL FATHER?

A spiritual father is a patriarch in the spirit who is seen as an authority among men. Age is not what makes such a patriarch but the grace and anointing that such person carries. There are individuals in our world who carry a heavy and strong patriarchal anointing and grace that can distribute spiritual portions for tribes and clans in territories, nations and generations.

A spiritual father is a trainer. He births and builds ministry in you. He is such whose words and lifestyle create desires and passion in you to serve God more and more. Timothy was Paul's son by training. In other words, Timothy was Paul's sons by doctrinal persuasion.

Fathers are foundations. Often times, people don't know them early but their sons and daughters know them and recognize their impact in their lives. A spiritual father is someone who birth something in you. It is either he births ministry or a dimension of the Spirit in you. Others may not know it, but the Spirit will bear witness in your heart that such dimension or ministry was birth through a man.

If there will be preservation of spiritual heritage, there must be transfer from one generation to another. And fathers are the channel through which God transfers spiritual heritage from one generation to another. There is no grace, anointing or angelic systems that is not from a generation. Whatever dimension of the Spirit that is not transferred from a generation will have to be sought through labors of fasting and prayers by successive generations. Often times, it will take God a whole process to raise someone that will be consecrated and prepared to be able to bring about a spiritual heritage that was lost in the previous generation.

Fathers are instructors in doctrine. They are trainers by examples. Just by studying their lives, you will know how to live. One of the truths about a father is that he has the influence and authority to endorse and approve.

Your root determines your fruits. Fathers are roots, sons are fruits. If I know who you are connected to spiritually, I can predict the kind of grace and anointing that will manifest in your life. Every powerful and grace-transferring revelation come from a father. Yes, we are to preach the gospel, but it is needful to know that there are some revelation that must be preached too. Most people haven't differentiated the difference between preaching the gospel from preaching certain revelations. A revelation on the subject of prayers will always need to be preached and taught to believers. It must be noted that people have been praying and teaching about prayers before the gospel started. Jesus, John the Baptist and even the Pharisees taught on the subject of prayers before Jesus died

and resurrected. While you preach the gospel to the unsaved, there are certain revelations that should be preached to the saved – the believers. It must be noted that most fathers who God often use as channels to dispense certain revelations to the Body of Christ are often apostles or prophets.

There are certain assignments and functions God cannot commit into your hand until you are a father. Remember, I have established in chapter one of this book that God is the One who makes people fathers. When God makes you a father, He will give people revelation about your fatherhood. God will never reveal what He has not done or doesn't intend to do about you. Many have mistaken the anointing as fatherhood. God will not commit the work or assignment meant for fathers to you because you are anointed. No! He gives you the assignments meant for fathers because He has made you a father.

When you see a man that other people submit to as their spiritual father, you must never think that that person is doing something special that made people to submit to him. You must be conscious of the fact that it is the inward workings of God in the life of that person that compels others to submit to him. When God wants to make a person a spiritual father, He will release an anointing that translate into great authority on the life of that person. There is an anointing that God will put on a person that will make that person known as a father to a people. The moment God put such anointing on display, people will not see that man as a performer but a father they should submit to.

Don't be deceived, people are not equal. The anointing differentiates the anointed from each other. Many people have come to me to submit to me as sons and daughters, in fact, many ministers and ministry pioneers have come to submit themselves to me. But the fact is that I didn't work it out. But there is an anointing God puts on me that will always serve as a covering for everyone connected to me. I remember one time that God told me that my fatherhood is authenticated from heaven. I

meditated on that word until I saw from scriptures that God Himself called some people fathers. Only those who are registered in heaven as fathers will God introduce as fathers to others. I have never told anyone to come and submit to me or tell them I want to father them. No! But there is a way God speaks to the heart of men to reveal who He has authorize and anointed to be a father to a generation and dispensation. And everyone that submit to whoever God has anointed will be a partaker of the anointing on the anointed. I believe God is raising many fathers today and you may be one of those who God is raising also. On fatherhood, I want you to know that God doesn't anoint you as a father to a people to change your status but to carry out a function.

There is a distinct insight into the prayers and blessings of a spiritual father. There are certain ways that spiritual fathers pray. God often put certain utterances upon their lips to utter and when they open their mouth to say it, heaven stamps it. You may have the greatest revelation or knowledge, that doesn't mean you will rise. It is the blessed that rises in the kingdom. All believers have been blessed in Christ, but all believers are on earth too. Fathers have been blessing people before Jesus came to the world to die. The blessings the old saints received from their fathers before Jesus came on earth was the blessings on earth. There are blessings we receive in Christ, there are blessings we receive on earth. Fathers pronounce blessings that makes manifestation for results and advancement on earth.

## SPIRITUAL FATHERS ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO SPIRITUAL ADVANCE

In the kingdom, one of the things that determines the hierarchy of men is the authority vested upon on their life. You may have all the insight but if you don't have the authority, you can't rise. When you look around, you will see that many believers and ministers have insight; they know many things, but lacked authority. Lack of authority will make you have limited impact in the lives of people. When you lack authority in life, you will lack influence in life. It takes authority to command the attention of men. And when you command the attention of men, you can easily influence them. The fact is that authority in the kingdom is not gotten strategically but spiritually.

God invests authority in fathers and everyone connected to them become an extension of their authority. The other day I had a pastor who castigated fathers in faith. He did that for long but eventually lost his influence. The Lord spoke to me one day: *look at this man, he can't have a voice in the coming generation*. As at then, that pastor's voice was almost becoming louder, but today his voice is no longer louder because authority is superior to knowledge. The degree to which you are known for exploits is not a function of your knowledge, vision, insight but the function of the authority God has invested on your life. The truth is, we don't know much about authority today because we have despised fatherhood.

Sometimes ago, a young brother I knew very well received certain teachings. Actually before he received the teachings, he knew about fatherhood and submission; he was consistent with acknowledging spiritual fatherhood and he began to grow in influence. Influence in the world can be manipulated with money and many things but in the kingdom you can't manipulate influence. Influence in the kingdom is spiritual. You cannot have it except it is given to you. In the world, to

maneuver your way around influence; just do something relevant that will give you recognition. You may connect with a celebrity or attack someone who is at the top. All these may earn you influence in the world. But in the kingdom, there is nothing external you will do that will earn you influence without first engaging in some spiritual activities.

The problem with many is that they look at the life of some authority figures, and they desire the kind of results they command. They want the kind of results and spiritual advancement they make but they don't want to follow their path. I have learnt many things through listening and reading and still learning. I have seen that if you have all the knowledge and you don't have authority in the kingdom, you can't go far. You cannot enter into the dimensions of authority if you don't know about fatherhood.

Back to the story of the brother, the brother listened to a certain minister and his message that taught against spiritual fatherhood. You see, you don't listen to everyone and you don't listen to people who are not on the path to the level you want to get to. For example, if you don't desire to be great or impart your world; if you don't desire to be a major force and voice in the world, you can't read my books or listen to my message. There are different teachings. There are teachings about realities in Christ; some are about greatness while some are about prayers. There is a knowledge or revelation that will birth ministry in you. That brother listened to a minister and messages that despised fatherhood and as such, he never gave attention to listened to the father figures. I took time to study the life of that man and gradually, he began to lose kingdom influence. As at today, authority has exited the life of that brother. I counsel believers to be careful of what and who they listen to. You must never give attention to any preacher or teacher that preaches or teaches against spiritual fatherhood.

In the kingdom, there are some things you don't joke with. To be a public speaker, you don't need a father. But to make great kingdom



impact that is irresistible, connect with a father figure. Somebody must be a channel. Certain spiritual dimension must flow from a channel into your life. The word *father* means source. You have to be connected to a source that pours spiritual things into your life regularly. Spiritual things are revelations from God's word and anointing. Someone may just come into the kingdom and rise suddenly because there is a source that pours into him. Often, when you see someone rising speedily in the kingdom, you must know there could be a father source pouring into his life regularly. May God grant you understanding!

When I was at the university, I know of pastors of fellowship who despised the dimension of fatherhood. The reason for such is because they felt since they have the Holy Spirit, they have all that is needed. When you listen to a message that says you don't need fathers in the kingdom and that all you need is the Holy Spirit, then, you should know that someone is coming with a rebellious message. Yes, the Holy Spirit is supreme in the lives of believers but we need to know that God has assigned fathers in faith too.

If you want to rise in the kingdom you must be connected to a source. Don't join young folks that says it is the Holy Spirit that you need. You have to know that the Holy Spirit has put certain words in the heart of some fathers in the faith. You may not go and grow fast if you want to receive all from the Holy Spirit directly. I have a burden for a generation and my burden is that I really want this generation to be relevant, highly influential, impactful and have great authority in the kingdom. One of the ways this happens is that fatherhood dimension is birthed.

*1 Corinthians 4:15* **"For though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you have not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel."**

Paul addressed the believers at Corinth that they don't have too many

fathers but they may have many instructors. Instructors are mentors or teachers. You may not have one mentor and you don't really need to have personal relationship with them, but there must be personal relationship in father-son connectivity. You don't have two biological fathers, so you can't have two spiritual fathers. Paul told the Corinthian church that he was their father.

**1 Corinthians 1:12-13 says "Now this I say, that each of you says, I am of Paul or I of Apollos or I am of Cephas or I of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?"**

Paul addressed an issue here. The church at Corinth had the privilege to listen to Cephas, Paul, Apollos and their heart was connected to them.

The church at Corinth had access to listen to Paul, Apollos and Peter, yet Paul told them that they don't many fathers. He told them neither Apollos nor Peter was their father. You may listen to different ministers, but you can't say all are your spiritual father. No! But there will be someone God will position in your life that will be a covering over your life. You are blessed and favor if you can recognize and connect with that person.

Peter was an elder in the faith, he was with Christ physically on earth but that doesn't make him the father to the Corinthian believers. Paul was a young man but God made him the father to the believers at Corinth. It will be very absurd for the church at Corinth to see Peter or Apollos as their spiritual father. You have to know who God had appointed as your spiritual father.

1 Cor. 4:15 reveals that Paul preached to the Corinthian believers and got them saved. Many preachers have extracted that only the person who got you saved can be your spiritual father. That's not true! In scripture we see that Timothy was already saved before Paul met him, yet Paul

called that person his son and Timothy never argued it.

## HOW PAUL BECAME A FATHER TO TIMOTHY

**“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. He was well spoken of by some brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.” Acts 16:1-3**

We can see from the above scriptures that Timothy was a believer before Paul met him but it is clear from scriptures that Paul later took him along in his missionary journey. The questions in the heart of many believers is that, how will they connect with their spiritual father? Is it the father that will tell a person that I want you to be my son or the son will be the one to choose his spiritual father?

There is nobody on earth that will say I told him or her that I want to be his or her spiritual father. I believe that a spiritual son doesn't need to go about to find a spiritual father. No! What you need is to discover who the person has been all the way. One thing is certain, every son will know his father. One of the ways to know your spiritual father is to identify the person who your heart thinks about regularly and who you yearn to hear words from regularly. God will always use the image and voice of your spiritual father to talk to you in your dream.

Timothy was a believer before Paul met him. That means someone else preached the gospel to him and got him saved. Yet, Timothy never identify the person that got him saved as a father, but reckoned with the

man (Paul) who he met later as his spiritual father. I want you to see something that Paul said concerning Timothy. Philippians 2:19–22 says ***“But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel.”***

As a spiritual father, if you want to identify who is your sons in the Lord, simply identify the people who are willing to serve with you in ministry. If you can identify the man you are willing to serve with in ministry, that could be a signal to recognizing your spiritual father. You can't be a son in the faith and not be willing to serve with your spiritual father. Even if you have your ministry, you will be willing to serve in the ministry of your spiritual father whenever you are called upon. Serving your spiritual father is not about preaching on his platform but making yourself available to do whatever he commits into your hand. Paul trained Timothy. Fathers are trainers! What they can't preach on pulpit, they will gladly tell their sons.

## THE IMPORTANCE AND RELEVANCE OF SPIRITUAL FATHERS IN OUR LIVES

Spiritual fathers love and care for their children in the Lord. The love and care of a father for his children will cause him to desire that his children should grow and make it in life and ministry. As a son, if there is someone that loves you so much and pours everything into your life, then, that's your father. A spiritual father is the person you submit to and a person whose authority you regard in your life. There are people who are led by the Spirit of God to submit themselves to the covering of their spiritual father while some found themselves submitting to a man because that

was the man that trained them. You may know many pastors and many ministers of the Gospel, but God sometimes may instruct you and put in your heart and show you the person you are to follow. Whoever you follow then becomes a source that will pump spiritual resources into your life.

Sometimes ago, I spoke to a pastor in another ministry and I shared something about ministry with him. I told him that he shouldn't attempt to do any carnal thing to rise. I told him that the secret to his rising is to ensure he follows his spiritual father closely, listen to his messages and attend his meetings. Genuine spiritual fathers don't force their sons to do things, they give instructions and guidance which if executed will yield great outcome.

Fathers want you to have liberty. They want maturity to form in you and don't want you to be a puppet. You remember how Elisha followed Elijah closely. Elijah kept telling Elisha to stay, but he refused. He told Elijah, "Wherever you go, I will go." The way you follow closely is by listening to the person regularly. You must always desire to listen to the person regularly and find your way to be around such when you have the privilege to.

The sons of prophet told Elisha that the lord will take your master away today. They saw Elijah as a master but Elisha didn't see Elijah as a master but a father. People may see your spiritual father as a mentor or master, you should see him and relate with him as your father. You don't receive the anointing of a mentor, you receive knowledge from mentors while you receive the anointing of a father.

A principle says *if you are not under submission to an authority nobody will submit to you*. That's what the younger generation don't know but the fathers in faith know.

God will never make people submit to you when you are not yet a source. You need a source to make you a source. A source will pour spiritual resources into you. And when you are poured into, then, God

will make you a source to some others elsewhere.

Service, followership, and high commitment cannot be in your life if the spirit of loyalty is not in you. God cannot make you a source to others when you are not poured into.

Spiritual fathers gives guidance, bless you and cover you. They watch over you in the spiritually and physically. There are times, I call some people to give counsel and instructions to. I don't do that for everyone but for those who are under my spiritual tutelage.

If you want to get the spirit upon your father, then get the teachings of your father. The teachings of your spiritual father will transfer the spirit of your father to you. A father is different from a pastor. A pastor feeds you with the word of God while a father goes beyond feeding you with the word of God. Fathers will invest anointing and graces in your life.

Spiritual fathers birth dimensions. If you want spiritual dimensions to be birth in you, have a father. A brother came to me one day and I later told him certain things, afterward, I told him to kneel down. As I prayed for him, certain things were birthed in him that day. From that day he began to work in the healing anointing. He doesn't need to pray concerning it, the healing anointing just flows through him. Fathers only do that to their sons. If it is mentoring, teaching will be done. That is to explain and analyze. We may teach there are thirteen parameters through which healing flows. But that you are taught doesn't mean you will work in it. That's difference between teachers and fathers. Teachers can teach but there are some things that are not taught. Receiving the knowledge of a spiritual substance is different from receiving the spirit of it. Jesus said the words I speak unto you are spirit and life. When anointed words enter you, the spirit of that thing enters you. When the spirit enters you, you will just stand or sit and certain insight flows to you. Mentor will teach you, fathers will teach and impart you.

Fathers pray over you. Your spiritual father should always pray for you in privacy. Paul told all the churches he wrote to that he always make

mention of them in his prayer.

Genuine father and son will love each other. You can't pray for someone and not love that person. Fathers pray their children into dimensions of the spirit and greater level of kingdom advance. Often times, fathers are simple but they are relational. Some people will identify one preacher they see on television as their father. Such are kidding and joking. Anyone you cannot have direct access to should not be identified as your spiritual father. Fatherhood is relational.

The only situation you can call someone you couldn't access directly your spiritual father is if that person is the spiritual authority of the church or ministry you belong. A member of a church should see the highest authority figure of his or her church as a father figure. A way you are fathered by such is to always listen to the message of that person regularly and also read his books. For example, Paul the apostle told the believers at Corinth that they don't have too many fathers in Christ. He was saying he was a father to all believers at Corinth church because he started the church. But Paul didn't have personal relationship with all believers at Corinth. Any of them can say Paul is their father because Paul seemed to be an overseer over that church.

A branch pastor of a church or ministry should see the general overseer of that church as his spiritual father, except in exceptional cases where that pastor already has a spiritual father that he relates with before he joined the church. In fact, it is appropriate for a minister to see the general overseer of the church or ministry as his father. You may not have direct relationship with the general overseer, but as long as you listen to his messages regularly and read his books consistently, you are already drawing resources from a source. If you have direct relationship with him, you may not hear something different from what you will hear in his messages and books. In a case, you already have a father you submit to before you become a pastor in that church, you just need to be wise to ensure that whatever you learn from your spiritual father will not

make you rebellious to the spiritual authority God has set in the church or ministry. The fact is that all pastors serving in a ministry or church should see the head of that ministry or church as a spiritual father.

Fathers don't control they guide. If you are a son, ensure you love the person God has placed as a father over you. You should serve with that person. You have to give special honor to that person and you have to be loyal. You have to give to the person and take care of the person because that will open the heart of the person to you.

If you are a son you must love your father. You must give special and double honor to your father. Also as a father, avoid dominating the life of your son and daughter. Give them the free will to make certain decision in their life. You don't become the lord of their life. God just put you in their life to guide, train and lead them in the right path. As a father, you must be able to pray for them consistently. Pour out yourself into them.

The ultimate goal of fatherhood is to produce sons and daughters that will rise to maturity. If maturity is not there, you are not a father but a manipulator. If they are not mature and walk in certain dimensions of the grace and anointing, if they can't minister to others but end up as church members alone, you are not a father. A father will desire to raise them to his level. He will just want them to advance. That's what I do when I relate with people.

## HOW TO KNOW GENUINE SONS AND DAUGHTERS

Genuine sons and daughters are those who:



## *1. Have Ever-Consistent and Increasing Honor for their spiritual father*

The degree of consistent and increasing honor you give and show to your spiritual father shows that you value who God has connected you to. Honor from the heart shows true sonship. True honor from a genuine son never sees the human side of a father. Dishonor is the seed for disloyalty. Dishonor is the mother of stagnation and retrogression. The day you begin to think you are better than your spiritual father, your destruction has begun. Such thought will always affect the flow from his heart to you. You must always look for a better way to honor your father from your heart. When you honor him genuinely from your heart consistently and increasingly, you will always access words from his heart consistently and increasingly.

**Malachi 1:6 says “A son honors his father, and a servant his master...”** If you are truly a son, you will always honor. Only a bastard dishonors his father.

## *2. Have an Eternal Relationship with their spiritual father*

John 8:35 says **“And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.”** Relationship with a spiritual father is forever. Once you are a seed of a fruit, you are forever a seed. How did you have ex-spiritual father? If you think a spiritual father is perfect and you don't know any of his weaknesses, it shows you are not close enough. Your ability to take your eyes off the human part and concentrate on the grace and anointing which is divine will make your relationship with your father eternal.

Anyone who claim to be connected to a spiritual father but left him later was not connected to him at all in the first place. Talk is cheap. Until you make a decision in your heart now that nothing will separate

you from your spiritual father, little seed of discord can separate you from such. But when you make up your heart now that you will remain with him forever, whatever the devil wants to send to separate you, you will just tell such to welcome but already late.

1 John 2:19 says ***“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”*** The proof that your heart is with your spiritual father from the beginning is that you continue with such. If your relationship with your spiritual father is not forever, then you were not a son in the first place, you just came to occupy space. You may not be in the ministry of your father forever, but your heart will be connected to him forever. The fact that you leave the church or ministry of your spiritual father doesn’t mean you should disconnect from him. That God called you to start your ministry is not a call to separate from your spiritual father. One of the way you remain connected to your spiritual father is to ensure you regularly attend any meeting he call for his sons.

### *3. Believe in their spiritual father*

If you must come out on top, you must believe in the person, ministry and style of your father. What you believe in, you eventually become. In believing in your father, be blind to his human side and focus on the grace and anointing he carries. Focus is what expands anything.

You can’t believe in someone you hate or bear hatred against. Satan will always give you opportunity to be bitter against your spiritual father but it becomes a matter of choice to focus on what you desire. There are depths only fatherhood and sonship can uncover.

If you believe in your father, you will not discuss his matters with other people. Those who believe in their spiritual father don’t relate with the

haters of their fathers. To claim you believe in your spiritual father and relate with those who don't believe in him is mere deception. Whoever doesn't believe in the God, ministry and style of your spiritual father is not qualified for your friendship. Defending a father is the pivotal responsibility of true and genuine sons. One of the greatest tests for a son is to see the nakedness of his father, yet choose to defend and cover the nakedness.

Nobody is worth hating; never hate or nurse bitterness against your spiritual father. Nothing has power over you more than the power you give it. Saying that you were used by a system, organization or human is an error. Every human has their faults and not one human system is perfect, as the systems are run by imperfect human beings. Those who don't believe genuinely in their spiritual father cannot access the blessings he carries and as such, they may one day say that their spiritual father used them.

The proof that you believe in your spiritual father is that you always take his words seriously and always eager to hear his words. The eagerness and desire to hear from your spiritual father regularly is a proof that you believe in him.

#### *4. Sow Financial and Material Seeds of Honor to the Life of your spiritual father*

I once heard a preacher said, you should give honorarium to preachers but give financial seed to fathers. You give honorarium to reward and appreciate a person, but you sow seeds to harvest more than you sowed. Spiritual fathers are good ground for us to sow. When a son invites a spiritual father to minister in his church or ministry, the son should not give honorarium but sow seed. In other words, whatever is given to his spiritual fathers should be seed that will propel harvest into the church.

You don't give your spiritual father what you give other ministers. One great undoing is when one develops an entitlement mentality towards his or her spiritual father. Rather than take from your father, give to him. Sowing into his life links you to the same grace that makes him who and what he is. A spiritual father is not a sponsor, but a blessing. The lesser is blessed by the better (Hebrew 7:7).

Deuteronomy 30:5 says ***"Then the Lord your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers."*** Anything a spiritual father has achieved becomes the starting point of a genuine son that remains connected. The law of harvest says that you will reap more than you sowed. Sowing into the life of your spiritual father will cause you to harvest whatever he possesses.

### *5. Serve With their spiritual father*

Genuine sons are always ready and willing to serve with their fathers. Serving with your father will always open his heart to you regularly. There are kingdom secrets you are not qualified to get until you get into service. Philippians 2:22 says ***"But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel."*** This was the testimony of Paul about Timothy. The question is that, can your spiritual father testify about you like he did for Timothy? You must always contribute service to any kingdom activity that your spiritual father has. Stop saying you love your spiritual father, start showing you love him. If you find it too difficult to make yourself available for any task he has for you, then, you are a son by mouth.

## THREE THINGS TIMOTHY REPRESENTED TO PAUL

Paul called timothy three things and if you are a son to a father, your father can call you these three things

1. A brother (Colossians 1:1)
2. A Fellow worker (Philippians 2:22)
3. A true son (1 Timothy 1:2)

## DON'T JUST BE A SON; BUT BE A TRUE SON

Paul the apostle had many sons and co-workers. There were people he even called fellow soldiers. But having studied the scripture well, it is evident that there were people that Paul called true sons. I took time to meditate on this insight and I see that there will always be true sons among many sons.

Both Timothy and Titus were called true sons by Paul. Let's check below:

### ***TIMOTHY***

1 Timothy 1:2 says ***"To Timothy, a true son in the faith..."***

2 Timothy 1:2 says ***"To Timothy, a beloved son..."***

### ***TITUS***

Titus 1:4 says ***"To Titus, a true son in our common faith..."***

Do you see that Paul referred to both Timothy and Titus as true sons? There are sons and true sons. All sons are not true sons but some are. Timothy's heart is connected to Paul so much that at a particular

time many people neglected Paul, people like Timothy stood with Paul. Timothy was with Paul till the end. They may not see each other daily but they are connected in heart.

A man of God shared a particular story and I said this man is like Timothy. I am talking about Pastor David ibiyeiome of salvation ministries, Port Harcourt. He said many people have tried to castigate his spiritual father, Bishop David Oyedepo to him. He said if you dare speak against his father, then, you can't be his friend again. He said if you are an enemy of Bishop Oyedepo, just know you are automatically his enemy. That's a true son that will be loyal till the end. That's someone who will never gang up with people to do evil to their father. There could be many sons but there are only true few sons. I pray may God make you a true son.

True sons are those who will remain connected with their spiritual father till the end. They are ever ready to do whatever their father instruct them. These are sons with high level of loyalty and strong connectivity. True sons will always be against anyone that is against their spiritual father. True sons have made up their minds that nothing will separate them from their father. True sons will make the doctrine of their father their doctrine. They don't do contrary.

## A SPIRITUAL SON SHOULD BE LIKE-MINDED

To be like-minded means having similar ideas, interests, and thought patterns. To be like-minded is to have the same mind with a person. You can't claim to be like-minded when your thoughts, interest and desires are different from that of your spiritual father.

If you are like-minded, whatever your spiritual father believe is what you will believe. When you are attempting to do otherwise, that is a reflection that you are no longer like-minded. Whoever is like-minded

is loyal and have absolute trust in who God has connected him or her to.

Paul told the Philippians ***“For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state”*** Philippians 2:20. In other words, the interest of Paul was the interest of Timothy. The desires of Paul was the desires of Timothy. The vision of Paul was the vision of Timothy. The kind of care that Paul had for the believers was the same care Timothy had for them.

May God gives us sons and daughters that are like-minded. Men and women whose interests will not conflict with that of their parents. The Message Bible Translation reveals *like-minded* as *being loyal*. In other words, to be like-minded is to be loyal. Until you have one mind with your spiritual father, you are not yet loyal.

## THE PROOF THAT YOU HAVE YOUR SPIRITUAL FATHER'S DNA IS YOUR SIMILARITIES

Acts 4:13 reveals that when the people saw the boldness of Peter and John and knew they were uneducated men, they marveled but realized that they had been with Jesus. I hope you know that it was not the dressing of Peter and John that informed them that they had been with Jesus. No! It was the words they heard from their mouth. The message that came out of their mouth was similar to that which was known with Jesus.

If after people listen to your message or words but can't trace you to your spiritual father, then, you don't have his DNA. You don't have same DNA when you don't have similar message. You should not be ashamed to preach and teach the message of your spiritual father. The disciples of Jesus preached what Jesus taught them. If your teaching is different from that of your father, then, you don't and can't have his DNA. The spiritual DNA of your spiritual father is known through his message, manner of living and spirit. Those who receive the teaching of their

spiritual fathers are those who receive his spirit. The teachings of your father in faith will transfer his spirit to you.

When you wholeheartedly receive the teachings of your spiritual father, his thoughts, revelations, doctrine, manner of life and teachings will eventually rob on you. If you can receive the teachings of your father, then, you will know his thinking and partake of his grace. The way you look like your spiritual father is that you share the same teachings.

You cannot be a worthy son if you find it difficult to immerse yourself into the teachings of your spiritual father. Some sons tend to prove that they know more than the God who connected them to their spiritual father. They claim they are connected to a man, yet, they don't develop the art of listening to the teachings of that man regularly. Some even listen to all kinds of preachers, yet, they want God to replicate in their lives the same result flowing out of their spiritual father. Sorry, God will not do that. If you want God to replicate the grace of your spiritual father in your life, then, you will have to listen to him regularly and read his books always.

The fact is that the grace and anointing of a man is in the words of that man. If you want to catch the anointing of a man or receive his grace, you should listen to the teachings of that man or read his books regularly. Paul told Timothy to come with the parchment of his books. That shows that Timothy read the books of Paul. How can you carry the DNA of your father when you only read his books once in a while and don't create time to listen to his messages regularly? This is why the first shall be last. Many who have been around the man often develops familiarity and they missed out. You will now see that some young folks who seemed to be latecomers but addict readers of their spiritual father's books and listeners of the messages will carry the grace. You will now see that the same order of grace and results produced in the life of that spiritual father will be produced in those people while those closer to the man are only forming association.



If you receive the laying on of hands of your spiritual father but you failed to listen to his teachings and read his books, you can't manifest his grace and anointing. This is strange truth but I have to say it. If hands are laid on you and you don't listen to the teachings, you can't know what to do with what you received through laying on of hand. With the facts that Paul laid hands on Timothy, he still wrote to him telling him to stir up the gifts which was in him. Imagine that Timothy failed to read the book written to him by Paul, he would receive the gifts but won't know he should stir it up.

You have to know that fathers themselves are readers. Paul read a lot. So, if the father can be devoted to reading, why will the son not read? If you don't want to lose out, don't go about rejoicing because hands have been laid on your head. You should rejoice because you listen to the teachings and read the books and as such, words are imparted into your mind and spirit. I hope you know this is not an attempt to despise laying on of hands but to clearly show you that words must enter into you after hands are laid on you. You must always have desires for hands to be laid on you. In fact, laying on of hands is an elementary doctrine of Christ. But just as hands should be laid on your head, words must be taught to you.

You will never have similarities with your spiritual father because he laid hands on you, you will have similarities with him because you got his words into you through his messages or books. You must build a system for your life that will help you to regularly read the books of your spiritual father and as well listen to his messages.

## TEACH OTHERS WHAT YOUR SPIRITUAL FATHER HAS TAUGHT YOU

1 Timothy 3:10 says ***“But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance.”*** This clearly reveals that Timothy followed everything about his spiritual father. In fact, the purpose of Paul became the purpose of Timothy. The doctrine of Paul became the doctrine of Timothy. Timothy didn’t have new doctrine. Whatever his father taught was what he taught.

Doctrine simply means teaching. When we say the doctrine of a man, we are simply saying the teaching of that man. If your father is teaching something and you are teaching something else, you have a different doctrine.

Paul knew that Timothy believed in him so much and received his doctrine and as such, he said to Timothy, ***“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”*** 2 Timothy 2:2. It is only those who receive the teachings of their spiritual father that God will give great authority to teach others. Paul simply told Timothy whatever you have learned from me, teach others also. There is no point being taught by your father and you are not teaching others.

In fact, Paul said, ***“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia – remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine”*** 1 Timothy 1:3. This clearly showed that as a son, you should be such that you teach others that they must not teach whatever your spiritual father didn’t teach. Only rebels teach what their fathers didn’t teach.

## *PROOF OF SAME DNA WITH YOUR SPIRITUAL FATHER*

- Same culture
- Same belief and ideology
- Same message
- Almost the same title of sermon all the time
- Same approach and passion for ministry
- Same doctrine (same teaching)
- Same spirit and same steps

## *THINGS THAT ARE NOT PROOF OF SAME DNA*

- Same dressing style: You don't have to dress like your spiritual father to reflect is DNA. Dressing doesn't reflect the DNA. Dressing like your spiritual father is not wrong. But it is just that dressing like him doesn't mean you have the same heart like him.
- Same hairstyle: This is not a proof of DNA. You may have same hairstyle with a man but don't have same passion for souls. If you love the hairstyle of your spiritual father, you can have it, but that is not a proof of DNA.
- Same talking style: You should say the same thing with your spiritual father, but you don't have to talk the way he talks. If you enjoy talking like your spiritual father, you can do. But just ensure you speak comfortably.
- Same Praying Postures: There a people who finds it easy to pray on their knees for long. Some people, their body system may not permit kneeling for long. If you notice you enjoy praying while standing and your spiritual father enjoy praying while kneeling, then, you can continue to maintain your standing postures in prayers. Postures

is not a DNA. God is more concerned about your heart in prayers than your postures. It is just that kneeling or lying before the Lord communicates to God that you humble yourself before Him and that you acknowledge His Lordship.

## CAN YOU QUOTE EVERY BOOK OF YOUR FATHER?

A genuine son can quote all the books of his spiritual father. If you don't like reading, you can train to read intentionally. Many love to know what their father knows, but are not willing to read what their father wrote. Some answers to your prayers are in the books of your spiritual father. If you find it difficult to read his books, you will find it difficult to know his mind. The thoughts of your spiritual father are in his book. When you read his book, you get his inspiration.

You may not have access to the physical presence of your spiritual father regularly, but you can always have access to his mind, grace, anointing, thinking, insight, and inspiration through his messages and books. If you don't read the books of your spiritual father, you may not know what God has told him and what He has taught him. Whoever is addicted to the books of his father will always hear the voice of such when reading his book. As you read his books, you don't only read his words, you hear his voice.

If you want your spiritual father to talk to you regularly, read his books regularly. Every time you read his books, he is talking to you. All books are not the same. The books of your spiritual father are always filled with anointed words that when you read them will impart something spiritual into your spirit. To receive the insight and teachings in his books is to receive his anointing into your spirit. Make it a habit to always do special retreat with the books of your spiritual father.

## THAT A MINISTER IMPART YOU DOESN'T QUALIFY SUCH TO BE YOUR FATHER

1 Timothy 4:14 says ***“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.”***

Timothy had some ministers laid hands on him alongside Paul the apostle, yet Timothy didn't see those other ministers as a father to him. The fact that you went for a program and a minister laid hand on you or prophesied to you doesn't make such your spiritual father. You must be careful not to permit someone to make you his son by prophecy.

When other ministers lay hands on you or prophesy to you, you must be grateful to God who made others to bless you. But you must be wise to know that your father remains your father.

## GOD SETS PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT SPIRITUAL FAMILY

**P**salms 68:6 says “**God set the solitary in families...**” This scripture reveals to us that nobody decides the family he or she belongs, but God does. For example, you didn’t decide the family you were born into, you just found yourself there. So also it is spiritually, you don’t just decide the spiritual family you belong, God sets you there. The Living Bible says “**God places the lonely in families...**” The question every believer needs to ask him or herself is that is he or she in the family God sets him or her? Your life cannot manifest its full potential when you are not in the family God sets you. God doesn’t want people to be lonely that is the reason He sets them in families. Any believer that is not a spiritual father neither a spiritual son doesn’t belong to a family. Definitely, such is lonely.

Through understanding, we know that the families in that scripture doesn’t refer to homes where people live but divine relationships God connected them with. The reason the church is unique is because different tribes, races, peoples and nations come together to form one body. When principalities and powers look at different people gather together for service, they don’t see the different families or races that

gather, but one body and family. So it is in a spiritual family, God will bring individuals from different families and connect them together to form a spiritual family.

The fact is that God cannot form a spiritual family if He hasn't raised someone as the father. A spiritual family must have a spiritual father that nurtures and raises spiritual children. The moment God connects you to a spiritual father, He sets you in a family. Your spiritual father is the head of your spiritual family. And the moment you belong to a family, you are sure of your spiritual inheritance. Any heritage God has bestowed on that spiritual family becomes something you have automatic access to.

All spiritual father need to see themselves as the head of a spiritual family. As a father, you should imagine all your spiritual children as those who belong to your family. And you must be intentional with bringing all your spiritual children together. A father must ensure that nobody in the family is left behind in advancement and growth. Concentrations has to be on every member of the family.

## UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL TRIBES

In the land of Israel, there were twelve tribes. Some theologians have said there were thirteen tribes because the tribes of Joseph was divided into two later which are the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. Well, by assumption, it is correct but according to scriptures, it is not correct. Israel only had twelve tribes.

The twelve tribes of Israel had different functions and graces at work through them. For example, the tribe of Levi had the priesthood dimension while the tribe of Issachar understood times and seasons. The tribe of Levi were not engraced to understand times and seasons. But the tribe of Issachar does. The tribe of Judah is known for leadership. In

fact, Jacob prayed that the scepter of leadership and lawgivers shall not depart from Judah (Genesis 49:10). So, the tribe of Judah are not given the priesthood dimension but they have a strong grace for leadership and rulership. That is why David wasn't from the tribe of Levi but from Judah.

Each tribe in Israel had their grace and functions. In other words, there are some aspect of life that a tribe could be highly effective while such may be extremely feeble in other aspects. There are similarities you will see among the people in each tribe. It is like a downflow that regulates the thinking and actions of everyone in that family. It is as though God will consider the personality of a person before He sets such in a tribe. Whatever is a common grace in your tribe will easily manifest in your life.

If you are not designed by God to rule or lead, God cannot connect you to a spiritual father who has the DNA of rulership and leadership. God will only connect you to a person who can help you bring out who you are created to be.

Just as there were twelve tribes in Israel, Jesus also appointed twelve disciples. Prophetically, each of those disciples represent the each tribe. You can see the traits of Reuben in Judas Iscariot, leadership traits of Judah in Peter and so on. After Jesus ascended to the earth finally, there were people raised as sons by Peter while John also raised some. You now begin to see that the people connected to each of these disciples belong to a tribe.

Peter represents a tribe and every of his spiritual children belong to that tribe. In other words, Peter was a father of a spiritual tribe. James represent a spiritual tribe and everyone connected to him belong to his tribe. John represent a spiritual tribe and everyone connected to him belong there. A clear study of each of the apostles reveal that the apostles are not the same in personality, so also, their tribes cannot be the same. There could be other fathers in faith, but you should be grateful to God



for the father He gave you.

*Let us analyze this:*

**Joshua 7:16-18 says “So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel y heir tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken. He brought the clan of Judah and he took the family of the Zarhites; and he brought the family of the Zarhites man by man, and Zabdi was taken. Then he brought his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah was taken.”**

From these verses, we see that there are divisions which are:

- 1.A nation
- 2.A tribe
- 3.A clan
- 4.A family
- 5.A household

The nation of Israel is one. It had twelve tribes and each tribe has many clans under it. Families are classified under a clan. A clan comprises of many families. Many households are classified under a family.

*Let's connect it now:*

All believers are in the holy nation. Christianity is a holy nation. Remember Peter said “You are a chosen generation, royal priesthood, holy nation...” 1 Peter 2:9.

The fact is that you belong to a tribe, clan, family and household. You have to know where God has set you. The reason ministry don't have the

same style is because they don't belong to the same tribe and family.

Your spiritual making will determine where God will set you. What you are destined to become will influence who the Lord will connect you with. When you are connected to a spiritual father, you belong to the spiritual tribe and family of that man.

## HOW TO KNOW YOUR SPIRITUAL FATHER

Just as you cannot have two people as your biological father, so also, you cannot have two spiritual fathers. You don't change spiritual fathers like you have clothes. You should remain connected to whoever God connects you with. You should be intelligent enough to look away from the human weaknesses of whoever God connects you with to seeking the perfect and anointed part of the person. Every man of God is first a man before he becomes a man of God. It is essential for you to know who God is connecting you with.

You don't look for a spiritual father. You discover who it has been all the way. Whoever you can point to that trained you up till this level is your spiritual father. Sometimes, the person who led you to Christ may not be the one that trained you for ministry or stands as a covering over you. If someone led you to Christ and another trained you and birth ministry in you, then, who will you refer to as your father?

The simple answer is that the person who trained you and birth ministry in you is your spiritual father. So, who led you to Christ may not necessarily be your spiritual father. I know of some believers who were later pastored by the people they led to Christ. Leading a person to Christ is not an automatic access to be his or her spiritual father. Both the person who led you to Christ and who trained you in Christ have their reward before our heavenly Father.

One day, I heard a preacher talk about four elderly ministers and he identified all of them as his spiritual fathers. Like I wrote in the book *Managing Divine People*, I said, the way you address an elder who is not your spiritual father is to refer to such as a father in faith. So, if you want to introduce or refer to an elder who is not your spiritual father, you should say, "I want to introduce or recognize one of the fathers in faith." You must avoid creating confusion. Don't call everyone your spiritual father. You must choose your words appropriately if you don't want to create confusion.

Since everybody cannot be your spiritual father, how then will you know who God has designed to be your spiritual father? Let's explore it below:

### ***How will you know your spiritual father?***

#### ***1. Your father is a man whose current reality is your expectation***

Whatever you expect to see in your life is already a reality in your father. Whatever level you desire to get to is where your father has already occupied. The revelation of what you desire to see in your life is already an evident results in his life. The fact is that where you are going is where your father is already is. Your future expectation is his past or current manifestation. So, his life proves to you that what you desire to see in your life will become your manifestation one day. In other words, his life will show you that your expectation will become your manifestation one day.

## *2. Your father is the one in whose voice you hear God*

God will always speak to your spiritual father about you and will also speak through him to you. When you listen to him, it will be as though you are before God in heaven listening to His voice. God will often use the voice of your spiritual father to talk to you. God will often use his picture and voice to speak to you in your dream at night. His messages will always speak to you directly. When you read his books, you will think he has you in mind when he was writing the book. You cannot listen to your spiritual father and remain confused. Those who leave in confusion for long are those who don't listen to the Holy Spirit and their spiritual father regularly.

## *3. Your father is the man whose words will always inspire and enfire you to be on the move*

Your heart will always yearn to hear your father. The words and atmosphere of your father will always be action-driven. One meeting or conversation with your father will always get you out of your comfort zone. While your mind may deceive you and remind you of your past achievement, your father will always point to what is ahead. When you converse with him, he doesn't just want to hear your achievement, he wants to know what you are aiming to get. Your father will not be impressed with your current achievement, he will be impressed with your future focus – that is the next big thing you are aiming at.

*4. Your father is the man whose path and progress becomes your guidelines*

Just by studying your father, you will always know the next thing to do. You must always take steps after his steps. When your father shares testimonies, you are not hearing stories, you are hearing what to do. Every big testimony your father shares must be your next big testimony. The success stories of your father should become directional guidelines for you.

*5. Your father is the man who prays for you always and you in turn prays for regularly*

It may be difficult for you to harvest where you have not invested. Paul always prayed for the believers and expected them to pray for him too. If you want the blessings to always flow to your direction regularly, you must pray to God always on behalf of your father.

*6. Your father is the man that you position yourself to serve*

All genuine sons will always give themselves to serving their father. Even if you have your own ministry, you must position yourself to do something in your father's ministry or church. While others serve God under you where you are, you must in turn serve God under your spiritual father. Always remember that the lesser is blessed of the better. What a man sows he shall reap. If you serve your father always, God will in turn raise more people that will continue to serve you. The day you become too big to serve, God cuts the flow from him to you.

## 7. *Your father is one you allot certain percentage of your budget to*

You don't need to tell your father God is blessing you, let him feel it. Your sowing to your father should be regularly, at least monthly and in percentage. You may decide to allot five percent of your income or blessings weekly or monthly to him. Your doing this is silently telling God to bless you more. You know, younger generation don't know this. But the fathers and elders in faith are doing this and practicing this well. If you do this, you don't need to tell you father to remember you in his prayers regularly. You don't even need to tell him that you need his counsel regularly. When your father know that you will give to him from your harvest, he will invest more into your life. I wonder why a notable spiritual father in Nigeria had great interest in two of his spiritual sons among many who have their own ministries. It was later I discovered that each of those sons give ten percent of whatever they get monthly to their spiritual father while they give forty percent to God. These two men now give more than tithe, they give forty percent to God and give ten percent to their spiritual father. Having gotten this information, I knew the reason that father figure had special interest in those sons. No spiritual father should demand any form of giving from their spiritual sons. Scripture didn't reveal that you should be paid for fatherhood. No! I have learned that there are wise and caring sons who will are highly willing to share their harvest with you. A wise spiritual son will give to his spiritual father regularly. Your regular giving to your father will make him have personal interest in you.

*8. Your father is one who teaches you doctrine*

Doctrines are teachings. There are things that are easily understood by the fathers and such has to be communicated to his children. Your father will always desire that you know all he knows. A genuine father will always be available to answer questions not clear to you. All fathers have the role of teaching. However, it must be noted that it is not teaching that makes a father. All fathers will be able to teach but not all teachers are fathers.

*9. Your father is the man your heart is heavily connected to*

Distance is not the barrier. You don't need to see each other regularly. All you need is heart connectivity. If the person is your father, your heart will be connected to such. When your heart connects to a man, you will connect to his blessings. The proof that your heart is connected to him is that even when you don't see him, your heart thinks about him. Your heart will always go toward the direction of whoever God has ordained for you.

*10. Your father will always invest correction and instruction in you*

To be corrected is to be protected. Correction brings protection. Instructions save us from destruction. When your father wants to protect you, he will correct you. Your heart will always long for correction from your father. Who invest correction and instruction in you? That may be a pointer to who your spiritual father is.

## WHY YOU NEED A SPIRITUAL FATHER

There is a principle and system God has installed on the earth. Anything God creates, He creates once and then He sets reproduction on motion. For instance, if God wants to create a fruit, he only creates it once, then, put inside it a seed that will make it reproduce itself. Once the principle of the seed is removed from the earth, the reproductive system on earth is destroyed.

God is not going to release into the earth any new anointing or grace. He has already filled fathers with diverse gifts, graces and anointing and it is only when seeds are begotten from them, the gifts and anointing are reproduced. By their fruit, you shall know them; by their seed, you perpetuate them. To perpetuate any grace, you must first become a seed of that grace. If you don't become a seed of a grace, you can't reproduce and bear fruit of that grace. There is a clear difference between being a fruit of a grace and being the seed of that grace. Once you are the fruit of a particular grace, you are partaker of the results of the grace, but once you become a seed of a particular grace, you are expected to reproduce results in the order of that grace.

It is impossible to reproduce a particular unction if you are not a seed of it. If you must duplicate results in double dimension upon your spiritual father, you must first become a seed of that Grace, which is a spiritual son or daughter.

Whose seed are you? Who is your Spiritual Father? Today, we see people changing from one spiritual father to another and being easily transplanted from one spiritual tribe to another. This only shows that many people are not properly rooted as seeds.



## COUNSELS TO BIOLOGICAL FATHERS

All biological fathers need to learn that spiritual fathers don't overstep the role of the natural father. In fact, if a biological father is still alive, the spiritual father will work hand in hand in the development of his son, respecting the role the biological father has. The smartest biological father is a person who welcomes a spiritual father into the lives of his children to add value to them.

Spiritual fathers do not appear overnight. It takes years of training and growth to establish the firm integrity and authentic life transformation in their walk with God. Genuine fathers have been through life issues and circumstances which tried their faith. The process they have gone through has taught them to fight the good fight of faith and are able to lead sons in the same direction they are headed themselves.

All natural fathers need to know that genuine spiritual fathers set good examples through their life. They don't just teach, their life is a message. They have overcome difficult challenges and gotten out of the fire safely. Their experiences become a platform for others to glean insight which will encourage and empower them. Their lives provides model for their sons.

With this understanding, mature biological parents will be grateful to God that He connects their children to a spiritual father figure that can model godly lifestyle to their children. If a biological father gets insecure of a spiritual father's work, he either needs to change his thinking or deal with the insecurity that robs his children from being trained by a divine agent. An insecure natural father who failed to deal with his insecurity early may make decisions that will separate the spiritual father from his biological son, and as such, the divine training that should be given to that child will be aborted. Eventually, when the son grows and discover the effects of his biological father's decision, he may grow to hate his father.

## RECEIVING THE BLESSINGS FROM YOUR SPIRITUAL FATHER

I once heard a man of God said that all spiritual sons should seek to be blessed by their spiritual father annually. In fact, he stated clearly that he always travel to meet his spiritual father before the end of the year to receive annual blessings from him and fresh laying on of his hands on him. And I also know that many spiritual sons of that same man always travel to him to before the year ends or early new year to receive his blessings too. For some times, I didn't agree with that in my heart for two reasons. First, it is not stated in scriptures that we should do that neither did we see anyone that did that in scriptures. Second, I concluded that that is just a mere tradition created by some people.

But I as grew in the Lord and understood more, I discover that the prophetic is deeper than we imagine. There are things that are deep revelation that can only be unveiled by God's understanding. Here is it, every times, all men look up to God's blessing. We know that His blessings can increase in the life of a man. It is clear that every time a person give to the Lord, a blessing is released by the Lord for it is more blessed to give than to receive. When you give, you are blessed.

I see that if God continues to bless men regularly either when they pray to Him or when they give to Him, then, there is nothing wrong if a spiritual son is blessed by his spiritual father regularly. Let me tell you, it is not wrong to seek to be blessed by your spiritual father annually. Some will see it as a tradition while some will catch the revelation of more blessing. You remember that before Esau came in, Isaac had blessed Jacob (Genesis 27:27-29). But do you know that when Jacob was to be sent to Laban, Isaac blessed Jacob the second time (Genesis 28:3-4). That clearly reveals that Jacob was blessed by Isaac twice. That is it! We must be careful not to belittle prophetic revelations by doctrine. Blessings by spiritual father is not a New Testament doctrine neither is it an Old

Testament act. Fathers' blessings are God's strategy to make things happen in the lives of recipients.

If you also desire to be prayed for or specially blessed by your spiritual father annually to receive the new year's blessings, that is up to you. As long as your heart is connected to that, go ahead, it will work for you. What should be avoided is making such a doctrine. It will not be polite for a pastor or preacher to now make it a compulsory action for all believers. Doing such is making personal revelation a doctrine, such should be avoided.

All spiritual fathers should not make this compulsory, but anyone that comes to them to request their blessings every year should be attended to because that may be the secret to the advancement of that person annually. The word a spiritual father released over his son annually may be all the son will run with throughout the year. The reason being that the utterances of a spiritual father carry power to make things happen in the lives of his sons.

## IMPARTATION FROM A SPIRITUAL FATHER

In an attempt to make believers think and use their mind, many preachers have belittled and castigated spiritual impartation as though it is irrelevant. Whereas, it was this same thing that made them who they are. Many of those preachers have been imparted by men of stature who have interfaced with God and the heavens. Those preachers have now made it appear as though impartation is not needed again. While I understand that the reason for such was because some believers thought that receiving impartation will make things happen automatically on its own, they never take time to think, plan, connect and act, and as such they couldn't produce any results in life.

But the fact that people have abused a thing doesn't mean it no longer

work again. A generation that trivialize impartation cannot have its corporate heritage. Those are generations that will abandon corporate spiritual estates in the spirit. If you want to run fast and soar higher spiritually and in life, you must seek impartation.

Impartation is the cure for limitation. There are certain limits you cannot break until you are imparted. Highly impactful people are those who understand the power impartation. The next time you hear a preacher say “don’t mind that religious nonsense Christian call impartation,” just know that you are listening to an immature mind. Many preachers say words like that when they are carried away in excitement but failed to choose their use of words. Spiritual impartation is what guarantees the speed of your growth and advancement.

When you are imparted by your spiritual father, you will catch his presence, power, and principle. The presence of your spiritual father will naturally rub on you when imparted by him. When his principles rubs on you, you will begin to think the same way and raise your standard. Principles are not imparted by laying on of hands, it is imparted by listening. The principle of your spiritual fathers are imparted to you through his words. That is the reason you must desire to listen to the words of your spiritual father always.

It is through spiritual impartation and blessings that a spiritual father determines the firstborn of that spiritual lineage. The firstborn is the one that will manifest brightly like his father. Such will carry everything about that father- his boldness, grace, charisma, audacity, revelation, discipline, principles, anointing and so on. The firstborn of every spiritual lineage will be the most influential in that spiritual lineage. He is the one everybody can trace to that father. Check everyone that always desire to be imparted and blessed by their father, they are the ones that carry the grace of that father.

Spiritual impartation is the transference of gifts, grace, unction, virtue and heritage from a higher channel to another. Someone below you

cannot impart you. No! Impartation has to be from the top down. When you are imparted, you will receive what will take you beyond your strength, skills, expertise, and connection.

Impartation brings establishment. That is why you must be prepared to be imparted whenever you come around your spiritual father. Don't be a joker when around your spiritual father. Preparation comes before impartation. You prepare by speaking to God and telling Him your desires before you meet your father.

You must imagine words from the mouth of your spiritual father when he prays for you as impartation and blessings on your spirit. Words are immortal, they don't die. When your spiritual father opens his mouth to pray for you, he is simply releasing impartation of spiritual virtues on you. The words from his mouth are spirits and life.

When God (your Divine Father) speaks to you, there is an impartation of faith and courage into your heart. So, also, when your spiritual father speaks to you, there's an impartation of faith and courage into you. Every moment your spiritual father pray for you or speak to you is a moment of impartation and blessing. That is why you must desire to be around your spiritual father regularly. To receive fresh impartation from him, listen to him and let him pray for you.

## SEVEN THINGS SPIRITUAL FATHERS IMPART

### *1. Spiritual fathers impart their doctrine*

What they know, they always attempt to put into their sons. 2 Timothy 1:13 says ***“Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”***

Paul told Timothy to keep the pattern of sound words which he heard from him. Fathers impart what they know and the way they do that is by

what they say or write. Their teaching is transfer their knowledge. The word teaching simply refers to doctrine. Fathers impart their doctrine. When you receive the teaching of a father, you have received his doctrine.

## *2. Spiritual fathers impart instructions*

Proverbs 4:1 says **“Hear, my children, the instruction of a father...”** Fathers are known to give instructions. Their words may appear as a command to you when you hear it. Spiritual fathers are not advisers to their sons. They are instructors to them. They give instructions that will shape the decisions and actions of their sons and daughters.

Only a foolish son will reject the instruction of his father. Wise sons are always willing and eager to be obedient to the instruction of their fathers. Proverbs 13:1 says **“A wise son heeds his father’s instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.”** Any son that finds it difficult to heed the instruction of a father is foolish. The instruction of your spiritual father to you will transfer his wisdom to you. The instruction of your spiritual father will save you from destruction.

## *3. Spiritual fathers impart spiritual gifts*

2 Timothy 1:6 says **“Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”**

One of the reasons we don’t have consistent manifestation of spiritual gifts like that in the body of Christ is because fathers are not imparting what’s in them. When fathers do, we will see how gift will come forth in the life of people.

Romans 1:11 says **“for I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established.”** Do you see that? This

reveals that spiritual gifts can be imparted. God has put many deposits in fathers and expect them to impart it.

#### *4. Spiritual fathers impart Corrections*

Fathers guide and guard us through their corrections. Sometimes, their correction may come as rebuke, but when we receive their words and put it to work, we will eventually enjoy the benefit. The instructions of fathers bring benefits to us. Corrections will save us from repeating mistakes. You will repeat mistakes if you are not corrected.

#### *5. Spiritual fathers impart grace*

We might tend to assume that grace cannot be imparted but it can be imparted, if you have study the scriptures you will realize it can be imparted.

There is a grace that every spiritual father has that can be imparted to their sons and daughters.

The grace of the father is known through two channels:

- *Through his message*
- *Through the influence*

When we see the influence a spiritual father commands, we can know the kind of grace he carries

Ephesians 4:29 says **“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”** Paul spoke to the whole church but the word he spoke shows us grace can be imparted through what is said.

Every time you listen to your spiritual father, grace is imparted to you through what he says. When you hear his words, it releases ability in you. Grace is about ability. There are more than five definitions of grace. The one we know is unmerited favor, but there is a part of grace that has to do with ability. When we see the life of a father and the results he commands, we can trace the grace he carries.

## *6. Spiritual fathers impart their experiences*

There are certain experiences God deliberately take spiritual fathers through, so that they can have the capacity to be able to deliver men from that experience or strengthen them when they go through it. Sometimes, there are some experiences fathers will share that will build faith on your inside.

If you have a father that shares things with you, correct you, pray with you, share wisdom with you, instruct you, you are really blessed. What he is trying to do is to save you years of pains and experience. Experience has to be imparted and the way it's impacted is by sharing them. Sons and daughters are the ones who have the access to hear such. There are some experiences that can't be shared on the pulpit and when sons receive those experiences, they will advance in life. Spiritual fathers share experiences so that their sons can be empowered in life.

As a son, if you walk in the steps of your father, you will command the results he commands and make the impact he makes. 2 Corinthians 12:18 says ***"I urged Titus, and sent our brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did we not walk in the same steps?"*** There is something Paul knew about Titus which is that the same spirit work in them. Paul believed Titus won't do otherwise from what he had learned from him. Every son should walk in the steps of their father.



## 7. *Spiritual father impart their anointing*

When Elijah was taken up to heaven, Elisha shouted, ***“My father, my father the chariot of Israel and his horsemen”*** and the mantle was released. It was not about the cloth that was released but the spirit and anointing of Elijah that was released on Elisha.

You remember when the sons of the prophet saw what happened to Elisha and how he parted Jordan, they said to themselves the spirit of Elijah has rested upon Elisha. When Elisha said he wanted a double portion of the anointing, actually what he asked for was a double portion of Elijah’s spirit. The spirit of every anointed man of God has its angelic systems which is the coordination of angels.

There was a time the spirit of God told me not to call everybody my son because if I do the angelic system working with me will acknowledge that and begin to walk and work with them. Angels can hear what men say. When I say this is my son, what I am saying is that the angels working with me should work with the person. That’s why you see some people it looks as if they are not prayerful but they are commanding some spiritual results and you try to find out the secret behind their exploit. Well, it’s because the angelic power walking and working with the spiritual authority they submit to now work with them.

*2 Corinthians 12:18 says “I urged Titus, and sent our brother with him, Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did we not walk in the same steps?”*

Paul and Titus walked in the same spirit. Titus was a son to Paul (Titus 1:4). Even though the Spirit of God is inside us, when the spirit of a man is upon you that means the anointing of that man is upon you. I once had a man of God said the anointing of another man of God cannot be upon you. That’s not true because God told Moses to gather seventy elders

and He would take of the Spirit upon him and put it upon them.

That shows God can take what is upon a man and put on another. The way God expects things to be replicated is that the anointing of men should be put on other men. Saying the anointing of another man cannot be upon you is erroneous and not scriptural.

## WHAT FATHERS MUST DO

### 1. Generational Thinking

**R**eal fathers think beyond themselves. They look at the bigger picture and imagine generations years ahead in their decision. They want to make decisions that will affect the generation that will be in existence in two hundred years ahead positively. Whether you know it or not, your decision will have a direct or indirect influence on your children, born and unborn. You must always have a broad view of what will happen in one hundred to two hundred years from now before you make a decision.

Genuine fathers will build for unborn generations, save wealth for their children and grandchildren. You must bear in mind regularly that you must transfer wealth to your unknown and unborn generation. Spiritual fathers are much more concerned about the spiritual wealth of the generations after them. This mindset will cause fathers to bear succession in mind.

You don't start or run things anyhow. You must bear succession in mind. The insight is that generational thinking will inspire you to

create generational learners around you. You must have people that can duplicate what you do and are readily available to take over from you. With generational thinking, you will always consider those around you as well as those behind you.

## 2. Fathers create transgenerational Impact

Spiritual fathers will bear in mind that whatever they do today will have impact on more than one generations. This mindset will build the consciousness that whatever we build should not be according to the present but the future. If whatever you teach or build now will not be relevant in fifty years from now, then, you cannot make transgenerational impact. If two or three generations after you will be compelled to throw away or pull down what you labored for in your generations, then, your impact cannot be transgenerational.

Transgenerational impact is a kind of impact that is beyond one generation. What will you teach that will become the foundational base for generations after you. If your message or knowledge bank cannot become a strong foundation for those coming after you, then, you are only relevant in your generation and when your generation fade away, your impact will fade away. Those who are after transgenerational impact are not rigid but flexible. They are always willing to adapt to changes. If you don't know how to adapt fast to current and predictable changes, your impact will die with you. A lesson for all spiritual fathers is to be flexible with certain ideologies and philosophies. If you cannot adapt to trends and waves of changes around you, your impact will soon go into extinction. Adapting to changes and trends do not lower your standard or belittle you. Adapting to predictable changes around you will help you to get into the thinking patterns of the generations ahead of you. If you can get into the thinking of the next generations,

you can easily impact them. Thinking like the next generation will empower you with the strategy to penetrate into their thinking system and as such you will be able to easily influence them. Those who really make transgenerational impact are those who have prophetically and strategically programmed how the next generation should think. In other words, they have created and birthed into existence creative thoughts before the next generations are born. If you can think like the next generation, you will impart the next generation. Only those who think like the next generations are those ahead of their generations in their imagination and mind. And if you are ahead of your generations in your imagination and mind, the next generations will give you attention.

### 3. Fathers birth fathers for the next generation

Real fathers are those who birth other fathers. Fatherhood is not about giving birth to sons but about giving birth to fathers. You must father the fathers of the next generations. How will you birth fathers for the next generation? The simple way through which you do that is to inject all in you into others and command them to do the same for others behind them. It is the principle of transfer that will birth fathers for the next generations. If we don't transfer our knowledge, wisdom, grace and anointing, there may be deficiency in the people that should give birth to next generations.

I believe that we must not just birth the next generation, we must birth fathers to the next generation. If we have a system that emphasize training and transferring of spiritual heritage to others, we will have fathers. As a biological father, your son cannot be a father if you won't permit him to marry. So, spiritual fathers cannot raise other fathers, if they don't emphasize that those they raise should go and raise others. Until we spread the spiritual heritage, we cannot have those who will

be like us. In the lineage of spiritual fathers, if you are not a father to fathers, you have not begun your journey. It is not about the numbers of your spiritual sons. It is about the numbers of fathers you have raised.

#### 4. Fathers pass baton for continuation to the next generation

If you don't yet know who will take over from you, you cannot transport your impact to the next generation. Until there is a continuation, there cannot be sustenance. Yes, I know there will always be firstborn of every genuine father, but the fact is that until you are intentional to pass the baton, you have not completed your assignment.

Your end should be the beginning of somebody. There should be somebody whose beginning will be the continuation from where you stopped. Don't just trust God to raise somebody, train somebody yourself. King David trained Solomon years ahead right from the time he concluded that Solomon would take over from him. Whoever you don't train may not reign in your place. Your training when passing the baton should communicate where you have stopped and where you think God is taking the next generation and the assignment to. Share the end of your vision with that person and let the person start dreaming and visualizing from where you stopped. The way you pass baton is by training someone. Whoever will take over from you must be given power and authority to do certain things while you are alive. Let whoever will succeed you get into power while you are alive. Solomon became a king when David was alive. Joshua was inaugurated by Moses. Let not your death bring the arrival of whoever you want to hand over the baton to, let the person succeed you while you are alive.

## WARNINGS TO SPIRITUAL FATHERS

Spiritual fathers need to be careful to diligently carry out their function. They should be careful not to do things that will bring shame to them. A spiritual father should be a giver not taker. Yes, your sons and daughters should give to you but it should be their decision. No spiritual father should make demand from his spiritual son or daughter. The fact is that a spiritual father should be known for his giving lifestyle, not his taking.

Let's check the scripture to know the basis for receiving gifts as spiritual fathers.

*2 Corinthians 12:14* says **“Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.”**

Do you see that? Paul said the parents are the ones that should lay up things for the children. Fathers are always thinking of what to give their children, not how to take from them what the children already have. Paul told his children that he didn't want to be a burden to them. That is the right mentality. A spiritual father should think of being a blessing to his children. Fathers are destined to be blessings not a burden.

Yet, we also see from scriptures that we should give to those who feed us with the word. *Galatian 6:6* says **“Let him who is taught share in all good things with him who teaches.”** Since a spiritual father also has the role of teaching, it is expedient that their sons give to them. You don't give to your spiritual father because he demanded it, but because it is commanded in scriptures. Giving to your spiritual father is a sign that you appreciate him for teaching you the word.

*1 Corinthians 9:11* says **“If we have sown spiritual things to you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things?”** Obviously, a spiritual

son should freely and regularly share with his father. But the father needs to be careful not to make demands or put unnecessary burden on his children. The spiritual things that is sown is the ministry of the word. The words that are taught are the spiritual things that are sown. Remember that in the parable of the sower, the seeds were the words. As long as a man of God shares the word, such is qualified to be given financial and material reward by whoever he teaches.

Are you a spiritual father? Then, do your work. Teach the people and impart them spiritually and they will in turn reward you financially and materially. You must avoid the trick of demanding. You should be providing for your sons. What you should provide for them are spiritual things. Put the words in you into them and you will see how they will in turn give you gifts naturally.

## INSTRUCTIONS TO SPIRITUAL FATHERS

You may be a minister to everybody but you can't be a spiritual father to everybody. As you give time to different people, so also, you must give time to concentrate on raising specific people. Until you become intentional with imparting some specific people, your impact cannot last. That is the reason you must give concentrated effort to raising some people. In order to be more focused, it is essential that you write out the names of those you want to focus on. You can have many unknown sons who are following and learning from you from afar. Many of those learning from you from afar are admirers, not your sons. You should know by names people who have access to you that you are raising.

Ministering on different platforms may spread your impact but may not immortalize your impact. It is intentionality with raising men that will show your impact to the world when you die. You may be an apostle



or prophet to the body of Christ but you can't be a father to the body of Christ because everybody will not accept your fatherhood. You can only be a father to some people who have been raised by you or instructed by God to submit to you.

Raising people has more work than teaching people. Raising people is more than training people. The word *raise* suggest *to lift up*. Spiritual fathers don't just train people, they lift people and lifting men goes beyond teaching or sharing knowledge. That you can teach the word very well doesn't qualify you to be a father. Spiritual fathers are not after teaching people but to lift people.

Raising men will require that you rebuke, correct, love, impart, expose, support and so on. A lesson for everyone who truly is a father is to raise men, don't raise ministry. Spiritual fathers always raise men that will raise their influence. Fathers raise men that will reflect their impact. You must consistently ensure that your children receives your impact.

All spiritual fathers should have a special time of retreat with their spiritual children. This will bring about a meeting together with all of them regularly in a private place. This should not be all the time but once in a while.

As a father, you should connect those under your tutelage to one another. You do that by calling a meeting that affords them the privilege to meet one another. Some of them will meet their covenant friends during the meeting.

The covenant friends of your spiritual children should come from your spiritual lineage. Iron sharpens iron. Let your sons sharpen one another. That will save them from falling and getting into a covenant relationship with the wrong people.

All spiritual sons should be able to connect with a covenant friend from among the sons of his spiritual father. It is advisable you have a heart to heart connection with someone who drink from the same fatherhood source and lineage as yours. You may have people outside your spiritual

lineage as friends and covenant friends too. But it is mostly advisable and wisdom for you to have someone who has same DNA as yours as your bosom and covenant friend. Covenant relationships should emerge from the spiritual family you belong. You may not be closer to everybody in the spiritual family, but there will be one or two people whose heart will be connected to yours. Remember that deep calls unto deep.

In a ministry set up, all spiritual children are sons of the prophets. Elijah was both a prophet and father to Elisha. Paul functioned as a father and prophet to Timothy. Elisha was both a prophet and spiritual father to the king of Israel. Your spiritual father will always utter words that will be prophetic to you. Even if your spiritual father is a teacher or evangelist, he doesn't have to be a prophet. As long as that is the person God links you up with, such will always say things that will be a prophetic guide to you.

When your sons gather together for private meetings with you, it is at this meeting you should share the secrets of the Lord with them. It should be a time of the word and prayers. They should be charged and revived within them to do more for God and advance the kingdom. This will require that you pray ahead to receive special words for each of them. When you do this, then, are performing your fatherly role. There should be a special session where you administer spiritual impartation to them. When men are imparted by the anointing of the Lord, they are increased and refreshed.

## GIVE PLACE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

A mature spiritual father will train his sons to listen to the Holy Spirit. Don't take the place of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the people. Your spiritual children should be attentive to the instruction and guidance of the Lord. The instruction of the Holy Spirit is superior to the counsel of

a spiritual father. That is the truth. In my relationship with my sons in the faith, I know that I am not the Lord of their lives.

Spiritual fathers should teach their sons that their walk with God is their responsibility, so, they must rely on Him and be intimate with Him. A father should avoid the trick of becoming an idol that replaces God in the heart of his spiritual children.

The spiritual walk of a son should not weigh solely on relationship with a fathering presence. You must be able to differentiate between your Lord and spiritual father. Fathers are known to help you gain dominion to walk in your sphere of influence by sharing wisdom and guidance that took them years to discover. And as such, you enjoy speed. But in all of these, you should boldly acknowledge the place of the Lord and be ready to walk with Him.

You must take your relationship with the Lord seriously. And you must relate well with your spiritual father. Ensure you, fellowship, with the Holy Spirit always and be ever ready to follow His instructions.

## A SPIRITUAL FATHER SHOULD KNOW HIS JURISDICTION

You cannot be a spiritual father to all believers. A father has to be careful not to call everyone his spiritual son. It can be very tempting but dangerous. As a spiritual father, you have authority over the people God sent you to. But you don't have authority over the people God didn't allot or position in your space. It is therefore essential for you to face front.

2 Corinthians 10:8 says ***“For even if I boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be put to shame.”*** Do you see that? There is an authority given to a spiritual father to nurture those under his fatherhood.

2 Corinthians 13:10 says ***“For this reason I am writing these things while***

***absent, so that when present I need not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down.***” This clearly reveals that everyone is given a jurisdiction. Your authority can only function within the jurisdiction allotted to you by God.

As a spiritual father, your jurisdiction contains those who already see you as a father. Anyone that doesn’t see you as a father to him or her is not included in your jurisdiction. And as such, you must never call such your spiritual son. While you may be a preacher to all believers, you cannot be a father to all believers. It is wisdom to identify early those who God has allotted to your jurisdiction. Your grace and anointing will only cover those God has put under your direct influence. When a believer doesn’t acknowledge your fatherhood, you should be sensitive to know that the reason for such is because God didn’t put that person under your influence. This understanding will save you in your relational approach with everyone that comes your way.

I pray that grace abounds unto you to effectively carry out your role as a spiritual father. I also pray for every son that grace abounds unto you to be able to effectively be like Timothy and Titus who are not just sons but true sons. May the spirit of true sons rest on all sons that have read this book in Jesus’ name. Amen!



## About the Author

Niyi Makinde is a leadership expert, quotient coach, consultant, author and a Christian minister with an apostolic calling. His passion is to raise Christian ministers and leaders like himself, as well as to help organisations and businesses maximize their potentials.

Apostle Niyi Makinde has been in Christian ministry for over fifteen years. He is the President of Rebirth Global Church, a network of churches across the globe on a mission to empower believers to fulfill their God-given tasks on earth. He is an apostolic oversight and covering for many other ministries, networks and churches.

## Also by Niyi Makinde

Apostle Niyi Makinde as an Author has written several insightful and powerful books. among which are:

1. Divine Instructions
2. 12 Laws of Divine Instructions
3. Breaking Life Code
4. Revolutionary Apostle
5. Power to Prosper
6. Power to Become
7. 53 Laws of Excellence
8. Church Shift
9. Business Sense
10. Dealing With Human Enemies
11. Wisdom For All Round
12. Wisdom Power
13. Prayer Force Volume 1
14. Multiply
15. Tithing
16. You are Different
17. Phronesis For Dating
18. Dating, Marriage and Sex
19. Managing Divine People
20. Your Reality Today (Daily Devotional)

All Books can be downloaded on the website [Niyimakinde.com](http://Niyimakinde.com). They are packed filled with Insights and Powerful Revelations from God to YOU.