

“Honoring Fathers and Blessing Sons”

INTRODUCTION:

1. Sons & daughters are looking for someone to believe in them!
2. Sons & daughters need to be encouraged!
3. A father is one who invests in his children. God is the God of all generations. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
4. How can we bless our spiritual sons & daughters?

BODY:

- I. Fathers bless their sons when they turn their hearts to their sons.
Malachi 4:5-6 – Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.
- II. Fathers bless their sons by speaking over them and blessing them.
Matthew 3:17 – This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.
v. 16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water: and behold the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.
- III. Fathers bless sons by helping them see the Big Picture and their inheritance with protection.
1 Corinthians 4:14-15 - I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.
- IV. Fathers bless sons by laying hands on them for impartation and blessing.
 - A. *1 Thessalonians 2:8 - So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.*
 - B. *Romans 1:11-12 - For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established - that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.*
 - C. *1 Timothy 4:14 - 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.*
- V. Fathers bless sons by teaching them integrity and by being a biblical example.
2 Timothy 3:10-11a - But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions...
- VI. Fathers bless sons by being a place of love, safety and accountability.
1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 - As you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

VII. Fathers bless sons like Elijah blessed Elisha.

- A. 1 Kings 19:19-21 - *So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, 'Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you'. And he said to him, 'Go back again, for what have I done to you?' So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.*
- B. Elisha becomes his servant as Elijah under God's direction. Elijah passes on his authority and power to Elisha.
- C. Sons stay close to your spiritual fathers to receive a blessing. Elijah wanted a double portion. He was tested.
- D. Elisha cries out my father, my father! He does twice as many miracles. Fathers want ^{sons} ~~sons~~ to ^{love} ~~love~~ more!