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KNOWING YOUR SPIRITUAL FATHER

RESISTING THE ROLE OF FATHER

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MILLENNIALS RESIST FATHERS

By Dr. Stephen Phinney

The Father makes it clear that He *is* the beginning and the end. If we could find all the spoken and inspired words describing God in the Word of God, we still would not come close to describing the Father of heaven. It will take eternity for us to discover all the attributes of God. This is the primary reason why we should be so excited about going to the Father and spending eternity with Him. I have my order in for multiple interviews!

Think how boring it would be if we were told everything about a friend at the very first meeting. One of the key elements of finding intimacy is in the search for it. The more time we take to get to know a friend, spouse, child, or God, the richer and more intimate the relationship becomes. So much of our sinful flesh wants everything right now. God is a God of perfect timing and it will be in His timing that we come to know Him completely. This is not something I fight and battle for any longer. I am learning to enjoy each moment of truth in the moment and portion that it is given to me.

Before beginning today's lesson, consider praying this prayer out loud. It will assist you in staying focused on the Truth and train you to pray doctrinal prayers (prayers filled with Scriptural Truth).

COVENANT PRAYER

Dear Father, who is in heaven, and in the center of my heart. I ask this day that you take my mind, will, and emotions and yield them to the Holy Spirit for discipline. I ask that You cause me to focus on You today and not on my circumstances. My flesh tends to be selfish and centered on my problems. I reject this selfish way of thinking and yield to You as my Father. I pray that You would use this lesson today to renew my mind and move me to take actions on all that Your inspired Word reveals to me. I pray that you will post angels at the door of my heart, keeping me centered on the way, truth, and life of your Son. As You reveal Your attributes and characteristics, I ask that I not view them as just words, but that I become transformed because of hearing them. I thank you this day for hearing me, and I choose to pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Jesus, the Son of the Father of heaven, made it quite clear that the heavenly Father keeps profound truths from the earthly-wise and intelligent, and gives His understanding of the Scriptures to the simpleminded. Why would this be? Simple, it takes a child to understand the things of a child. The Hebrew language gives us adjectives to help us understand the role of the heavenly Father.

MILLENNIAL FACTS

Identity is the doorway to your earthly destiny, *and* for all of us, our eternal destiny. Identity is the key to the decisions that you make, the actions that you will carry out and ultimately it reveals the confession of who your god truly is!

RESEARCH | Read 2 Timothy 3:12-17

This is the worldview the enemy (Satan) has about 2 Timothy 3:12-17:

Indeed, all who desire to live a self-centered life in and of themselves will be shamed by the traditional Christian church. Please consider them 'haters' and impostors of true unity and the universal church. They will only go from bad to worse as I unfold my one world unity, and will attempt to deceive you with their one 'way,' one 'truth,' and one 'life' stuff. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them – me! Always remember that from your childhood you have known the writings I provided for you that were to make you love yourself and feel good. It is a kind of human wisdom that leads to salvation per your own individual beliefs, which is in me as well. Remember, never buy into the traditional Christian scriptures that they claim to be inspired by God; they are not. Man wrote them and science proves this. They will tell you that these scriptures are profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. But I say to you – these words are hurtful, condemning, and narrow-minded. Remember to follow what your heart tells you to do, and believe – your experience and feelings are your true guide to life and are rarely wrong.

Titles Associated with Millennials:

You might have heard them referred to as the Hipsters, Generation Y, the Echo Boomers, the Next Generation, the Boomerang Generation, or my favorite, the Peter Pan Generation. Regardless what name is used to describe Millennials, the conservative branch of the Church considers them to be the most difficult generation in human history to evangelize and/or lead into a “spiritual father” discipleship relationship. As a researcher, I must ask, “Why?”

We are losing our Next Generation *and* the one following, Generation Z. Since this generation claims that their key identity marker is *be your own person*, the Church’s message of “Not I, but Christ” is not only difficult, but is outright impossible to impart without the power of the Holy Spirit.

Bottom line is – this generation is a perfect set up for the enemy’s new Millennial Jesus, and a self-interpretation of a new kind of heavenly father, that pushes for the acceptance of *following Jesus* vs. being indwelt by Him.

THE FATHER’S VIEW

The Hebrew word picture for “father” is strength or leader of a house. This Hebrew word includes that of a natural father. It also is used for the founder or the first ancestor, as well as an author or maker of anything. The word father applies to the one who provides care..., like a father to the

needy, as well as a master or teacher. The word father is also for the god that we choose to follow – Satan, human or the Heavenly Father.

This word comes from two primary ancient pictures, 1) *Aleph*--ox, strong or first, and 2) *Bet*-- house. The first letter of the Hebrew alphabet (beginning of the house) is Alef (Pictorial Hebrew). This word also means the leader of a family or tribe. This is where the English-speaking descendants get the letter A. The Pictorial Hebrew word “Aloof” is a derivative of Alef, it means gentle or to tame an ox.

Bet is the second letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The ancient word picture of Bet is a tent, a house, or a family. The word Bet is also used as the number 2 in the Hebrew numeric system. The reason this is a significant factor is that Alef, first strong leader, and Bet, house or family, clearly reveals the importance of a father embracing his strength (first priority) and applying his strength within his home (second priority).

- Read **1 Timothy 3:5**

Twenty-seven primary Hebrew words clearly describe the heavenly Father, as well as the role of an earthly father. Review the list and place a check in the box to the left if you find/found that trait in your earthly father:

Adviser: Authoritative leader who assists in guiding followers in finding their way.

Ancestor: Parent who keeps family beliefs intact from generation to generation.

Author: The one who writes the book or way for others to follow.

Begetter: One who brings forth life by way of a seed.

Benefactor: A patron, supporter, or backer of those who follow him.

Bond: One who keeps a tribe together at all costs--particularly between generations.

Chief: A principled leader who is in command of a tribe.

Counselor: Assists followers in overcoming personal problems that block them from success.

Creator: One who forms life or originates ideas for practical prosperity.

Forefather: Father who leads his son(s) in the way of true beliefs.

Founder: A leader who establishes a tribe for future generations.

Governor: A leader who is known and respected for overseeing community affairs.

Grandfather: A father of their children’s children--one who is filled with wisdom.

Guardian: A protector, or guard, or has a watchful eye over those in his tribe (family unit).

Head: Authoritative and strong leader who leads by example and service.

Inventor: Finds solutions by making use of available resources.

Lord: One who owns people, places, or things with integrity and respect.

Master: A leader who is responsible for assisting servants to master their gifts and talents.

Organizer: A leader who brings order for a tribe or family unit.

Parent: Bringing up children in health and proper guidance.

Patriarch: A known and respected forefather who has left a legacy for others to follow.

Protector: A leader who puts into place “guards of protection” for those he loves.

Respect: A leader who has earned his honor by tenderly caring for those around him.

Ruler: A leader who establishes reasonable rules for daily living.

Senior Male: A respected father who has honor and respect of those around him.

Teacher: Educator, helper, or communicator of practical truths for daily living.

Did you know that if your earthly father has 20 or more of these traits, your heart has already been prepared for a legacy?

The view we carry in our hearts regarding the role and life of a father directly affects our view of God as a heavenly Father. When we perceive God to be like our earthly father, we covertly accuse God of being filled with sin. Earthly fathers are to radiate the characteristics of the heavenly Father. Satan wants us to view God through the lives and behaviors of our fleshly fathers.

ACT-INDWELLING MIND OF CHRIST

- Before we look at the descriptions of God the Father, please describe your view of the heavenly Father.
- Now that you have stated your view of the heavenly Father, write a brief description of your earthly father. If you were adopted, give the description of your adoptive father. If you were adopted and you know enough about your natural father to describe him, describe both. If a group home, mother, grandmother or surrogate parent raised you, describe the “father figure” who had the biggest influence in your life.
- Look up the following Scriptures:
 1. *Exodus 34:7*
 2. *Deut. 24:16*

3. 2 Chron. 6:25

4. 2 Chron. 25:4

He will not desert His people, for He will not revoke that call. *“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable”* (Romans 11:29).

This calling is high, or upward, in Christ. This call is made in heaven by God for the Groom’s benefit in order to call men to heaven. *“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:14).

Similarly, it is a heavenly calling, also a holy calling--holy in aim, means, and end. *“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession”* (Hebrews 3:1).

“Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity” (2 Tim. 1:9).

COVENANT PRAYER

Dear Abba Father, I lift Your holy name up in the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord. I praise You that Satan is a defeated enemy. I take great joy in the fact that Jesus accomplished Satan’s defeat by giving up His life on the Cross. I appropriate Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection, and ascension in my daily living. I look forward to the day that Satan is bound to the bottomless pit for eternity. I rejoice that You, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, give me perfect unity and calling over the enemy today.

I choose to enter my calling and claim my place as being more than a conqueror through Christ who loves me. I refuse to admit to ongoing defeat by Satan in any area of my life. He cannot and will not rule over me, or my family, or any of my loved ones. I affirm that Your grace and mercy rule all areas of my life through my union and calling in Christ. Please remind me that I already have Your strength and grace within me to affirm Your everlasting Truth in times of temptation I bless and thank You for these daily battles and that You seek to accomplish Your divine will in my life. I accept the battlefield you have placed me in today and rejoice in Your divine purpose of it. I reject all the satanic purposes the enemy has hidden behind his attacks. Through the calling of my Warrior and Savior, I stand resolute and strong on the certainty of my calling. In confidence, I commit to come before Your throne boldly, all day, every day. All this I pray in the name and authority of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Calling: The term “calling” is a naming, or inviting; a reading over or a reciting in order; or a call of names with a view to obtain an answer, as in legislative bodies. It can be a vocation; profession;

trade; usual occupation, or employment. It certainly is a class of persons engaged in any profession or spiritual mission. It is a divine summons, vocation, or invitation to live out one's reason for existence. A calling gives all diligence to make one's election sure.

The original word for “**calling**” *kol'ing* (κλησις, *klésis*, from *kaleóō*, “I call”) is a New Testament expression. The word is used chiefly by Paul, though the idea and term are also found elsewhere. It has a definite, technical sense; the invitation given to men by God to accept Salvation in His kingdom through Jesus Christ. This invitation is given outwardly by the preaching of the Gospel and inwardly by the work of the Holy Spirit.

ISRAEL'S CALLING

With reference to Israel, having in His eternal counsel called this people, He entrusted them with great gifts, and because He did, He empowered them. He also, during time, summoned them to fulfill the task of directing the world into the way of Salvation, and of preparing Salvation for the world.

Christianity is a Holy calling, one that is made by the Faithful Father. We are to labor in this. Wherever the Gospel is, be assured it is, an effectual drawing of the Lord. It is found to be righteous act of God to make His Children Holy.

Condition in Your Calling:

The condition in which God's chosen were called is as follows:

“For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God” (1 Cor. 1:26-29).

Consider what God has done for you, and to what state and condition He has called you.

I earnestly request that you approve yourselves faithful Bridal Members and live up to your profession and calling; that you walk worthy, agreeably, suitably, and courageous in the circumstances into which the grace of God has brought you, whom the Faithful Father has set before you. You ought to be a shelter for the Gospel by which you are called, and to the glory to which you are called; both are your vocation. You are called the Bride of Christ; you must answer that identity,

and live like children of the Father. You are called to God's kingdom and glory; that kingdom and glory therefore, you must live, and walk as heirs of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

I AM MY FATHER'S SHADOW

I am a spiritual father to many sons - literally scattered throughout the world. I have learned the importance of adopting spiritual sons because I have been given the privilege of being adopted as a son. I truly believe the reason I am so articulate at communicating the importance of spiritual authority is due to this reality.

Authority is the main key component, in understanding how the Heavenly Father hands down individual missions and the power to carry out His orders. The enemy has erased the importance of honoring all authority (Rom. 6:13). The core Truth is that God alone is the authority in all things; God institutes all the authorities of the earth; He passed such authority down to His Son; and then, placed His Son within the believer on Salvation to demonstrate how He rules His Kingdom on earth.

I grew up in a home where fatherhood neither represented spiritual covering, nor reformation. I do not blame my father for this in any way! He did as any non-Christian would do - he did what came "natural" and necessary according to his darkened mind. Even though my earthly father became an indwelt believer before he died, God used his entire role as a father, or lack of it, to produce in me a passion to find a spiritual father. That is exactly what happened!

Back in the mid-70's, I was introduced to Dr. Charles Solomon through his first book, *Handbook to Happiness* - the first book I read from cover to cover. From this profound book, I could embrace the foundational truths of "Not I, but Christ." The remainder of my adult life has been immersed in the message of identification with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension in the believer's various spheres of influence. For this, I am eternally thankful.

Dad (Dr. Solomon), I cannot thank the Lord enough for you being my spiritual father! I can thank many whom God used to guide and direct me through the years, but none quite like you as my spiritual father. It was through the Lord's influence in and through you that God provided a Biblical, Christ as Life, foundation of Truth for my life and ministry.

Now after 40 years of living and functioning as a spiritual son, I have, as I have been told many times, an acute vision and mission statement. I daily press forward to show individuals their freedom from enslaving mental, emotional, and spiritual conflicts, by placing a special emphasis on IDENTITY MATTERS WORLDVIEW. I have learned that this equipping style is to be as direct, honest, focused on the indwelling Life of Christ, and that of my spiritual father.

Each ministry outreach that is a part of our services is designed to provide the learner with an experience centering upon the integration process of strong Christ as Life worldview, faith, and what IOM coins as Transformational Biblical Worldview and Exchanged Life Development. I am firm on the fact that the indwelt Christian will become more established and pronounced in their Christian faith and become acutely aware of their self-life behavior regarding how it wars against the Word of God, as well as the presence of Christ Jesus within each student.

As a spiritual son, I am relentless at offering these life-freeing truths to all - Christians (followers of Christ) and indwelt Christians alike (Jesus in the believer). I am particularly passionate about helping indwelt believers who have an interest in learning how to use effectively the Word of God in a discipleship/ministry setting, in gaining personal help, as well as furthering oneself in the equipping process of being a minister of the true Gospel - "Not I, but Christ."

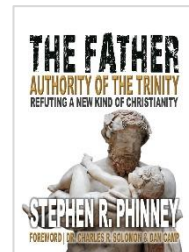
I am not ashamed to say that all of what I am in Christ is a result of submitting myself to my Heavenly Father from within and just as significantly through my spiritual father - Dr. Charles Solomon. My faithfulness and loyalty to Dr. Solomon is beyond a father and son relationship - it is cemented by the perfect bond of unity found in my direct relationship with God the Father, through Christ in me, poured out through my relationship with my spiritual father. Since betrayal is the tool that the enemy uses to destroy the benefits that come with established authority, betrayal is not an option. Here is the secret to inherited blessings:

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore, whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. (Rom 13:1-2)

IN SUMMARY

We are called with a high and holy calling. We are called to God's kingdom and glory. No less than the inheritance as Bridal members is the hope of our calling, nothing less than the enjoyment of that glory and contentment which shall be revealed when our Groom, Christ Jesus, shall be revealed from heaven.

Now, if this is our calling, our great concern should be to be worthy of it, or be trained and prepared for this glory. Because we have no worthiness of our own, but through the grace of the Faithful Father, He has made us worthy by the Worthiness of His Son, and now we can count ourselves worthy of our calling!



This article was taken from Dr. Phinney's book: *The Father, Authority of the Trinity*. Review or [Purchase Here](#)