



C11: The Cry for Spiritual Fathers & Mothers

Larry Kreider

Malachi speaks of the restoration of spiritual fathers (and mothers) in the last days.

Malachi 4:5-6

The Lord is turning the hearts of fathers toward their sons and the hearts of sons toward their fathers. He is also causing a great hunger for spiritual fathers and mothers.

There is a desperate need for spiritual fathers and mothers today.

1 Corinthians 4:15-17 tells us there are “ten thousand instructors, but not many fathers.”

You can be a spiritual father, regardless of your experience. If you never had the input of a natural father in your life, you can still become a father. The same truth applies to becoming a spiritual father. Remember, our God is a Father to the fatherless.

Children, young men, and fathers

1 John 2:12-14 tells us we are either spiritual babies, spiritual young men (or women) or spiritual fathers (or mothers). In every church, it is important to understand the spiritual maturity level of each person. **Eventually, all of us should become spiritual parents.**

- **Spiritual children**

Children know their sins are forgiven, and they know the Father. Every church should have babies—brand new believers not always be theologically correct. But that is okay, because they are babies!

The sad thing is that the church can be filled with spiritual children (some 50 years old in the Lord) who have never grown up! Spiritual children need to be expected to eventually become spiritual young men/women. Babies are self-centered.

- **Spiritual young men and women**

Spiritual young men and women have overcome the wicked one and know the Word of God abides in them. They have learned to feed themselves. Sometimes young men are a bit arrogant.

- **Spiritual fathers and mothers**



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God's will is for everyone to become a spiritual parent.

The only way to become a father or mother is to have children (by adoption or by natural birth).

Start with one spiritual child (for a season) and help him grow in his relationship with Christ. The heart of every healthy father is to give a double "portion" to his son (Elijah/Elisha anointing)

You have been created to become a spiritual parent

The key to being a father is to know the Father. Jesus gives us life. We must give it away or we will not be living up to our full potential.

Parachurch ministries have modeled spiritual fathering very effectively for years!

Jesus took 12 untrained men (Mark 3:14) and fathered them for three and one half years. He calls us to do the same.

The promise to Abraham

God called Abraham to be the father of many nations.

Genesis 15:4-6, God instructed Abraham to go outside at night to look at the stars. He told Abraham that he would have as many descendants as the stars. Abraham believed God, and the spiritual multiplication began.

The reward of spiritual fathering and mothering **1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, & 19-20**

Our spiritual children will bring us great joy as they fulfill their destiny in Christ Jesus. They are our spiritual inheritance!

Everyone is called by God to become a spiritual father or mother

Why is there a lack of spiritual parents

- 1. Tradition (clergy-laity understanding)** The bible is clear; we are all called to become spiritual parents.
- 2. Insecurity** "How could God use me?" II Timothy 1:7 tells us God has not given us a



spirit of fear. We must believe God has given us spiritual treasures to be passed on to others.

3. **Hurts from the past** "I tried and got hurt." Paul said in II Timothy 4:16-17. "... all forsook me, may it not be charged against them, but the Lord stood with me and strengthened me." We have all been mistreated and disappointed. God is looking for us to rise up in obedience, past our fear of getting hurt again. The Bible is filled with examples of people who had good reasons to quit!
4. **Lack of modeling** God is a father to the fatherless. If you never had a parent's guidance (natural or spiritual) you can make a difference in the next generation! He will teach you. Some of the best spiritual fathers have never had the input of a natural father or spiritual father in their lives.

When we take a step of obedience and become a spiritual parent to others, the Lord will often provide spiritual parents for us. We reap what we sow!

The call of God on each of our lives is to love Jesus with a passion, and to become a spiritual father or mother to others.

II Timothy 2:1-2: You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

Paul was thinking in terms of 4 spiritual generations

Someday we will all stand before the Lord. Will you stand alone, or will you stand with your spiritual posterity?