

Australind Vineyard Christian Fellowship

from the Pastor's heart  The Sword of the Spirit the Word of God



Understanding the Father's Heart

The encounter was staggering to say the least. A voice like a thousand Niagara Falls that was very firm yet very loving spoke out a message of endearment to me addressing me as "My son". It was like nothing I had ever heard or experienced before. I was not expecting this voice to speak to me. Neither was I expecting to hear what it said or the subsequent emotions that followed. My heart responded with a cry of anguish in recognition of the connection that had just been made. My heavenly Father had just made contact with me. ***I had come home.*** God called out to me again and said; "My son, why do you think I do not love you, I love you very much"? This time, my heart did not know where to put itself but the eternal cry of my heart was fulfilled in that instant. I knew I had just been touched by the Father heart of God.

Though this encounter did not instantly help me to build my relationship with God as my Father. However, it had affirmed to me forever that God was my true Father. The identification of sonship came much later in a separate encounter some seven years later when I realised that I was a child of God. This is a common occurrence with many Christians who are struggling with their identity as sons more than with their understanding of God as their Father. Identity is an outworking of sonship which is dependent on understanding the Father heart of God. Many mistake God's intentions because they do not understand His heart. Many think God is out to destroy them or make their lives difficult or a misery. Many are taught by others that God is a destructive force who seeks revenge for every little mistake humans make. Then there is the blame game. They blame God for everything that goes on in this world and life because He is a big target and it is easy to blame Him. After all, if He claims to have made this world then He is responsible for everything that takes place on earth as well. Humans tend to leave themselves out of the equation and blame God and the devil. This is the human cop out. Then there are those who take the high moral ground and determine life for themselves and make humanism the god of this world. This eliminates the need for God or the devil and therefore it only leaves humans to worry about. We all know that humans are the biggest worry on earth because of how we treat each other. Unfortunately, the whole world along with humanity is hurtling toward disaster and it is only a matter of time.

So where does understanding the heart of God and our identity fit into all this? The Bible says, the earth is eagerly waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. The earth has been given by God to His sons making it subject to them. While we are here, we are expected to gain control of our lives and take back what the devil stole from us. We are building on the generational work of our forefathers who have gone before us. The next phase of our journey will involve coming back with Jesus to rule and reign with Him on earth for a thousand years. Then, when the earth is finally destroyed, a new earth will be made. This too will be given to the sons of God.

What we have to understand about identity is, recognizing ***who we are, where we came from, and where we are going.*** Sonship is God's heart for us. He is giving birth by His Spirit to sons and daughters through the birth, death and resurrection of His only Son Jesus. Jesus is the first born of the dead and our brother. Now God is adding many more to His family through our faith in this relationship with God as Father through the Son Jesus. Sonship holds many expressions to it. The first expression is, loving God the Father with all our heart, strength and mind. The second is, walking in authority as sons of God over God's creation. The third is fulfilling the will of God through governmental rule as joint heirs with Jesus. Finally, being the praise of God's glory to all His creation.

Without an identity, spiritual authority does not work. We see this in the following verses: *Act 19:13:16 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled*

out of that house naked and wounded.

From these verses we can understand that spiritual authority was non-existent in this case as a result of the lack of identification.

Then there is identification with God that brings correction from God as a loving parent which can make life difficult to accept if one does not understand the Father heart of God. Discipline and correction is not a human invention but a requirement of God. *Heb 12:5:9 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*

Then there is the Father heart of God toward the Church that comes as an instruction: *2Co 6:14:16 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 2Co 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 2Co 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

Finally, we have the relationship with God through the Holy Spirit as His sons in spiritual witness that takes away every doubt about who He is to us. *Rom 8:14:23 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

The glorious conclusion is, we are the children of God. If Daddy is for us, no one can be against us. Be blessed in this knowledge and develop a relationship with God as His sons & daughters. You will see a big change in your relationship with God as a result. One thing we can be sure of in this dark and evil generation. God is for us and not against us. The realisation of this truth will take us higher than we have ever been before if we can conclude on His Father's heart. God says to us that His thoughts and plans toward us are not evil but to bring us to an expected end. We must allow Him to do it His way. In the journey of life we must trust His intentions and motivations behind our journey. Only then can we truly be at peace. There is no one greater than God and the fact that He is our Father only makes it more related.

This is not a concept of a created being with its Creator but of a child with his Father. There is a world of difference between a child of God and a created being. **Anyone who does not believe in God is a created being.** When we accept Jesus as our Saviour we are **begotten** as the sons & daughters of God. Therein lays the difference in life and in everything that pertains to life. Created beings do not enjoy relationship, fellowship, blessings and inheritance with God. Instead, they are judged for their unbelief. On the other hand, we are rewarded for our faith. Have faith in God. He knows what He is doing and He loves you. The Spirit of Elijah in the last days will return the heart of the children to the fathers and vice versa. This is the ministry of the Spirit through us. Let us be willing co-workers with the Holy Spirit for the glory of God and return to the Father's heart. **Mal 4.5,6**

With love - *Pastor Noble*

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