

God is Raising up Faith-Filled Fathers and Mothers by Mandy Kistner, May 10, 2019

Intro: Caleb / Seasons of challenges produce beauty. Hardship / trials produce glory on the inside. Pruning produces fruit. John 15:1- “Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” “Only God can turn a MESS into a message, a TEST into a testimony, a TRIAL into a triumph and a VICTIM into a victory.”

Only some are called to be physical mothers and fathers but we all are called to be spiritual mothers and fathers. God’s heart is that we would see ourselves, no matter what our age is as someone who can pour into and invest in others (spiritual or physical children or both).

1- **Spirit of Elijah:** Directly ties into being faith filled Fathers and Mothers. 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.”

The coming of Elijah is literal and symbolic. He will literally come again (Rev 11:36).

- And its symbolic: Speaks of: - older and younger generation uniting and the heart level (spiritual), family reconciliation (natural), church and families. Believe it speaks of people starting to value the unborn as well.

Elijah- He was a spiritual father who saw great miracles in his life and when he passed on from this physical life, His anointing didn’t just leave with him. His anointing rested on Elisha who was used in even more miracles than Elijah and received a double portion. The spirit of Elijah is tied into us asking the Lord to use us like Elijah in such a way where we impart the anointing God has given us to others, where we inspire others to follow God wholeheartedly and truly desire those we impart into/disciple will go farther than us.

God is going to raise up people with the similar spirit. Believing believers all across the earth will operate in the anointing and power that Elijah operated in. (Supernatural provision for himself- being fed by ravens and for others- the widow and her household had oil and flour that wasn’t used up. Resurrection of the widow’s son. Causing it to rain after the drought of 3 ½ years. The showdown at Mt Carmel- fire from heaven. And the anointing to pass on a double portion of his spirit.)

2- In order to be a mother or father in the faith (or natural), **we must grow in greater love.** (Part of that includes understanding the love of God more and more). Being a father and mother includes growing in greater love even in the midst of all the challenges. My experience when I first became a Mom. My heart was about to explode with love with each child. You truly do enter into a deeper level of understand of His great love for you because of the great love He lets you have for your child.

1 Thessalonians- I’m inspired by the heart Paul has for the young Thessalonian church. His affection is evident throughout this letter. He cherishes that church like a nursing mother does her children. (Oxytocin- released by pituitary gland. It increases relaxation, lowers stress, anxiety, BP. The hormone responsible for love, bonding and trust in a relationship). Vs 8- imparted to them their own lives.

- Story: Even more than I desire to heal the sick, raise the dead, prophesy with power and have an anointed message to preach, I desire to simply be a mom who learns to love. Felt God’s delight. In my mind up until that point, I’ve never really esteemed the calling of a mother. Thought the calling of a revivalist or mighty preacher to be a greater calling until this moment when I felt the Lord spoke to my spirit- “The calling of a mother is a high and noble calling.” The witness of His words in my spirit caused me to actually believe what He said to be true. At the end of the day, no matter what our job title, calling, ministry or stage of life we are in, the Lord is going to see if we truly learned to love... in the ups and downs, in the challenges and joys.

3- Seeing the significance of being a father or mother in God's eyes.

2 Timothy 1:5- "when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also." Both Timothy's grandmother and mother had this kind of genuine faith. Faith isn't inherited but can be modeled regularly and thus impact the lives around you. We see the power of a mother's faith here: Grandma influenced the life of mother which influenced her son.

Varying seasons throughout Motherhood and Fatherhood. Personally- I need to remind myself of the significance of what I do. The most prominent season of motherhood for me is the wilderness. Nobody notices but God what is done day in and day out to ensure my kids are clean, fed, healthy, schooled and yes alive. Miracle my kids are alive and thriving.

- The wilderness of motherhood may look unsuccessful in the eyes of most, but God looks at it differently.
- Isaiah 40:3-8. John's ministry was in the wilderness. You can be a voice and have a profound impact even in the wilderness. How do we prepare the way for the Lord? Declaring the gospel of repentance which is what John declared during his ministry.
- John declared there would be a highway, built in the heart, on which God would travel. In the discouraging times, when you feel defeated there will be comfort from the Lord. God will also expose the pride in our heart and bring humility to those pride-filled places.
 - o What shall we cry out? Summed up, it's a message where we prepare for the Lord's return and declare that our life here on earth is exceedingly short. If we have a revelation that our time is short, it will lead us to Jesus, to repentance, to living wholeheartedly and not being as concerned about this present age but the age to come. It will cause us to live more intentionally.
 - o In summary, we need to have God speak to us the significance of mother and fatherhood even in the wilderness seasons because we can be like John the Baptist who was a voice in that wilderness.

4- Being faith filled: Seeing the significance of our children through God's eyes.

-Several years ago, at a Behold Him conference, there was a prophetic chorus being sung, "There is a mighty generation rising up..." I saw my 3 little boys as grown men, mighty in the spirit, lovers of Jesus. My kids might not listen the best/ whining. I can choose to focus on all their flaws and imperfections or I can praise their budding virtues and believe for all God has for them.

-Caleb's dream: tornado

- Psalm 112:1-2- "Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments. His descendants will be MIGHTY on the earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed."

Closing: Let's ask God to raise up true fathers and mothers, for grace to see ourselves as the fathers and mothers God is calling us to be and to see the ones God has called us to pour into as mighty on the earth. And I want to pray that we would truly possess the spirit of Elijah who God used in signs, wonders and miracles to reveal HIS glory and who also had the anointing to release a double portion of his spirit on his spiritual son.