SPIRITUAL FATHERS AND SUBMISSION

Rediscovering Divine Order, Honour, and Growth in Spiritual Relationships

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Dedication

To the true Fathers in the Spirit,
who have laboured, travailed, and poured their lives
into birthing sons and daughters for the glory of God.

And to every son and daughter in the faith,
called to walk in humility, submission, and honour,
may you grow in grace, wisdom, and strength
as you carry the mantle entrusted to you.

Above all, to the Eternal Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,
be all the glory, honour, and praise forever.

Preface

In every generation, God raises voices to call His people back to divine order, honour, and spiritual alignment. One of the sacred structures that He has ordained for the nurturing, protection, and advancement of His children is the relationship of spiritual fatherhood and submission.

Yet today, these truths are often misunderstood, neglected, or even abused. In many places, the absence of true spiritual fathers has left sons and daughters wandering without guidance. In others, the absence of true submission has led to rebellion, disconnection, and a breakdown of spiritual inheritance.

This book, Spiritual Fathers and Submission, was born out of a deep conviction to bring clarity, restoration, and honour back to this divine relationship. It is not written as a theoretical exploration, but from years of walking under, walking with, and walking in spiritual fatherhood — both in learning and in leading.

This book examines the responsibilities of spiritual fathers and of the sons and daughters entrusted to them. It establishes the place of honour and submission in spiritual growth, the order through which ministry is preserved, and the responsibility to carry what has been received into the next generation.

My prayer is that you will receive the Word with a willing heart, recognise the fathers God has placed in your life, and respond with the honour that this relationship requires. Let the teaching shape your conduct, your service and your participation in the work of the Gospel.

To God be the glory for every restoration, every healing, and every generation that will rise because spiritual fathers and sons align once again.

— Emmanuel Mukisa

Introduction

Spiritual fatherhood and submission belong to God's order for His people. Through the Gospel, men and women are brought to Christ; through the continuing ministry of the Word, they are instructed, corrected and raised into maturity. God entrusts this work to people. Receiving what He supplies through them is part of our response to Him.

Paul did not speak to the Corinthians as an instructor with no continuing responsibility for their lives. He reminded them that he had begotten them in Christ Jesus through the Gospel, called them his beloved sons, and urged them to follow him. He then sent Timothy, his beloved and faithful son in the Lord, to bring them into remembrance of his ways in Christ (1 Corinthians 4:14–17). Fatherhood, instruction and example belong together in this passage.

A father must take responsibility for those he has begotten and nurtured. A son or daughter must receive that ministry with honour and submission. The relationship becomes fruitful as both carry their responsibility before God. Spiritual fatherhood requires the investment of a life, and sonship requires a response that goes beyond admiration.

The chapters that follow move from the meaning of spiritual fatherhood to the responsibilities it carries. We will examine submission, spiritual order, the challenges of raising sons and daughters, the recognition of a spiritual father, and the growth that comes through faithful participation in this relationship.

Read with a heart ready to receive instruction and to act on it. Honour those who labour among you. Be willing to learn, receive correction and serve. The Word calls us to a life in which what we have received bears fruit in us and reaches others through us.

CHAPTER

1

Introduction to Spiritual Fatherhood

Spiritual fatherhood is a relationship of spiritual origin, nurture and responsibility through the Gospel. A father in the faith takes responsibility for the lives he has helped to bring forth and continues to labour for their growth in Christ. This relationship gives personal expression to the ministry of the Word: someone teaches, someone receives, and a life is raised in the truth.

The Apostle Paul introduces this principle in 1 Corinthians 4:15: "For though ye have ten thousand instructers in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel." Paul identifies the source and means of his fatherhood. It is in Christ Jesus, and it is through the Gospel. His relationship with the Corinthians arose from a definite work of ministry among them. He had brought the Gospel to them, and they had received it.

Understanding Spiritual Fatherhood

Spiritual fatherhood begins with what God does through the Gospel. The life received is the life of Christ. The minister through whom the Gospel comes bears a real responsibility towards those who receive it. Paul spoke with certainty about the relationship established through his preaching. His words hold divine source and human ministry together: in Christ Jesus, through the Gospel, I have begotten you.

An instructor may teach people whom another has brought to faith. His instruction can be valuable, yet instruction alone does not describe the whole relationship of fatherhood. A father knows the responsibility of having laboured for a life and remains concerned with what that life becomes. Paul's distinction calls attention to that responsibility. It should deepen the father's commitment and the children's recognition of what they have received.

The same fatherly care continues in the nurture of believers. A person who has come to Christ still needs to be established in the Word, corrected where necessary and trained for faithful service. Spiritual fatherhood carries the responsibility to raise people in the faith and to see the Gospel take shape in their understanding and conduct. Begetting and nurturing must therefore be understood together.

Paul expresses this continuing labour in Galatians 4:19: "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you." He was addressing people who had received the Gospel but were being drawn from the truth he had taught them. His travail concerned their formation in Christ. The life of Christ was already theirs; they needed to stand in the truth of that life and give it expression. A father's labour continues beyond a person's initial response to the Gospel.

Why Spiritual Fatherhood Matters

Spiritual fatherhood gives continuity to the work of the Gospel. The truth received must be understood, lived and entrusted to others. A father teaches with this responsibility in view. He supplies direction, corrects error and prepares sons and daughters to carry the work faithfully. The relationship also gives believers a place of accountability in which their growth is known and their service can be developed.

In this book, spiritual covering refers to the care, prayer, instruction, correction and oversight supplied through spiritual leadership. A father watches over those entrusted to him and helps them remain rooted in the truth. This is an active responsibility, and it calls for an active response. Sons and daughters honour that care by receiving the Word, remaining teachable and serving faithfully within the work to which God has joined them.