



God
is my
Father

How to live as a true child of God.

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This book is dedicated with profound love to my Eternal Father, as an offering to Him, as a sign of gratitude because He loved me first.

To all the fathers, with the fervent desire that they may learn to carry out their tasks as fathers as they read these pages.

To the sons and daughters who have the wounds and marks of an unhappy childhood, believing there is no possible happiness for them. This book will make them change their minds.

With gratitude and love for those who contributed in one way or another in the publishing of this book; be blessed, and that the Father, owner of everything, pay you very well.

Introduction

The greatest discovery a human being could ever make is of a spiritual nature. It consists in realizing that the person has a divine origin and a Father in the heavens who wants to establish a relationship with His children.

In the same way in which we all have a father in a natural level, who begat us and provided determinative genetic elements, we also have a spiritual Father who gives us His nature and character. He gives us what we need to live a secure, healthy, and happy life.

Every man (male or female), even though he has natural parents, will be a spiritual orphan while he doesn't meet his Father God. That encounter is necessary to intimately know "Dad"; to rest on His lap and lean on His chest.

I am sure this book will bring the necessary elements to your life to identify your needs. You

will then be able to receive direct ministration from the Holy Spirit, who will lead you to live an abundant life, a more effective service to God, and, above all, the certainty of your eternity with the Father.

1. God's Fatherhood

The covenant God made with humanity, or the reason God created man, was to have children. The Father sent Jesus, His Son, to come and bring us back together with Him and give us His nature so that all men (male and female) who inhabited the earth and believed in Jesus' death and resurrection, would be Jesus' brothers and sons of God.

Throughout Scripture, we see that God's covenant was always "And I will be to them a Father as they will be my sons". That is God's covenant, that He will be our Father and we His sons.

When we come to the Lord, we unconsciously adjudicate to our heavenly Father characteristics our earthly father had. Because we only transpose an image, we see our Father God with all the defects, imperfections, and harshness our earthly father

had. We attribute to God the wounds our father caused and everything we suffered because of him. This makes it difficult for us to see our Heavenly Father as a Good Father, the Loving God described in Scripture; the Father who makes us sit on His laps, who pampers us; the one who speaks to us with sweet words.

It's not until the Holy Spirit comes that we come to understand that perhaps our father acted the way he did because he didn't know the Lord or because he also needed healing. When we understand that, we begin a different relationship not only with our earthly father, but with our heavenly Father, as well. Then we can draw near Him confidently and believe that our God can give us the thousand dollars we need today, the dress we will need tomorrow, the shoes, the trip, the refreshment we wanted today... Even small things are possible because we approach with faith and the certainty that we are coming to a Father who is good and is happy to please us with the simplest of things; that He is a Father who takes care of us.

If we study the Bible, we realize that God's character is masculine and feminine. That may sound a bit weird, because religiously it cannot be understood, but that's the way it is. In other

words, God does not have a sex, rather He covers both masculine and feminine characteristics. This may only be received through revelation. When you read the Scriptures, sometimes they talk of the strong arm of Jehovah, Jehovah as a warrior, as a Father, Man of war; but other times it says God will breastfeed us, and that we will be pampered in God's knees. Here it mentions the feminine, tender side of God.

God created us in His image and likeness, but decided that we, as human beings, be born from an earthly mother and father, in order for all the children in the world to have a complete identity. As they are ministered by the masculine characteristics of the father and the feminine characteristics of the mother, children grow in a balance, having the image and likeness of God on earth through their parents.

In order for a child to grow normally and healthy, both spiritually and emotionally, it is necessary to have a mother and a father at home. This reality we cannot avoid. If we start from this concept we can deduce that, if our father and mother were not together when we were born, this is an abnormal situation that inflicts a wound. Or, our father could have been

an alcoholic who beat mom when he came home at midnight; this also is an abnormal situation. Or perhaps daddy worked so hard that he came home very late at night and was not able to see his children, and when they woke up in the morning he was already off to work. Maybe dad went illegally to another country, or was off at sea most of the time, or just went elsewhere seeking a better life, and that, too, is abnormal. Maybe you were born from an adulterous relationship where your mother had a relationship with a married man who couldn't freely see you as his child, or you could not see him as your father, as he had his own home. Maybe your mother was pregnant without being married, so you lived only with her, seeing your father only eventually, or you knew only that he sent money for support. Your case could have been one where you were born in a home with both parents, but father left mother and you grew up only with the maternal side; or maybe your parents got a divorce during your adolescence or childhood and you suffered the consequences of broken relationships. Maybe one of them passed away at a young age and you grew up with only one of your parents; this also is abnormal. Perhaps you had both parents, but your father was so

inexpressive that you felt like he wasn't even there; or he was so severe that you preferred he weren't home, and that when father arrived, you would hide under the bed because you feared him so; that also is abnormal and needs healing.

If we can see that the relationship with our mother and father affects our relationship with God, then we understand why God wants to heal that area of our life. What is God's purpose? That we may go confidently to Daddy, to His knees, to feed from His breasts and feel His embrace, knowing we are hidden in Him and that we have someone who protects us all the time.

It's such a relief to know that God says that even if my mother and my father forsake me, He will take care of me; that he is the Father of the orphans; that he is Father, even though we did not have a good mother or a good father in the earth.

There are other situations that can affect our identity. That is why I want to share some of my own experiences.

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

When I came to the Lord, I was really desperate and empty, in need of love. I experienced something like a fountain was unleashed inside me. It was so tremendous that I threw myself to my Lord's arms and started to love Him immediately with all the strength of my heart.

I began to realize that while I prayed and sang, it was very difficult for me to see God as my Father. I saw him as my Husband, as a Friend, as a Brother, as Lord, but it was difficult to see him as Father. I asked myself, "What is wrong with me? Why can't I see Him as my Father and call Him 'Father'?" As a matter of fact, I thought of God as someone who was severe and harsh. I didn't have the confidence that a small child has to go and ask his father for things he does not have the capacity to give the child. A boy sees a car passing by and tells his father, "Buy me that car! You can buy that car for me, can't you?" A girl would say, "Buy me that dress or that doll!" Children have the freedom to ask their father.

My youngest daughter is eleven years old, and sometimes she tells her dad and me, "I

want to go to Israel, or Spain, or some other place.” She does not stop to see if we can or cannot afford it. I couldn't be that way with my heavenly Father. As I was young in this field I would ask myself why. One day, while we were gathered in the mountain of Pacheco in La Paz, Honduras, God used a young man, a prophet of the Lord, to minister my life. There was a tremendous anointing, we were praising the Lord with a prophetic song, and it was really precious. This 21-year-old man was in the opposite corner and God tells him, “Minister her like a daughter.” He could have been my son, as I doubled his age, but he was obedient to the Lord. He came and hugged me and began to talk to me as if he were my father. “My girl, my precious, my baby...” He started to caress my head, to cuddle me, and I started to yell. I yelled very hard, not caring who was there. (When it's the Spirit of God who touches us, we don't care about anything; if they see us or not.) And for the first time, I could yell, “Father!” And I yelled “Father!” to my God.

That day, I was healed in my relationship with God as my Father. I realized what had been holding it back, and what was needed. Starting that moment, as I prayed to the Lord, I

began to remember each detail of all those things I needed to forgive my natural father of, and I came to know that there is a direct relation between what we lived with our biological father and the relationship with our Father God.

Why do I tell you this? Because maybe the Bible will not explain in detail how you will be ministered, since these things are brought by the Spirit. The Bible itself says in the book of John that if all the things Jesus wanted to teach were written, the world itself could not contain all the books; but the Holy Spirit teaches us the things Jesus didn't have the time to.

My father is fifteen years older than my mother, and it wasn't until a few days ago that I understood the reason why she married him. When my mother was only one year old, she was abandoned by her father. So she grew up only with her mother, lacking paternal affection. Her father never gave her a pencil to go to school. She lived in a home where mother was everything: she provided, took care of, protected. The emptiness of paternal love was so big that when my dad, a student in El Salvador (in Central America), divorced and with two daughters, came to the city, she saw in

him the father figure she never had. And even though she was a young lady whom every man wanted to marry, she married my dad. Nobody could understand, since he was much too old for her.

When I was born, my dad was really excited because I was white with blond hair and blue eyes. He was always proud of the fact that I looked like a foreigner; it seems he had a problem with racism in his heart. He was happy in that sense, but he had really hoped for a boy. And so, I grew up always thinking that I should have been a boy. Not that he ever told me that, but our spirit senses all things. I see pictures of when I was two or three years old, dressed in pants, boys' shirts, a hat, boots. I used to play cowboys, with little cars and all the other things a boy plays with. I seldom played with dolls; once my uncle gave me one, and, since I was used to seeing my dad in the clinic, I took a scalpel and opened up the doll to see what it had inside. They never gave me a doll again. During my entire childhood, I did not identify myself with the feminine aspect. My mom had to work from an early age; she's a woman who wears no make-up, does not make her hair, has no dedication for her personal appearance.

That's what I had learned.

My understanding of what a woman must do was work, work, and work; and that's the way I grew up. There was a moment when I felt aversion towards boys. I know there's a stage in a girl's life when she doesn't want to know about boys (and boys don't want to know about girls), but in my case that lasted a far long time. I disliked boys because I felt they had more privileges than girls, and I thought that was really unfair. I had a strong sense of justice, since my brothers, born years later, were allowed to do things I had not been allowed to do. I thought it was better to be a boy because deep inside I felt I would have been more accepted by my father.

My father had been a big womanizer, and that had affected me a lot. I saw my mother working during the day, and I saw my dad flirting with the ladies at night. I caught him several times seducing domestic employees. Because of that, I felt rejection towards men.

The first hug I remember receiving from my father was when I was sixteen years old and he left me off at a boarding house in the Feminine University of Mexico. Never before had I

received a hug from my father. My mother says he never carried us. He took care of me when I was sick, but he never showed affection. He never said "I love you", never said "You are so pretty", and I felt like the ugliest girl in town. To affirm a girl's self-esteem it is necessary that the father let her know that she is loved and that she is beautiful.

We have been created with a soul, and the soul needs to be ministered. God uses the father and the mother to reaffirm those values, but if the father never expresses affection, the girl grows up insecure. Nowadays my dad says I was just like he always wanted: white, blond, and blue-eyed. The kids at school called me "whitey" and many other such things. That caused a feeling of rejection. My father was expressly very satisfied with my intelligence, but that was a pressure for me. To make matters worse, I was left-handed, so my father went to speak to the principal: "My daughter is left-handed. That's a very special case, but please don't change anything for her." Do you have any idea what it's like to live so many years as a lefty writing in desks for righties? All the desks in those times were made for those right-handed people.

Many of these childhood experiences affect a person's identity, their sexual identification as well as their personality. Personality, identity, and values are reaffirmed during adolescence.

Another thing that really affected my identity, was the fact that my father expected so much from me that he sent me off to school two years earlier than everyone else. Thus, when I was fifteen years old, I was already graduating from high school. All my classmates were two years older than me, so when I was eleven years old (and boys start getting attracted to girls), my dad began to worry. He thought all men were like him, so my mom got rid of the problem by sending me off to boarding school. That only worsened my feeling of rejection and damaged my identity all the more, because not only were they inexpressive, but in my mind they wanted to get rid of me. I became a solitary person. I spoke alone because my parents never let me have any friends. When I got home from school I already knew my obligations: leave the schoolbag aside and go to the pharmacy, since I was the cashier until nine o'clock at night, when we closed. If the family were to go out, my brothers would leave, and I had to stay behind, attending customers

in the pharmacy. My wound of rejection for being a woman, produced a conflict in me; I was attracted to men, but I wished to be a man.

I began writing deep letters during that age, and, since they would not let me have any contact with boys, I invented a communication system. I had to invent many things, being really creative in tricking my parents. I would play music so they would think I was in my room while I was meeting with the guys.

My wound of rejection was so strong that I did whatever I needed to gain the affection of the people. I felt that those who loved me were the maids and workmen in the house, because they would spend time with me. My friends were the bricklayers and the carpenters (maybe that's why I developed a great fondness for construction). Every day at three o'clock in the afternoon, I would buy bread from a woman who passed by the house. I would run to the balcony they were building and share the bread with them. They taught me how to play cards, explained wrong about sexual matters, and told me obscene jokes.

My loneliness was such that I wrote poems to express myself. One day my mom found my

poem collection, more than five hundred of them; she took them and burned them. As I saw them burn, it was like they were burning my heart. That was my expression, where I had placed everything I felt and everything I could not tell anybody because I had no friends. This made me resent her.

I remember that since I was the cashier, I sometimes “caught” some cash from the pharmacy. All the coins landed within my uniform belt. But one day they fell, and my father listened. As they were falling, he called out: “That’s twenty, that’s fifty...”

I needed much love, and my classmates knew it. One of them asked me if I wanted to be her friend, and I said I definitely did. There was a condition, however. It was her birthday the next day, and she said I needed to give her a good present. Since I had access to the pharmacy, she told me she wanted a nail polish and a lipstick. She gave me the brand and details, since she had already seen them through the window. I wanted to have friends, even if I had to do many things, so I said, “Tomorrow I will give it to you”. I woke up at five in the morning, tip-toed to the pharmacy, and took all the things she had asked me. I made

up the package and hid it in my schoolbag. I thought nobody had seen me. I went to her very excited and said, "Happy Birthday!" I forgot a small detail, however. My grandmother's sister worked in the school, and the bomb went off in the whole institution. Everyone knew of the gift Emma Amelia had given to Martha. At four o'clock my dad was waiting for me. He grabbed me by my ear and dragged me home. He took off his belt and began to hit me with the buckle: "That's for being a thief and stealing from your own parents!" This produced a wound in my heart, much resentment, and much bitterness against them. These things mark our lives, though it might not seem so. As a matter of fact, my dad does not even remember. He feels so ashamed that he would rather forget it. He cannot believe he did that, and I don't blame him; I have forgiven him and I love him profoundly.

In that same state of adolescence, when my female classmates' bodies were developing, their mothers would sit and speak to them; explain about menstruation; buy them a bra. I wished to talk to my mom about it, too, but she would not touch the subject; it seems she was ashamed to speak about it. When my breasts

were starting to show up, I walked around all hunch-backed because I was embarrassed. During vacations, I visited my grandmother and my aunt, my father's sister. She said, "Young lady, you need to wear a bra, now", and so she bought some for me. I came home with new bras, but it hurt me that my mother didn't even ask where I got them. She herself did not have the freedom to speak about those things. The first time I had my period I asked myself, "How will I ever tell my mom?" I finally went up and told her, but she only answered, "Oh, yes, go to the pharmacy and tell Nora to give you some pads." And that was it. There was something that wouldn't let me reach her heart, nor could my mom reach mine.

I found myself at only sixteen years old, in college in another country far away from mine. The emptiness of affection got bigger every day. I so desired to have a boyfriend, a man that would tell me that he loved me, that I was pretty. I dyed my hair jet black, I waxed my legs (Oh, how it hurts!), and was determined to do whatever was necessary to change my image so someone would say, "How pretty! How nice!"

In my heart grew the desire of getting married. I wanted to have a home, since there

was an emptiness of manly affection. My insecurity was so tremendous that I started having boyfriends, even if only by letters, winks, whatever! Wherever I was, I needed a boyfriend in that city. Anyone could have said I was a flirt, but it really didn't have anything to do with that. I was not a flirt. I didn't even have a spectacular body.

The emptiness was so strong that I dreamed I had a husband and a home. That was my ideal. I didn't care about my career (which, by the way, had been chosen by my parents), though I had excellent grades. The problem was all the rebellion developed in my heart.

One day I said, "I want to marry, and I will!" And so it happened that during vacations I was walking down the street, and I came across a man whom I had met a long time ago, since I was a girl. He told me, "You are one of the few women whom I would ask to marry me", and I answered, "You are one of the few men to whom I would say yes." We were married ten months later.

That man to whom I said, "Yes, I do", was seven years older than me. I saw in him a

mature man; a professional; a doctor, just like my father; and it was like filling the void of love inside me.

When he asked my parents if he could marry me, my father was so upset he went on a hunger strike. He locked himself in his room and did not eat for a whole week because he didn't want to know anything about me. To him I was dead, mainly because I had left college and was no longer buying books but towels, blankets, pots, and many other things for my future house.

But, what happens when we have had a bad relationship with our father? We get married wishing for a father and not a husband. And do you know what happens? When they look for us sexually, we reject them, because we didn't marry for sex, and we forget it's a natural part of marriage because all we wish is to feel protected and loved.

When I was twenty-four, I was already a mother of three kids. I worked hard, studied for a Ph.D., and felt sick of life. We began having problems at home and, after eleven years of marriage, the relationship ended in divorce.

That is why it is so important for young ladies to know that they need interior healing and a healthy relationship with their father before they enter marriage, or else they will become frustrated seeking a father in their husband.

After this, I was again alone and unprotected. During my divorce my parents turned their backs on me and recommended a psychiatrist, for they thought I was crazy.

Two years later, I was married again, thinking my new husband would solve my situation. But I came to realize that what I needed was not a man of flesh and bones, for he could not solve my problem. He would not tell me that he loved me, would not express love, and was starting to complicate my life.

When I came to my Lord, love-thirsty, I threw myself to His arms. I could feel him telling me, "I have loved you with an everlasting love", and I understood that He had been present in every moment of my life: through the hard, bad times with my father, with my mother, with my kids' father, with my second husband. I knew God had always been my Friend and my Counselor, my Creator and the One who gives

life. I experienced a fire blazing across my interior, filling the void within.

God allows so many things in our lives so we can appreciate the value of His blood and His healing anointing, because we can hardly go minister unto others if we cannot relate to what is going on in their hearts.

When I came to the Lord I began to write poems to Him, to sing, to write love letters, to love Him... I found in the Bible His love letters to me, letters He had taken his time to dictate, so important had I been to Him. It was great to discover that through them He told me, "O my dove, in the clefts of the rock" and feel so loved by Him; best of all to know that He does not lie to me, He does not look for me out of sexual or economic interest. He loved me first and He was interested in giving me everything He had.

When we come to the Lord, it is so difficult for us to see God as our Father due to that anomalous relationship that we have had with our natural father! But God's grace is so beautiful, and His love is so special, that when I came to Him, I felt like He was literally hugging me.

My natural father had demanded a lot from me with his best intentions. He always wanted me to get the best grades, win medals and bands of excellence. When I came to the Lord, I thought he was demanding something from me continuously and that I was not good enough. I thought I needed to be doing things to have His approval. I went through much activity and anguish to feel accepted and loved by Him.

I thought God was the kind of father who hid His face from me if I did something bad, but He released me and made me know that He is not like men. That although I have committed mistakes, He keeps loving me the same, and He receives me the same way because His blood is still powerful and eternal to clean away my errors if I come with a simple heart. He has never rejected me. He is always there.

Now I know I can go to Him the same way for small things as for big things; I have had to go to Him for a few cents as well as for big amounts of money. I have had to look for Him for flour to make bread or for a refreshment, as well as for a car. He is always there, willing to give me what I need.

During some time I wondered why my

husband gave me no presents for my birthday, no flowers, no cards. But God has made a perfect job in making me realize that no matter what day it is, whether it's my birthday or my anniversary, He uses the instrument He wishes, not necessarily my husband.

I remember feeling very lonely and depressed one day. I cried and cried before the Lord. At ten in the morning, there was a knocking at my door. Some spiritual children, Remo and Rosita, had sent me red roses. They did not know what was happening to me; it was not a special day. But the Holy Spirit instructed them to send me those roses, and I could see that every good gift and every perfect gift comes from Him.

Today I can say that God has given me enough love and healing so as to love without expecting something in return. My happiness does not depend on my husband telling me I am pretty. The Lord has worked a lot in my heart, and today I am moved by what is inside me, not by what happens around me. Here is where the Lord wants to take us. I know there are still things that He must be leading to perfection, but He wants to bring us to a place where we don't move by what others do or

don't do to us; by what they say or don't say; that we are moved not by external things but by His love that has been shed abroad in our heart. That should be enough for us to walk in Him.

God wants us to see Him as what He is: Our Father. I have shared part of my testimony that you may see it is possible to overcome these situations. Maybe you've had even harder moments, but you also can be healed.

My beloved, if you have never called the Lord "Father", this is the moment to do so. It doesn't matter if your father was present or not. As you call the Lord "Father", ask him for the strength and ability to forgive your father for the lack of affection or the lack of care. Or perhaps you never forgave your mother for the man she chose or for your stepfather. Maybe you need to forgive your mother and the man who tried to take the place of your father or vice-versa. Or if your father left your mother for another woman, this is the moment to be healed. Talk to the Lord. He wants to embrace and minister you. He understands the whispers of your heart. This is also the moment to release your father that He may come to the Lord. Forgive him that you yourself can be free to know that God, your

Father, loves you like nobody ever loved you before.

It is extremely important that there be comprehension and communion between parents (father and mother) and children. A gap will be closed in families. Something supernatural will occur through the Holy Spirit that will bring generations close together; the previous with the present and the present with the one to come. Rebellion in the hearts will stop, and parents and children will be friends. They will be united by love and comprehension.

2. We Are God's Children

It is necessary that the truths you'll be reading from now on be revealed to your spirit. In this moment, ask the Spirit of God to open up your spiritual eyes that you may receive freedom, health, and authority through His Word; because knowing the truth will set us free.

"I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, you are My son, today I have begotten you. Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession." **Psalms 2:7-8**

The psalmist says, "I will declare the decree." In legal terms, a decree is something that cannot be cancelled, something that has been declared, ordered. Nobody can take it away, nobody can usurp it, nobody can change it. This is not just any decree; it is not emitted by a congress; it is not emitted by a man of

flesh and bone; it is not a human decree by any lawyer. It is a decree that comes from the Father and from God's throne. It is Jehovah, Lord of hosts, the Father of light who has declared, "You are My son." This word had been given to Jesus, but every word that has been given to Jesus applies to the sons of God, and if Christ Jesus is inside you, this word corresponds to you today! You can read it aloud, "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, you are My son, today I have begotten you. Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession."

I want verse seven to be rooted in your heart; we must take this word and say it (put your hand on your heart): "The Lord has said to me." Declare that He has said to you, nobody else; that word is just for you. When it says "declare", it means it will be said from His mouth, "I will declare the decree." Jehovah has said to me, "You are My son. Today I have begotten you. Hallelujah! You are My son! Today I have begotten you! You are My son! Today I have begotten you!

I declare, Father, that by the anointing of Your Holy Spirit, this word is no longer a *logos*

in Scripture, but is now *rema* in God's *dabar*; in the word that crosses through and establishes a seed in my brothers' spirits; that they, starting this moment, have the certainty of faith of what they have spoken and declared today, the decree that You established when you saw them in you Spirit and said for each one, "You are My son. Today I have begotten you." Beloved reader, can you believe that something new and powerful has occurred today in your spirit?

Do you know what, beloved sister, beloved brother? You were before the foundation of all things; in the spirit you were with God the Eternal. In His eternity, there was your spirit; the eyes of the Lord saw your unformed body. He brought you to life; He made you be born; you belong to God. You were created in God's house, in eternity, in the house of the Father. One day, God decided to send you to earth and give you a physical and mortal body, like He did with Jesus. Thus, one sperm joined an egg in your mother's womb. But your spirit, which gives a child its identity, was given by the Father in your mother's womb. He gave you life, and He declared, "You are my son."

Do you realize how deep this is? Do you

realize how powerful? When you truly believe you are son of a Father, of a great King, of the Almighty God, that you were in eternity, and that you have a purpose in coming to earth, then you can believe that you have the right to all things and all the inheritance, for the lines have fallen for you in pleasant places; your inheritance is beautiful, it's a heavenly, uncorrupt inheritance, that nobody can have. Many desire to have it, but if they cannot lest they are born again. But you have been born of water and of the Spirit.

There was a day in God's *kairos*, in God's eternity, when He said, "It is now time that the spirit of my son is born again!" You were already marked in your mother's womb. It was like a time bomb, and one day in eternity, the Eternal said, "Now! The day has arrived when my son is born again and will recognize who his Father is." So the day when you raised your hand (not because raising your hand makes you born again, but because you raised it saying, "I want! Yes, I want!"), that was your day. There was a day for every one of us. That was a memorable day.

There are two memorable days: the one when God placed the embryo in your mother's

womb (for you came to earth and took a physical body), and the one when you said, "Here I am, Lord! I believe you are the Son of God! I believe you died for me and that you shed your blood for the redemption of my sins!" That was the day your identity as a son was established, and the identity of the Father was also established within you. From the moment you said, "Here I am, Father!", He took the responsibility over you as your loving Father and said, "You are my son." When you declare and understand that you are the son of a great King and a great God, and receive Him as Father, you are no longer an orphan. He says He is a father to the fatherless and a defender of widows. He does not care if the husband died, if she's a single mother, if her son died, if her husband left, if her brother left; that does not matter to God because He is a father to the fatherless and a defender of widows. He is what you need. You don't need another man of flesh and bone to accompany you and make you feel secure; you need to identify yourself with the Father. He said that you are His son; He says, "Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance." Do you know what that means? The Father is saying that everything He owns also belongs to you, that

you should not be lacking anything because your Father has it all. Do you know why sometimes we do not enjoy everything that belongs to us? Because we feel like bastards!

We don't feel like legitimate sons; sometimes we think God is an irresponsible father, maybe like the natural father we had. Or we think God denies us of the prize if we don't make things perfectly; but that is not the God I know. He is a responsible Father, who desires to see His children grow and mature that one day He may deliver all the inheritance that belongs to them. Right now we are only having a small taste, but one day we will enjoy all of the eternal inheritance; everything the Father has.

When Abraham climbed Mount Moriah, after God had told him to sacrifice his only son, the son of promise, in whom he had placed all his faith, Abraham went to the hillside. He took donkeys and servants who took care of the donkeys, but only the son climbed the mountain. Think this over. Do you know what this means? Many of us wish to be ministers. Many wish to be servants, and that the people recognize us as servants. Many wish they had titles like *reverend*, *brother*, or *prophet*. But only

the sons of God climb the mountain. Because the right to being sons cannot be taken by anyone else. We may get angry or resentful in the future and leave the congregation saying, "Nobody acknowledges me here! I am leaving for another church where others value me!", and we can be acknowledged. We can leave elsewhere and the seat we left will be taken by another. But as sons, nobody can replace us, because there is a place in the Father's heart that has your name on it. The seat has your name, and nobody will be able to take it away. He is a unique son; a special son. The Lord knows the size of his shoe, the size of his shirt. He knows how many hairs are on his head, how many fall off, and how many start to grow. He knows things that not even you nor your earthly father know. He is your Father and He has said, "You are my son."

We, as beloved sons, have the right over all the inheritance of our Father. Many times the church has only kept what Jesus gave it (Salvation), which is very good; but Jesus is the way to the Father. Sometimes we only stay with what the Holy Spirit has given us, which is also good. We need the gifts, but the Holy Spirit takes us to Jesus, and Jesus takes us to the

Father. I hope you don't stop mid-way, but that you reach the position of son with your Father, who possesses everything for His heirs.

When Abraham sent his servant to look for a wife for his son, Isaac, he gave him certain recommendations about the woman he would bring and the characteristics she should have (Gn. 24). And so, Rebecca was the maiden who would be Isaac's wife. She represents the church; Isaac, Christ; and Abraham, the Father. The servant, who represents the Holy Spirit, came and saw all those characteristics in Rebecca (the church). He brought with him gifts sent by Abraham: ten camels, some bracelets, earrings, and many other presents; and he gave those presents to Rebecca (the church). She could have simply stayed with those presents. As a matter of fact, her sisters wanted her to stay, "Stay, stay, it's enough!" In other words, the Pentecostal church says, "We have reached the maximum level!: You speak in tongues, you prophesize, you get drunk in the Spirit... This is the maximum, stay here, everything is done! Let's make tabernacles!"

But Rebecca, the eternal church, knows she was in God's heart. You and I know that we were there, in the spirit. Do you know that in the

Father we can find much more than a manifestation of the anointing? Do you know that there is much more in the Father? There is identity, inheritance. There is much more than the gifts to live in victory; but the gifts take us to a higher level of maturity in the Father. Rebecca said, "I will go where my Lord goes." Thus, Rebecca let herself be guided by the servant (the Holy Spirit). She went where Isaac was going. She knew if she went there, she would have all of Abraham's inheritance; she would not be content with only ten camels, nor with all the bracelets and presents. She was going to the Father, who had it all. He had farms, land, and everything she wanted.

Church, open your eyes! The Father has much more for you; don't settle for less. You have reached a level, but there is much more in Daddy's arms. If you go to the Father, you will find much more. Sometimes we remain in the revelation of salvation, and we say Jesus has saved us. But ten years go by, and we are still singing the same old redemption songs. It is good and necessary to know that Christ's blood rescued us, but He brought us out to take us to a better place. We get to the point of the gifts and prophesizing, and I glorify God for that.

Hallelujah! I speak in tongues more than anyone, I am a warrior, and I had this or that experience. That is good and excellent, but it's only a means to reach the plenitude in Daddy's arms. You may have all the gifts, and they may all flow through you. But if you don't have the identity of a son, if you don't know your position in the kingdom, you don't know what rights you have and do not even know how to face the devil. You need to know that one day the Father said, "You are my son." The Lord wants a safe and confident church that knows who their Father is. God created us to be His children.

"Doubtless You are our Father, though Abraham was ignorant of us, and Israel does not acknowledge us. You, o Lord, are our Father; our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name." Isaiah 63:16

Israel knew who its Father was. Because of the promise in Jesus Christ, we are now brothers of He who was the Only Begotten and is now the Firstborn. We also have the revelation that God is our Father and we are His children (not only Israel).

"He came to His own, and His own did not

receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” **John 1:11-13**

I want to ask you something: Have you received Him? Do you believe in His name? Have you recognized Jesus as the Savior of your soul? If so, then this word is for you: *“as many as received Him... to those who believe in His name...”* Do you believe there is power in Jesus' name? That there is virtue? Health? Salvation? Liberation? Then this word and promise goes to you, *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”* We are His children! We were not born of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man. This means that it was not because of your father's will nor your mother's. They did not even think of giving you life, they did not plan or pray; they did not say, “God, today I will have intercourse with my wife; I ask that You place a seed in her womb, a child that serves You...” It's an odd case if some did so, but it does not matter because you were not brought

to this world by the will of the flesh, of a man's and a woman's blood, but you were born of God in the Spirit. You are a child of God by divine will and not man's!

How many people are alive today whose mother tried to abort them? How many people did the enemy want to destroy when they were in their mother's womb? But that was not possible because God had determined that He had a holy seed with a purpose and destiny. You are a beloved child of God because you are here and the Lord has helped you, and the enemy has not been able to destroy you.

We are His children? Why? Simply because we received Him and believed in His name. We were begotten before the foundation of the world, we had the chance to decide, and we decided to believe. We have received Him. We are His children.

Jesus was very confident about His Sonship, and He wants us to have that same security. Jesus was so confident that He knew perfectly well that He came from the Father and that He went to the Father. I don't know if you have experienced this, but at moments when you feel a small taste of the presence of the

Lord, there is something in our spirit that desires more intimacy and longs to be back home. I don't know if you have reached the dimension of experimenting what the house of the Lord is like; what it's like to be in His house, to be in the eternity, to be where we will someday return. We are only passing by here. We are simply voyagers. We have a limited visa; an eighty year passport for some, ninety for others, one hundred twenty for others (according to how much they honored their father and mother); but someday we will go back home. If we as children know that, then there's no need to be afraid of death, for death is only a door to go home, where Dad is waiting for His children. This body of death may limit us here; this mortal body does not let us express very freely what we will someday be in His presence.

As human beings, we are afraid of dying; there are many in this situation, who dream at night that someone is following them to kill them. To many, fear of death stalks them. Do you know why? Because we lack security in our identity as children. When we know that we are children with a Father, there is a wish in our spirit to go back where we belong. Do you know

why many people are afraid to die? Because of those they leave behind. But I have news for you; when you go home to Dad, you won't even remember those whom you left here. Because His love is superabundant and cannot be compared. Even the person who says he loves his children and spouse so much, when he gets to the presence of the Father, he will feel so tremendously complete that he won't even remember his beloved family existed.

Each person will go home to the presence of the Father, where we will love each other intensely even though we were not related here on earth. Because what we have here on earth is temporary and will come to pass, but someday we will go back home, and we will be happy, and there will be no mourning, no tears, and no grinding of teeth. This is tremendous, but we need the Spirit of God to reveal it in our heart. Jesus had the revelation. Jesus did not worry about the fact that he would be nailed on wood; Jesus did not worry that they would put a crown of thorns on his head, or that he would be pierced with a spear. He did not worry because He knew He had come from the Father and that he went to the Father. He knew He was carrying out the Father's commission

on earth and that someday he would be back with Him. He was certain He was a Son.

In the same way that Jesus was with the Father in the beginning, you and I both were with the Father in the beginning, and our spirit has memories of when we were with Dad in eternity. During prayer, you can take from that revelation in your spirit, from what has been chiseled and recorded of the divine experience you had with the Father. That is why many times revelation comes, and you say, "Wow! How tremendous! Where did I get this?" There it was in your spirit all along, because you were taught by Jesus in the throne. Not everything can be seen now because there are veils, but through the anointing, the veils are taken away. Thus, revelation does not come from above, but from within; from where you were taught in the spirit, but that you cannot see due to so much carnality.

I remember when our daughters were young, they saw angels and spoke to them, and they worshiped God. They spoke with the Lord because they still did not have enough information to obstruct the conscience of what the life in the spirit was. There was nothing to worry about; children have nothing to worry

about. As they go to school (and I am not saying that they should not study), and they start receiving so much information, how much time do they have to relate with the spiritual world? Minimum. Children have revealing dreams of God. Ana was wise, and she took Samuel to the priest, to the temple. Samuel could hear God calling him at night, because he lived in the spiritual world, and he did not have to learn all those natural things that we now have to learn.

HE IS A GOOD GOD

“Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of his own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of His creatures.” James 1:16-18

Do not be deceived. Every good good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights. Many times we misinterpret things when we receive a favor, when we receive a present, when we receive

something natural. We feel so thankful with the person who gave us the present! It is very good to be thankful, but you should know that everything comes from the Father of lights; God only uses natural instruments to manifest His fatherhood. But all the good, holy, and pure things comes from the Father of lights. He touches whomever He wants, and He may even use your worst enemy to bless you.

God may move someone you don't even know to bless you, and he may also use your mother-in-law who does not like you to bless you (as a matter of fact, she already blessed you because you have her son/daughter). That is because He is a responsible Father, and He takes care of His children. He is not an irresponsible Father who leaves His children alone. He knows exactly how many children He has. He knows their names. He calls you by your name at night; if you hear someone calling you, it's Him who calls you by your name; and He knows when you wake up, when you go to sleep, and what your needs are. Everything comes from Him. Sometimes you are in need of something, and it comes to you; sometimes you do not even know where it came from. It simply came. Because it comes from Him; then your

gratitude is with Him.

Beloved brother, Jesus had security in who He was. Besides, He knew He had a Father who is totally good and listens to His children. There's a part of the Bible that really impresses me; when Jesus gets told that His friend, Lazarus, has died. Everyone is in a hurry because the corpse was three days dead, and it gave off a bad smell; Jesus did not hurry. He knew who He was; He knew who His Father was; the Lord Jesus knew perfectly what was going on, and He knew that was happening for His Father to be glorified. It happened in its moment, in its time. It says that Jesus cried (it's the shortest verse in the Bible). Yes, Jesus cried.

“Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You and You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.” **John 11:41-42**

I want to rhetorically ask, can you say what Jesus said, *“I know that You always hear Me”*? Beloved, do you have the confidence and the

security that the Father always listens to you?

He is not a father like that to whom his son asks, "Dad, may I go with my friend?" The father is watching television and only says, "Yeah, yeah." When the child comes back at five in the afternoon, the father asks where he's been. The child says, "Didn't you give me permission to go?" The father says, "Oh, I wasn't listening." That is a natural father. Our Father always listens to us. He is never too busy to listen to us, even if we are a gazillion inhabitants, or His children; He always hears us. I want you to keep that in you heart. Ask yourself if you are sure that He always listens to you.

If you are sure that He always listens to you, why do you submit the same petition over and over again? Why do you ask him the same thing again and again if you are sure that He always listens to you? In other words, He listened to you from the first day you spoke to Him; He is your Father and He pays attention to you. If you did not have a response, it's not because He did not listen. You must find out what is going on. Maybe it is not appropriate, or it is not in His will, or there may be spiritual interference for that response to come, as

happened with Daniel. We must have the certainty that the Father always listens to us. He is a Father who is always listening to the needs of His children. He always hears you.

Maybe the good or bad patterns of your natural father affect you, but we are not referring to a natural model, but to an identity in the Spirit; a correct position in God where you should know that He who begot you, He who formed you, He who sent you, is a responsible God who covers you and gives you everything you need. He has anointed you, and has given you authority, and has a big inheritance for you. He is your Father God. We are not speaking of an emotional father of flesh and blood, but of the Father of lights, who created everything, who can do all things. I am speaking of your Father who said, "You are my child."

Let us declare that we love Him, that we are His children, and that He is our Father!

JESUS, OUR OLDER BROTHER

It is necessary for us to have the revelation that when Jesus was sent to earth by the Father, He was the Begotten, but it was precisely His sacrifice and victory that would

deliver His Grace (His capacity and ability) so that when we received Him, we would be called Children. Thus, Jesus became the First-born as we would be His younger brothers and sisters, but having the same rights.

He revealed these mysteries to His disciples. I like what we see in John, for of all the disciples, he was the one with the most certain concept of Fatherhood. He was sure that Jesus was the Son, and so he also felt like a son. He felt security when he laid his head to rest on the master's chest, as upon an older brother.

Before being crucified, Jesus told his disciples,

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has

nothing in me. But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.” **John 14:27-31**

He was certain that He was going to the Father. He was ministering peace to His disciples, and He wanted them to understand that they would also go to the Father someday. It says, “Arise, let us go from here. As the Father gave Me commandment, so I do.” Jesus is acknowledging that the Father is greater than He, and that’s why He goes to the Father. “*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except for Me.*” This means our destiny is to go to the Father and embrace Him. But Jesus is only the way to go (and we are not underestimating His divinity). When we talk about Jesus, we are speaking of the process of salvation and deliverance, but the aim is to reach the Father someday and embrace Him for the rest of eternity; not only for small moments, but to be embraced forever more.

“For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.” **Ephesians 2:18**

This verse, in relation to God’s Fatherhood is previous to His building of the church upon

the foundation of apostles and prophets, which means that we cannot be built and founded in the apostolic and the prophetic if we still do not have identity with the Father, if we still don't feel like we are part of the family. It is necessary that we minister that identity. It is impossible to function in a ministry if there are still areas in ourselves that need to be healed and delivered; we need to be sure of who we are in Jesus Christ and what our position is as children in relation to the Father; to know that we have rights to many things. Or else, they can tell us, "You are a prophet, you are an apostle, I anoint you, I establish you", but if we are not children, if we don't have that identity of children, we can remain with only the title or ministerial gift. We need to know what things in the Kingdom we have a right to, and what it is that God has granted us since we were in His presence even before the foundation of the world.

"And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the

household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.”

Ephesians 2:17-20

If we are not established by the Holy Spirit in the body (in the family), and if we don't have that security to go to the Father to speak about our things and ask Him according to our needs; if we are not established as children in that correct position, we will not be able to be built and established by the prophets and the apostles. The first thing is being introduced to God's family; we have a Father, Jesus is our older brother (we are brothers), and that goes first; we are His children. The important part is not that we are His servants, it's not that we are His ministers, it's not that we are His prophets and apostles; the important part is that we are His children! He is my Father, because He said, "You are My child." The five ministries operated in Jesus, but the Father never told Him, "You are my apostle"; He never said, "You are My prophet."; nor, "You are my evangelist", even though He was. He never said, "You are my teacher", even though He was the Rabbi. He never said, "You are My pastor", even as He was the prince of the pastors. He said, "You are

My son". That is what's eternal, and the day when we stand before the presence of the Father, the first thing He will say is, "How are you, My child?", and He will embrace us. We must long for the Father's embrace, don't wait till you leave for the glory, don't wait till you die to give Him a hug; you can hug Him right now. But I want you to know that the first thing He will do is embrace you, "How are you, My child?" He won't ask you, "What happened with the 300 members?", "What happened to the television program?", "What happened to the radio?", "How many cities did you win?" No! He will tell you, "Come, My child, come", and He will hug you. It's so good that He can identify you as a child! That you have His mark as His child so He will recognize you (and the devil will also recognize you).

When the disciples returned excitedly to Jesus saying, "Did you see how Satan fell like lightning? Did you see how the demons were subject unto us?", Jesus told them, "Do not rejoice that the demons are subject unto you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven and that you are known, that the Father recognizes you as sons." That is what must produce rejoice in your heart. A child

of God has marks which the enemy recognizes and runs away from. Someone can be an evangelist, but won't make the smallest demon tremble; but he who has the marks of child of God has the nature of the Son, and takes the seed of the Father, has the characteristics of the Father, as a son in the natural world. We, the children of God, have marks, undoubted characteristics that He is our Father.

I hope that we are convinced that what He has done in our lives is big; we are no longer foreigners or strangers; we are not just any old thing; we are not dogs off the streets, nor bastards. We are children of a great King; we are not usurpers. He is my Father, and I am His child! I wish we all get to know the freedom to shout, "Father! Daddy!" It does not matter if you did not get to know your natural father, if he abandoned you, if he was an irresponsible father, if you did not see him again, if he never even gave you a pencil to go to school. It does not matter if he was so good and affectionate. You need to identify yourself with He who made you be born of water and of the Spirit, He who engendered you not by the will of flesh or woman, nor of man, but by His own will; by His affection, He decided to make you be born from

an incorruptible seed.

The Spirit of the Lord, through the apostle Paul, addresses the gentiles in Corinth to ratify His promise of Fatherhood, although he establishes some conditions.

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

*‘I will dwell in them
And walk among them,
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.’*

Therefore,

*‘Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord,
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you.
I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and
daughters’,
Says the Lord Almighty.” 2 Corinthians*

6:14-18

Beloved, we shall take this word, “And be separate; do not touch what is unclean.” In other words, sons and daughters of God, don’t have communion with the incredulous, leave aside your friendship with the lewdness, leave the places where you are contaminated with greed, leave the communion with those who don’t have the same Father as you do. The Lord Jesus told the Pharisees, “You belong to your father, the devil; there is no communion between the incredulous and the children of God, there shall not be. If you come out from among them, I shall be your Father and you my children.”

Let’s declare His Fatherhood over our lives, so we can tell Him, “I am Your child! You are my Father!”

3. Effects of God's Fatherhood

God wants to keep revealing Himself to us as a Father who gives us security and refuge. He is sun and shield around us; there is nothing better than His presence. There are many people who don't know what it is to be in His presence. But He can reveal Himself to you, and He can take you to His presence so you delight before Him, in His dwelling, in His room, in the house He has for you. You can go through the Spirit and know His dwelling, His room, the place of rest, the place where the Lord wants you to inhabit forever. It is in His presence that we are changed. It is in His presence and intimacy that we receive the identity of the Father. It is in His presence where we are transformed, where we receive revelation; He reveals Himself to us. It is in His presence where we acquire the character, the nature of the Father, because in His presence

we begin to know Him the way He really is. Then, we know how Daddy's character is, how He thinks, how He loves, how he corrects; in His presence we acquire security. It's so good to be in His presence. No one should feel frustrated or bad about not having gone through it; today can be the day you experiment it. Just tell Him, "Dad, I want to be in Your presence. I want to feel the joy that others feel in Your presence. I want to know your dwelling place. I want to be not only in your entrance, but near you, where you delight us with your secrets. I want to be with you."

There are three important things that are defined in our lives when God's Fatherhood is revealed to us. God's Fatherhood is not being taught to us theologically; it cannot be taught to us in a classroom; it can't just be preached. That can bring you some knowledge through the Word's *logos*, but God's Fatherhood must be revealed by the Holy Spirit of God to our spirit and to our heart, and it isn't until Fatherhood is being revealed that we can walk in the condition of children. That is why I emphasize over and over again that everything is given by revelation. We can receive theological studies, Biblical discipleship,

preaches (which are very good - they enrich us), but the only thing that can bring us the experience of that word is the revelation of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit translates that word and that knowledge to our spirits and makes us live them, then it is not only the *logos* of that word, but it is converted into *rema*, into life, into energy, into experience, into truth in us.

We know that the Bible, God's word, is the truth, but we cannot walk in the authority of that truth unless we have lived it. Otherwise, it is only a mental or theological truth; and it's not until we walk in that truth by revelation of the Holy Spirit that we can impart. It is one thing is to teach or preach, but to impart is another. I can impart from those things that have already been made life in my life, so I have the deposit in my spirit. I have the authority to impart unto you that experience to cause an impact on your heart in a way that you will wish to have that experience and that revelation. But if I teach you with theological knowledge without having lived what I am talking about, it is just another person's experience, an anecdote I got from a book, but I don't have the experience and the authority on what I am speaking about. I cannot

impart upon you. My wish is to impart upon you from that life and that experience so as to leave your spirit with an urge to have the personal revelation and living experience, for you to walk that way and impart upon others.

That is the multiplying effect of the anointing: the impartation of that life and personal revelation. In other words, don't let others tell you tall tales, or say to you that it's just a story, but rather live it, have the authority, and know what they are telling you when they speak about Fatherhood, or when they tell you about the poor self-esteem the Lord has already healed. There are three things in our personality and in our life that are imparted or defined by the Fatherhood, and I wish that you receive it in your spirit:

1. Identity
2. Healthy (or correct) self-esteem
3. Security

These three elements are imparted by God through the revelation of His Fatherhood to us as His children.

IDENTITY

If you have your ID card, observe the

information it contains:

- First of all, it has your photo (and it's only yours) - it reflects your physical appearance which nobody can replace.
- On the back of your ID card, we might find your signature, which lets us know you are who you are. When some people have to sign a document, they ask, "How do I sign if I don't have a signature?" Your signature is part of your identity. Some children want to have a defined identity, so they practice their signature on their notebook to see how it will look better. Maybe you have noticed that children usually want to have their mother's or father's signature (depending on who has a greater influence over them); they try to imitate daddy's "r" on their last name, because he gives them a sense of security and identity. They admire daddy and want to write the signature just like him. Some have a very simple signature, but it's difficult to imitate. Others add some dots such that nobody else can draw them in the same place, and that is because it is part of their identity.
- The card might also have a barcode -

unique throughout the world. Only one person in the whole universe has the characteristics of that barcode; it identifies you.

- Your ID card might include your date and place of birth.
- Regularly, your job or profession are included, and perhaps the name of your parents. You are given a number or a code that is also unique, because that number might include your date of birth and your country or city code. No two persons exist with the same ID number (they shouldn't, anyway).

We are referring to the natural world. Can you imagine the spiritual world? Let's assume that God the Father has a huge computer (I express it this way for you to understand it better), and in that huge computer, He has registered all the habitants of the planet earth. But in the spirit, you have a specific identity. When the Father hears that you are singing to Him, He knows who is singing and knows it's nobody else because He knows your tone of voice, the decibels, the melody, rhythm, and, more than anything else, He knows the heart

with which you are singing. He knows specifically who that person is, because the person has a special identity as a child to Father. When sister Felicia says, "Listen, Dad...", the Lord says, "Felicia is calling me; my daughter, Felicia, is calling me." He knows who is calling Him. In the Spirit, the Lord has registered not only the number of hairs on your head, not only your eyes, or the natural traits, but He has registered your calling, your spiritual potential, your leadership, your capacity, everything you are in Him, everything He Himself has deposited in you, because you are unique and special, and that gives you your identity.

Most of us were not born in a Christian home; we did not know the Lord since our childhood. The model we had to receive identity was our natural father (or, if one did not have a father, the natural mother). That was the parameter of authority, the model, or the person we were most likely to imitate, the person from whom we acquired some customs. We have a genetic identity; when we want to know if a child is the offspring of a specific father, we run a DNA test, identifying blood type and other details. In other words, there is a way to identify

the interior.

As human beings, we start developing characteristics from an early age. During the first three years of age, a child develops her personality, which will later be affirmed during adolescence. These characteristics will become her identity. Depending on the father/mother model we have had during those first three years, that's how strong our identity will be. When boys turn 12, 13, and 14 years old, they need to reaffirm their identity and personality, but the father/mother model they have had was probably not very good if they did not live according to God's Law. That is why when we want to reaffirm our identity, we wish to take away that father image.

Usually, we think our natural father is not the father we should have, or he does not have the characteristics or conditions of fatherhood we need. Then, it's very easy for the teenagers to say, "I take away that image of father because I do not like it." Rebellion bursts out, and that is why people say, "Teenagers are so rebellious!" I would say that it is not so much that the teenagers are rebellious, but that they don't have an adequate model of fatherhood to relate to. They would rather cast that model

away, and it would seem like their actions are rebellious, because it's as if they cried out, "I don't want this father! Give me another one!" Maybe you have heard teenagers say, "I would rather have someone else as my father." It is very common to hear this in high school and college. "Why is my dad so stingy? Why does he overprotect me? Why doesn't he give me freedom? Why doesn't he understand me? Why does he hit me? Why does he yell at me? I would have liked to have Bob's father." But if you speak to Bob, he is not satisfied with his dad, either. And if you ask him why, he might say his father gives him everything he wants, except his time. It's not necessarily the fact that parents have played a terrible role. I know they've made many mistakes, but do you know what the real problem is? That until we, teenagers or adults, meet the Father who gave us life in the Spirit, we will never have a true identity.

No matter how many times we tell our sons or daughters that they are pretty, precious, that something looks good on them, that they are intelligent or beautiful; no matter how much you tell them things to reaffirm them, they might look at themselves in the mirror and say, "I

don't like this hair!", or, "It's too straight, I want to curl it up", "Why is it so blond? I want to dye it", "I don't like these spots, these bags under my eyes, these pimples!" We suffer from self-rejection, and we don't like what we see because the only one who gives us true identity (such that we like what we see) is our God, the Holy Father. When He reveals Himself to us by His Holy Spirit, then we have true identity. No matter how good a father is, he could have been Christian, there will always be something in the kid's (or adult's) heart that rejects him, because we are looking distortedly, because we look at ourselves with a fallen nature, because the enemy filters thoughts and images and projects unto us something that is not our real identity. Teenagers start looking for models. Who is the champion? Who is my favorite? That is why they watch football, who scores the most, who is the best quarterback, or who is the fashion artist. If the top celebrity has his hair straight up, they also straighten up their hair; or if the famous "champion" wears his hair long, they wear their hair long also. I'm not saying this is bad. It just shows a lack of identity. If a kid admires his dad, he will imitate his dad, because Dad is his hero and he will want to be, act, and dress up like Dad. But

even that is transitory, because when the Lord gives you an identity in the spirit, you develop your own personality. We can even be grown up and have a model. Some want to be like Benny Hinn in his calling, and, without a proper identity, they say what he says and do what he does when they preach. Or they might imitate Billy Graham or whoever is most famous at that moment. When the Lord reveals us His Fatherhood, and we feel loved just the way we are, with our proper nature, with our own errors, with our own way of speaking, preaching, and teaching; we can be ourselves and have a solid identity in Him.

There is much lack of identity in the Christian church. We see congregations where all the brothers dress like the pastor and speak like the pastor, and the sisters have a body like the pastor's wife and speak just like the pastor's wife. Do you know why? Because there is a lack of the identity the Lord gives us. After being hit by the world, we've come to church desperately needing an identity. We don't know who we are, where we are from, or where we are going.

Most teens that graduate from high school, don't know what they want to study, so they

relate to somebody or are influenced by a leader, and perhaps when they finish their career they realize that was not their vocation. Many times they change careers. God wants to reveal Himself to His people to give us His identity. When we know who Dad is, we know His characteristics, and we know that we are His children. We will most certainly have a unique ID card that nobody else will have. I will know that nobody sings like I do, even if the worship ministers think they have more anointing than I do. I sing like they do not sing, and I am not ashamed of doing that because I feel secure in what I am doing. I don't care if I was taught ballet or not, I dance to the Lord like nobody else does; I don't care if they say I don't have graceful moves; I dance to the Lord. That is my identity, and the Lord receives it. I hope that each one of you is able to develop that identity in Him. God wants to reveal His Fatherhood for us to have His identity. I want to mention something from Scripture.

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask."

And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do?"

They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory."

But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;

But to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared."

*And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." **Mark 10:35-45***

Let's meditate on James and John's case

for a while. This occurred almost at the end of Jesus's ministry. They and their mothers asked, "Who will sit on the right and on the left hand?" What does that indicate? There is a problem of identity, like we see many times in church, where people concentrate their identity in being near the leader or the person who has the authority. They fight over place or position, as if that gave them identity. In other words, who will be near the pastor? Who will sit on his/her right or left hand? "Oh, no! I don't receive instructions from the secretary or the assistant! I want to sit on the right hand or on the left, and they must talk directly to me because that gives me identity. I am near the person who has the authority."

I want to tell you that when God reveals His Fatherhood to us, our identity is not based on being on the left or on the right side of the person in authority. We are who we are by the pure Grace of the Lord who loved us and gave us our own identity, which does not depend on the person in authority. Maybe you are not seen or known by others, but you still are who you are to God. Your identity does not depend on a position or place; your identity is hidden in God. This depends on your relationship of

son/daughter with the Father, not on your being taken into consideration or not, not on being called for this or not, not on your being near or far away. This does not determine who you are. Your identity is determined by God's Fatherhood, not by the leader who is above you. That does not give you your identity, nor does it take it away from you. A leader gives you a place today and takes it away from you tomorrow, but if you have an identity in God, that does not affect you. Why do so many people leave church hurting? Because one day they had a position of authority, and when they were corrected or taken away from that place, they could not handle it because their identity depended on that position and not on their relationship with the Father. He/She who has a solid identity in God, can be a pastor today and an usher tomorrow; that does not give or take away from him. Today he is a teacher, tomorrow he's a student; his identity remains the same. We so much need to know that! I am who I am in God; I will always be His beloved child. I am who I am, no matter the positions. God does not care if you are on the left hand or the right, nor your title, position, or range. You are His child, and that is the only thing that matters.

We need for God's Fatherhood to be revealed that we may have an unbreakable identity, one that won't be moved by anything, not even the wind or government changes. Sometimes in the congregation, when there is a change of leadership, there's a change of cabinet, and if we do not have a good self-esteem, we can be affected. We need to know who we are in God, and nothing will move us. I wish in my heart that each one of you knows who you are in Him.

HEALTHY SELF-ESTEEM

What is self-esteem? It is the concept I have of myself. Scripture clearly advises that nobody have a higher concept of himself than he should. The problem is that most of us have a lower self-concept than we should. In rare cases a person has a higher self-concept. What happens is that when a person with a poor concept of himself (low self-esteem) comes to know how low his esteem is or how poorly he thinks of himself, then, as a defense mechanism, he raises up his ego, vanity, pride, and starts covering himself up. He starts wearing masks and drapery, make-up and anything he can to look good to others or to

himself. The person adopts other personalities and starts looking over things that surround him. I want to boost up my ego. How can I do it? I buy the best car; I move to the most exclusive area in town (even if I don't have the means to do so; I buy the most exuberant house to call attention; I start doing things I did not do before to have a name; prestige... I don't mean to say that it is bad to strive for excellence; it's the motivation behind our actions; because all these things are just pride, ego, and vanity to cover up our poor self-esteem.

Something interesting happens in men (I am not saying it does not happen in women, but rather that it's mostly marked in men), probably because, as is well known, in all species, the male is more beautiful than the female. If you observe the peacock, the male has the feathers with the most beautiful colors, not the female. If you see the pigeons, the male pigeon is more handsome; it has a more vigorous chest. In the lion's case, the gorgeous mane is worn by the male, not the female. In all truth, scientifically speaking, the masculine kind is more beautiful, more lovely. It tends to be taller and have wider shoulders. That is

probably why when man gets to a certain age (near fifty) and starts suffering from *andropause*, he starts thinking he is not as attractive as before. Gray hair starts appearing, and he runs off to dye them, even in his eyebrows. Now, he won't use one bottle of cologne a month, but two, all to smell better every day. He used to wear his shirt buttoned to the top, now he opens it up to sport his hairy chest because that gives him an appearance of manliness and makes him look more attractive. Now he uses things that didn't interest him before; he now gels his hair. He used to wear underwear down to his knees, but now he wears bikinis. All of this is directed to reaffirming his poor self-esteem. It doesn't matter if his shirt buttons burst out, he wants to use a smaller shirt size so everyone can look at his figure. Before, he used to wear loose shirts, but now he uses tight Polo shirts that showcase his biceps, because he needs to bring up his self-esteem. He starts using titles he didn't use before and anything that might give him some prestige. All this because Fatherhood was not revealed to him, and there was no good self-esteem from the beginning. We need God to reveal His Fatherhood. We are not an exception in church! The same things happen

to us even though we are believers, because we haven't had the correct identity and self-esteem.

God loves us the way we are, but the problem with low self-esteem is that we reject ourselves because we do not like what we see; we think nobody else accepts us the way we are; we start raising our ego up and begin doing a series of things as a defense mechanism, believing we will please others as well as God. We have not known that God loves us the way we are; God does not want you to be like another person; he loves you the way you are. You must feel satisfied and have a correct concept of yourself; not lower. This does not mean you ought to rise up and have a higher concept of yourself than you should, either (which, deep inside, is really a low self-concept).

A person with poor self-esteem is always self-centered. When he has the opportunity to go to the pulpit, he does not speak of Jesus or the Word, but of himself, because he has an urgent need of acceptance; he narrates all his heroism and adventures because he is shouting out, "Listen to me! Look at me! Accept me! Appreciate me! Love me! Look at

everything I have done!” He does not realize that God loves us for free, and we don’t need to do anything to impress God or the children of God, because God and His children love us the way we are. We need to accept ourselves as we are and stand naked before the Father, saying, “Father, I recognize that I have this incapacity or this limitation, but here I am. Work with me. Dad, I am naked before You; I present myself just as I am; help me; minister to me; reveal Yourself to me; I need You.” When we are naked before the Lord, we are transparent, and if we allow Him to work in all these areas, we’ll be more effective; we’ll be able to impart unto others; we’ll be able to minister security; and we, as ministers and leaders, will project security to the flock.

The church cannot feel secure with an insecure leader, or one who wants to project security. Our security is in God; in Him alone. We are like God made us, and thus we accept ourselves. We can tell Him about those things we don’t accept about ourselves, “Lord, help me! Help me see with your eyes and change whatever needs to be changed in me, but don’t let me use defense mechanisms.” A poor or low self-esteem not only causes vanity, pride, and,

of course, distortion of personality, but will also produce a faith crisis. That is why we see brothers or sisters in church who, feeling elevated, worship God and even say, "Pastor, here you go. Here's a good offering for the temple, for the air conditioners. You can count on me. Pastor, here is my car; we can take it anywhere." They feel very elevated because they felt connected under the emotion at that moment. But when it wanes, vanity and the external things disappear like the soap duds; and what remains is who we really are. Then, because we don't have a true identity, we suffer a faith crisis, and that man who cried out, "Follow me! I am going against the enemy! I've got the devil under my feet!", suddenly doesn't want to serve anymore. He looks for any reason not to go to church; anything that shows up is always a good excuse. He puts off any pending work until the night of the assembly or Sunday morning, as if there is no other day in the week. This is because he has an identity problem and a faith crisis. The person to whom God's Fatherhood has been revealed, has a well defined identity, and nothing moves him.

When there are identity problems, and then a faith crisis, what happens? If a group got

called to go on a mission trip, and he was not included, he suffers in a crisis. Not everyone will be included in all mission trips or in all things that are done. Today is for some, and tomorrow will be for others. But it's because of that identity problem and that faith crisis that we think our not getting called to that group is because we are not accepted; we have been rejected, excluded, and turned down. That produces such a large insecurity that it might later prevent us from being committed to God.

The heart can only be healed when it has been exposed, and then identity comes. So, if they include me, Glory to God!, and if they do not include me, Glory to God! I have other things to do. When we look at ourselves the way the Father sees us, there will be no problem. We will rejoice when another brother is sent to a seminar. We will rejoice when that brother goes on a mission trip. We will rejoice because God is lifting up that brother during the preaching. We will rejoice because we all work for the Kingdom. That does not put into or take away from my identity. It does not affect me because I am still God's pampered child. You know who God is. Nothing moves you.

Look at David's identity and security:

“Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the Lord; I shall not slip. Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart. For Your loving kindness is before my eyes, and I have walked in Your truth. I have not sat with idolatrous mortals, nor will I go in with hypocrites. I have hated the assembly of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked.

I will wash my hands in innocence; so I will go about Your altar, o Lord, that I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all Your wondrous works. Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells.

Do not gather my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men, in whose hands is a sinister scheme, and whose right hand is full of bribes. But as for me, I will walk in my integrity; Redeem me and be merciful to me. My foot stands in an even place; in the congregations I will bless the Lord.” Psalms 26

David had emotional problems. As a matter of fact, David was not allowed to build the temple because he had shed too much blood. David committed adultery. David took a census of the people and disobeyed God. But he

always knew who the Father was. David was a man whose heart was in accordance to God's heart. This psalm makes us see the security he had in who he was and where he would be. He asks the Father with so much security and identity, "Do not gather my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men, in whose hands is a sinister scheme, and whose right hand is full of bribes. No. When I die, don't let me be with them." Even though he had committed these sins, but he had repented before the Father, his heart had burst in front of Him. He was sure the Father would forgive him, and he was certain of where he was in that moment. He said, "I have walked in my integrity." But if we look at David's life, we see that he did not walk in integrity. Yet that does not mean he was pretending to be what he was not; he simply was very secure of his identity as a son, and he knew he had already been forgiven and knew who God is. He said, "I have walked in integrity." This demonstrates a certainty and security in that the sin committed yesterday, of which we have already repented, was erased and thrown to the deep of the ocean for us to forget, and the Lord not to remember it anymore. I now who I am today; I don't permit the enemy to come and accuse me

of things from the past, of what I did before, of what has already been washed.

Before we came to the Lord, or when we were young in the Lord, we might have done terrible things in the flesh, acting under the enemy's influence. God is still working in us; we are in a process, but sometimes two, three, five, ten years go by, and God has forgotten, but it seems like the world and the people have not. People keep looking at us the way we used to be, or they keep on highlighting the negative things we did years ago. In my personal case, that used to affect me, and I cried to the Lord for all the accusations. But God's Fatherhood has been revealed, and every day I have a better identity in Him. Even if others tell me I am this or that, I know I am not, because God has worked in me; then I stand up straight and say, "I am not like that. I used to be like that, but God has worked in me." God wants us to have the certainty that He has worked and has been changing our heart, and we must be sure of who we are in Him so as to not permit the enemy to come with accusations and disturbance to our minds. If we believe the devil's tricks and accusations, we cannot proceed; it's like driving the automobile in

neutral. We want to, but we cannot proceed. The enemy wants us to shift in reverse, but that cannot be. I know who I am in God; I have an identity in Him; I know what He has done in me; I know I am His daughter, and that's why I won't be moved by what others say. I know how I live before the Lord. I won't turn around; I won't even stay in the same place; I will proceed; I will penetrate darkness, because I have the life and the light of my Father.

SECURITY

Security is precisely knowing that He will provide; He will clothe us. Obviously, that is if we do what we have to do: work. Because many say, "I will live by faith", and sit on a chair, waiting for the Lord to provide. The workman is worthy of his meat. I cannot say, "God will provide", and ask from my brother, or ask him to buy me lunch or give me the shirt he just bought. No! I must have the security that I am His child, and He is the Father. I have the security that He's got me on His lap. I have the security that He defends me. I have the security that I have the right to eat from the bread of the heavens. I have the security that I have the right to divine health. I have the security that I

have the right to prosperity in all the areas of my self, and as my soul prospers, I will be prospered in everything. I have the security of who I am in Him.

There is a passage in the Bible about a Syro-Phoenician woman. She impresses me because she was not from Israel. In other words, we could say she had no right; but we see that she had a well-defined identity and the security that if she reached the Lord, she would not leave without pulling a miracle from Him. I think that we, as children, should also have that security.

“From there He arose and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And He entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He could not be hidden. For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. The woman was a Greek, Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. But Jesus said to her, ‘Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.’ And she answered and said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children’s crumbs.’”

Then He said to her, 'For this saying go your way: the demon has gone out of your daughter.' And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed." **Mark 7:24-30**

This touches my heart because she was a Syro-Phoenician; she was Greek. She was not from Israel. But I would say this woman was grafted because she believed, because to those who believed was given the authority to become children of God. Jesus tells her, "No, this is not for you; it is not good to take the children's bread." The Lord is telling us that the bread is for the children, and I hope you take your portion. You should not take the crumbs; the table is served, and you have the right to eat from the table, not the crumbs. However, the woman tells Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs." She had a very clear identity, a security of who God was and who Jesus was, the Son of the living God. Sometimes we are asking for something, and we ask for it as if we don't deserve it, and we say, "Lord, if you want to... if you are able to..." Of course He can and He is able to! We are children, and if we ask according to His will, it

will be done. We need to go in the condition of respectful sons, not demanding Him or giving Him orders of what He must do, but as children that have the security of who they are and that God will not say "no" because we are asking according to His Word and His will. It is so important to go with that certainty and security that we are children and He, as a good and loving Father, will not give us something bad, but what we need instead.

When God's Fatherhood has not been revealed to us, we live with insecurity; this is contrary to security. What does insecurity mean? It is accompanied by doubts, fears - fear of everything. Fear of darkness, fear of people who speak loudly, fear if someone stamps his feet, fear when we see somebody getting mad, fear of being rejected, fear of not performing as is expected, fear of not being accepted, fear of not being loved, fear of abandonment, fear of dying, fear of getting old, fear of losing our beloved family... People who have a poor identity and lack security put their confidence in the natural people that surround them. Their security could be based on their husband or wife; some people even say, "If you ever leave, I will die." That means the person does not

have a good identity. What I am saying is not heresy; you can live without your father, without your mother, without your wife, without your husband, and without your kids; but you cannot live without your Father God. That is to have an identity and security. If I don't have the Father, then I die; if I don't have the presence of God, then I die; because I am not going to have an abundant life, or eternal life. But if any of my family whom I love pass away, I won't die; because my identity and my security don't depend on the people who surround me, nor in human affection; my identity, my security, and my esteem are based in the One who gave me life and gave me identity, the Father of lights.

If you ever said, "If my son ever dies, I will also die", or "If my wife ever dies... She does everything for me, and I don't know what I'd do without her...", then you better start asking God to reveal His Fatherhood to you so that you don't depend on a man or a woman of flesh and bone, but on the Father who gives you security. Then, you will be able to say, "If I don't have you, it will be difficult for me, but I will keep on living because I have Him who gives me life". And this is not lack of love; this is to know Who gives us life and to Whom we belong. This is

the security of the One who provides us everything we need. Some of you women think your provision comes from your husband and not from the Father, and you say, "I don't know how we are going to live if he ever loses his job, or if he ever dies", you are in idolatry. You need the revelation of God's Fatherhood and to know who you depend on. Your provision comes from the Lord. Idolatry is putting any person or thing before God. We owe ourselves to the One whom we should love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength, to the Father, to whom we owe everything. He gives us life.

While the Divine Fatherhood has not been revealed to us, there is much doubt, fear, and insecurity. Those fears do not let us define ourselves with God, with the church, with the ministry, with the pastors. Because we experience fear of not delivering as expected, of being rejected, of making a mistake that would make them push us aside; we don't want our weakness to be known by others. Fear and doubt make us go back and think, "It is better not to have responsibilities". These are people who say, "I prefer not to commit", "I am better off if I am not involved", "I'd better keep a distance", "I go to church, I listen to the Word,

but I want no responsibilities; I don't want to be too involved". That is why there are few people committed to the work of God. Since they don't have the revelation of Fatherhood, they avoid to making decisions or taking on responsibilities. There is a fear of failing, because they think they will be rejected if they fail, that everyone will know about it and think of them as useless; others won't love them, or will respect them less. Then, "I enter and greet people, everyone looks at me, everyone respects me, and everything is all right, because they don't really know me." We may even fear correcting others. Some have a leadership and a calling, but say, "No, pastor, over my dead body, I don't want problems with the brethren. I don't want to correct them; that way I won't have problems with them; I want them to love me; I am fine the way I am; everyone sees me as a great person; I don't interfere with them..." But deep inside, there is a fear of losing the love, acceptance, or approval of the people around them. When God's Fatherhood has been revealed to me, I don't care if I have a conflict with somebody or if I have to correct him, because God will demand from me if I don't do it that way. And I know that if God is pleased with me, I should not worry about pleasing others. I am interested

in pleasing my Father, who called me and sustains me; and I have the security that when I do what He tells me, the person whom I am correcting will sooner or later decide: he either forgives me, or he hates me; and if he hates me, God will touch his heart anyway, and he will come to me one day to clear things up. Then, the security lies in doing what He tells me to do. That is why not many people are committed to God, or to the pastors, to the church. That same thing brings religiousness to our heart.

We believe that religion means only to light a candle to a statue or kneel before an altar in the Catholic church. No. Religion is a loincloth; it's a piece of cloth we use to hide our shame and places us in conformity; everyone sees that we are white and covered up from the outside, even though we are rotten inside. We really don't have life, because there is death inside of us. Jesus Christ called the Pharisees "whitewashed tombs"; on the outside they were white, but on the inside there was stinking death. We have sin inside sometimes, we carry the desire, we have the iniquity, resentment, hate, pain, bitterness, all the bad things; but we carry out the pride, vanity, all those

mechanisms that make us fall into conformity; religion always produces conformity. You say, "I'm OK." When people ask how you're doing, you say "I'm fine". The pastor asks "What's going on. Why did none of you come to church today?" "We are very well, pastor. Super! We are almost flying here! We're in a great revival!" That is because religion places veils that don't let us see the real condition of the heart. They conform to having whatever there is, because religion produces lukewarm spirituality. Anything does. You fall into a routine. You cannot perceive the divine. You do not perceive the spiritual world. You get bored; and this is because of a lack of revelation of the Fatherhood. There is no commitment; you cannot feel what others feel. You cannot experiment the passion for God and for the work. You are indifferent. But when one is passionate, we speak of the Lord, about the work, about the move, of what the Lord is doing, we speak about the prophetic, about what is to come. Passion for God is a fire that burns up to the bones' marrow.

We must be naked before the Lord; tell Him, "Burn me, Oh Lord, take away anything that needs to be taken; reveal yourself to me; I want

to call you 'Father'; I want to love what You love; I want to be committed to what You are committed to. God, You said You would change this city; You said there would be a great revival; You said You would lift up the youth; You said miracles and prodigies would occur here... I want to receive from that; I don't want to miss a thing."

When we don't have security in God, we do not want to be committed. Do you know why people don't give tithes and offerings? Because they don't feel a commitment to the church nor to the pastors. One who is committed brings food to his home. Just like in the natural, the father of the family provides for his household because he feels the commitment towards them. When the church is committed to God, to their pastors, and to their congregation, they give tithes and offerings. But if God's Fatherhood is not revealed to us, and we don't know that we are His children, then we don't have security; and when we live in insecurity and fear, we can never be committed nor feel responsible. That is why I cry to the Lord that His Fatherhood be revealed to us, for security to come. When security comes, then we are committed. When we know that God is the One

who feeds us, God is who guides and directs us. God always guides us to the best things, and He wants us to be mature children; children of God that have revelation; everything else depends on this. Of course that if you don't make a commitment to God and to your pastors and if you don't give your tithes and offerings, you end up bankrupt; your company does not prosper, neither your business, nor anything else you do; and it is a vicious circle, because when you do not prosper, you feel resented towards God, but you don't know the origin of the situation. Today, God is showing you the root of the problem and its origin for you to cry Him to reveal His Fatherhood.

I invite you to make this simple but powerful prayer that will change your life:

“Father, thank you for Your word. Holy Spirit, I ask you to reveal me God's Fatherhood; I want to receive this day, the certainty that I am the child of a Father of love, a Father who gives me security, a Father who gives me the correct esteem, a Father who gives me identity. Father God, help me; I need You to reveal yourself to me, by Your Holy Spirit; I long for Your security for nothing to move me; I long for Your presence; I long to

know Your dwelling place; I long to always be in Your house and know that I belong there. Spirit of the Lord, thank you. Father, thank you. Thank you, Lord Jesus.”

4. I Am Confident Because I Am His Child

In order for us to feel secure, it is necessary to have the revelation that God is our Father, and when this happens, we can say we are secure. We have already spoken about the security, but it is necessary to go deeper into this subject.

There is something God has revealed to me, and it has always left me thinking; I believe Adam and Eve never saw God as a Father, and since they did not have an established Fatherhood, they ended up as they did. Why? Because, as a daughter, if I fail the Lord, but I am sure that God is my Father, then I am sure that my Father will forgive me, that He won't reject me if I go with a simple heart before Him. I think that the relationship Adam and Eve had with God was not a child-Father relationship, but rather creature-Creator.

We know that God placed man and woman in the garden; He gave them instructions; He sent them to name every animal; He told them they could eat from everything green, that they could work in the garden; He told them they had the authority; He let them eat from the tree of life, but He gave them a prohibition, a restriction. He told them they could not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; if they did, they would die; they would lose eternal life. The woman reached the limits of the garden, and the serpent went around the borders, and started to seduce the woman. Seduction occurs through the senses, when human beings perceive through them and not through the spirit. This means that we let ourselves be directed by our senses, by what we hear, what we touch, what we smell, what we taste. The woman started desiring the fruit of that tree, she ate from it, and later seduced the man. He desired it and ate it, and their eyes were open. From that moment on, they were not innocent. When they lost their innocence, they were no longer in communion with God.

“And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the

presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.” **Genesis 3:8**

When we as children of God sin, fail, disobey, the voice of God as Father comes to us. There is always an interior voice in our spirit that calls to us, but how do we respond to God’s voice? Adam and Eve’s reaction was to hide from God’s presence when they heard His voice.

The man who has a well-established Fatherhood does not hide, but goes before Him and asks Him for forgiveness, tells Him that he has sinned and that he knows the value of His blood. But the person who does not have God’s Fatherhood established will hide. Then fear, anxiety, and guilt overcome because he does not have a good relationship with the Father.

When I was only eleven years old, I really wished I could drive a car. My parents had a car that was discarded; it was so damaged, that we didn’t even need a key to turn it on. It had a system, and I knew exactly how to turn it on. One day, my father had to travel to the capital city (Tegucigalpa) and left people in charge in the house. I thought, “I will take advantage of the fact that my dad is not here, and I will turn

on the car". I told the chauffeur who worked for my parents to come with me so I could learn how to drive. As all hidden things we do end up badly, we rode down the town's main street, and when we were returning to park the car, I stopped at an intersection, but the chauffeur thought I had enough time to cross and told me to accelerate. When one is just learning to drive, one gets nervous, so I hit the clutch and the breaks, but when I should have accelerated, it took me a bit more time. A biker was coming - one of those who seem like they want to lose their life, so I nudged it a little. The motorcycle ended up on the other corner, and the biker stood up bathed in blood, and I was all tremors. I left the car in the middle of the street and ran to hide. I told the ladies who worked in my parents' pharmacy to cure the biker up and do something about him. They told me not to worry, that he had had a mortal accident one week ago, and what happened now was that his wounds opened up again; but I wanted to die. Since I did not feel confidence nor had a good relationship with my father, I hid in my bedroom, sweating, waiting for dad's return and what was coming. At night (I couldn't sleep) I heard dad's voice, and started to shake. The next day, he called me, "Emma Amelia, come

here". They normally called me "Emmita", but that day was "Emma Amelia", and when I heard that, I knew what was in store for me. I did not have that free communication with my dad that would give me the strength to tell him what had happened and ask for forgiveness. Why should I tell you the rest? The biker got a new motorcycle and everything. For me, it was an experience that I have not been able to forget.

We are naturally weak, but God will help us, because the righteous will fall seventy times, but the Lord will raise him up. He knows we will fail, but the way we respond to our Father's voice is really important. Adam's nature, which is inside us, makes us hide from the Lord when we have sinned and failed; we try to escape.

"Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" **Genesis 3:9**

The question God made Adam had to do with placement. It's not that He did not know where Adam was. He knew it all, and He saw it all. What God was referring to was, "What is your condition? How are you in your sonship? What is your heart's attitude in this moment? How do you feel?" He was not really asking in what part of the garden he was. Of course not;

it was a question of spiritual placement.

When we fail God and we don't respond correctly to the voice of the Spirit, the Lord makes that same question. We have misinterpreted what placement means; we think that being placed or located is to have a ministry, a position, or a recognition; and when the person does not have a leadership with a name or an established ministry, he feels out of place. But this word has nothing to do with positions. In God's terms, it has to do with time, place, and space. In other words: In what period of time are you? In what place? In what position? In what condition do you come to Me?

If we had a good identity as children, our answer would be, "Here is your son". That should have been Adam's answer, but it wasn't. When there is a spiritual earthquake, changes, shakings in the church, God asks, "Where are you?", and He is not asking if they gave you a job as pastor, or as a deacon, but "What is your position in relation to me in the middle of all this quaking?" When you are well-defined in your relationship with God as Father, you can surely say, "I am here, Lord. Whatever it is that happens, I am still your child".

“So he said, ‘I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ **Genesis 3:10**

When there is a bad perception of Fatherhood, or of which our position as children is, **Fear** is manifested; fear of punishment, of the consequences of sin.

For example, if a brother sinned - let's say he committed adultery or fornication - somebody discovered, saw, or found something that would reveal what happened, and that person is uncovered; the pastor comes (he is the voice of God in that moment to that person), calls him and asks, “Where are you? What happens to you?” That person starts to cry and cry. If you don't discern, you could say, “He is so repented!” Normally, the weeping is caused by fear, fear of the circumstances, of the punishment. Tears don't indicate repentment, but rather the human tendency of experimenting fear.

Adam and Eve had fear; no place in Scripture does it say that they felt fear or pain for having failed their Father; they probably thought they would see lightning and thunder, that they would be kicked out of the garden.

Nowadays, if it's a person in leadership, he/she would fear losing his/her position, not being taken into consideration; that is fear of the consequences, but not fear of God.

When there is a good son-Father relationship, much pain is caused after having failed the Father, with genuine repentance but with the security that He will be forgiven and restored; there is a difference.

Because I was naked - The man (man or woman) immediately registers in his interior and enters a state of auto-condemnation, in guilt; he was afraid because he was naked; even though he had been naked for a long time ago, he had not noticed; then guilt is produced which can move us away from God's grace.

And I hid - The first human reaction when we do not have a well-defined Fatherhood is to hide, as the personal example I gave you. When there is a good Father-son relationship, we do not hide. Instead, we come out to the light to shorten the process and conclude it as soon as possible.

Our God is a Good God; He has told us that we can count on Him and that we can

confidently go to the throne of His grace, that His blood is powerful to cleanse us; and then, there is no reason for not going before Him, and there is no reason to hide from His presence.

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.” **Genesis 3:7**

The wrong perception of God’s Fatherhood causes us to be misplaced; this means that when we are not really sure of who our Father is and don’t know His character, we are misplaced in our position as children, and this misplacement opens the door to religion. What is religion? I would define it as all human effort to please God and men, in order to be accepted, to be placed, to cover our iniquity, and to make our identity our own way. But many times, when we have failed God and we feel that we are unable to reach God as a Father, we want to make our own identity, which was Adam and Eve’s case. They covered themselves up with fig leaves; they did not present themselves naked for God to see them the way they were; they, by their own means, on their own strength, covered up. As

Isaiah says, all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. In other words, those fig leaves that Adam and Eve made represent the works of our own justice, but they stand for lewdness before the Lord, to cover up our nakedness in a human (and not divine) way; because only the Lord can cover our nakedness with His blood.

A practical example would be if we were failing the Lord in something, and we try to compensate sin, by being very generous with our offerings. I don't mean that's bad, but I am referring to the heart's motivation. It may be that we dance before the altar with the incorrect motivation, as something external, something religious for us to be seen, to make us seem spiritual, for others to believe that we are all right. We may do a lot in God's work and do so many things to please God and make others notice that we are really efficient; make things that are natural but that don't make God's love for us increase, because God loved us by grace and loved us long before we loved Him. Many of the things we do, if we have an incorrect motivation, are coverings to come before God. We think we are approved to present ourselves before others and pretend we are living a holy life; but it's only an appearance of piety,

because the heart is not really repented.

We can change our external clothes to please others, but internally we are not pleasing God. We sometimes become so religious in church, that we want to change other people: the way they dress, how much make-up they wear, and many other things, without their experiencing a Father-son relationship that would motivate them to change their heart primarily.

God never puts us loincloths; God as a Father comes to our heart with love and ministers and touches our heart; when we are wrapped in God's love, we can see our iniquity and we really ask our Father to help us because we want to change.

God wants to take us to an intimate relationship with the Father; that every person depends not on what others tell him to do or not to do; that is why I seldom tell my spiritual children what they should or should not do, because what I want is for them to be primarily children of the loving Father who created us, who loved us, who knows what is best for each of us; a Father who, in intimacy, will whisper in your ear what He wants you to change. When

people in church change their way of acting to please the leader or the person in authority without having a conviction that it's the Father who is talking to them for a change, this will later produce resentment towards the leader. If God does not change the heart, we have no right to change the external issues of people, because everything that is being done must be by revelation and conviction.

When I came to the Lord, I experimented guilt of many things, and I started to adopt appearances of piety and to use loincloths because of a weak conscience and guilt. For example, before coming to the Lord, we used to go out for dinner once a week with my family, or go to the beach; but when I came to the Lord (maybe because of the context, place, or the way in which I came to Him) I started to feel guilty, to the point where I could not even eat a hamburger peacefully, because the devil accused me that while I was eating, others were dying of hunger. With this, I am not saying we should have a heart of stone; of course not, we should be compassionate; but we cannot allow the devil to be constantly accusing us to a point in which we cannot enjoy the things God has given us; that is not the grace of God. I also

stopped travelling for over five years, because of the guilt I felt; even though I could do it, I did not, because I worried about what the brethren in church would say. That is the product of a weak conscience and a bad relationship with the Father. If someone gave me jewelry, I would give it back or hide it, because of the guilt that was in me. God gave me the revelation of when Mary from Bethany anointed the Master's head and, even though they all criticized her, Jesus said, "For you have the poor with you always", and there the Lord showed me that I had to enjoy what He gave me, in the same way in which He enjoyed the anointing with the perfume from Mary.

We shall come before the Lord just as we are. It's not that I put this on, or take this off so people won't talk about me; because that would be hypocrisy and religion. We should uncover ourselves before the Lord and let people know us the way we are.

"I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see." **Revelation 3:18**

Pure and refined gold is God's nature; the white garments are holiness; not discovering the shame in your nakedness means that when you are naked, Christ's blood is enough to cover you; to anoint the eyes with eye salve is to see God's love, to see God's nature as Father, to see Him the way He is.

“And He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?’ Then the man said, ‘The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’ And the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate’.” **Genesis 3:11-13**

Being human, there are two things we do when we are confronted by God, if we do not have a good Father-son relationship:

1. We evade responsibility. At no moment did Adam assume the responsibility; hiding or escaping is not the reaction we should have. This is like when the kids are playing ball in the dining room, and they suddenly break a lamp; they start blaming each other; a discussion begins, and the end result is that nobody

assumes the responsibility. When there is a good Father-son relationship, one of them comes forth and before his father admits responsibility for what happened; he knows his father will scold him, yet keep loving him like he always has, at the same time. But when there is fear of the father, nobody is responsible, everybody blames each other. Our Father is waiting for us to assume our responsibility. A son who knows who his Father is, goes confidently to Him and makes himself responsible for his error and is not afraid of correction because that will ratify that his Father loves him, and he is sure that his Father will restore and help him. Acting this way gives us security and when we see our Father's response, He reaffirms us and makes us know every time that we are His children.

2. We blame others. Security in God brings us placement in the correct condition; and it does not matter what the people do or do not say.

“Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.” **Genesis 3:21**

It is not we who should clothe ourselves when we have failed the Lord, but it's He who

sheds His blood to cover us; it's not that we will give a bigger offering to cover ourselves from sin, as if we are atoning something, we don't need any more atonement; Jesus Christ died and resurrected once and forever. Many times, we keep on punishing ourselves until we feel atoned from sin. No, beloved brothers and sisters, this is not a penitence; there is only to go immediately through the Lamb's blood and know that the Father loves us and has forgiven us. A minute after you repent and your heart is fine with God, He sends your sin to the depths of the ocean and forgets it. This a relationship of a son to his Father.

I want to mention some things that are caused by a lack of placement, and when I speak of placement, I am referring of the position of a child to his Father:

1. Discouragement. If you enter this cycle of discouragement, you must revise your identity of child, because when I know I am God's beloved daughter and that He is waiting, I cannot leave Him waiting. If you enter this stage of feeling discouraged and don't even feel like going to church to sing to Daddy, you must check on how your identity as a child is doing.

2. Frustration. Do you know who are the people who get frustrated? Those who have expectations. The Lord told me that if I did not want to feel frustrated, then, I should not have expectations. When you hand your expectations over to the Lord, you won't have frustration.

3. Uncertainty. The person who does not have a good relationship with God as a Father, lives in uncertainty, and changes produce anxiety. What is uncertainty? Fear of tomorrow. The person who does not have security in God as a Father says, "I won't go because, what if it rains? If it rains, what if I get wet?" Uncertainty brings doubts and insecurity, and we end up doing nothing. "I have an idea of a great project, but what if things go wrong?" This is because there is a lack of security of what God has told us, that He is with us every day, wherever we go, that he will make us prosper in everything we do. That is my Dad, a God who brings me prosperity, and if I know that, I can go for anything because I know that God is with me.

4. Bitterness. Bitterness is such a strong root; a sorrow that is carried inside, and there is a moment when the person can not even stand

him/herself; life stinks and he doesn't want to know about anything, everything looks bad; if it is raining, he says, "Why is it raining?", and if it does not rain, then, "Oh, it's so hot!". If a brother comes on time, it's "I wonder what he's up to, he came too early", and if he's late, then, "What's wrong with you? Did you oversleep?" Everything disturbs him. He becomes negative and uncomfortable; there's no pleasing him. If they place him somewhere, he gets angry; and if they do not, he gets angry also. As soon as he gets the chance to speak to somebody, he starts getting that bitterness out and contaminates everyone around him.

5. Murmuring. This is not only speaking negatively to somebody else; maybe you don't speak to anybody; it is not necessary that you do so. Just by the way we walk or the way we look, we can contaminate because it's as if the anointing (positive and negative) pours out from our pores. So, murmuring can be tacit or expressed. There is a murmuring of the heart, and that is already a sin; it does not need to be expressed through the mouth. It may well be that you don't speak and that you don't murmur with your mouth, but inside there is a time bomb ready to explode. That is because we

don't have the revelation of God as a Father!

6. Instability. "Today I am; tomorrow I am not." Many brothers tell me, "Now I know what I am; someone gave me a prophetic word and told me I am an evangelist!", but later, at another event, they say, "It seems like I am nothing, because none of the prophets gave me a word." That is instability. You cannot depend on the prophetic word; you must depend on the Father who loves you. You should know that God loves you and wants to work in your life; you should not depend on being prophesized over or not, because crowns will be given out in heaven for obedient children, not for ministries.

7. Unfaithfulness. When we have a bad Father-son relationship, there is unfaithfulness; and when I speak of unfaithfulness, I am not necessarily speaking of being unfaithful to your spouse. I am speaking about being unfaithful to the Lord and His house. There are people who have a job, and they should bless the Lord for it, since there are so many jobless people out there; but instead they feel unhappy with their jobs and start speaking bad things about their company or their bosses, which is considered unfaithfulness. Every person who has a job must bless that provision that God gave

him/her. If God sent you to the congregation where you are, you are a son of that house and you are defined in that house; bless your home and don't be unfaithful. You must speak only good things about that place because that is the best place for you. It is also unfaithfulness if we don't tithe, but support another ministry's T.V. channel. Faithfulness must first be exercised at home, where you are fed. So, your first offering goes to your home, and, as God will prosper you superabundantly, you will have enough to give elsewhere. But first you must be faithful to the place God put you in.

8. It makes us hear strange voices. Scripture says that sheep hear their shepherd's voice, and they follow him; and they do not hear the voice of a stranger. Many times, we know we have a destiny, we know we are going to a certain place (I hope each one of you knows where you are going and what your destiny is), you direct yourself towards a certain point. But as you advance, there will be voices telling you, "Hey, they did not take you into consideration!" But you say you don't care, that you go to the Father. Then comes another voice and tells you, "There was a leadership meeting, and they did not invite you", but you keep on, knowing

where you are headed. Yet another voice comes and tells you, "Listen, they had a social gathering, and they did not include you", but you keep on indifferent to that because you have a goal, which is to go to the Father because you know who your Father is and that you are His child. That is why you do not listen to strange voices.

It all sums up to our condition as children, because if I am sure that He is my Father and that His thoughts of me are of good and not of evil, I will know that everything that occurs each day of my life is because He ordered it and because He permitted it. Everything happens because He loves us; even negative things are permitted by Him to raise in us mature children to whom He can give an inheritance; that is His will.

As I said before, the placement has to do with the time, space, and place; the placement has to do with knowing that I am in the correct place, in the exact time, and with the right people. Ask yourself if you are in the correct condition with God, and when you feel that you are in place, you will have security and stability, things will start getting better, and you will not stagger. If you have any doubts and need

God's love to be revealed, ask the Lord to take away the fig leaves, the loincloths, anything that does not come from Him. Ask for God to cover you, because that is the only cover that endures. That His great love for you be revealed.

When we are placed in God, we have **identity**, we feel **sure**, and then we can function correctly. We are **happy** because we are sure that we are children of the Father, and we can say, "I am confident because I am His child".

5. The Prophetic Spirit and the Fatherhood

“Elijah’s spirit” will turn the hearts of the sons to the fathers and the fathers to the sons, according to Malachi’s prophesy. This event will occur through the prophetic spirit, which was in the prophets Elijah and John (Mal. 4:4-6). It is surely present today in the church, and it is the prophetic instrument of the Holy Spirit over the earth.

The message of power spoken by Elijah and John The Baptist produced repentance and conversion of the hearts; it was God’s voice in the messenger. Nowadays also, a prophetic voice is heard to bring back the hearts of the children of God to their Father as a fundamental point in restoration.

Idolatry is simply a reflection of the lack of identity of God’s children with their Father. As the people of Israel waited for Moses, who

climbed the Sinai to receive God's commandments, they could not face the fact of not having a visible figure of deity; they could not relate correctly. Even the leader in charge at that moment, Aaron, could not take them to the truth. Moses, as God's prophet, knew how to impart fatherhood unto the people, but as he was not present, the people turned back to idolatry.

Elijah, as a prophet, also imparted fatherhood unto the people, directing them to confrontation; for the people to see that Jehovah, not Baal, was God of Israel. He cried out to God to bring back the people's heart to Him. John the Baptist also confronted the people with their sin, and his message made the people turn their hearts to God.

God is using servants that proclaim His message to turn hearts to the Father (only this will bring forth the real identity of God's children). Some are models of spiritual fatherhood, and others impart God's grace to turn back the hearts of humanity to their Father God.

PARENTS IN THE CHURCH

The church, in its crisis of identity and of faith in these times, is strongly needing for God to raise spiritual parents. At the same time, there are many spiritual parents whose sons have left before the time of using their inheritance, but by “Elijah’s spirit” in these times, they shall return to be corrected, to be accepted, to receive an impartation of everything they need before leaving their paternal house.

One characteristic of those who operate under “Elijah’s spirit” is that they will engender children, to whom they will impart life. Teachers teach, but parents impart.

As a prophet, Elijah was a father; a spiritual patriarch. When Elijah gave Elisha a double portion of his spirit, he was imparting as a father; as Elijah was being taken to the sky in a whirlwind, Elisha cried out in great pain, “My father, my father!” (2 Kings 2:9-12).

Elijah imparted from his nature unto his sons Elisha and Jehu. As a matter of fact, they finished the prophetic mission Elijah had started. Even though God ordered Elijah to

anoint Jehu, it was Elisha who did it. Even though Jezebel chased Elijah, it was Jehu who executed her.

Elisha had been Elijah's servant for anywhere between ten to twelve years. He was always beside him. He was a spiritual son, and Elijah was a father to him. 2 Kings 2:9 says, *"And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, 'Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?' Elisha said, 'Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.'"* Elijah's giving Elisha a double portion of his spirit is based on the Biblical principle of inheritance distribution in Israel, *"But he shall acknowledge the son of the unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his"* (Deuteronomy 21:17).

When, under God's instruction, Moses chose seventy elders from the people of Israel, and God took from the "spirit" that was in Moses and put in them from that same spirit; that was a spiritual impartation from father to children (Numbers 11:16-17).

When Jesus appears to His disciples, he

blows over them and sends them in the same way He was sent by the Father (John 20:21-22). Jesus is imparting from His nature, as unto sons.

There is no doubt that the apostle Paul was a father in the church, as is clear by the way he refers to his spiritual sons:

“...To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.” 1 Timothy 1:2

“...To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.” 2 Timothy 1:2

“I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains.”
Philemon 10

Paul also mentions travelling in birth again for his spiritual children, one time and another, until seeing Christ formed in them (Galatians 4:19). Moses, Elijah, Jesus, and Paul are fatherhood models for us. A father imparts unto his children from his own characteristics. A natural father will impart from his natural genes, but in the case of a spiritual father, he must impart from his same spirit. Paul imparted gifts

unto his son, Timothy, through the laying of his hands (1 Timothy 1:6); he made a spiritual deposit in him (1 Timothy 1:14).

It is necessary that the concept of fatherhood be restored in church; in other words, that God raise parents as in the times of the apostle Paul. Nowadays in church we have coordinators, leaders, directors, pastors... but there is a lack of parents that engender, that reproduce, that multiply themselves and give life to their own. This is necessary for the believers not to live under the spirit of fatherlessness, but to be secure and well-identified.

The apostle John understood the concept of *parents in the church* well. He addresses them: "*I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning*" (1 John 2:13). The concept of *spiritual father* is based on their knowing God as a Father very well. Then, they will impart unto their children from that fatherhood that brings healing and security.

John said of himself that he was the Lord's beloved; he was very close to the Master; he was one of Jesus' three most intimate friends. The anointing in John caused him to be

persecuted, so Domic sent him under arrest to the isle called Patmos. This experience made John depend only on his God and Father. John was taken in an ecstasy to receive deep revelations about the gentiles' church, the new Jerusalem, and the latter times, which produced the book of Revelation. When John did his time and moved out of the Greek island, he returned to Ephesus and wrote the three letters we have come to know.

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.” 1 John 18-19

God is the perfect love. He in us is the hope of glory. And what is the hope of glory but the hope of one day being fused with the Father? He is the perfect love because He deprived Himself of His Son Jesus, which was the best He had. He loved us first, and if we had the revelation of His love, sweeter than honey, and have the security of His love for us, His embrace would be enough to eliminate all insecurity and fear.

Are you experiencing the perfect love?

When you are experiencing the perfect love, fear leaves, and there is no more fear of being rejected or of not being included, of getting old, of not making the things the way they should be done, of sinning. Am I convinced of that love of God in my life that casts away fear?

THE CHILDREN OF GOD IN THE CHURCH

John's letters are full of revelation on true love, on what it is to be a child of God; we can see that he himself experimented the supernatural love of the Father. In 1 John 3:1-11, he talks of the love so great the Father has given in making us His children. He emphasizes loving each other.

In Greek, there are three different words that are translated as "son". The first one is "*Paidon*", which is described as an immature lad whose organs are going through the process of development. The other one is "*Teknon*", which refers to an adult son. The third one is "*Juhios*", which speaks of a mature son, ready to administer the father's inheritance.

The Hebrew people made a special

adoption ceremony when the sons turned thirty and had proved to be mature, having carried out five fundamental requirements:

1. Obedience
2. Faithfulness
3. Following of the father's example
4. Holiness
5. Honoring of his parents

That is why Jesus was baptized when He was thirty years old, as a ceremony that let people know His maturity as a son. That is why Father God said from the heavens, "*This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.*"

My heart's wish is that you, my dear reader, as a son of God, grow in love until you reach maturity, that the Father may say of you, "*This is my beloved son/daughter, in whom I am well pleased.*"