

LESSON 1: THE BIBLICAL REALITY OF SPIRITUAL FATHERS

A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF SPIRITUAL FATHERING

BISHOP RC BLAKES

A young man tried to rebuild the engine of a classic car using nothing but YouTube videos. He had all the information in the world right at his fingertips. He could pause, rewind, and take notes. But when a bolt snapped off inside the engine block, the video could not help him. He was stuck, frustrated, and ready to quit. That afternoon, his grandfather walked into the garage, looked at the mess, put his hand on the young man's shoulder, and said, "I've broken that exact bolt before. Let me show you how we get it out." The young man did not just get advice that day; he got access to his grandfather's years of trial, error, and mastery. That is the difference between a life coach and a spiritual father. A coach gives you advice. A father gives you an inheritance.

#1 MENTORS IMPART INFORMATION; FATHERS IMPART DNA

We live in an era of unprecedented access to spiritual information. You can stream the greatest theologians and gather endless sermon outlines. But information without a covenant relationship inevitably leads to stagnation. The modern church has reduced spiritual fatherhood to mere mentorship someone you get coffee with who gives you practical tips. But biblical fatherhood is infinitely deeper. A mentor helps you navigate what you are currently doing. A spiritual father is uniquely suited by the Holy Spirit to water your divine destiny. Paul did not just give the Corinthians a theological framework; he gave them his spiritual DNA.

1 Corinthians 4:15 NIV

Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

Transition: Gathering teachers is easy, but unlocking your divine inheritance requires a supernatural connection.

#2 WATERING DIVINE DESTINY: THE TRANSFER OF THE SPIRIT

Moses did not just teach Joshua how to organize two million people in the wilderness. He gave Joshua a spiritual inheritance. When Moses laid his hands on Joshua, there was a literal transfer of the Spirit.

Joshua was able to possess the territory that Moses could only see. A true spiritual father gives you their ceiling as your starting floor. You inherit their spiritual breakthroughs. You do not have to fight the exact same demons they fought because their victory becomes your inheritance. God literally hides pieces of your destiny in the obedience of another person.

The great prophetic voice Leonard Ravenhill once said, "The opportunity of a lifetime must be seized within the lifetime of the opportunity."

When the Holy Spirit puts a spiritual father in your path, your destiny is on the line.

Deuteronomy 34:9 NIV

Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him.

Transition: If the connection is this powerful, how do we find it? We have to understand how true spiritual fathers operate.

#3 TRUE FATHERS DO NOT CAMPAIGN

One of the most profound truths about authentic spiritual fathers is that they do not campaign for sons and daughters. You never see Elijah passing out business cards trying to recruit Elisha. True fathers are totally secure in their identity. They do not need a massive following to validate their ego. God orchestrates the connection. Counterfeit leaders are always recruiting, trying to build their own little empires. Authentic fathers are simply walking with God, and when the Holy Spirit knits a son or daughter to their heart, they pour out the water of the Word to grow that person's potential.

1 Kings 19:19-20 NIV

Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah.

Transition: Taking this from theology to reality requires us to evaluate what we are actually looking for.

THE MIRROR: SELF-ASSESSMENT

Before we leave today, ask yourself: Am I just looking for a mentor to give me good advice, or am I positioned to receive a divine inheritance? Have I been drawn to leaders who campaign for my loyalty, or am I willing to serve the quiet, secure leaders God has placed around me?

Conclusion:

You were created for a divine destiny, but you cannot inherit it in isolation. We desperately need spiritual fathers. But what happens when the people who were supposed to protect our destiny end up exploiting it instead? Next week, we are going to talk about identifying the authentic and healing from the counterfeit leaders who have caused so much damage in the church.

