

When Fathered By God

“the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.” (Luke 3:38)

In the Scripture above, we see that Adam was fathered by God.
This is an encouragement to all of us parents:

Even someone who was parented by God, did not make all the right choices.

- It's a profound thought that God gave his son room to make mistakes. He gave him guidelines as any good parent would, and yet Adam had some freedom to make his own choices. He was not put in a straight jacket, he had wiggle-room.

- And when Adam did fail, God pursued his son's heart. He comes after Adam asking question, “**Adam...where are you?**” (**Genesis 3:9**) Yes, God confiscated privileges, but did not his withhold affections.

Have you found that we as parents often operate in the opposite spirit?

#1) Maybe we don't give our children the opportunity and option to make mistakes. We lock them up in the prison of our own perfectionism. Maybe we have unrealistic expectations. We blaire our own voices while muting theirs.

#2) When they do fail, we act as if we want to disown them, and we make sure they feel the wrath of our rejection. We don't just withhold privileges, we withhold affection. (Perhaps this describes how we were parented, but that's NOT how God parents.)

- **#1) As a Father, God empowered Adam to make decisions.** Adam was a very decisive son.
- **#2) As a Father, God did not make perfection the prerequisite for affection and attention.**

Let's dive into the first two chapters of the Hebrew Bible to see how God fathered Adam.

“Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. ...” (Genesis 2:19–20).

Maybe you are wondering what that passage has to do with God fathering Adam?

This is one of the clearest portrayals of “*HOW*” God fathered his son Adam. (It was probably just one example of the many ways God fathered Adam.)

- As a father, God was helping Adam to discover the power of his thoughts and the authority of his voice. It was through good fathering, that Adam became a creative thinker and a dynamic speaker.
- When someone has been fathered by God, they release their personal creativity and they become prolific in their accomplishments. In this story, Adam taps into his personal creativity and prolifically names tens of thousands of birds and animals. That was quite an accomplishment!

Again, this may be very different than how some of us were fathered:

- Perhaps, we were led to believe that we were stupid. Our intelligence was insulted. We felt that we didn't have the capacity to make great decisions. It's very possible that your voice was shut down, what you had to say didn't matter. We felt suppressed and ignored.
- Some parents use *insults* to motivate. They verbally abuse their kids in the name of motivation. Yet, they build an identity of shame in their children, rather than an identity of confidence.
- Our identity is the fuel we run on. If their kids are like automobiles, they have filled them up with the fuel of shame, and that's the fuel they run on. The fuel of shame burns out faster- than the fuel of confidence. People who were disciplined by shame, are like shooting stars, they may be impressive for a short period of time, only to burn out under pressure...their performance anxiety catches up with them.

As human beings, we fail to release our fullest potential when we have *not* been properly fathered.

We will settle for far less and sell ourselves way short.

fatherhood.org revealed that when children are raised in a “father-absent” home, he or she...

- 1) 4x Greater Risk of Poverty**
- 2) 7x More Likely to Become Pregnant as a Teen**
- 3) 2x More Likely to Suffer Obesity.**
- 4) 2x More Likely to Drop out of High School.**
- 5) 85% of youth in prison come from Fatherless homes.**
- 6) 249% more likely to carry a gun and deal drugs.**

It's not the lack of gifting that keeps us underachieving, it's the lack of fathering.

Being fathered well and releasing our personal potential seem to go hand-in-hand.

Have you met someone who you knew was extremely gifted and yet they were living tragically short of their potential...all because they lacked confidence?

They needed fathering.

Adam was such a creative and prolific man- because he was fathered well.

Why do you think God chose the activity of partnering with Adam to name all the birds and animals, to father him?

(I'm sure it's just a sample of the special moments they had shared together. We know they also walked together in the cool of the day.)

- If the president of the United States asked you for your thoughts on diplomacy, would you feel honored?

- Let's say that Magic Johnson wanted your opinion on something related to basketball, wouldn't that be a huge honor?

None of that quite compares to this idea that God is asking his son to name his creation. It really was a collaborative work. God did the presenting, Adam did the naming, then God did the listening.

By collaborating with Adam, God was essentially saying:

“Adam, my son, I think you are brilliant. Your ideas are wonderful, interesting, and powerful. I love to hear your thoughts, and what you have to say matters to Me. Adam, my son, you are worthy of My time and attention; I love partnering with you. Adam, you can do more than

you think you can do; you can be more than you are at this present moment. You are more than a gardener; you are a creative genius!”

Adam could not have received greater encouragement and affirmation. Imagine the confidence that this built in Adam. No wonder his life was shame-free.

A child often seems himself through his father’s eyes.

God saw genius in his son Adam, and when Adam saw his genius through his father’s eyes, he manifested it.

When we have been fathered by God, we hear the source of our souls speaking the following sentences over us, fill in the blank with your name:

- 1) “ _____, ***I made you a brilliant, creative, and powerful thinker.***”

- 2) “ _____, ***I love to hear your thoughts and what you have to say matters to Me.***”

- 3) “ _____, ***you are worthy of My time and attention; I enjoy partnering with you.***”

- 4) “ _____, ***you can do more than you think you can do; you can be more than you are at this present moment.***”

This is how God fathers his children:

He helps us to see the power and significance of our thoughts, our words, our time, and our ability.

If you asked Adam, “**Are you a powerful person? If so, why?**”

He would have answered,

“Yes, I am, because my thoughts create, my words dictate, my time is impactful, and my ability is unique.”

- When we believe our **thoughts** are powerful we will use our brains for creative and positive purposes, instead of wasting them by vegging out in front of video games or the television.
- When we believe that our **words** are powerful, we will not be super careless with our words, but use our words as instruments of healing.
- When we believe that our **time** is valuable, we will invest our time, instead of wasting our time.
- When we believe our **ability** is unique, we will confidently bring our contribution to the table.

This is the spirit of someone who has been fathered well.

People do not change the world by living in *discouragement* and *shame*, and if we have performance anxiety, they have a difficult time sustaining anything or staying committed.

Did you notice that God did not discourage or condemn his son Adam?

- He discouraged certain behaviors, but did not kill Adam’s *confidence*.
When Adam was paralyzed by shame, his Father asked him, “***Who told***

you that you were naked?” (Genesis 3:11) Clearly implying, IT WAS NOT ME, I did not raise you that way!

- *Discouraged people* believe that their thoughts are powerless, so tend to go idle with their mind and apathetic towards their personal development.
- *Discouraged people* have their voice suppressed. They don't want to speak up and out.
- *Discouraged people* feel impotent when it comes to changing circumstances, so don't try.
- *Condemned people* believe that they are unworthy of anyone's investment or high achievement.
- *Condemned people* don't believe they will amount to much, their ability to dream has been shut down.
- For discouraged and condemned people, their self-perception becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Some of us may have been fathered by religion, but that does not mean we have been fathered by God.

Fathers teach us how to treat others.

Before Adam was given a wife, he was fathered by God. God wanted Adam to be well trained in the purpose and art of relationships, before granting him one.

There is nothing wrong with believing in the value and potential of your thoughts, words, time, and actions! There is something wrong when you believe that who you are is more significant than who someone else is.

There is a big difference between confidence and arrogance.

- A confident person believes in the potential of their thoughts, words, time, and actions.
- An arrogant person believes their thoughts, words, time, and actions are more important than others.

1) So if I believe in the beauty of my ideas, but I condemn your ideas, that's arrogance.

2) If I believe that you should listen to what I have to say, but I don't listen to what you have to say, that's arrogance.

3) If I believe in the value of my time, but I don't value your time, that's arrogance.

4) If I believe in my ability, but I think what your contribution is invalid, then that's arrogance.

People who are arrogant have not been fathered correctly.

We often experience frustration in our relationships, because we were not fathered by God. Being fathered by God will lead to more fulfilling relationships.

As one fathered by God, Adam learned not to look down on his wife, even though she was less knowledgeable than him (because she was younger than he was). He learned that his job was not to put her down, but to pull her up higher.

He was to be a humble, gentle teacher, who would ask his wife questions and listen intently, as his father had done for him.

Great fathers aren't great lecturers, they are great listeners.

Adam was helping Eve to see the value of her thoughts, words, time, and ability - as his father had done for him.

- Empowering her as he was empowered.
- Fathering her as he was fathered.

God was genuinely interested in Adam and Adam's creative thoughts intrigued God.

When Adam told God, "I want to call this one an elephant," I could picture God replying, "That's wonderful Adam! I was wondering what you would come up with..."

God was fascinated by Adam and wanted to witness the potential that he had put in him.

God listened intently to what came out of Adam's mouth. When Adam spoke, God listened and remembered everything Adam said. A lion would forever be a lion because Adam spoke it, and God heard it.

Adam was also to be as fascinated by Eve's thoughts and words, and he was to remember what she said.

Fathers shouldn't be known for the volume of their voice, but the attentiveness of their ears.

Fathers don't blaire their own voice, but help their children find their own voice.

Paul said, "***You have many teachers, but not many fathers...***" (1 ***Corinthians 4:15***)

Teachers talk.

Fathers listen.

Teachers want you to know what they know.

Fathers want to know you.

When you help people to see that their thoughts are interesting and their desires are important, you help them to maximize their impact on earth.

What do they all have in common?

Abraham Lincoln, Christopher Columbus, Albert Einstein, Martin Luther King Jr., C.S. Lewis, Bill Cosby, and Mother Teresa are people who have changed the world because they believed in the power of their thoughts and validity of their dreams.

They became innovative inventors and explorers, legendary comedians, revolutionaries, world-class educators, cherished authors, and they made it to the history books.

If God exists outside of time, he enters time as he pleases.

When he came to collaborate with Adam in the naming of the animals, God stepped into time. God was communicating to Adam, *“My son, you are a great investment!”*

As fathers, we are to help our children believe that they are a great investment of time, not a waste of time.

Fathers expand you.

Up to this point, Adam was just a gardener, and now God takes a gardener and expands him into a wordsmith/a prolific author, who would name all the animals.

He went from caring for trees to naming all the animals and fish.

It was more rigorous to name all the birds and animals, than to tend the garden. Gardening has to do with working with your *hands*. Naming the animals has to do with working with your *mind*.

It was God fathering Adam into personal expansion. Adam would have died a gardener, if his Father did not stretch him into something more.

It would have been sad if Adam only got to be half of what he was created to be. That may have been the case, if he wasn't fathered.

Fathers continue to encourage you to go to the next level in the releasing of your personal potential.

We see that Adam gives Eve her name, which means "Mother of all living". He gave her the name before she became the name.

"Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living." (Genesis 3:20)

Adam is fathering Eve.

We are fathered to father.

We are empowered to empowered.

We are led to lead.

He's seeing in her what she can become, and He's using his affirming words, to help her to see and become what she can be.

Fathers create a culture of safety.

"And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed" (Genesis 2:25 ESV).

As Adam fathered Eve the way God fathered him, the result was that Adam created a culture of safety. There was a fearless culture.

Studies show that when fear enters the human psyche our IQ drops fifty percent. Other studies prove that trauma or the entrance of fear, also damages short-term memory and the ability to retain information.

In an abusive, fear-based culture, people do not flourish. It's like expecting a fish to flourish in the desert sand. It may react and exert a lot of energy, but it will not flourish.

When a father builds a culture of empowerment, the result would be a shameless culture, one where love reigns and fear cannot survive. As fear is bound, potential is released.

Have you been fathered well?

I've met so many people who are bitter towards the fathers. Because innately, we know, what we just covered in the last 40 minutes is true.

Our Father should have:

- Given us room to make mistakes.
- Embraced us in our failings.
- Helped us find our voice.
- Helped us to see the value of our: thoughts, words, time, and activity.
- Allowed us to see our value.
- Made persistent effort to get to know us.
- Modeled for us how to treat others well and father others into greatness.
- Encouraged us and gently stretched us into greatness.
- Built an empowering, fearless culture in our home.

We intuitively know this what Fathers SHOULD have done and we realize that we have experienced FAR FAR LESS, it hurts...a lot. We subconsciously know what a Father should have been, so we subconsciously hold a lot of bitterness.

We see our own wounds, handicaps, relentless issues, and destructive patterns- and so much MISERY could have been avoided, had we been fathered well.

Had we been fathered well:

- We could have made better decisions.
- We could have become more successful.
- We could have done relationships better.
- We could have beaten off depression.
- We could have beat burnout.
- We could have been more confident and less arrogant.

Yet, it's not too late.

We can be re-fathered, if you will:

1) Be RE-FATHERED By God.

He will father us through revelation. There are some people who are the most fatherly people you would ever meet, and they were not fathered by their own dads, but Fathered by God through revelation.

Often our experience with our earthly fathers gives us our view of God. But our experience with our heavenly father should give us a new view of our earthly fathers.

2) Be RE-FATHERED by those who have been fathered by God.

You will only have one biological father, but you can have multiple people who you have entrusted to *father* you.

Sometimes we reduce the definition of a father to someone who landed a tadpole. Yet, being a father is so much more than just that.

You may not be a biological dad, but you can be a father. Based on the our expansive definition of father, even women or people with a later birthday than you, can somewhat father you into greater wholeness and personal greatness.

You have an open invitation to become: More empowered and consequently or naturally a more empowering person.