

Happy Father's Day! I would like to honor the fathers here today and those from the past who have taken the time to be positive influencers in our lives.

A father's conversation with God (prayer) is precious. When a man humbles himself and releases his children back to the Lord, he has purposely affected their future. It is said men have a fixer mentality; show him a problem and his first thought is, "How can I fix this?" His second thought is, "What's it going to take and how much is it going to cost?" Of course, it is not really about the expenditure of energy, emotion, time or money—it is about the desire for our children and families to be safe and happy.

I say these next words with tongue in cheek: we men can't help it; it's God's fault! After all, He made us in His image! I know I am not God, but I can be godly, strong and powerful, resilient and most importantly eternal.

When we as Christian fathers come to know that the true nature of God is love, we begin to understand our own role as loving fathers. Strong in faith: no matter what comes our way He has a plan. Powerful in understanding: He will be glorified in all things. Strong because of His strength: I lean on Him to grant me the spiritual awareness of His hand at work. Powerful: when I remember that I am not enough on my own, His Spirit reminds me to pray. The most powerful thing I can do for my family and children is to pray. Not a one-sided conversation demanding God to fix it, but listening for His solution and standing on His truths. Resilient: like Jesus, willing to sacrifice all I am so the Father is glorified. Eternal: as I grow in my faith, I learn to have more and more eternal thoughts, to understand that His way is better. I become aware of how my conversations have eternal consequences. God put us in the equation here on earth at this very moment to bring the Kingdom to life!

Yes, fathers and father figures, fellow influencers, we will make a difference because our Heavenly Father wills it. We know we cannot do it on our own and in our own strength. We must rely on God and He has given us the means to bring His children home. In the book of Titus, we find instructions for the whole family as we live out our lives of faith.

Titus 2:1-8

² You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. ² Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

³ Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. ⁴ Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

⁶ Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. ⁷ In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness ⁸ and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

Serious business, this being a father in the eyes of God. He has supplied all we need in just a few verses. Men, it comes down to being grounded in God and showing that to the world around us. How much joy the Father must experience when we lead others to Jesus! We too can hear the angels sing as each child, young or old, receives eternity.

This must start with prayer. Fortunately for us, the disciples asked Jesus how to pray to the Father. This same prayer will start us well as we begin:

Matthew 6:9-10

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

*“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,*

¹⁰ your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

This reminder of why we are here (to glorify God and do His will) helps us here on earth put into perspective what love looks like. Love given to us, and love given by us. Only the God of creation was willing to sacrifice Himself through

His Son in order that His Kingdom could come to earth, and be continued on earth. We get to reflect His great love to the world!

Are we willing to lay our humanness aside and rely on Him who created everything good to bring absolute goodness to our soul? Are we willing to submit to His ways, knowing that they are better than our own?

Our future is bright! We have many opportunities to share God's love.

Your brother in Christ,

Archie

Call to Action: In Titus 2:1-8, what attributes are you being called to live out? Are you lacking in any of these? Pray for the desire, wisdom self-discipline to change. How can communing constantly with the Holy Spirit empower this change?