

The Holy Spirit Is Turning the Hearts of Fathers to Children

I. ELIJAH WILL COME TO TURN THE HEARTS OF GOD'S PEOPLE (MAL. 4:5-6)

- A. The Lord promised to send Elijah **before** Jesus' second coming to turn the hearts of fathers to children. How are the hearts of fathers turned? By seeing more of God's heart as our Father.

⁵I will send you Elijah the prophet before the...day of the LORD. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers... (Mal. 4:5-6)

- B. Jesus came to reveal the heart of His Father (Jn. 14:7-9; Rev. 19:10). After Jesus returns and rules the millennial earth for 1,000 years, then the Father and His throne will come to earth (Rev. 21:3).

¹⁰...For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. (Rev. 19:10)

³...Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them... (Rev. 21:3)

- C. **Before:** Joel described the end-time revival "in the spirit of Elijah" (prophecy and power) without naming Elijah. Joel highlighted the place of the sons and daughters and added that "all flesh"—all faithful believers—will receive dreams and visions. The coming of Elijah and the end-time global outpouring of the Spirit that Joel prophesied both come **before** Jesus returns (Joel 2:31).

²⁸...I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions...³⁰I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth...³¹before the...awesome day of the LORD. (Joel 2:28-31)

- D. John also described the end-time revival as operating in the spirit of Elijah (with prophecy and power) without naming Elijah (Rev. 11:3). The two witness will minister just **before** Jesus returns.

³I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy...⁵And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth...⁶These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls ...and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. (Rev. 11:3-6)

- E. **Turn the hearts:** The whole body of Christ will operate in the prophetic spirit that will highlight the value of children. Older believers will serve young people with affection and sacrifice. The children in turn will respond with gratitude and honor, resulting in supernatural unity in God's family.

- F. One purpose of Elijah's coming is to establish a new, unified social order for God's people. This unity will occur as God connects the fathers and children according to Jesus' prayer (Jn. 17:21-23).

²¹That they all may be one...that the world may believe that You sent Me. (Jn. 17:21)

- G. The acceleration of lawlessness in the end times is related to fatherlessness. Fatherless children are more vulnerable to becoming lawless because of pain, abuse, and a sense of abandonment.

¹⁰And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another...

¹²And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. (Mt. 24:10-12)

- H. Unity will be the only safe place from the spirit of lawlessness. This is the first generation in history in which children (particularly in the West) are influenced more outside their home than inside it.
- I. ***He will turn the hearts of the fathers:*** The Spirit will release prophecy and power in a great measure to inspire fathers to focus on children. It is rare for powerful men to turn their heart and resources to children who cannot give anything back to enhance their own resource base.
The Lord will manifest His zeal for the fatherless on a global level with great signs and wonders.
- J. In the end-time prophetic ministry, God will emphasize valuing, investing in, and rescuing children.
- K. There are different expressions of how the fathers (men and women) will turn to the children.
 1. ***Natural fathers*** will turn their hearts to their biological and adopted children.
 2. ***Spiritual fathers*** will disciple young believers, bless orphans, and/or rescue the fatherless (abortion, human trafficking, oppressive child labor or social institutions, broken families, etc.).
 3. ***Fathers in the culture*** (business, ministry, media, etc.) will mentor young people in skills, etc.
- L. Invest in the “currency” that the bank of your child’s heart accepts. Ask the Spirit to help you by giving you insight into the keys that unlock their heart and the next step to take to engage them.
- M. God will reveal Himself through Elijah and many fathers as a Father to the fatherless (Ps. 68:5). God will inspire spiritual fathers (men and women) to take initiative in showing humility and investing more time, affection, and money to bless children, even by taking one step at a time.
⁵A father of the fatherless...is God in His holy habitation. (Ps. 68:5)
²⁷Pure and undefiled religion...is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble... (Jas. 1:27)
- N. ***He will turn the hearts of the children:*** The Spirit will inspire children to respond to the love given to them by the fathers and to acknowledge their sacrifice with gratitude, honor, and humility.
- O. There are different expressions of how children will turn to the fathers (men and women).
 1. Children will turn their hearts to their ***natural fathers*** in their immediate or extended family.
 2. Children will turn their hearts to their ***spiritual fathers*** in the Church and in the culture.
 3. Children will turn their hearts to the ***Jewish fathers***—the prophets and apostles (the Scripture).
 4. They will turn to fathers in ***Church history*** used powerfully by the Spirit (via biographies).
- P. One of Satan’s primary end-time strategies is to kill or greatly wound children so that they do not grow up to extravagantly love and faithfully serve Jesus and people and so advance His kingdom.
 1. The Lord is raising up children who will one day be anointed deliverers. Thus Satan seeks to kill them. In the generations in which Moses and Jesus were born, Satan slaughtered children.
 2. In America, over 60 million children have been aborted since abortion was legalized in 1973. There are over 50 million abortions each year globally—over one billion since 1920. There were over 20-40 million victims of human trafficking worldwide (Rev. 18:13).
- Q. God will raise up “people who understand” to operate in the spirit of Elijah (Dan. 11:33-35).

³³And those of the people who understand [messengers] shall instruct many... (Dan. 11:33)

- R. If you are praying and investing time, affection, and money into young believers or into the fatherless on a regular basis, *you are a spiritual father or mother*, even if you are only 25-years old.