

GOODNEWS YOU STILL HAVE A FATHER

DR. JOSEPH & MRS MERCY OLOWE-HOSTS

Please help us spread the gospel by sharing this post with 5 or more people on your social media network. God bless you as you do so.

GOOD NEWS: YOU STILL HAVE A FATHER

"I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee," (Luke 15:18 KJV)

At this moment in history, it won't be an unjustifiable exaggeration to say that the news coming from every corner of the world is very depressing and discouraging. The government wants absolute control over what we believe, how we live, and even how we communicate with each other. It seems that no one is free anymore; the new world order is upon us! There are strange happenings everywhere you look. Case in point will be the tenyear-old girl who was said to be impregnated by a man who was supposed to care for her. Nowhere seems to be safe anymore—not kids at school; not shoppers in the grocery store; not worshippers in the houses of worship; not even those in the movie theaters unwinding. No one can rest easy anymore in the same world that God created and testified of that everything therein was good.

The economic outlook of the world has become a rat race. In many households, two incomes are no longer sufficient to sustain the home. Many fathers now need two jobs, their wife's income and a side hustle before ends can meet in their family. This has put a lot of pressure and stress on the homefront as many kids no longer enjoy having their parents around. Family dinner is fast becoming a fading family tradition. This pressure from the home is pushing many children in the wrong direction. Corporations are coming up with all kinds of death records due to vaping and the use of other dangerous abusive drugs. Too many kids are dying of overdose and parents are losing control in this battle for their children's lives. In the same vein, hatred is on the rise; there has never been a time in history that racism and hatred are as visible and palpable in our society as they are today. Politicians are manipulating and playing with people's intelligence; crime rate continues to soar alarmingly and betrayal is now a common occurrence. Verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse are on the rise. These cut across the fabric of our society making the situation of things very depressing. Things are falling apart.

I can continue with the sad news, but it's not all bad. God is still in the business of doing good. Yes, many of us are lost in our ways with no remedy in sight, but we can share a similar ending with the story of the 'prodigal son' in the Bible. After the young man went all prodigal with his heartlessly gotten share of His living father's inheritance, here's what he said to himself that marked the positive turnaround in his story:

"I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee," (Luke 15:18)

This man suddenly realized that his father is still alive and well! As we read on, we see that his father was ready, willing, and able to forgive all his misgivings. The same is true for us! The key word in the young man's change of story is the phrase, *"I WILL ARISE . . ."* This signifies the moment of realization of helplessness. He had tried to fix his problem by himself, but nothing worked. What he needed was his father's touch to make everything better.

My friend, same is true of us. May I remind you today that you, too, have a Father waiting patiently for you. When you realize that no matter what you do, you can not save or redeem yourself from the prevalent terror in the world, the wise thing to do is to turn to the Father Who is willing to accept you unconditionally and would not judge you before He renders the much-needed help. If you have reconnected with your Father—if you are born again by confessing Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior—then you qualify for His intervention! He is the God Who made it all good in the first place and can restore that original goodness again for you. If you are not born again at the moment, my job today is to let you know that all the trouble you are going through can be taken care of by your Father Who's patiently waiting for you to make that simple move.

To reconnect back to your Father, say this prayer with me: "Lord Jesus, come into my life. I confess my sins before

you and I ask you to forgive me. I believe you died for my sins and on the third day, you resurrected for my justification. Thanks for saving me today in Jesus' name." If you made this simple confession, you have reestablished a relationship with your father. If you are doing this for the first time or rededicating your life again, let me be the first to welcome you into the Kingdom of God.

GLORY AND HONOR (Part 8)

When it comes to your life of glory and honor, God is extremely serious and not joking around. It is so important to God that you and I live a glorious life that He bound Himself by an oath to man. It is extremely important to be born again so that you and I can have access to what has already been delivered to us. All the heavy lifting has been done for us, all we need to do is piggyback on God's covenant with our Father-in-faith, Abraham. Let's look at the oath with which God bound himself to him to guarantee a life of glory and honor for Abraham and all of us that will identify with him through the Son of God that will come from that lineage:

"and [God] said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;" (Genesis 22:16-17)

You don't have to repeat what Abraham did to be a partaker of that blessing, because, as the verse clearly states, Abraham's seed shall possess the gate of his enemies! In other words, you have been grandfathered into this blessing by adoption through Jesus Christ.

Let's see again from the scripture when this oath was invoked to appropriate these blessings in the life of Isaac,

"sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father;" (Genesis 26:3)

In this passage, God was reminding Isaac of the generational blessings that were conferred upon him by an oath. He doesn't have to do anything other than follow the leading of the Lord—*"DON'T GO TO EGYPT."*

Of course, this oath did not go away with the Old Testament; it was simply carried over and strengthened in the New Testament. Luke writes,

"The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies Might serve him without fear," (Luke 1:73-74).

The oath was done for us to be able to serve God without any fear of what our enemies would do. Your glory and honor are secured by an oath which God bound Himself to. I want to let you know that we are the most blessed people on earth because God did not have to extend this grace to us. In fact, God took it one step further—as the book of Hebrews records it,

"For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon

the hope set before us:" (Hebrews 6:13-18)

God made the promise to Abraham and secured it by an oath so that you and I might have a STRONG CONSOLATION and assurance that our life of glory and honor is guaranteed; nothing can change it except for our disobedience. Your future is bound by an oath! Amen.

ANCHOR TEXT

We are called into a life of glory and honor. God elected us by grace—not of works lest any should boast. It is our responsibility to make sure that we don't abuse or take the grace of God for granted. God called Abram and told him to go to a strange land that will be revealed as he goes, and he left, seeking the place God had promised. Lot, his nephew, decided to tag along and God blessed him with glory and honor until the occurrence recorded in Genesis 13:10-11,

"And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other." (Genesis 13:10-11)

Lot chose Sodom and Gomorrah because of his attitude; he could no longer co-exist with his father, and for that reason, he lost his crowns.

Our foundational text is found in the Psalms,

"For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, And hast crowned him with glory and honour." (Psalm 8:5 KJV)

I pray that we will not choose Sodom and Gomorrah for our inheritance in Jesus' name. And may God give us the grace to always respect our elders and leaders in the Lord in Jesus' name.

WHY ARE THE GLORY AND HONOR FADED?

So far, we have considered seven reasons, viz:

1. SIN

- 2. STRANGE FIRE: THE CASE STUDY OF NADAB AND ABIHU
- **3. THE EFFECT OF TERRITORIAL POWER**
- 4. THE PRESENCE OF STRONGHOLDS IN A FAMILY AND A NATION
- 5. WRONG DECREES THAT CAN KILL YOUR DESTINY
- **6. COMMITTING A GRAVE MISTAKE**
- 7. UNFORGIVENESS

Let's continue from there today.

8. THE EFFECT OF SPIRITUAL ATTACK

We see this in the story of the baker who was beheaded:

"When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph, I also was in my dream, and, behold, I had three white baskets on my head: and in the uppermost basket there was of all manner of bakemeats for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head. And Joseph answered and said, This is the interpretation thereof: The three baskets are three days: yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee." (Genesis40:16-19 KJV)

This is a very sad story but it tells us a lot of things about what can happen when we become complacent with our life. Spiritual attacks are real! As Matthew writes, *"but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way" (Matthew 13:25).* In other words, when men are weak or unwatchful spiritually, the enemy can come and sow tares among their glory and honor. There was a saying by one of the previous American presidents; he said that **the best time to prepare for war is when there's peace**. Our prayerless lifestyle can rob us of the yet-to-manifest glory and honor in our life. The story of the baker tells us that he had all kinds of goodies that the king enjoyed until birds of the air came to sample the food. From that moment onward, his food became like poison to the king and he was remanded to the prison to await judgment. No wonder Paul writes,

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12)

Indeed, we have the greatest weapons; they are not carnal but they are mighty through God to pull down the strongholds. We cannot afford to be spiritually asleep. Just imagine—since the head of the baker was cut off, how then is he going to wear his crowns? Selah.

CALL TO ACTION

Are you still struggling? Do you feel lost? Have you connected with your father? Are you aware of the oath? Do you know that you have a covenant with God? Do you respect your elders and spiritual heads? Are you spiritually asleep? Are you aware of your weapons?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "OUR WEAPONS OF WARFARE"

"(for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5 KJV)

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but if you are carnal, the weapons will not work for you. Shalom.

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Father, in any way that I am spiritually asleep, quicken me in the name of Jesus.
- 2. Lord, embolden me to put the weapons of my spiritual warfare to victorious use in the name of Jesus.

PS: Remember to reach out or pray for ten souls to be added to the Kingdom of God in your area. God bless you as you do so. Amen.