

## Restoring Hearts, Transforming Lives



### **Spiritual Leadership within the Home**

Within the family, as within the Church, proper authority at the head, spiritually and naturally, supported through submission, brings unity and blessings. Proper order within the family structure also offers protective covering, spiritual guidance, and focused direction as to where the family is heading. Fathers are the spiritual leaders of the family unit. They are the leaders of the family whether they see themselves as such or not. Fathers set the course of the direction for their family. It can be in a positive direction or a negative direction; and most often it is a mixture of the two. Whatever is in the head is also in the body. Jesus taught this lesson through His obedience to His heavenly Father. As He stated, He only did what He saw His Father do. This teaching sets a spiritual precedent to fathers today. Children will often do what they see their own fathers do. Therefore, it is critical for the father of the home to take the position of spiritual leadership and it should not be relinquished to the mother. We have biblical examples of situations where the head of the household was not respected or upheld as the leader. When there has been a violation of that order, the entire family suffers consequences. Let's look at the lesson of Ham when he uncovered the nakedness of his father.

*Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard. He drank some of the wine and became drunk, and he lay uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness (Ge 9:20-2)*

Shem and Japheth entered the tent backwards and turned as to not look upon their father's shortcomings. Ham, however, exploited what was a bad situation by inviting his brothers to gaze upon Noah. The result of such an act was astounding. We can trace the bloodline of Ham and see that there was a repeated history of sexual perversion. Canaan, the fourth son of Ham, had settled in the land of Canaan, and it had become the epitome of sexual exploitation and degradation. His descendants, the Canaanites, worshiped numerous false gods and were steeped in fertility cults, more so than any other in the ancient world. What began as the exposure of the nakedness of one man, resulted in a generational curse as evidenced in the extreme sexual perversions of the land of Canaan. The lessons that can be learned from the examples of Nadab and Abihu are quite profound. They worked apart from Aaron, thus they worked apart from God. Aaron, the high priest, was consecrated into the priestly office of the Levitical tribe by Moses. He and his sons had traveled with Moses part of the way up Mount Sinai where Moses had received the law written on stone. There they were able to experience at least a glimpse of the divine presence of God. They had been trained in proper worship with the very specific regulations to follow. However, in a rebellious act, Aaron's sons chose to kindle a "strange fire." They were to use fire from the altar, which burned perpetually, for burning incense in worship, but they chose fire from another source, therefore making it unacceptable before the Lord and they were destroyed instantly in the sanctuary.

This strange fire was unauthorized. They had served without proper order, independently, and without direction. Some scholars speculate that they may have been intoxicated also, although that is only speculation based on *Leviticus 10:8-9* where they were instructed not to partake of wine while they were to serve within the sanctuary. They had incorrectly performed the worship service apart from the leadership of their father and this invidious conduct brought about severe and immediate judgment of the Lord being consumed by fire. The charge: they had kindled a "strange fire" and the result was that they were consumed by fire. We can gain great insight as we look at the lesson of Aaron and Miriam as they rebelled against God-ordained leadership. Aaron was the older brother of Moses by three years. Moses was the spiritual father of Israel. Chosen of God as deliverer, judge, lawgiver, and prophet, the Lord spoke directly to Moses. He was the most humble man on the face of the earth. Because of jealousy, Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses. Their reviling and rebellious action brought about judgment of the Lord and, in His anger, the Lord departed from them. Miriam became leprous. Aaron and Miriam were charged with speaking against their leader because of jealousy. Rebellion and reviling those in leadership will result in the loss of the presence of God, just as witnessed in the above case where the cloud departed from the Tent of Meetings. As previously stated, the Bible clearly teaches that the husband is to be the head of the household. Often, this is an area where spiritual authority is violated. Wives may take the lead role for many different reasons; however it is ultimately the responsibility of the husband to stand in the place of authority.

*Wives, in the same way, accept the authority of your husbands, so that, even if some of them do not obey the word, they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives ( 1 Pe 3:1).*

Women who constantly usurp their husband's authority, whether in open defiance or through some form of manipulation and trickery, hurt their own household, themselves, and their children. They are, in essence, ripping the blessings promised to a godly family out of their own hands. Frequently, those in need of deliverance have found ways of covertly undermining those who are in authority, and often present themselves as being totally submissive. Those who receive deliverance ministry must be willing to be honest with themselves and they must be willing to turn from the actions and attitudes that have afforded them the ability to gain the leadership role.

Frequently, in a situation where the protection of a father is not in place, children can be severely hurt, neglected or abused, thus growing up as many do, suffering in silence. The need for healing and restoration becomes apparent, as those who have suffered such tragedy tend to act out their pain in a myriad of ways. In many situations the fathers are simply not present in the home, but often they are there in body, but not in mind. Absentee parenting has a detrimental effect on children, especially when they have suffered some violation or abuse. Parenting is an extremely difficult and complicated responsibility especially if there were poor role models or no role models. Healing of the soul often involves the willingness of the one who is receiving prayer to forgive and release their parents for their shortcomings and failures.

*Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you (Ex 20:12).*

Children should be taught that obedience to their parents is not just a thing to do because it is right. They need to understand that there is a promise attached to the command, "so that your days may be long...and things may go well for you." One may glean from these scriptures that the reverse is true for those who do not obey their parents. Dishonoring a parent can bring into one's life a series of dangerous repercussions both in the natural realm and the supernatural realm. Take a few minutes and ask yourself, "Have I dishonored my parents in any way?" If the answer is yes, then pray and ask the Lord to forgive you. You may also need to go to one or both parents and confess your disobedience or disrespect. They may or may not understand what you are saying, however, the process is very important to your healing. There may also be a situation where one or both parents have passed away. In such cases, simply let the Lord know that you choose to confess the hardness of heart toward them and ask Him for forgiveness. Age is irrelevant; a clean slate is not. If you are a parent, you may need to go to your child and ask for forgiveness. Freedom comes when confessions are made. Guilt is lifted and pain is often wiped away. Do not hesitate. If there have been injustices within your family structure, run quickly to make amends. This is the time to reconcile! Be on the lookout for areas of authority that have been violated. Quite often, there are issues related to rebellion that will surface. Deep feelings of anger, resentment, rage, and abandonment are just to name a few. By following the mindset behind the rebellion against authority, one will most likely expose hidden secrets of the heart.

For in-depth understanding of spiritual authority in the home order Robin Bertram's new book, *Shadows Among Us*, also available in e-book or audio book at Tate Publishing. Follow the link to [Shadows Among Us for purchase](#). Check out the book trailer at Godtube [Shadows Among Us Book Trailer](#). If you have any questions, email the author at [rmb-crm@nc.rr.com](mailto:rmb-crm@nc.rr.com)