

Family Restoration

God's Message:

And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly."

[Luke 1:16-17]

Healthy families will form healthy churches, and healthy churches will form a strong nation.

Churches are built from families. The devil knows that in order to destroy the church and the world, he doesn't need to start the third world war; he only needs to destroy the families. If we choose to restore the families, it means we are restoring the church, because this is one of the few steps to go into transformation. Transformation for the families will be realized if each and every one of us humbles ourselves by starting to forgive and pray for other people. From the testimonies of those who have experienced family restoration, we know that the first thing that we have to do is to forgive each other; by doing this we are actually preparing righteous families for God.

We are in the end of "last days", and the power of darkness is working actively especially to destroy families. Apostle Paul has reminded us, as he wrote in 2 Timothy 3:1-4, that children will turn against their parents, parents do not know how to love their children, children do not know how to give thanks to their parents [they will disregard their aged parents], husband and wife do not live peacefully, a father will educate their children sternly, families will disregard religion, parents will love money more than their own families so that they will spend their time to look for money; therefore they do not know what happens to their children, a husband will follow his own desire and leave his family for another woman; he breaks his marriage vow before the Lord, etc. Children will rebel and have difficulty to forgive their parents.

Family restoration will happen if there is forgiveness. Our parents might have mistreated us, they might be stern, or do not even care about us, but we have to forgive them so that we will also be forgiven by God and restored by God. [Matthew 5:14-15]. We can't say "Abba, Father" to God whom we can't see, if we hate our father whom we can see. How can we say that we love God whom we can't see, if we hate our father whom we can see? God gives His Son's spirit so that we are able to call God whom we can't see "Abba, Father." This will enable us to call father to our earthly father even though he has disappointed us. After our father and mother have aged, do not neglect them. Be a thankful child, because Jesus Himself told this in Matthew 15:4-6.

Parents' important responsibility is to teach and admonish their children in accordance with Christian's faith. Parents must become example in their life and attitude, and must care about their children more than their job, profession, even their ministry in the church or their social status. According to Paul in Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:21, parents have the responsibility to give spiritual and biblical teaching to their children; so it's not the responsibility of the church or Sunday school. Church and Sunday school only help parents.

In raising their children, parents should not give preferential treatment to 1 child only. They should give encouragement and warning, punish their children only when the children purposely make a mistake, and dedicate their life for their children with love, mercy, humility, gentleness and patience.

Every member of the family has his own role according the Word of God. A husband should become the spiritual father and leader, who love his wife as Jesus loves His people. A wife should become an equal helper who submit to her husband, and become the intercessor. Children should respect and obey their parents as if their parents are the Father in heaven. If we are a father, we should love our children without any discrimination; because God Himself never differentiates His children. If we are a father or mother in law, we have to regard our son or daughter in law as our own child, because he/she has been united with our own child. On the other side, if we are a son or daughter in law, we also need to regard our father or mother in law as our own parents, because their children have been united with us.

If the families are strong, the church will be strong too, because families are the smallest unit of a unity which will give impact to the church, society, city, nation, even to the nations. In 1 Timothy 3:4-5,12, it is explained that an elder must be able to manage his own household. The strongest church is the church which consists of strong families, because family is a smallest unit of a church. If the families are strong, the church will be strong, and this will give impact for the transformation.

Essence:

If the family is strong, the church will be strong, because family is the smallest unit of one unity which will develop into church, society, city, nation, and even nations. To form a strong family, Christian families need to be restored and transformed by Lord Jesus.

Reflection:

What happens in our family? Has our family been restored? Malachi 3:5 prophesies that before the last days, there will be restoration for family. Keep this prophecy and believe that it is happening in our family.

Commitment:

I understand my position and function in the family and I will do it according to the Word of God's and the Holy Spirit's demand.

Taken from the book "Transformation Journey"

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