

“God’s Word, Alive!”

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A Biblical Teaching Ministry Dedicated to “Holding Forth the Word of Life”

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“Bring Thy Son Here”

And it came to pass that, on the next day, when they were come down from the hill, much people met Him. And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech Thee, look upon my son; for he is mine only child. And, lo, a spirit taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him so that he foameth again and, bruising him, hardly departeth

from him. And I besought Thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not. And Jesus answering said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you, and bear with you? *Bring thy son here.* And as he was coming, the devil threw him down, and tore him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.

(Luke 9:37-42, King James Version)

(Corresponding Scriptures: Matthew 7:14-21; Mark 9:14-29)

One can hardly read this passage without being moved by the pleas of a father’s desperate cry for his son. This only child which should have brought many smiles, and been a source of pride and contentment, had instead been used as a vessel that brought continual sorrow and agonizing pain to the heart of a loving father. For years this man had searched for someone who could help his son. Complete healing would have, of course, been wonderful. But, this father would have settled for even the slightest degree of relief in the aid of alleviating the effects of a demonic presence within his child. His search, however, had proved, thus far, to be in vain.

Now, in the presence of Jesus Christ, he despairingly calls out, “*He is mine only child!*” And then, “*A spirit taketh him!*” Finally, “*The spirit will not leave him!*” Sadly, he reports, “*I brought him to your disciples and they could not help!*” It was earlier that the disciples of the Lord were within this father’s reach causing him to have, for a moment, a glimmer of hope. But, hope faded rapidly as the disciples’ efforts to cast out the demon and bring deliverance to the child failed. Again, disappointment settled into the deep fractures of this father’s heart.

Having found no remedy or relief, he cries, “***Master, I beseech Thee, look upon my son!***” And with those words, healing and deliverance are set in motion. Let us follow closely the steps that led from serious illness to total freedom.

First, we see the responsibility of fathers to seek God on behalf of their children. In the Biblical account of Noah, we have a rich example of a father and his family. It was through Noah’s faith and obedience to the Word of God that his family was saved. Further examples of fathers providing for their children a godly heritage are found in the lives of Joshua and Job. Significantly, each of the first seven chapters of Proverbs, written by Solomon, is introduced with the words, “My son.” (Genesis 6-10; Joshua 24:15; Job 1:5; Proverbs 1:10; 2:1; 3:1; 4:10; 5:1; 6:1; 7:1)

Without question, the contributions of others are needful and helpful in the lives of children, whether it is family members, friends, leaders in the church or leaders within the community. Nevertheless, no one carries the influence that a father does to a child. This truth finds its basis in the Everlasting Fatherhood of God, and His Son, Jesus Christ. Fatherhood and its responsibilities are eternal in nature; founded in God. (Proverbs 8:22-30; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:18; 17:15)

Further, it is not only biologically, but also experientially and personally that this father had a relationship with his son. The words of the father are evidence that he was actively involved in the life of his son since birth. He had observed and interacted with him long enough and close enough to know the difference between the actions of his son and the actions of something foreign within him. He could distinguish his child’s normal state from that of his sickness. From this position, the father is able to give to Jesus an accurate and full description of his son and his symptoms. Out of the depths of his soul, he sorrowfully cries, “***Master, I beseech Thee, look upon my son!***”

Perfect in wisdom, Jesus instructs this father to, “***Bring thy son here.***” It is together, in His presence, that the Lord wants to heal the father and his son. The father of multiplied years of emotional strain and physical exhaustion and the son of multiplied years of the defiling and invasive presence of an evil spirit.

“***Bring thy son here.***” In spite of the severity of the son’s condition, the father is commanded to reach out, touch and bring his son to Jesus. It is by the “laying on of a father’s hand,” that this sick child can recover. Although, the son may be totally uncontrollable and completely taken over by the powers of darkness, Jesus Christ validates the father’s right to the child. With this foundation of truth, the father receives from the Word of God authority and power over the evil spirit within his son.

“***Bring thy son here.***” During Jesus’ earthly ministry, there are times when He would personally go to a home and heal the sick. In this instance, however, He places the responsibility of the son upon the father. Healing could of course, have been administered by the Lord from a distance. But, Jesus purposes to strengthen and restore the soul of this man to his privileged position of “father.” He wants to heal him of years of seeming failure and public embarrassment. Jesus lovingly instructs him to, “***Bring thy son here.***” (Mark 1:29-31; Luke 7:1-10; 8:49-56)

Listen again as the father cries, ***“Master, I beseech Thee, look upon my son; for he is mine only child! And, lo, a spirit taketh him!”*** In Psalm 127:3, David wrote to his son, Solomon, “Lo, children are an heritage from the LORD; and the fruit of the womb is His reward.” The son had been given to this father as a gift from God. But, Satan, the thief had come from the earliest days of this child to steal him from his father. It has always been the intent, and one of the wiles of Satan, to destroy through separation and division. Given by God, it was the father’s child, but the spirit had sought to take and claim him as his own. The spirit had gone a long way in taking his personality, his strength, his dignity and his body. This evil demonic spirit was making great headway in taking the son’s entire life.

In seizing the child, the spirit had also captured the father. But, Jesus has come that this father and his son might have life and that they might have it more abundantly. The Lord Jesus came to redeem, reconcile and restore to the father, and to the son, that which Satan had stolen. It is with, ***“Bring thy son here,”*** that Savior God reminds the father of his legitimate and God-given right to his child.

So, for a moment, the father must “leave the Savior,” and the comfort of His presence, and go find his son. But, this father is not alone. He has received the Word of God and each one of his steps are ordered by the Lord. Faith has come and hope has been renewed. (Psalms 107:2; 119:133; John 10:10; Romans 10:17; 1 John 3:8)

We do not know the state of the child when the father reached him. But whatever it was, the father had been strengthened and armed by the Word of Jesus and given all of the power he needed to bring his son to Him. Regardless of how strong the convulsions, how hot the fire, or how deep the water that the spirit may have cast the child into, it really did not matter, Jesus had said, ***“Bring thy son here.”***

Luke recorded that the evil spirit, ***“taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him so that he foameth again and, bruising him, hardly departeth from him!”*** In spite of these facts, the father, the son, and, unwillingly, the evil spirit are on their way to meet with Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord.

“And as he was coming, the demon threw him down, and tore him!” The spirit, without question, is doing all that he can to cause the father to “let go” of the child and, thereby, letting go of the Word with Its divine command to ***“Bring thy son here.”*** Having the mantle of faith cast upon him, the humiliation, strain and pain of the moment does not deter the father of his goal to see his son well. Tiresome though the journey may be, regardless of how many times he had to stoop and pick his son up from the ground, the father kept on his path to Jesus. With each struggling step, the son was closer to freedom.

The father propelled forth by the command of the Lord; God’s Word was indeed, “a lamp unto his feet and a light unto his path.” Every advancing step of the obedient father brought the evil spirit closer to coming face-to-face with the Lord’s Christ, and, hence closer to being cast out of the child. Matthew, Mark and Luke have each recorded these events. Engrafted in the Word of God, it has been established forever that the father obeyed, through it all, and brought his child to Jesus. (Psalm 119:105)

“And when he saw Him, straightway the spirit tore him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming!” When the demon spirit beheld Jesus, he knew exactly who He was. This evil spirit had prior firsthand knowledge of the awesome power and glory of the Lord. He knew from past experience of the horrors of being cast out. It was unwillingly that this evil spirit had previously been cast out of heaven. It is now with renewed terrifying reluctance that he is soon to be cast out, forever, from this child.

Unmoved by the drama, Jesus Christ will in a moment, undo this lifelong work of the unclean spirit within the father’s child. It is from the son’s birth that this unclean spirit had sought, through occupancy, to mar the image and likeness of God indelibly stamped upon this young human being. In Genesis 3:14, we find recorded that, “the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.” Revealed within this Scriptural text, we discover that it is not the father’s son or any of our sons that should be “wallowing upon the ground.” God has eternally decreed “the ground” to be the dusty habitation of the devil and his host.

Jealous for His own image and likeness, moved by compassion for the father, stirred by unflinching love for the child, and motivated by perfect hatred for the demonic spirit, Jesus Christ commands with Divine authority, ***“Dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee come out and enter no more!”*** And with a final protesting jolt, the spirit ***“came out of him!”*** So mighty was the casting out of the spirit within this child, that to the natural eye, it appeared that he was dead. ***“But, Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up, and he arose!”***

In conclusion, the attitude of Satan towards mankind has not changed. It is with unwavering hatred that the Devil and his host seek to destroy the father-and-child relationship. One of their goals is to remove the protective covering of fathers from their children and to establish over them their own foul umbrella of distortion, perversion, and destruction. They seek to separate through absence of communication, as well as through miscommunication; regardless of age, whether babies, young children or adults.

However, it is the responsibility of fathers to love and to care, to listen and to know their children. It is in the heart of this loving father who quickly submitted to and rapidly obeyed the command of the Lord to, ***“Bring thy son here,”*** that we have been given a living example of God’s willingness and ability to heal.

On the path of obedience, there were further battles to be encountered and to be overcome. But, the father, with patience, “ran the race that was set before him,” simply trusting and obeying Jesus Christ. As a result, Jesus ***healed the child, and delivered him again to His father.***” (Genesis 1:26, 27; Ezekiel 39:25; Hebrews 12:1, 2; Revelation 12:3, 7-9)

