Restoring the relationships of fathers and their children and healing the effects of early childhood impressions of fatherhood will impact a believer's relationship with God the Father. Choosing my spiritual father changed my life forever. Kneeling beside his chair, with a trembling voice, I ask him if he would be my spiritual father. He agreed and we began.

Later we ordained his wife into the gospel ministry (she never had a spiritual father). Later in that service during a time of invitation and ministry, I was lying in the altar. My new spiritual father came to me and draped his suit coat over me in a prophetic act. He was giving me his spiritual covering in the Lord. With it, I inherited a call to heal the land and transform cities and nations.

I believe every believer needs a spiritual father and/or mother. First the natural, then the spiritual. We each have one natural father and mother. We should give ourselves to one spiritual father and one spiritual mother. Trying to give ourselves to more than one leads to division and double mindedness.

I have several spiritual sons and daughters. The more I commit myself to them, the happier they are and the more fulfilled I am. It is a good thing.

Spiritual sons and daughters choose to be sons and daughters. They choose who is to be their spiritual father. It takes a son or daughter to make a spiritual father.

A spiritual father covers and nurtures the son. He carries the son forever in his heart and prayers. A spiritual father never abandons a son.

A spiritual father makes room in his life for inviting the son to accompany and join him in special events and activities. He makes the son feel like he is legitimately part of the family with full privileges.

A son honors his spiritual father. A son comes home often. He takes responsibility for calling and contacting his spiritual father often with news of how he is doing. A son delights in keeping his spiritual father up to date concerning his life.

A son carries the vision of the spiritual father and sees to it that the vision never dies and that it is fully completed. A son is a defender of the faith of his spiritual father.

A son gladly and generously supports his spiritual father so the father can minister to other sons in the family and sons who are in trouble.

**LONELY WAS MY MIDDLE NAME**
Lonely was my middle name. My father was 47 years old when I was born. He
was a sharecropping farmer. Often on weekends he took a part-time job requiring him to be away from home. Eventually he moved away full time for long seasons to help make ends meet for our family. During that time I greatly missed him. Any time he was at home he seldom talked with me. He was a quiet and good man with a penchant for working hard. Sadly, the impressions I formed of fatherhood were that my father was emotionally distant, not a good provider, gone most of the time and too busy to be fun. Whereas there was fact behind these impressions, when God came into my life He began giving me an understanding of my father’s life underpinnings and why he was the way he was. These revelations broke my heart and released a love in my heart for my father that was indescribable. He and I were fully reconciled before he passed away and I got to tell him how much I appreciated all he did for me and how much I loved him. We cried together in a warm embrace.

MY TESTIMONY OF HEALING AND RESTORATION
These impressions of fatherhood that I derived from the relationship with my father became soul imprints. These were later transferred to my understanding of God Himself. Upon being born again I received an intense love and relationship with Jesus, my elder brother. But I ascribed to God the Father the attributes of fatherhood gained through these same imprints. I was convinced that God the father was emotionally distant, not a good provider, capable of being intimate and that He was too busy with other things to have time with me. Once healing took place with my dad, my relationship with God was greatly impacted. Yet I still walk in aspects of healing every day. If I do not lean on the strength of the Lord, the accusing enemy comes and plays with my mind. All this also impacted my own fathering with our two precious children and with our grandchildren. It seems to take extra effort for me, perhaps more than for some that I observe, to be a God-loving and scripturally obedient father and grandfather. But my motivation deepens with each passing day. Perhaps we can talk about natural father/child and grandfather/grandchild issues at a later time.

PROJECTING YOUR IMAGE OF FATHER ONTO GOD THE FATHER
What was your relationship like with your father when you were growing up? You are especially blessed if you had or have a loving and caring father! No force on earth is more powerful than the love of a God-loving and scripturally obedient father. Many have never experienced such loving and caring from their father. There is a familiar axiom of fatherhood that says the love you received from your father will likely be projected as an overlay on your relationship with God the Father. Yet God wants to reveal Himself as the purest love of a father we could ever imagine. He wants to release His loving fatherhood to all His children. Some never knew their father at all. Others knew him only in passing. Others had only intermittent contact with their father. Some were born to fathers in absentia. Fatherhood can be a blessing, a blur, or like a broken glass. It is prophesied in Malachi 4:5-6 that fathers will be restored to their children and that children will be restored to their fathers. God intends to restore all things relative to fatherhood in these last days. Fathers and their children are to be one. Is that already true for you? Have you been restored?
FATHERS ARE INTENDED AS GIFTS TO THEIR CHILDREN AS FATHERS ARE TO THEIR CHILDREN. Fathers are intended as gifts to their children, but many children are deprived and robbed of the love and compassion that only fathers can give. Your heavenly father loves you! I am impressed that He would say, "When you find yourself beaten up by the world, you can always be assured that the warm spot next to my heart is available to you and will always have your name on it. Your place with me is eternally secure and will be here forever because you have become my child through Jesus Christ the Lord."

God the Father goes on to say, "In the world, fathers are intended as gifts to the children. Yet most fathers have never learned how to be a father. So the children suffer to varying degrees. In this hour of restoration of all things, I am calling fathers to my side for impartation of my father heart. Pray that fathers will respond to my call. Once they have my heart and can see and feel as I do that they will become more and more skilled at showing my love and compassion. Do not judge them, but rather pray for them that they will come to me. Fathers are intended as gifts to their children."

SPIRITUAL FATHERHOOD – A STRATEGIC "LINK" FOR "CONNECTING THE NET" FOR A WORLD-WIDE THRUST OF THE LOVE AND GOSPEL OF JESUS

A spiritually hot word today in the church "apostles." Entire movements have sprung us around what some refer to as the "apostolic age." You can even purchase membership with sustaining annual fees in apostolic organizations. And whereas the concept of apostles today can generate controversy with sometimes strong emotional and intellectual disagreements, no one can challenge the biblical concept of the eternal need for "spiritual fathers." There are so-called apostles today who seem to have little to none of the love of a God-loving and scripturally obedient father.

Paul was an apostle who knew the importance of fatherhood. His relationship with Timothy is an excellent example of spiritual fatherhood. 1 Corinthians 4:15 says, "For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel." 1 Timothy 5:1 says, "Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren."

Abraham was such a father. He was the natural father of many. But God always intended for Abraham to be "spiritual father" to multitudes, to you and me, as many as the stars in heaven and as sand on the beaches of earth. Even for Abraham great faith was required in order for him to be the "father" God intended. He is a good example of a struggling and growing father. He did many things wrong, but he prevailed in faith through obedience and God blessed him for both his faith and his untiring efforts to be found faithfully obedient. Those blessings through Abraham have now been transmitted (by faith) to all Jews and Christians. They wait upon the decision of peoples all over the world to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Romans 4:18 "In hope against hope he believed, in order that he might become a father of many nations, according to that which had been spoken, "So shall your
DESCENDANTS BE (Emphasis mine).

Abraham was a natural father to Isaac and Ishmael. God has honored that natural bloodline just as He promised. But Abraham was and is also a spiritual father to billions of people across the ages. What Abraham said and did, with all his imperfections, God has honored and passed along to succeeding generations for 4,000 years!

God honors fatherhood! And He always works with what He has.

RESTORATION OF FATHERS TO CHILDREN IS GOD'S PURPOSE
Prophetically, this is a day when fathers and children are coming together to the glory of God. It is a wonderful thing to behold. Natural children and fathers are being healed and restored. Forgiveness with gracious love and understanding is characterizing this phenomenon. It is beautiful to behold as all act in humility of human spirit with God-led restoration.

BE ESTABLISHED IN YOUR SPIRITUAL PARENTAGE!
Spiritual fatherhood is being established in this hour. Our heavenly father has prepared spiritual fatherhood for this moment in history. With this He has put a hunger in our hearts to be in meaningful relationship with spiritual fathers. It will take humility for God's purposes to be accomplished. God's eternal and guiding purposes are more important than past wounds of improper parenting. Some spiritual parents will find themselves with children who are older, some even much older than they. God's ways are not ours.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO...
1. Forgive former wounds and shortcomings. Determine to release all offenders, including yourself.
   A. Determine to take the right steps of restoration.
   B. Confide in your pastor and spiritual authority.
   C. Continually thank God for the past and bless Him.
   D. Set your will to move on with you life positively.

2. Study and meditate upon God's word concerning Malachi 4:5-6 and continually ask for His instructions.

3. Do a word study in Scripture on father, son, children, and obedience versus sacrifice.

4. If God has made you to be a spiritual father, submit to it and learn what He intends. Then be obedient to do it.

5. If God has impressed you with someone who is to be a spiritual father to you, submit to it and learn what He intends. Then be obedient to do it. Seek the Lord. You will find Him right in the middle of fatherhood relationships. Hear His voice. Do what He says. Do it today! Malachi 4:5-6 says, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart
of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

---

*Ras Robinson* serves as President of Fullness in Christ Ministries. [Ras Robinson Bio](#). You can reach him by e-mail at: [Contact Us](#).

When commenting on an article by e-mail, please give the article title.

Copyright 2006. Fullness in Christ Ministries, Inc. Use by written permission only. With written permission, include the following as part of the article: "Used by permission. Further use requires written permission from the Author/Publisher." Use of this article requires listing this entire copyright line and the following signature. SIGNATURE: Ras Robinson, Fullness in Christ Ministries, Inc., P. O. Box 136117 Fort Worth, TX 76136.

Website: www.fullnessonline.org; Email: [Contact Us](#).

For a free subscription to the brief and daily prophetic word from both Ras and Bev Robinson, "What the Lord is Saying Today," send your name and email address to: fullnessonline-subscribe@MyInJesus.com. (SUBJECT: Subscribe).