

December 4, 2010
Scripturally Reliant Fathers and Grandfathers
Guiding the Destiny of Generations

We've encountered many grandparents over the years who are "church goers" whose grown children have fled the denomination they were raised in. The most common lament we hear from these grandparents and parents of adult children is, "If only my (grand)son or (grand)daughter would come back to church..." When we talk to the grown children, however, their most frequent response is, "What did going to church ever do for my parents? Their lives are no different from people we meet who don't attend services."

We've cited in previous writings that the divorce rate of "churchgoers" is higher than among those who don't attend. Even more grievous is that 72% of the children of "churchgoers" depart the faith soon after leaving home. The whole system of "attending church" has done nothing to stem the tide of young people abandoning both the religious practices and the biblical standards they may have been taught. "Church attendance" isn't the answer, but Godly fathers and grandfathers are. The Old Testament ends with God prophetically pointing fathers back to the purpose for which He chose Abraham: *"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse"* (Malachi 4:5,6).

Before the first coming of Jesus, John the Baptist fulfilled this prophetic call for his generation: *"And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord"* (Luke 1:17). The prophetic spirit of Elijah shows up in every generation to confront the failure of fathers and grandfathers to turn their hearts toward the next generation and to *"direct [their] children and [their] household after [them] to keep the way of the LORD."*

If you're a grandfather who has not only forsaken this God-directed purpose but has instead role modeled for your children and grandchildren a lifestyle that parallels the ungodly values of this world, take heed! You may succeed in leading your children and grandchildren along the broad path of destruction that ends in hell. (Please consider seriously Matthew 7:13,14.) The Scriptures bear witness that people who sow to please their sin nature will not be welcomed at the Judgment Throne no matter what size "church building" they sit in every Sunday. (See Galatians 6:8.)

You older men have observed the progressive downfall of this nation since World War II. You know that NO President or Congress is going to legislate us out of this moral morass. It's a terrible sin to foist onto our children and those yet unborn the trillions of

dollars of debt our self-indulgence has produced. If we want God's blessing to return to this nation, we need fathers and grandfathers leading their families to live repentantly before Him in love-grounded, obedient trust.

We grieve that too many of you complacent retired men have given way to what we call "The Hezekiah Perspective." (You can read about his life in 2 Kings chapters 18-20.) King Hezekiah had spent most of his reign obeying God and trusting Him to deliver His people. Yet when he became older he was afflicted with a boil which the prophet Isaiah revealed would be fatal. Hezekiah cried out to God to lengthen his years, and God responded. (Sadly, Manasseh, the son born to him during that extension, would become one of Judah's most wicked rulers.) During those 15 added years Hezekiah became prideful of his wealth, openly displaying it before foreigners. Arrogance never goes unaddressed by God. Isaiah again came before Hezekiah with God's word that everything he had would later be carried off to Babylon, including some of his descendants. But rather than repenting, Hezekiah responded with self-serving, flagrant disregard for the generation to come: *"Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?"* We hope this self-centered perspective doesn't reside in your heart...

God may use this Lifebyte to warn you. Don't just read it, let it convict you. Then repent! Willingly yield to His Spirit and change your ways and purpose while you still have breath in you! The Hebraic foundations which our Father is restoring today require *far greater responsibility* from you fathers and grandfathers than any religious system has ever demanded of you. He is calling for your absolute trusting obedience to every command He prompts you to obey. His desire and purpose? That you become like Abraham both in the way you live in responsive trust and in your willing obedience to train your own family to love and follow Jesus!

In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) Jesus issues a stark warning to you older men who have sought your rewards on this earth (Psalms 17:14a; James 4:4). When the rich man finally came to his senses in hell, it was too late to warn the rest of his family. That is the tragic consequence for you who don't repent now for playing religious, self-serving games that have nothing to do with following Jesus. NOW is the time to cry out to Him and gladly fulfill your scriptural responsibility to your family.

***"Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life"***
(Proverbs 13:12)

Writing the last two e-mails and *Kingdom Living Today* anecdotes on divorce took an emotional toll on us personally. Much of the divorce in this nation can be laid at the feet of fathers and grandfathers who failed to instill the Word of God in their children as a way of life. After we sent out the last *Kingdom Living Today* we spent a considerable amount of time in prayer trying to come to grips with the heaviness of heart we've been experiencing for months now. Please bear with us as we share what the Spirit of our Lord revealed to us regarding our sorrow.

It started during our journey around the country this past spring and deepened throughout our fall trip. During our travels we encountered two groups of people. The first, a minority, had an amazing earnest desire to pursue Christ-likeness and to follow through in whatever He commands. Their joyful humility and wholehearted devotion was awe-inspiring! Truly in them are the Lord's words found true: *"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me"* (Luke 9:23); and, *"So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty'"* (Luke 17:10). Their love for our Lord was so great that their lives reflected **total abandonment to do His will**. Abraham would have been proud!

On the other hand were the much larger majority who couldn't seem to break out of the **stupor of religious complacency**. Some of these were folks we'd met when we had conducted Demolishing Strongholds seminars in years past. At that time we saw them become free and live free ... for a period of time. But many of the people we encountered this year had not only returned to their strongholds; their lives were even more resistant to the truths of God. They sadly embodied the warning of Jesus that, *"After an evil spirit comes out of a man... it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first"* (Luke 11:24,26).

As we sought our Lord's wisdom about this He revealed that this latter group had several things in common:

1. After becoming free they remained self-satisfied, failing to press on into becoming more like Jesus and fulfilling His purposes. Without that initiative they returned to their old ways—only worse now. They neglected to fill in their old attitudinal and behavioral ruts with the righteous ways of the Spirit, and therefore fell back into familiar sinful responses.
2. In the faith communities where we conducted Demolishing Strongholds seminars over the years, rarely did the entire congregation take part. When the leadership and the people who came to the seminar became free of demonic influence, they neglected afterward to help all the others who hadn't participated become free. Over time, those who'd become free were seduced back into the same strongholds by their captive friends—only now their own condition was worse.
3. So many we encountered this year demonstrated an increased toleration for sin both in their own lives and in those close to them. Compassion for the wounds and emotional needs of others was almost non-existent, as self-centeredness and self-indulgence reared up over and over. Even more painful for us to observe was little interest in growing in the character of Jesus, and so little concern about seeing His Kingdom extended and people reached for Him.

Perhaps this year has been painful for you as well. 2010 will be remembered by us as **"The Year of Being Heart Sick."** Over the years as we interacted with so many to help them make the Hebraic foundations a way of life, we saw so much potential to extend

our Lord's Kingdom, for *"His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven."* Our deep hope was that our Lord would be glorified as more and more people turned around and shared with others the truths they heard (2Timothy 2:2; Galatians 4:19). Every so often Father would grace us with people who were responsive to His Spirit as their love for Him was expressed in obedient trust. But for most this never happened. The primary reason for doing nothing with the truths they'd received was their ongoing close relationship with others whom Satan still held captive to do his will:

They did nothing to help free them, nor did they flee them—so they became like them!

In our quest to obey our Father's command to "Share these truths," we try to find the *"reliable men [and women] who will also be qualified to teach others"* (2 Timothy 2:2). What we've often encountered, though, is the same frustration the writer to the Hebrews experienced, *"though by this time you ought to be teachers..."* (see Hebrews 5:11,12). We are often reminded of the prophetic warning we received about the US while we were still in Israel: **You're going back to the hardest place on earth for anyone to embrace the Hebraic foundations. Hellenism owns the church in the United States. And, Christians there don't need God and they don't need each other.**

How many have been deterred from hearing a joyful "Welcome!" at the Judgment Throne through self-satisfied religious complacency and worldly, self-absorbed interests? Like the five foolish virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 when they finally came to their senses, it was too late. Tragically, as with these negligent virgins, perhaps many we encountered this year will only hear, *"I tell you the truth, I don't know you."*

***"Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing
without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets"***
(Amos 3:7)

Certain prophetic voices in this nation who still have the courage to share what our Father is revealing are pointing to an imminent catastrophe. For example, God has shown David Wilkerson that a thousand US cities will be burning in race riots. There will be famine as never before seen in this land. But don't be so quick to blame the sins of unbelievers for this chastisement. Those who call themselves "Christian" and yet defame the name of our God by their sinful, hypocritical lives bear the greater blame. Why? By tolerating sin in their own lives, and failing to make disciples of unbelievers. God continues to use the history of Israel in the Older Testament to show us today how He deals with nations as stubbornly rebellious as ours (1Corinthians 10:6): *"I will uproot Israel from My land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple I have consecrated for My Name. I will make it a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples"* (2 Chronicles 7:20).

Our trips this year only confirmed for us what our Father has been patiently grieving over for some time: self-proclaimed "Christians" defaming Him through their own sin and unrepentance. Surely His great heart aches.

"Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him"

(Matthew 3:3)

We've previously written how the restoration of the Hebraic foundations is a prophetic move of our Father. When He raises up prophets to carry His message, it's part of His divine mercy toward those who have gone astray. To people who want to keep on sinning (1John 3:6,9), a prophetic voice is an enemy because God has sent His messenger to warn them to flee the darkness they enjoy. But to those who yearn to be true to our Lord no matter what the cost, a prophet is an encourager who helps them persevere (1Corinthians 14:3).

The call of the prophet in this day is also to prepare the way for the true apostles, evangelists and shepherd teachers who will *together* prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be unified into the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16). What stands in the prophet's way are the clergy who fear the restoration of the authentic apostle and evangelist, and who especially resist the revival of older men of wisdom as the *true* shepherds of the Father's children. To maintain their position, many clergy enable their congregants to hide in the darkness of their sin, preferring to entertain them rather than confront them to be set apart in holiness for the Lord's use. Congregations are seduced into excusing and tolerating sin in their midst wherever there is no requirement for repentance as a prerequisite for fellowship.

Because of the prophetic underpinnings of the Hebraic restoration, it boils down to a battle between the **Kingdom of God** and the **man-made religious system** which parallels the kingdom of this world (see Ephesians 2:1-3). It is a spiritual battle to free those who are still imprisoned by complacency and pleasure in the religious system — people who could be actively doing their part out of love for their Lord to see His Kingdom expanded. The goal of the attached Lifebyte is to help you fathers and grandfathers live as responsibly and responsively to God as our father Abraham did. We want to help you understand what He's requiring of you as His beloved child and servant. And, we want to expose what may be hindering you from wholeheartedly doing His will out of love for Him. We encourage you to read it sooner rather than later for your family's sake.

NOW is the time for you fathers and grandfathers to prepare the people you care about for what is coming on this nation. Don't be like the heedless Jewish fathers in Europe prior to World War II. For decades God had been sending "fishermen" throughout the continent warning the Jews to leave and return to Israel. (See Jeremiah 16:14-16.) The vast majority of Jewish husbands and fathers were too complacent to listen, lulled into thinking that devastation of that proportion would never strike. Six million Jewish men, women and children were slaughtered because men turned deaf ears to a merciful God Who had warned them.

You may not be accustomed to hearing prophetic voices. We know that many will ignore our warning. But if you do take it to heart and repent, count on this promise: *"The eyes of the LORD are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love, to*

deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine" (Psalms 33:18,19).

If you've lost the awesome wonder of Who our God is, may we recommend a DVD that will help restore it: *God of Wonders* <<http://www.eternal-productions.org/>>. You can purchase it online or perhaps find it in your library.

If you have difficulty understanding the times we live in, we'd like to recommend that you download to your computer this film:

Martin Luther: Reluctant Revolutionary <<http://video.pbs.org/video/1379563195/>>.

Martin Luther: Driven to Defiance<<http://video.pbs.org/video/1379546586/>>.

Again, our desire is that EVERYONE who encounters the truths our Father has given us to share will bear great fruit to His glory and find a glorious welcome into heaven by their Lord and King!

Mike & Sue