

Happy Fathers Every Day

Tomorrow is Father's Day and one of the greatest privileges on this earth is that of being chosen by God to be a father. In this as in many areas of life, I have been blessed "exceedingly and abundantly above all that I can ask or think," by not only being a father to seven children, but also in being a grandfather to ten more! Thank you Lord.

"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate." (Psalms 127:3-5 NKJV)

In addition to that as the Director of Men's Ministries at Americas Keswick God has given me many "spiritual children" through the ministry of the Colony of Mercy. He has blessed me with so many spiritual sons and daughters that I am reminded of a Spanish man in New Mexico who was called to serve jury duty. When asked the question, "How many children do you have?" the pause was so long and deliberate that he was excused from serving!

"For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel." (1 Corinthians 4:15 NKJV)

It has been over twenty years since I became a child of God myself and found true freedom from the life dominating sin that once threatened to destroy my life. In response to that the only logical conclusion was to go out like the woman Jesus spoke to at the well in Samaria, forgetting my water pot in my desire to tell others.

"The woman then left her water pot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him."
(John 4:28-30 NKJV)

Tomorrow on Father's Day I will be taking my family to a local church in Pemberton where I will be preaching a message on the true character of God the Father as portrayed by Jesus Christ His Son in the parable of the Lost Son. What an amazing privilege that will be!

But in all these things the greatest privilege is living out the life as a child of God in the details of daily existence. The bible calls it "abiding." And we all as children of God can share in that privilege every day! Abiding means serving God with our very best in the small details of life, in the times when nothing special is happening, and no one is watching. I was reminded of that while reading My Utmost by Oswald Chambers this morning:

There are times when there is no illumination and no thrill, but just the daily round, the common task. Routine is God's way of saving us between our times of inspiration. Do not expect God always to give you His thrilling minutes, but learn to live in the domain of drudgery

by the power of God. It is the 'adding' that is difficult. We say we do not expect God to carry us to heaven on flowery beds of ease, and yet we act as if we did! **The tiniest detail in which I obey has all the omnipotent power of the grace of God behind it. If I do my duty, not for duty's sake, but because I believe God is engineering my circumstances, then at the very point of my obedience the whole superb grace of God is mine through the Atonement.**

Chambers, O. (1986). My utmost for his highest: Selections for the year. Grand Rapids, MI: Oswald Chambers Publications; Marshall Pickering.

So my challenge to all of us today is to be faithful before an audience of ONE, the greatest One in the smallest moments of life.

"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved." (1 Corinthians 10:31-33 NKJV)

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