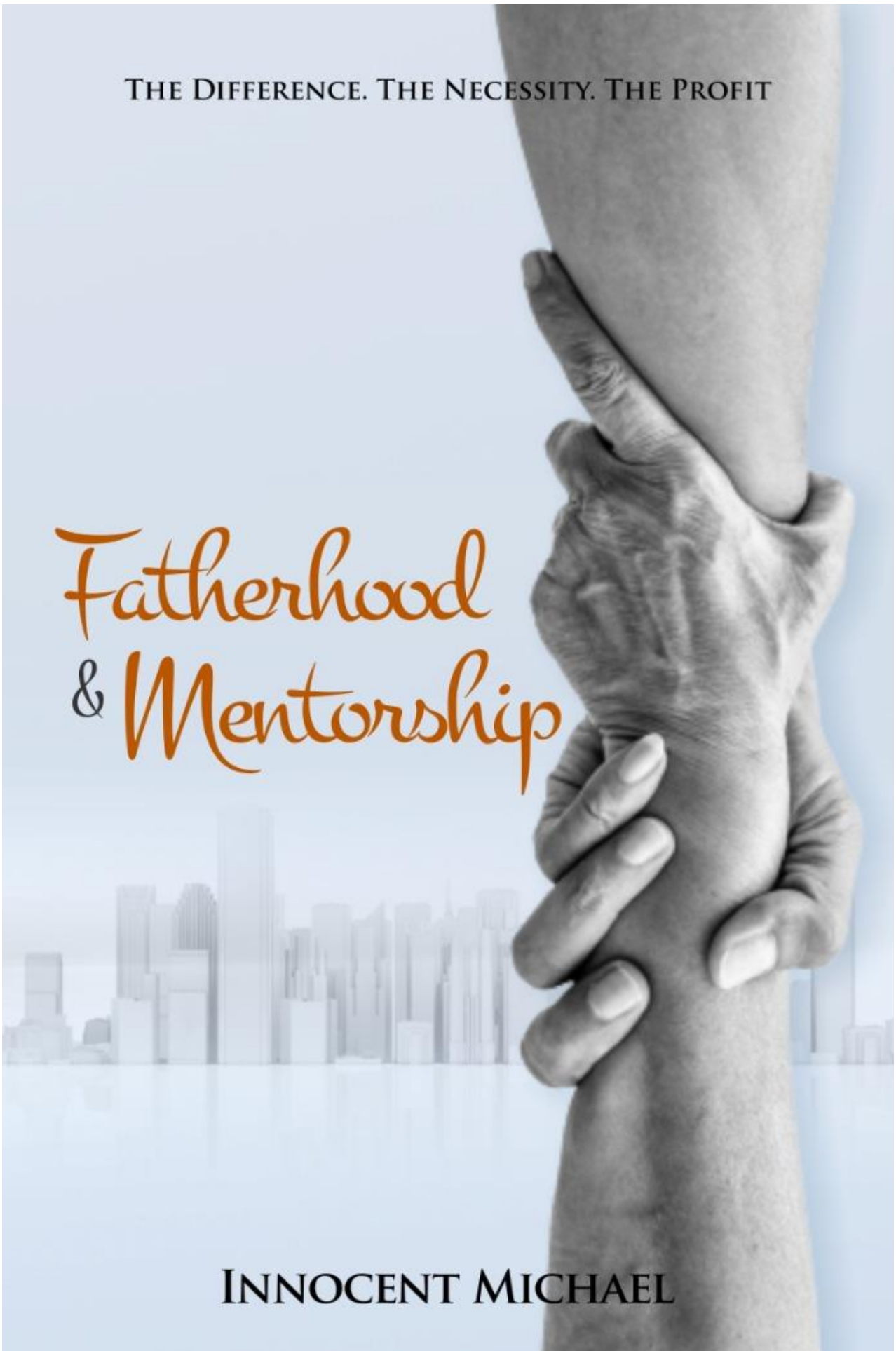
THE DIFFERENCE. THE NECESSITY. THE PROFIT

Fatherhood & Mentorship



INNOCENT MICHAEL

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INTRODUCTION

In my book, **PROFITING FROM SUBMISSION**, I talked about how to connect well with authority figures so as to profit from submission, (submission being a topic that many do not want to hear, either due to negative experiences or the pride that is inherent in the human heart). In the book I talked about actions and reactions necessary to position you to enjoy the blessedness of being in submission. I further talked about the issue of mentors and spiritual fathers briefly and how to profit from their assignment over one's life.

After having a discussion with someone on the issue of mentorship and spiritual fatherhood, I feel impressed by the Holy Spirit to expand further on the subject for further clarity on the subject in the body of Christ. It was that impression that led to the book you are about to read. It is a subject that is needed in the body of Christ in this end time. It is not a new concept but it is a revelation that is necessary in this end time and it is meant to help Christians to know and walk in the understanding of it; so that one can live a fulfilled life on earth. God Himself tied living long and doing well in the 'land' of His promise; to obedience and honour for our fathers and our mothers.

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee" Exodus 20:12

“Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise ;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth” Ephesians 6:2-3

The above verses goes to say; that it can never be well with you if you show dishonour in any form to fathers of any dimension; the reason notwithstanding. Note that the verses above did not say you should honour the good, successful and exemplary fathers and despise the evil, hypocritical and failure fathers. It says the authority to confer longevity and fulfillment is in the hand of fathers and despising them is to do so to your own detriment; their personality and inabilities notwithstanding.

Let us take a closer look at the subject of discussion so that we can connect with the needed wisdom of God and enjoy a fulfilled life on earth.

CHAPTER 1

WHO ARE SPIRITUAL FATHERS?

In looking at fathers, we need to see it first of all as a principle that is universal and not a recent concept introduced with which to subdue people. When Jesus Christ came to the earth, He came to introduce the structure of the trinity to us. He came to reveal to us the fact that though the trinity is one in all things, there is a Father and Son in the Godhead and then the Holy Spirit. That is the foundation upon which the Christian faith is founded on. The church is therefore meant to follow the father-son relationship on the earth. This means that God is our heavenly Father, which Christ revealed to us when He taught the disciples to pray saying:

"…Our Father which art in heaven…." Matthew 6:9

By adding the phrase "which art in heaven" it is adding a differentiating factor from the ones that are in the earth.

Spiritual fathers are therefore those in the body of Christ appointed by God to play a fatherly role over us as we carry on our pilgrimage journey on the earth. Just like Joseph was not the one whose seed produced Christ, but was given the fatherhood assignment by God, that is also how a person who becomes a child of God not by any seed from any man but by the incorruptible seed of the word of God; needs a spiritual father given by God for the spiritual fatherhood assignment.

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" 1Peter 1:23

Let us now consider spiritual fatherhood from two perspectives:

1. **Spiritual fathers in the Faith**: In this case, we are looking at those who by their response to the assignment of God for their lives have made meaningful input to the gospel of Jesus Christ and helped in the advancement of the kingdom of God. Spiritual fathers in the faith may not necessarily be in the local assembly you belong and attend, in the body of Christ; but their investment and sacrifices over the years in the advancement of God's kingdom is notable. Such a person is worthy of being referred to as a spiritual father or mother in the faith as the case may be.
   Someone whose life has been instrumental in the planting of churches, mass evangelistic crusades with multitudes being won to the Lord over years and decades can be referred to as a father in the faith. Someone who may not even be known to many but has silently advanced the Kingdom and has been consistent in their walk with God and won abiding souls to God over decades is worthy of being referred to as a father in the faith.
   There are those who have discipled notable Christians and servants of God or may have been a major revealer of a dimension of God to a generation. Such ones are worthy of being a father or mother in the faith. These spiritual fathers in the faith could be as a function of the number of years of positive input in the body of Christ or it could be by their depth of impact even if they did not stay long in it.

   While I was working on this chapter an elderly woman called me. Though she had earlier shared with me an issue of concern and seeking prayers, she is a woman I greatly respect; not just because of her age but because she and her husband have served the Lord in different capacities in the northern part of Nigeria for decades. It takes sacrifice to advance God's Kingdom in that region. I always

receive her prayers and blessings on me heartily. I have great respect for such people, that even though they are not popular among men, they are spiritual fathers and mothers in the faith.

Disregard or dishonour for fathers and mothers in the faith attracts consequences. Insulting them directly or indirectly won't leave you without an adverse consequence. Even if you don't understand their operations, they are not your subject of criticism. They might not belong to the assembly you attend, but they are still fathers in the faith. Having regard for your own pastor and 'hero' but making derogatory remarks about a father or mother in the faith is to still leave you as a victim of the consequence of that evil.

Note this: God will never give the rod of correction for fathers to the children. That is, you are not in the position to correct fathers. Dr. Mike Murdock once said "Correction upward is rebellion". So true! It was Dr. Isaiah wealth that said and I paraphrase that "The opportunity to correct the errors of fathers are done by the children when they have received the baton" That is, you only have the right to amend the errors of the fathers when you have received the baton from the fathers. "So you mean, I should be watching while they are erring" one may say. You are not wiser than God and God will never break His order of doing things because of your zeal. God knows what to do. "So what am I supposed to do" Your assignment is to pray for them fervently and work on yourself, because you too could have a tendency towards a similar error or another one.

2. **A spiritual father:** A spiritual father is someone sent by God into your life to play a fatherly role in your life as a Christian on the

earth. Take note that it is God that sends your way a spiritual father that is meant to grow you in the things of God so that you can keep maturing into the fullness of the purpose of God for your life on the earth. Just like Joseph was sent by God to father Jesus on the earth, that is how God consciously chooses a man to father you.

"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding" Jeremiah 3:15

He (God) knows you through and through. He knows your tendencies and proclivities. He wired you for a specific task and He knows who will do a good job in guiding and instructing you to that end. It is not your duty to choose one for yourself but to discern the one God has appointed for you. Just like no one chose for themselves who their biological fathers should be, that is also how we need to look up to God to reveal to us who our spiritual fathers should be. Every child of God needs a spiritual father even though we have God as our heavenly Father. God was Jesus' Father, but He did not father Him physically from heaven; but had to give him a father on earth, how do you think your heavenly Father will do the role of a spiritual father for you in the earth?

Wisdom To Note

- **God will never give the rod of correction for fathers to the children.**
- **A spiritual father is someone sent by God into your life to play a fatherly role in your life as a Christian on the earth.**
- **Every child of God needs a spiritual father even though we have God as our heavenly Father**

CHAPTER 2

The Necessity of Spiritual Fathers

God will never give us anything that is not important to us. God will not bother us with a gift we don't need. For Him to say He will give us shepherds and in our context fathers according to His heart; then there is a strong need for a spiritual father as a Christian.

Like we considered in the last chapter, let also look at the necessity of spiritual fatherhood from two angles.

The Necessity of Fathers in the Faith

Fathers in the faith are necessary for these reasons:

1. **Traps to avoid:** One thing we need fathers in the faith for is for the discovery of traps of the devil to avoid on our Christian journey. The old devil does not have new tricks; he only repeats the same old tricks in different forms over and over again. If you can observe the lives of fathers in the faith, read their materials or listen to them, you can see potholes on the journey to avoid. Their lives contain stories of traps they never foresaw and became victims. Such discovery is necessary to deliver the next generation from the errors of the fathers.

   It is painful to learn all of life lessons by experience. You have only one life to live and learning from fathers will deliver you from going through some painful life experiences. Note this: History is usually repeated when people ignore the warnings from the lives of fathers. For example, after studying many of God's generals that did great ministerial exploits; who had issues towards the end of their lives, I

discovered that many of them did not know the place of spiritual fatherhood and so they ended the way they did. But looking at their lives now, we can learn how not to fall into such errors again.

2. **Battles to be ready for**: For every expected height one wants to attain in life, there is need for conquest in certain areas on the way up. There are spiritual battles to expect at every level of life. There are confrontations to expect when you reach a certain level in life. For example, you can't expect to climb up to the realm of influence over communities and territories, without expecting criticisms. If you are not ready for such battles then forget about getting ahead in life. A look therefore at the lives of fathers in the faith, you will see battles at different levels that you too are to prepare for, if you too want to get there.

   Note this: There is a price tag for every height in life. Don't wish you can by some other way climb up and escape certain battles; to the place fathers have reached. If you get there by any other means, life has a way of querying it and that inability will be exposed somewhere along the line. That is why you have to be careful about how you speak against fathers, because you don't know what they have borne till they are where they are now.

3. **Mantles to collect**: Though we all have the same Holy Spirit at work in us, the dimensions of the Spirit's manifestation in us differs. Mantles are spiritual virtues needed for specific assignments by man on the earth. All genuine mantles are from God and are given by God; but they are released in the direction of the one that values the carrier of those mantles on the earth. A vessel you don't celebrate is a virtue in them you are disqualified from having.
   The mantle of assignment of Moses was what Joshua walked with to fulfill his assignment. The same goes for Elijah and Elisha.

Fathers who walk in a certain dimension of God's grace can be connected with for the reception of such a grace. Whatever worked in and through them can be connected with to walk through you. There are mantles you need to complete your assignment in the life and ministry of a father in the faith. Seeing such a mantle and releasing honour in the direction of the carrier of such a grace, qualifies you for the reception of such a mantle.
Castigating fathers in the faith, closes the doors towards the access of any virtue in them needed in your life's assignment.

4. **Fathers are springboards**: Just like a relay race, the athletes in the race don't all start from the beginning point. Apart from the first runners who begin from the starting line, other participants begin from where the previous one ends. That is what fathers do for us. We are so to say continuing from where they are finishing theirs. Their prayer investment, their sacrifices, the lessons they passed down to us and the life they lived are forming the base from which those coming after will take off from. Some of these efforts made are in the spirit realm; to be enjoyed by the next generation. Some have been packaged in written form or in audio and visual formats; all for the benefits of the next generation.
   The apostles took over from where Jesus ended on earth. Timothy took off from where the apostle Paul ended his assignment. It was where Elijah took off to heaven (Jordan); that was where Elisha began his ministry. Moses' ministry ended at the place where Joshua's ministry started. Even Jesus' ministry began at Jordan where John's ministry ended. The list goes on and on.

The Necessity Of A Spiritual Father

A spiritual father is a special gift to you from God as a Christian. You need a spiritual father for these reasons:

1. **Learn Obedience**: Obedience is never a natural thing that occurs in nature. Obedience must be learnt. No matter how obedient you think you are before you become a Christian, there is still the seed of rebellion in the natural man. Though the seed of obedience is planted in you when you became born again, it can only be nurtured to grow by learning the acts practically under another.
   Jesus our Model pattern, who is God Himself, had to learn obedience

"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered" Hebrews 5:8

The ways of God does not make sense and it can be easily disobeyed. It takes a person that has learnt to obey instructions from a human figure even when it does not make sense; to be able to learn how to obey God. Jesus was talking about being about His Father's business at age twelve, whereas the entrance into the Father's business was eighteen years later. He learnt obedience while under Joseph and Mary for those years.

Note this: You don't learn obedience by yourself; God will put you under a person so that you can learn obedience. Look at rebels in the society; they are the ones who have not learnt obedience from the parents and guardians over them. Christians too will be rebellious to God, at times not because they want to, but due to the fact that they have not learnt obedience around spiritual things.

That is one crucial thing a spiritual father will do for you. Even when what is being said does not seem to sound reasonable, God usually wires His wisdom around it.

2. **Learn Humility**: Humility is an act of the will and not your emotions. It is a deliberate choice. That is why the bible emphasizes humbling oneself.

   "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall HUMBLE HIMSELF shall be exalted" Matthew 23:12
   "HUMBLE YOURSELVES in the sight of the Lord and he shall lift you up" James 4:10
   "HUMBLE YOURSELVES therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" 1Peter 5:6

   The wisdom of a spiritual father is God's wisdom for making you learn humility and helping you stay humble. There is tendency for pride in man. Your gifts are all different channels for the entrance of pride. Your achievements and attainments are grounds upon which you can enter the zone of pride.
   You learn humility by serving another. God gives us spiritual fathers to put us in a place of service whether it is convenient or not. When you serve another, despite your position or accomplishment, you will learn to stay humble. Those who don't want to serve another can never escape pride. That is why Christians who seems to be succeeding in what they do, and not under any spiritual fatherhood are usually proud.
   Carry out deliberate acts of service to the person God has given you as a spiritual father, even if it is demeaning for a person of your social standing. It might be ego-stinking but it is surely humility-

imparting. Running from humbling service is running into the hands of the monster called pride.
How should Moses, a prince in Egypt (the world highest power at that time), come to serve a priest and tend sheep for forty years. That was how he learnt humility and was recorded as the meekest man on the earth.

"Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth" Numbers 12:3

You have to connect with the spiritual father God has given you in deliberate acts of service to keep you humble, before your gifts and achievements surrender you to pride to your destruction.

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" Proverbs 16:18

The gift of a spiritual father is for your shield from pride, which is the spirit that entered Lucifer and turned him into Satan (adversary).

3. **Learn Accountability**: You learn discipline and self control, by having to be accountable to another. The sense of not being accountable to anybody will make you do things as it is convenient for you, and convenience is always the way to failing in life.
   Note this: It is not everything you feel like doing is good for you. You won't distinguish between the allowable and the profitable, if you don't have the sense of accountability to another.

“Everything is allowable, but not everything is profitable. Everything is allowable, but everything does not build others up” 1 Corinthians 10:23 (WNT)

You won’t have a good sense of accountability to God if you don’t have a healthy sense of accountability to man. Productivity is at its peak when one has a sense of accountability. Look at those who went into any venture without first serving another, and you will see those who will be struggling to break even in life. There are things you will be careful about that will help you stay focused if you are accountable to another.

Wisdom To Note

- **The old devil does not have new tricks; he only repeats the same old tricks in different forms over and over again**
- **You have only one life to live and learning from fathers will deliver you from going through some painful life experiences**
- **History is usually repeated when people ignore the warnings from the lives of fathers**
- **All genuine mantles are from God and are given by God; but they are released in the direction of the one that values the carrier of those mantles on the earth.**
- **A vessel you don’t celebrate is a virtue in them you are disqualified from having**
- **Though the seed of obedience is planted in you when you became born again, it can only be nurtured to grow by learning the acts practically under another**

CHAPTER THREE

DISCERNING YOUR SPIRITUAL FATHER

Like we saw in chapter one, you don't decide for a spiritual father; you can only discern him. We will press the matter further to help us understand clearly, how to discern one's spiritual father as God has given

BY DIVINE REVELATION AND CONNECTION

God grants you the revelation of your spiritual father and brings about the connection for both to meet together. But no matter how God connects you to your spiritual father, whether by bringing you to him or bringing him to you, it takes your discernment for you to conclude who they are to you. The connection can be by what is called a coincidence, or by a clear instruction, but you have to discern it and connect properly so as to profit from that relationship.

In Saul's case it was the case of a missing donkey that led to their connection.

"And he said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can shew us our way that we should go…And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them, Is the seer here?...And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, he is before you: make haste now, for he came to day to the city; for there is a sacrifice of the people today in the high place" 1 Samuel 9:6, 11-12

God revealed to Samuel who he was sending and it worked out.

“And they went up into the city: and when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out against them, for to go up to the high place. Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying; Tomorrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel” 1 Samuel 9:14-16

It was due to the inability for Saul to discern the role of Samuel as a spiritual father that made him not to relate properly and eventually missed out of the profit of the spiritual fatherhood of Samuel over him. So no matter the means of revelation God chooses to use to reveal and connect you to him, you need to discern properly and help yourself.

We will now look at other practical discernment tips to help one’s discernment**.**

RAISING NOT USING

One thing to use in discerning your spiritual father is someone who is not necessarily interested in using your gifts but in pruning your life to bear fruits. Someone who is out to benefit from your gifts whether spiritual gifts or material gifts cannot be the spiritual father God has given you. Someone that God has given you should have something in them that will make your life better that God has given them for you. No matter what you have, there is something you don’t have and that is what God will give you a spiritual father to give to you. The spiritual father God has given you is interested in what they can make out of you and not what they can get from you. Your making is their concern, knowing that whatever a man gets if he is not made, he is sure to lose. If he is your God-given father, then your making will be their utmost concern.

Saul's leadership lifestyle is not the lifestyle of a spiritual father. Look at Saul's style

''when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him'' 1 Samuel 14:52

He never made any strong but he was always on the look-out for anyone that is strong to bring under him. That is not God's way of giving people the pastors (Fathers) He promised to give.

Consider David the ideal shepherd God chose and gave Israel.

''And everyone that was in distress, and everyone that was in debt, and everyone that was discontented gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them'' 1 Samuel 22:2

Anyone with this kind of heart as David over you is likely your spiritual father. Prayerfully confirm and connect with them.

EXPOSURE TO PURPOSE AND POTENTIAL

God has planted purpose in you and surrounded it with the relevant potentials. You only need to be exposed to it and be able to fulfill your purpose of creation. There is an environment that will help you recognize it and the environment is characterized by a person God has positioned to help your discovery.

The purpose of an egg is to become a chick and then into a cock or a hen. The egg contains all that is needed to reach this fullness and to be able to produce other eggs as well. But the same egg can end up on the table for one meal. It has the capacity to produce a life-time source of protein but it is limited without incubation. It is under the hen that incubates it, that

the egg can reach its full potential. That is also one other way to discern who your spiritual father is. Someone under whom your purpose becomes clear and your potentials found fullness of expression is your God given spiritual authority figure. You might have an idea of what your purpose is, but the fullness of your essence of existence is not known until you come under your God-ordained spiritual father.

Saul's purpose statement as spoken by Samuel – his God ordained spiritual father is this scripture:

'' And by the way, your lost donkeys – the ones you've been hunting for the last three days, have been found, so don't worry about them. At this moment, Israel's future is in your hands.'' 1 Samuel 9:20 (MSG)

He was busy looking for animals whereas his purpose was to be the King of Israel. The relevant potentials that were embedded in him were not tapped into fully until he was anointed and imparted by Samuel in the next chapter of the above verse of scripture. The spiritual father ordained by God for you will assist you on purpose and potential discovery and maximization. Discern your father by using purpose and potential discovery and utilization. God has positioned them to help you. Discern them and connect with them.

REVELATION FOR DIRECTION

''To him the porter openeth and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out'' John 10:3

The Psalmist – a shepherd, wrote and said,

''The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters'' (Psalm 23:1-2).

The capacity to provide direction is one way to discern who your spiritual father is. Someone whose revelation provides destiny direction and gives you deliverance from confusion is the spiritual father God has given you. The father to follow is the one whose 'voice' you understand and grants you direction in life. A father leads out of confusion and leads one beside the ''still waters'' of life. You don't continue in confusion if you have located your own spiritual father as given by God. Saul's life was characterized by wandering until he met Samuel the Prophet. Samuel was God's ordained spiritual father for him and as long as he followed and obeyed Samuel, he continued on track. But as he went astray from Samuel's instruction, he lost direction and ended up in destruction. The shepherd God gives a person has the answer on the issue of life's direction.

After the death of Samuel, God gave David another 'pastor' in the name of Nathan the Prophet. Nathan was the one that God used to give David direction when he was thinking of building a temple. It was a good idea but because it was not God's idea for him, he was delivered from that error by sending his spiritual father his way

"And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest roundabout from all his enemies; That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains. And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD is with thee. And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying, Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?…And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall

build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom forever" 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 12-13

God also sent Jethro to Moses for direction in life and ministry.

"And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee…So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said."Exodus 18:18-19, 24

Let the source of direction for life and destiny help you discern who your shepherd or spiritual father is. God has certainly positioned a shepherd for you and if you are sincerely in search of yours, God will connect you.

MAKE YOU HUMBLE

Concerning Moses, the Bible says he **"was mighty in words and in deeds"** while he was in Egypt. He was a prince in Egypt and was so self willed that he killed an Egyptian with his hands. The description of this same Moses latter on in his life is a contrast to consider.

"Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth" Numbers 12:3 (NIV)

A prince in Egypt was turned to a shepherd in Midian. A self-willed prince was turned into a humble follower of sheep. An aggressive killer was turned into a gentle follower. One who stood up to fight for others, now became one who could not defend himself before those who questioned his authority as a prophet.

"And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it. (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth)…My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses? And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed." Numbers 12:1-3, 7-9

The radical transformation in Moses' life took place when he came under his spiritual father. This is one other way to discern your own spiritual father. Anyone that God sends your way as a spiritual father is meant to humble you and make you learn humility. Their lifestyle and personality traits have been tailored by God to make you become humble. You can't fulfill destiny in pride and so God will bring over you someone that will make you humble so that you can attain to the fulfillment of your purpose.

Every natural man has the seed of pride in them, but God's provision of a spiritual father will exercise you on the path of humility. **Under God's ordained father, your 'wings' of instability are clipped, your excesses are curtailed, your extravagances are curbed and your wild passions and desires are bridled.** God positions people whose life and exposure has equipped them with the relevant tools to help you learn humility. Many don't like anyone that will check their independent-mindedness and so runs away from those that God has given them as

shepherds over them. Discern this special package of God for your life, so that you don't take the longer and dangerous route of life.

Wisdom to Note

- **The spiritual father God has given you is interested in what they can make out of you and not what they can get from you.**
- **Someone under whom your purpose becomes clear and your potentials found fullness of expression is your God given spiritual authority figure.**
- **Anyone that God sends your way as a spiritual father is meant to humble you and make you learn humility.**
- **Under God's ordained spiritual father, your 'wings' of instability are clipped, your excesses are curtailed, your extravagances are curbed and your wild passions and desires are bridled.**

CHAPTER FOUR

WHO ARE MENTORS?

Mentors are persons with knowledge and experience in a given field of life that is in a relationship with another that is less knowledgeable or experienced in the same field; for the purpose of equipping them with the needed understanding that will help them succeed in that field.

The definition above gives a clear picture of who a mentor is. Let's look at it more closely.

1. **Mentors have knowledge and or experience in a given field:** A mentor is someone who by virtue of exposure to knowledge sources or trainings, have climb up the ladder of success to some degree in the area of duty. One cannot be a mentor in an area he or she is not knowledgeable or experienced no matter their age.
   It was Gamaliel that mentored Paul in law and he acknowledged the input of Gamaliel to the height he attained in law.

   "Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space" Acts 5:34
   "I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers…" Acts 22:3
2. **Mentors are specific in their assignment:** That is, mentors are connected to their area of knowledge. A mentor in the field of medicine, for example cannot mentor another pursuing a career in

the field of law. He is qualified to mentor only in the area of his knowledge and or experience.

Desiring to succeed in different areas of your life is to pursue different mentors in those fields. You need mentors in areas like business, health, finances, family life, a career, ministry, spiritual growth or any other area. It could even be chosen areas of the Christian life or call; like faith, leadership, wisdom, purpose, kingdom prosperity, soul winning or music.

Someone can be your mentor on financial issues but not fit to mentor you on family matters, due to his lack of knowledge or experience in that area. You need another with a healthy and successful marriage to do that for you.

King Solomon wanted to succeed in the building of the house of God and he knew he does not have all the needed expertise to carry out that task successfully, and so he sought the mentorship and partnership of Hiram, to be able to accomplish that task

"And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name. Now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon; and my servants shall be with thy servants: and unto thee will I give hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt appoint: for thou knowest that there is not among us any that can skill to hew timber like unto the Sidonians" 1 Kings 5:5-6

3. **Mentors need results and testimonies for qualification:** The bible says that:

“But wisdom is justified of all her children” Luke 7:35

There is need for proofs of your qualification to be a mentor to another. That person should have some results and testimonies that make one worthy to inspire another. The knowledge and or experience gotten should have produced results or undeniable testimonies; which are the qualifications for them to become mentors. It is dangerous to be mentored by one who has not proven his or her teachings with personal proofs.

4. **Mentors can raise others by personal contact or by their materials:** Due to distance or convenience, a mentor might not be able to reach all those seeking mentorship personally or on one-on-one basis: he can still mentor as many as possible by his documentations. It could be in written, audio and or visual formats For example, all of the epistles of Apostle Paul are all mentoral epistles and he used them to raise many. Those epistles are still changing lives today. At one time he counseled that the epistle written to some group of believers should be read by other of his mentees and that they too should try to read the one he wrote to those same group.

   “And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea” Colossians 4:16

This dimension of mentorship is referred to as mentorship by proxy.

Wisdom To Note

- **A mentor is someone who by virtue of exposure to knowledge sources or trainings, have climb up the ladder of success to some degree in the area of duty.**
- **Desiring to succeed in different areas of your life is to pursue different mentors in those fields.**
- **It is dangerous to be mentored by one who has not proven his or her teachings with personal proofs.**

CHAPTER FIVE

THE NECESSITY OF MENTORS

Mentors are teachers and trainers on a chosen path of life like we saw in the previous chapter. Their importance on the path of success in life cannot be overemphasized. Let us look at reasons why we need mentors.

1. **Mentors bring our way information that is necessary for success:** Mistakes can be avoided if we have sufficient information with which to make sensitive decisions in our lives. Insufficient information is usually the reason for poor decisions. When you have a mentor, he is usually in possession of information meant to save you the stress of travelling the long path to success.
   The teachers of the law and scribes made available for Jesus the needed information, from which his destiny journey began.

   "And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions" Luke 2: 46

2. **Mentors are in possession of valuable connections for success:** There are direct or indirect connections that a mentor can introduce you to, that can open you up to new level of success in what you do.
   It was John the Baptist that introduced Andrew to Jesus; who later became an apostle of Jesus.

   "Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb

of God! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus."…. One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother" John 1: 35-37, 40

3. **Mentors can provide relevant direction**: Due to their knowledge or experience, they have access to places that can be needed as direction for their protégés. Mentors who might have failed in some areas on their way up can show you a shorter route to take, to avoid the painful path they took. That is why you have to pick up lessons from the places you failed today; for it is a valuable tool for mentorship tomorrow.
4. **Mentors monitors and guides**: Every successful venture needs the supervision and guidance of someone experienced for success to be attained in that venture. That is one other reason why you need a mentor. They have a bank of experience that they can draw from to help you avoid certain pitfalls on the journey of success. These they can make available when you permit them to monitor and guide you through mentorship.

Wisdom To Note

- **Mistakes can be avoided if we have sufficient information with which to make sensitive decisions in our lives.**
- **Mentors who might have failed in some areas on their way up can show you a shorter route to take, to avoid the painful path they took.**
- **Every successful venture needs the supervision and guidance of someone experienced for success to be attained in that venture.**

CHAPTER SIX

DISCERNING PROFITABLE MENTORS

Mentors have been considered to be of vital importance in our lives. So much pain can be avoided with mentors in our lives. You will avoid the longer route to success as you connect to mentors. Having mentors have been said to position you to see far in the pursuit of purpose. Let us now consider how to identify relevant and profitable mentors to connect with as a child of God.

1. **Instruction and Correction**: Someone whose words spoken or written, directly or indirectly, grant you the needed instruction for you to succeed in the work of your hands is someone to connect with as a mentor. Someone whose instructions to you is rooted in the principles of the word of God and puts you on the right pedestal towards success is one to connect closely with as a mentor.
   Correction is usually a reintroduction of an earlier instruction that was not understood. Correction is usually after an error and it is usually more painful than instruction. Someone that is used by God to bring correction to you when you err on the path of your vision journey is also to be seen as a mentor. When you are being shown what you did or what you are doing that is interfering with your journey of success, then you are face to face with a mentor.

   Connect more intimately with such people if such instructions and corrections are in the word of God; because the bible is our

manual and guide to confirm all instructions and corrections as children of God.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" 2 Timothy 3:16

For example someone might be successful in what they do but they believe in lying and cheating to find ones way up. Such ones should not be connected closely with as a mentor. You have to keep such ones far and be selective in what you pick from them. When there is a deviation from kingdom principles in line with the word of God, you ought to be careful how to connect with such a person.

2. **Inspiration and Motivation**: In discerning mentors, you need to consider those who inspire you towards the pursuit of your purpose or calling. They could inspire you by their speech, their achievements, and their sense of focus, discipline and tenacity. They could inspire you by their drive and zeal with which to pursue your own vision. They might inspire you as they talk to you or as you go through their materials.
   Mentors are also meant to motivate you so that you don't give up on the path of career chosen.
   So discovering one that inspires and motivate you towards pursuing your vision is to have come in contact with a mentor. They could be younger or older in age than you. That doesn't matter; it is the role they play in your life that matters.

To act around such ones as though you know everything in line with your vision is to miss out of the profit of mentorship you should have gotten from such a person. You can't learn from someone you are competing with as far as knowledge is concerned. No one will motivate you when you claim to have all things under control.

Wisdom To Note

- **Someone whose instructions to you is rooted in the principles of the word of God and puts you on the right pedestal towards success is one to connect closely with as a mentor.**
- **Someone that is used by God to bring correction to you when you err on the path of your vision journey is also to be seen as a mentor**
- **Mentors are also meant to motivate you so that you don't give up on the path of career chosen**

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN MENTORS

AND SPIRITUAL FATHERS

We need both spiritual fathers and mentors on our journey on earth as Christians. Spiritual fathers do not replace the need for mentors; neither do having mentors exempt you for the need of a spiritual father. How you relate with a spiritual father and how you relate to a mentor is different. Knowing how to place them in your life and knowing the profit to be gotten from a proper relationship will help you profit from having a mentor or a spiritual father as the case may be in your life.

Let us now consider the differences between mentors and spiritual fathers; so that you can put them where they belong and enjoy what each dimension of relationship brings

1. **Mentors are instructors, guides, trainers, coaches or teachers.** The apostle Paul referring to the issue of mentors, he called them instructors. He said

   "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ…" 1 Corinthians 4:15

Spiritual fathers on the other hand are overseers, supervisors and directors. Apostle Paul referring to himself as a spiritual father said:

"In Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you be ye followers of me" 1 Corinthians 4:15-16.

He referred to himself as the spiritual father to Timothy with this comment:

"for this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son" 1 Corinthians 4:17

2. **Mentors can be many**: The apostle Paul gave room to as many as "ten thousand instructors".

   "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ…" 1 Corinthians 4:15

   But in regard to spiritual fathers he said it has to be only one. He said

   "In Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel…. be ye followers of me" 1 Corinthians 4:15-16

   Note the words," I" and "me" to understand the singularity of the issue of spiritual fatherhood.

3. **Mentors have a specific field of coverage**. The subject of teaching, training or instructing of a mentor is the specific field of coverage. It could be in an aspect of your field of endeavour or work. Someone who is an

authority in a field can be a mentor to you in that field to help you in that area of your life.

Spiritual fathers oversee all areas of your life as they have a spiritual oversight over you. That was who Christ was to Peter. He stepped into Peter's fishing business even though he was a carpenter (Luke 5:1-11) He also connected with Peter's family life, even though he wasn't married. (Mark 1:29-31)

3. **Mentors can be selected and pursued**. You can see or hear of someone whose life and teaching is of great importance to your life in one area. You can go after them so as to have access to what they have or know. Andrew heard about Jesus from John the Baptist and he went after him to be his protégé.

   "And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour" John 1:37-39

   Note that he called him Rabbi, meaning teacher, discipler, mentor or instructor.

A spiritual father can only be revealed or discerned and not chosen. You don't choose your spiritual father because God said:

"And I will give you pastors (shepherd) according to mine heart…" Jeremiah 3:15

You don't decide for a spiritual father as you would for a mentor, you can only discern them and connect with them as God helps you to know.

5**. Mentor can release to you graces, skills and inspirations that can make you succeed in the area of their coverage**. The things they know and can do can be connected with by your relationship with them and by receiving their teachings. What they do and how they do it can be imparted to you by your link with them.

Spiritual fathers on the other hand imparts to you spiritual blessings and gifts. Apostle Paul talking to the Roman church said on two different occasions as one who is a spiritual father to them.

"For I long to see you that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift" Romans 1:11

"And I am sure that when I come unto you I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ" Romans 15:29.

The eleven disciples saw Christ as their spiritual father but Judas Iscariot did not see him as one and that was why, he was absent when they received the impartation of the spirit and the parting blessing, during Christ's ascension into heaven

6. **A mentor might not know you**. You can undergo mentorship by proxy. Mentorship can be indirect if there are materials to pass across the needed teaching. I have been privileged to be blessed by many people tremendously through their teaching in print or through audio and video means. Mentorship can flow at that level

A spiritual father must know you and be accessible to you. You should be able to have the privilege of meeting or talking with them as frequent as possible. To claim you have a spiritual father who doesn't know you and you can't access him, no matter how much they have blessed your life is to be mistaking a mentor for a spiritual father.

A mentor can be older than a spiritual father in age or even in the Lord. Just like the professor that is taking a child a course in the university can be older than the father of the child that sent him to that institution. But that does not change the fact that, he is still his father. So the personal connection and easy accessibility to a father is crucial to profiting from being a son or daughter in the Lord.

7**. Mentors are in control of their protégés only around their teachings**. A protégé is concerned with the teaching and sees the mentor as wonderful as far as the field of coverage is concerned.

Spiritual fathers are the spiritual coverings for their spiritual sons and daughters. The spiritual father is the guaranteed spiritual zone for their all-round welfare and wellbeing.

The eleven disciples asked Jesus

"Lord is it I?" Matthew 26:22 (NKJV)

But Judas Iscariot's version of that question was

"Rabbi is it I?" Matthew 26: 25 (NKJV)

As for Judas Iscariot, Jesus was only a wonderful "Rabbi" which means teacher, but he was not Lord to him. He related with Christ as a teacher and mentor not as a spiritual father and he missed out of the blessedness of being in submission to a spiritual father.

8. **Mentors are not meant to enthrone teaching contrary to the foundational principles that have been released by spiritual fathers.** Imagine the teachers of your child in school countering and contradicting the values and morals you are inculcating in your child at home. If you as a parent discover it, you are most likely to confront the teacher or take your child from that school or from under that teacher. That was what apostle Paul meant when he said:

"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation and another buildeth thereupon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon" I Corinthians 3:10

Spiritual fathers are foundational and they are God's last resort to reaching anyone

9. **Mentors do not have the overall spiritual oversight over a protégé**: They are not to be enthroned above a spiritual father for any reason. Note this: Mentors are not spiritual fathers but a spiritual father can be a mentor, if there is a common area of career or vocation of life.

For example, Saul was a mentor to David, because he had experience of the palace, which David had to learn from him. Samuel was the spiritual father to David but cannot properly mentor David for the throne because he was of the priestly class. Saul was only a mentor but Samuel was David's spiritual father.

When Saul came against David, Samuel's environment became the hiding zone for him

“So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth. And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah. And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also. Then went he also to Ramah, and came to a great well that is in Sechu: and he asked and said, Where are Samuel and David? And one said, Behold, they be at Naioth in Ramah. And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah. And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, Is Saul also among the prophets?” 1Samuel 19:18-24

10. **Mentors can have a seasonal or temporal effect but not so with spiritual fathers.** There could be a lesson(s) that one is meant to get from a mentor and the relationship might be as temporal as that season. A spiritual father’s relationship is a long lasting and a more permanent relationship. You can decrease proximity with a mentor, if a season has passed but you don’t change a spiritual father in the “middle” of the road.

As for the sons of the prophet in the days of Elijah, they saw Elijah only as a mentor but Elisha saw him as a father. They called Elijah Elisha’s master and Elisha referred to Elijah as “My father, my father”. He kept with that relationship until Elijah was taken up to Heaven.

11. **Mentors should be consulted or involved in decisions within mentoral coverage**. Project and prospects within the scope of mentoral coverage should be brought under the scrutiny of a mentor for counsel and positive inputs.

A spiritual father must be involved in every sensitive decision that must be taken. When David was about to embark on a project that was coming to his mind, he consulted Nathan the prophet, who took over the spiritual oversight over him, after the death of Samuel; and he was guided and delivered from going into error. (2samuel 7:1-17) Sensitive destiny issues should not be entered into without their involvement and input. God commanded that daughters should not enter into sensitive issues like vows without their father's involvement (Number 30:3-5). That rule also applies to everyone with their spiritual father.

12. Mentors should be chosen with caution just like parents carefully select schools for their children. Basic godly and foundational values should be established with which to choose a mentor. You can test a mentor's 'weapon' or technique that was offered you, in your case and if it is not compatible with your own case, you can politely put it aside to use what works in your case. It does not mean the mentor is wrong or that you know better than them but that a particular technique is not applicable in your case.

A spiritual father should be accepted as a gift from God and though he is still human he will be prone to mistakes but the God who gave him to you will ensure you are properly guided at all times. When there is any missing, God will correct them for your sake. Samuel was corrected by God when he was about to err with reference to the anointing of a king in Jesse's house (1 Samuel 16). Nathan was also corrected when he told David to go ahead to build the temple David had in mind. 2 Samuel 7

NOTE THIS: The terms mentor or Spiritual father does not mean they are positions meant to be occupied by males alone. A female can play any of the roles as was in the case of Deborah and Barak in the book of Judges Chapters four and five.

Note also that in the case of a mentor that is not born again, you have to receive their counsel so long as it does not contradict the word of God. Let a counsel given be considered alongside the bible so that one does not enter into error. For example I have read books written by unbelievers personally or as a student but whatever be the content, it must be checked with the bible before it can be applied in my life. That is why a mentor for you as a believer should be chosen preferably and as much as possible from among believers.

Wisdom To Note

- **Spiritual fathers do not replace the need for mentors; neither do having mentors exempt you for the need of a spiritual father.**
- **The subject of teaching, training or instructing of a mentor is the specific field of coverage while Spiritual fathers oversee all areas of your life as they have a spiritual oversight over you.**
- **You don't decide for a spiritual father as you would for a mentor, you can only discern them and connect with them as God helps you to know.**
- **To claim you have a spiritual father who doesn't know you and you can't access him, no matter how much they have blessed your life is to be mistaking a mentor for a spiritual father.**
- **Mentors are not spiritual fathers but a spiritual father can be a mentor, if there is a common area of career or vocation of life.**
- **You can decrease proximity with a mentor, if a season has passed but you don't change a spiritual father in the "middle" of the road.**

CHAPTER EIGHT

RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS FATHERS AND MENTORS

Scripturally there is one key responsibility towards fathers and mentors; whether they are fathers in the faith or your spiritual father or whether they are mentors and teachers. That key responsibility is the responsibility of honour.

Honour means to hold one in high esteem. It means to have deep respect for another. Honour means to have strong regard for a person. This is usually seen in all you say and do as you relate to them and how you respond to all that pertains or connects to them. It first of all begins in the heart and then it overflows in our speech and actions. Despicable acts are first of all from despicable thoughts and honourable words and acts proceed from honourable thoughts.

Concerning honour for fathers and mentors, the bible says clearly in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are OVER YOU IN THE LORD, and admonish you; and to ESTEEM THEM VERY HIGHLY in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves"

The New Living Translation puts the above verse this way:

"Dear brothers and sisters, honour those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual

guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other"

Honour is the seed you sow for the harvest of graces, virtues and all that fathers and mentors have been positioned to release to you. The absence of honour leads to disconnection from the fountain of grace available for you to drink from. Honour for fathers and mentors is not tied to the personalities of those involved but because of the position they occupy over you to release to you all that they have been licensed to release.

Note that virtues and graces do not seek the permission of fathers and mentors to be released; where honour is present. Honour is the automatic trigger of the graces in the graced towards the one that shows honour. Think about honour and you have discovered the responsibility towards fathers and mentors that will make you qualified for access to what they carry that you need in their lives.

PRACTICAL DIMENSIONS OF HONOUR FOR FATHERS AND MENTORS

Let us now consider the different dimensions of honour that is necessary a responsibility towards fathers and mentors.

1. **Readiness to learn**: Don't be in a hurry to show what you know around people of honour in your life. It is not wisdom. Decide to always maintain a learning posture. Even if the subject of discussion is your area of vast knowledge, seek to be in a learning mood. It is a sign of honour and you will get to learn what you don't know before.
   I remember many years ago when I was taking a primary school pupil home lessons. When I began teaching him, he was usually

quick to say “I know, I know” interrupting what I was saying. I had to correct him to keep quiet and listen, because if he knew, his mother would not have needed a lesson teacher for him. Such an act is a sign of dishonour. Even concerning God, the bible says

“Watch your step when you enter God’s house. Enter to learn. That’s far better.... Don’t shoot off your mouth, or speak before you think. Don’t be too quick to tell God what you think he wants to hear. God in charge, not you- the less you speak the better” Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 (THE MESSAGE)

So learn to be in a learning mood before people of honour. Be open to listen. Be quick to document from people of honour’s speech. Nothing makes people feel drawn to communicate with you like when they know you have value for what they know. It is a sign of honour to show a learning spirit around people who are above you. You will increase in wisdom and have access to their favour and good will. Avoid the temptation of always showing them what you know. It puts them off. People, who really know, hardly make a show.
See a young man’s action in scriptures and see honour:

“Now Elihu had waited till Job had spoken, because they were elder than he” Job 32:4

Elihu was around when Job’s friends were talking and condemning Job, while Job was justifying himself. He was just listening while they were talking “because they were elder than he”. That is a picture of honour. The verses following the above

verse express the greatness of this young man's wisdom. The wisdom displayed was because he knew how to be in a learning mood around people of honour.

2. **Promote what they do**: Honour is evident in the way you promote the life and product or your mentor and or your spiritual father. If your spiritual father and mentor is a blessing to you, it is a duty for you to promote their life and what they do. There are those who appear when they are in need and when their needs have been met, they go into hiding and avoid anything that will make anyone know they have something to do with them. Their life or product might not be the best, but promoting it is one way to pay for the role they played or playing in your life.
   John the Baptist was not a perfect person, neither was his ministry without error, but because of the role of mentorship and ministerial fatherhood he played over Jesus, He (Jesus) promoted his ministry before those who were around him:

   "And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John…what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet…For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. Verily I say unto you, among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist…" Matthew 11:7, 9-11

   That is open identification with and promotion of the life and ministry of John the Baptist. That was Jesus, who walked around

all classes of people, and wore clothing of fine linen; identifying and promoting one 'bush' prophet, who was wearing camel's hair and sandals, eating locust and wild honey.
Note that, you are not qualified to continue to profit or to sustain the proceeds of a person, whose life or product you are unwilling or reluctant to promote. Some people call such promotion hero worship. That is a language of ignorance. Jesus was not hero-worshipping John in that scripture, but was carrying out a practice of an ever relevant principle of life.

3. **Invest honourably into them and what they do**: You owe your spiritual father or mentor the duty of investing into them. They deserve your spiritual, material and physical investment.
   (i) **Spiritual investment**: They deserve your spiritual investment of prayers constantly as a sign of honour. The Apostle Paul usually asks his spiritual sons and daughters to pray for him in most of the letters he wrote to them. For example he said:

"And pray for me, that words may be given to me when I open my mouth, to proclaim boldly the mystery of the good news of salvation" Ephesians 6:19(AMP)

Jesus our Master and Lord also told his disciples to pray for Him.

"Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me" Matthew 26:38

Apart from times where your spiritual father or mentor asks you to pray for them, you are meant to constantly remember to pray for them. They are still humans and are not immune to temptations. So this is meant to be a constant duty towards your spiritual father and mentors.

(ii) **Material investments**: Giving material and financial gifts to your spiritual father and mentors is a worthwhile investment. It is a crucial prerequisite for connecting with the graces in them for you. Giving to your spiritual father or mentor is not an optional thing as far as receiving from what they carry is concerned. It is not all about the quantity but about the quality, your capacity and the consistency. The bible says:

"if we have planted the spiritual seed that has been of benefit to you, is it too much if we receive part of the harvest from your earthly goods" 1 Corinthians 9:11 (GWT)

There is a part of the harvest that spiritual fathers and mentors receive that comes from the recipient of the spiritual investment made, which comes in form of material things or finance. Just like students pay tuition fees which their teachers benefit from, that is how mentors and spiritual fathers deserve material gifts from those receiving spiritual seeds from them.
Someone will say, but the bible says:

"Freely you have received, freely give" Matthew 10:8

Jesus was not talking to the receivers in this case. He was trying to help the givers maintain the right mindset, but the receivers cannot access fully the graces available except they know how not to be receiving freely. If Jesus meant that the beneficiaries of spiritual seeds should not give to those that blessed them, He would have rejected the gifts that those who He healed, delivered and discipled gave to Him.

"And certain women who had been made free from evil spirits and diseases, Mary named Magdalene, from whom seven evil spirits had gone out, And Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's chief house-servant, and Susanna and a number of others, who gave him of their wealth for his needs" Luke 8:2-3 (BBE)

(iii) **Physical investment**: Honour for spiritual fathers and mentors also imply that you make yourself available in service to them in any way you can. Being available for someone that is a blessing to you is a sign of honour. To be ashamed or reluctant to identify with someone who is a spiritual father and or mentor for any reason, is to prove there is no honour in your heart for them.

Note this: Any branch that refuses to identify with its root will soon lose its fruit. To be too busy to be available for someone who is over you in the Lord, when they need you, is to be too busy to receive all that God has in them for you. Note also that there are wisdom and virtues that are not

necessarily transferred during formal sessions but by your availability in informal sessions.

It was informal moments that Jesus passed across many vital lessons to his disciples. The truancy lifestyle of Judas Iscariot made him absent during the most important discussion and impartation of Jesus in the upper room. Those moments that spanned from John chapters thirteen to seventeen were in his absence.

John the Beloved had access to secrets about Jesus that others didn't because he was the most available. Even when other fled from Jesus at the crucial moment, he was with Jesus at the cross, and became priviledged to be the caretaker of Jesus' mother.

"When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home." John 19:26-27

Being available as much as is possible and necessary is a crucial responsibility towards your spiritual father or mentor. It is a mark of honour.

Wisdom To Note

- **Despicable acts are first of all from despicable thoughts and honourable words and acts proceed from honourable thoughts.**

- **Honour is the seed you sow for the harvest of graces, virtues and all that fathers and mentors have been positioned to release to you.**
- **Virtues and graces do not seek the permission of fathers and mentors to be released; where honour is present.**
- **It is a sign of honour to show a learning spirit around people who are above you.**
- **If your spiritual father and mentor is a blessing to you, it is a duty for you to promote their life and what they do.**
- **To be ashamed or reluctant to identify with someone who is a spiritual father and or mentor for any reason, is to prove there is no honour in your heart for them.**
- **Giving to your spiritual father or mentor is not an optional thing as far as receiving from what they carry is concerned.**

CHAPTER NINE

HOW TO PROFIT FROM MENTORS AND SPIRITUAL FATHERS

When you are in submission to a spiritual and or mentor, there are certain rights you have as a spiritual son/daughter or as a protégé. There are certain priviledges you are entitled to that both God and the devil recognizes. Your understanding of those rights and priviledges is crucial towards profiting maximally from your relationship with them.

1. **Make demand on the mantle on their life when faced with a battle**: A spiritual authority figure carries a spiritual scepter of authority for your life any day, anywhere and anytime. You can make demand on that authority and God who recognizes them will set things in motion to grant your request in prayers. Elisha came face to face with river Jordan and it was like an obstacle for him. He confronted the situation this way:

   "And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over"2 Kings 2:14

   The disciples of Jesus were confronted with demons on their way and they invoked the name of their spiritual authority (Jesus) and the demons were subdued.

   "Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name" Luke 10:17

Note that at this time Jesus had not died to receive the name that is above every other name because He got the name above every other name after he had died and resurrected triumphantly

"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" Philippians 2:8-11

It was simply a spiritual law that was followed.

The seven sons of Sceva wanted to apply this principle for which they had no right. They invoked the God of Paul who was not their spiritual father and the demons made a mess of them. This shows that demons know those who are truly under a particular spiritual covering.

2. **Seek their intercession**: A battle you cannot handle alone is not yours to handle. One way out of such issues is to leverage on your right as a spiritual son/daughter by seeking the intercession of the spiritual father or mentor as the case may be.

   King Hezekiah of Judah was confronted by the king of Assyria with a great army and he knew that except for divine

intervention there was no way out. He sent a prayer request to his spiritual father, Isaiah the prophet and God stepped in for victory.

"And it came to pass, when King Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD. And he sent Eliakim, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz. And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day is a day of trouble… wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that are left…And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say to your master, Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land." 2 kings 19:1-3, 6-7

There is a stronger burden to pray in the heart of a spiritual father or mentor for their spiritual sons/daughters than for just any other person who is seeking their intercession. It is not about being partial but about a spiritual law. Jesus was not partial when he prayed for Peter and did not pray for Judas Iscariot. Peter was truly a son and disciple while Judas Iscariot was not.

3. **Seek their blessing and covering over any project or prospect:** The blessing and support of the spiritual father and or mentor you are connected to is crucial for progress and success in any

venture you are embarking on. They should be involved as was the case with the sons of the prophet under Elisha.

"And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us. Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye. And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants. And he answered, I will go. So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood. But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed. And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim. Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it" 2 kings 6:1-7

4. **Seek their counsel/instruction, when you are in need of direction**: See the counsel of a spiritual father as that which God is giving you. Don't see a spiritual father's counsel as an advice. A counsel is a professional suggestion or suggestion based on experience, while an advice is a personal opinion based on one's own knowledge.
   Rehoboam the son of King Solomon saw the elders' words to him as an advice and that of the young men like him as counsel. He told the elders saying:

   "how do ye advise me that I may answer this people?"
   1 Kings 12:6

But as for the young men he said:

"What counsel give ye that we may answer this people?"
1 Kings 12:9

That was an upside down operation, and that became the key to his fall.

Seek counsel from your spiritual father when you are in need of direction; for it is part of your benefits of being a son/daughter. That was the case with the king of Israel and Elisha in 2kings 6:21-23.

"And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them? And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master. And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel."

5. **Desire that God confirms His word/will through them**. God's will, can be confirmed by spiritual fathers and or mentors for those under them. God's will for Moses' assignment was confirmed by Jethro his spiritual father.

"And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father in law, and said unto him, Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which are in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive.

And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace. And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life." Exodus 4:18-19

6. **Connect with needed secrets about them.** The secrets of fathers are available to their sons. That was the case of the apostles with Jesus. Even a needed secret about a father that has not been told to a spiritual son can be gotten; as was the case of Elisha and Elijah in 2kgs 2:3

   "And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head today? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace."

7. **Resort to them for divine intervention at any time**. The Shunamite woman was in a situation needing divine intervention and she went to her spiritual father in the person of Elisha.

   "And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died. And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out. And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again… And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within

her: and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me" 2 kings 4: 20-22, 27

She resorted to her spiritual father in the person of Elisha the prophet and her son was brought back to life.

God hears the desperate cries of spiritual parents for their children, especially in cases needing speedy intervention.

Wisdom To Note

- **Spiritual authority figure carries a spiritual scepter of authority for your life any day, anywhere and anytime.**
- **A battle you cannot handle alone is not yours to handle.**
- **There is a stronger burden to pray in the heart of a spiritual father or mentor for their spiritual sons/daughters than for just any other person who is seeking their intercession.**
- **Don't see a spiritual father's counsel as an advice. A counsel is a professional suggestion or suggestion based on experience, while an advice is a personal opinion based on one's own knowledge.**
- **God hears the desperate cries of spiritual parents for their children, especially in cases needing speedy intervention.**

CHAPTER TEN

HEART POSITIONING AND RECEPTION

The issue of heart positioning is also the reason why many are not profiting from mentorship and fatherhood. Some have a warp mindset about connecting with mentors and fathers. They just think sowing a monetary seed and having hands laid on one equals the transfer of spiritual graces. It is not done like that. It is the heart's condition and position that determines whether one will profit from spiritual fathers and mentors.

Look at this scenario in scriptures:

"And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God" Acts 8:18-21

Simon wanted to connect with the gift of God with money but with the wrong heart. That was the implication of the above response of Peter to Simon.

When your heart is not connected to a particular person either as a mentor or a spiritual father and you are around them just for what they represent or the grace of God in their lives; you will be far from connecting with what is in them. Heart connectivity is the crux of the matter as far as reaping the profit of mentorship is concerned.

The bible says:

“As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man” Proverbs 27:19

That is, heart transmission towards another is received by the heart of the other. So where there is no heart connectivity there will be no reception of what is available in the other person that is needed in your life. It is only by following heartily that one can be positioned to receive the graces available for you. You don’t take permission from the person to connect and collect what they have graciously received and enjoyed from God, if your heart is properly connected. Your heart of honor and believe in their person and calling, is the right positioning to maintain for access.

Note this: Your desire to receive of the graces at work through their calling without believing in their person is self deception. Your believe in their person is not because of how perfect they are, but because that God deem it fit to release such a grace to them despite their imperfections. It is that heart positioning towards them makes you qualified to receive from them.

Wisdom To Note

- **Heart connectivity is the crux of the matter as far as reaping the profit of mentorship is concerned.**
- **It is only by following heartily that one can be positioned to receive the graces available for you.**
- **You don’t take permission from the person to connect and collect what they have graciously received and enjoyed from God, if your heart is properly connected.**

IS GOD YOUR FATHER?

God is the first Father and Teacher you need before the need for a spiritual father or mentor. If God has not become your Father how can He reveal to you a spiritual father on earth? In fact, you are not even qualified to pray until God becomes your Father. That is why the beginning of prayer as Jesus taught His disciples; is to call God Father.

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven…" Matthew 6:9

It is after God becomes your Father, that you can be qualified to pray or make any request from Him. God becomes your Father when you accept the Son He sent to the world in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the first to introduce mankind to the concept of God as a Father, and it is only through Him that one can make God a Father to him or her.

God can become your Father today by accepting Jesus Christ today into your heart and make him your lord and savior. He will then give you eternal life and introduce you to the Father as his child. You can do that by praying the prayer below with all your heart, meaning every word of it.

"Lord Jesus, I thank you for dying for me because you love me, I thank you for also given me this opportunity to come to you. I repent of my sins and I ask you to come into my life; I believe in my heart that Jesus is lord and I confess with my mouth that God raised him from the death. I receive eternal life into my spirit and I declare God is my Father and I am his child. I receive strength from today to live for you all the days of my life. Thank you Lord for saving my soul in Jesus name! Amen"

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Now, you are a child of God and you have been empowered by Jesus to profit from fatherhood and mentorship, all the days of your life. Get yourself established in God right away by planting yourself in a church where you will be nurtured and tutored in the ways of God.

We will be very glad to hear from you, if you prayed the above prayer.

You can contact us with the address below:

THE KING'S TREASURE HOUSE

TEL. 08069666304

07058449518

07037749947

Email: innocentmichael01@gmail.com

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+2347037749947

+2347035380115

+2347058449518

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

INNOCENT MICHAEL is the Senior Pastor of THE KING'S TREASURE HOUSE. It is a church and an outreach based Ministry. He is called of God to reveal, declare and publish the wisdom of God for a fulfilled life. The grace of God on his life is geared towards raising models and releasing them to stand out as treasures to their generation. He is a kingdom minded man who believes in raising men and women of affluence and influence so as to advance the purposes of God in this end time.

He is an author and an insightful teacher of God's word. He has authored publications such as "Fulfilling your Destiny", "One Thing About You", "Towards Marital Bliss" and "Kings and Priests". He is also the author of the ever-inspiring, bi-monthly and freely distributed daily devotional guide, TREASURES OF GRACE. He is also the founder of TREASURE BIBLE BUSINESS SCHOOL, an institution set for the raising of KINGDOM TREASURERS. He is married to Josephine and their marriage is blessed with children.