UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIP IN MINISTRY



NIYI MAKINDE

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Dedication

To the distinguished Godwin Adekoya. Some are sons, while some are true sons. Spiritual fathers know true sons among sons. You're a true son. Your consistent following and loyalty is genuine. You don't only relate with your spiritual father privately, you speak and celebrate him publicly without knowing people are observing you. People speak great things of you in this regard. You have displayed qualities Bishop Oyedepo discovered in Bishop Abioye, Pastor Ibiyeomie and Dr. Enenche among many of his sons. Keep it up! Reign and soar higher!

1

Fatherhood in Ministry

Fatherhood is a calling. It is not something you assume after years in ministry. God has to make you a father (spiritual). Abraham didn't say he would be a father of many nations, it was God who declared that Abraham would be a father of many nations. Today, many regard Abraham as a father not because he told people to call him a father but because God named and made him a father. You remember that God changed the name of Abram to Abraham. The name Abraham means a father. Evidently, God named Abraham a father. There are people God stamped fatherhood upon their human spirit through his words.

The fact is that if you are called to be a father figure in a generation or dispensation, you don't need to tell anyone but certainly, many would refer to you as a father figure or their father. This I have

proven in my life. There are many people who refer to me as their spiritual and apostolic father today but none of them can say that I ever told him or her to refer to me as a father. I am not one of those who go about calling people they never labor over their sons. I believe that spiritual fatherhood is a calling that requires those called into it to labor over their children. I remember a time God spoke to me that my fatherhood is authenticated from heaven and that I have been made a father to many. It didn't look like it until people began to reach out to me about two years after I received the word that they were instructed to follow and submit to me. And from then, God had raised many sons and daughters who are kingdom giants and generals today.

There are many father figures in our world today. I mean spiritual and apostolic father figures. They are people given the task to raise sons and daughters in their order. Spiritual and apostolic fatherhood is set by God himself to impart and give spiritual inheritance peculiar to a spiritual lineage or family. You can't just pray to be a spiritual father, God has to prove your heart, obedience and submission to Him before He makes you one.

There are certain trainings God will give a father figure before such enters into the fullness of his task. One of such trainings is understanding that assignments differs. Spiritual and apostolic fathers

understand that the pattern of their sons' ministries may not resembles theirs, but the core spiritual values they have must reflect in the lives of their children. Spiritual and apostolic fathers understand that God is the one that determines and gives models each ministry needs, fathers are just to guide and serve as a covering for their sons and daughters. This understanding informs those submitted to about their limits. An attempt to dictate everything done in sons' ministries would be considered by God as manipulation. The role of the Holy Spirit shouldn't be taken. In fact, spiritual fathers must encourage their children to listen to the Holy Spirit.

I have many sons who are leaders and founders of ministries and churches, but all of them know that I don't take the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives and ministries. I always love to find out what each has received from the Holy Spirit as regards their ministries. The task of a spiritual father isn't to give direction to everything that is done in a son's ministry. In fact, a spiritual father must encourage his sons to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Fathers may give counsel, guidance, instructions, etc. but they are not to take the place of the Holy Spirit. Also, fathers shouldn't force their sons to do what they say, but wise sons will always carry out what their father's says. Authentic spiritual fathers don't force their will and decision on their sons.

What I have discovered is that over 95% of sons of an authentic spiritual father will always apply the wisdom of obedience to what their father says.

The Difference between a Spiritual Father and an Apostolic Father

There is a difference between a spiritual father and apostolic father. Muslim, Jews and Christians claim Abraham as their ancestor. That's a great stature. So, when you see a man that leaders of different ministries and churches refers to as a father, such is like Abraham. That kind of person is referred to as an apostolic father. You can't become a father except God has cut a covenant with you and taken you through paths that will create an opportunity for God to bring a generation into something new. The context of this discourse is in relation to ministers not believers.

A spiritual father has an assignment to father one or few sons who has or have ministries. But an apostolic father has an assignment to father an entire community, entire nation, entire generation or entire dispensation. Notice the emphasis on "entire." In other words, anyone that is referred to as an apostolic father will still be regarded as a spiritual father by those under his spiritual tutelage.

Apostolic fathers are superior to spiritual fathers

in that spiritual fathers themselves submit to apostolic fathers. All apostolic fathers are people who have raised many spiritual fathers and mature them in ministry. So, while spiritual fathers have sons in ministries that regards their authority, apostolic fathers on the other hand have many spiritual fathers that regards their authority. Let me say it this way, apostolic fathers are often regarded as spiritual grandfather. I know some ministers who play on semantics would counter that there is nothing like spiritual grandfather in the scripture. Well, such claim by such talkers are just play on empty words. The fact is that the spiritual father to your spiritual father isn't your father, he is your grandfather.

Now, a person may be a spiritual father to you and at the same time an apostolic father. In other words, such person has the assignment to father you personally and at the same time, has the task to father an entire community, nation, generation or dispensation. So, if you will refer to such person, you should call him your spiritual father since you have a direct relationship with such while others who don't have direct relationship with such will refer to such as an apostolic father.

An apostolic father doesn't necessarily have to bear the title of an "apostle," but the signs would be there that such is the father over the entire community or nation. It must be said that apostolic

fathers are those whose voice are heard in an entire community, nation or generation. Those they raise are the ones that will end up as authority figures in that nation or generation. And sometimes, they may not be the one to raise those people, but if those people submit to them, they will end up as the succeeding authority. Using Nigeria as our model for practical, let's consider few apostolic fathers in Nigeria:

1. **Papa Ayo Babalola** was an apostolic father. This isn't because he bears the title of an apostle but his impact reveals that he is one of such. In his lifetime, he was a spiritual father to many but subsequently later, he ended up as the apostolic father to many.
2. **Pa. S. G. Elton** was an apostolic father over Nigeria. He was a spiritual father to many and coach to many in his lifetime. Many of the fathers in faith in Nigeria today used to visit him to seek his guidance and counsel. It will interest you to know that the likes of Arch Bishop Idahosa, Daddy Adeboye, Pastor Kumuyi, Bishop David Oyedepo and others visited him in his lifetime to learn from him.
3. **Archbishop Benson Idahosa** was an apostolic father in Nigeria. He played the role of a spiritual father in the lives of many but was

a father to the entire nation. In his lifetime, he fathered men like Papa Ayo Oritsejafor, Bishop Mike Okonkwo, Bishop Felix Omobude and so on. The likes of Bishop David Oyedepo and Bishop Francis Wale Oke also drank from his spiritual rivers.

4. **Pastor E. A. Adeboye** is the current apostolic father in Nigeria as at the time of writing this book. You see, I have learned that people are not celebrated in their lifetime. But when they leave the earth, people will value and cherish them when they read their chronicles. I believe that when the world hear the chronicles of miracles God has done through this man, they will value him. He refers himself as a pastor but the signs of an apostle are with him. This is the man that many generals in faith on earth today refers to as their spiritual father.

Note:

An apostolic father is a spiritual covering over spiritual leaders of ministries and churches in a country, continent, generation or dispensation. Apostolic fathers are father to fathers and leader to leaders. Apostolic fathers are frontliners and way makers that others follow.

Apostolic fathers are those who God give revelations relevant to a dispensation to. Those who

receive and preach their message are the ones that will end up as leaders in that generation or dispensation. Apostolic fathers are light bearer. Only those who read and listen to them will partake of the light they dispense. An apostolic father is a revelation dispenser.

All apostolic fathers are spiritual fathers but not all spiritual fathers are apostolic fathers. Apostolic fathers are those who represent authority in a nation or generation. You will know an apostolic father by the caliber and stature of people who submit to such. Spiritual fathers father individuals but apostolic fathers father an entire community, nation, generation or dispensation.

Spiritual Fathering in Ministry

I remember years ago that God spoke to me from the book of Genesis 17:4 that His covenant is with me and I shall be a father of many nations. It didn't make sense that day because it couldn't appeal to my intellect but it is a reality today. You see, there are people whose spiritual and apostolic fatherhood is by covenant. In other words, there is a covenant behind their fatherhood. They are not spiritual father because of their age, experience or stature, they are fathers by the covenant God made with them. With all humility, I am one of those spiritual and apostolic

fathers who became a father by covenant. I have never told anyone I want to be his or her father, they received it themselves. That is covenant at work. In fact, I already stepped into spiritual fatherhood when I was about twenty-two years old. I mean, people were receiving revelation from the Lord that they should submit to me and regard me as their spiritual father. This had been happening at that age until I was about twenty-six years that God later revealed Genesis 17:5 which says "… for I have made you a father of many nations." This verse confirmed to me at age twenty-six, that God had made me a father of many nations. It was from that day that I understood that God sees me as a father figure to many on earth. From that day onward, I began to participate in the covenant God made with me. If you consider the age of the people that submit to me as their spiritual father and you consider my age, you would know that I wasn't qualified to be their spiritual father by age. But a covenant God made with me qualifies me. Though I don't talk to people or call them to submit to me, the covenant speaks and talks to them. and everyone that submit to that covenant will always participate in the blessing that covenant should supply.

Spiritual fathering isn't a modern concept but a scriptural one. Spiritual fathering has a long Biblical history, but sadly it is one of the principles grossly

downplayed and under-preached in the body of Christ! After all, you can get to Heaven without a spiritual father. You can live a good, stable Christian life without one. But, beloved, there is a limit to the grace, wisdom, revelation, impartation and blessings in your Christian walk without spiritual fathering.

Spiritual fathers correct you, teach you, and they discipline you when necessary! Spiritual fathers provide incubation, impartation, heritage – questions you should ask are: Is his life something you want to emulate? Do you want to be like him? When you're joined to a spiritual father who imitates Christ, and you submit in obedience, the richness gained from such heritage is divine. God honors those relationships. He instituted it.

If you cannot faithfully follow your Spiritual father whom God has joined you to, a man you can see and closely interact with, you cannot faithfully follow God whom you cannot see. For God watches your obedience, and this qualifies you for the blessings of the Father-son relationship. How do you enter a spiritual father-son relationship? Primarily by conviction from the Holy Spirit. This conviction can come through revelation - dreams, visions or a knowing in your spirit. The knowledge doesn't always come in a booming flash from heaven. When you have decided, then, you go and submit to him in obedience, willingness and desire to be trained. If

you're not obedient, you're not a true son. Only true sons receive the blessings of a father. Let's establish this facts –

- You can only have one spiritual father.
- A spiritual father to you can also be an apostolic father to others.
- A spiritual father to you is also a spiritual covering to you and your ministry.
- Spiritual fathers encourage, correct, impart, and give you a heritage.
- You enter into a spiritual father-son relationship primarily by conviction from the Holy Spirit.
- God blesses obedience and submission to spiritual fathers. Blessings always flow through obedience and submission.
- Often times, most spiritual grandfathers – spiritual fathers to other spiritual fathers end up as apostolic fathers.

Understanding Spiritual Covering

1. Sons in ministry are covered by the communication of their spiritual father.

- Genesis 18:17-19 – Abraham was to teach his children.
- A spiritual father covers your darkness with his

light.

- A spiritual father covers your ignorance with correction and counsel
- A spiritual father covers your foolishness with his wisdom.
- A spiritual father covers your inexperience with his wealth of experience.
- A spiritual father covers your shame with his glory. Your spiritual father does this by associating with you. The presence of your spiritual father in your life or ministry grants endorsement to your message and ministry.

2. Sons in ministry are covered by the prayers of their spiritual father – Luke 22:31-32, Philippians 1:4, 2 Timothy 1:3

- A spiritual father covers you from spiritual attack in prayers. This way, they will take bullets directed towards you. This is how they shield you from attacks.
- A spiritual father covers you in prayers and as such will likely see the evil or attack directed towards you ahead before it happens.
- A spiritual father covers you by receiving prophetic guidance in prayers so as to protect you from all evils and also move you to the next level.

3. Sons in ministry are covered by the covenant of God with their spiritual father – Psalm 89:3-4, Genesis 17:7-8, Genesis 26:3, 26:4-5.

What is covenant? A covenant is a promise with an oath. The promise is what God says to the man that He will do for him. The oath on the other end is what God shows the man in scripture. The oath in a covenant that God makes with men in the new testament era is a scriptural passage that shows that God will surely fulfill what He has promised to man.

Different spiritual father has different covenants God has made with them. God will sometimes make a covenant that will include their children – biological and spiritual. Let's examine some of the covenant God has made with me that concerns my children – biological and spiritual. I only want to use the one God has made with me as an example. Other spiritual fathers also have the ones God has made with them. As a son, you may do well to find out the covenant God has made with your spiritual father. Let me just mention few of the covenants God has made with me out of many in regards to ministry sons and daughters.

- The covenant of Protection – Isaiah 49:25d – it says "I will save your children." This covenant activates divine protection over all my children.
- The covenant of Increase – Genesis 22:17-18,

Psalm 115:14-15. This covenant makes increase possibly easily for every of my children – biological and spiritual. You can't be connected to me and not experience increase. This is a covenant God has with me.

- The covenant of inheritance and territory possession – Genesis 22:17, 26:3-5. This covenant says children shall possess the gate of their enemies and possess lands as their inheritance.
- The covenant of divine training – Isaiah 54:13. Your children shall be taught of the Lord. In other words, God will teach the children certain things because of the spiritual lineage they are connected to. There are things God teaches some spiritual sons not because of their fasting and prayers but because of the covenant God has made with their spiritual father.
- The covenant of visibility – Isaiah 61:9. Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles… all who see them shall acknowledge them as the posterity of whom the Lord has blessed. Visibility is being seen and known. There are covenants that when activated on your life, you will be known.

Entering into Covenants

The moment your spirit is deeply connected to a man and the heart of that man acknowledges you, the covenants God made with such is activated over your life.

Acts 3:25 says "You are sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with our fathers…"

The above scripture clearly shows that there are sons of the covenant. God made the covenant with the fathers. So, when God makes a covenant with a spiritual father, all the sons of that man then becomes sons of the covenant God made with that man. Connecting with a spiritual father is connecting with the covenant of that man. The covenant of your spiritual father will always work for you as long as you are recognized by God as the son of that man.

So, the moment you get connected to your spiritual father, you have entered into the covenant of that man. That covenant will work for you and your ministry. Certain things you can't explain will surely begin to happen the moment you get connected to your spiritual father. That is the reason spiritual and apostolic fathers are known as men of covenant.

How to Activate the Covenants of Your Spiritual Father in Your Life

Two things are responsible for this which are

1. Your Words

Your words are powerful. You must regularly use your tongue to activate the covenant of your spiritual father in your life. How will you do this? You do this by saying with your mouth everywhere that you are a son to that man. Every time you declare with your mouth that you are a spiritual son to a man, you are activating the covenant God made with that man in your life. You don't need to open your mouth and say "I activate the covenant of this man in my life…" No, that is waste of words and time. All you need do is to open your mouth and say unashamedly that that man is your spiritual father.

Let me ask you, how do you enter into the new covenant brought by Jesus? Was it by declaring that I enter into the new covenant? Absolutely no! How you enter into the new covenant is that you open your mouth boldly to confess Jesus as your Lord and that you believed in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. The moment you do these two, you have entered into the new covenant and every spiritual package – eternal life, all spiritual blessing,

grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, etc. are automatically released into your life.

Applying the principle above, it is evident that the way you activate the covenant of your spiritual father in your life isn't by saying "I activate his covenant in my life…" You don't need that. All you need every time is to believe in your heart that that man is your spiritual father and to boldly say it everywhere that he is your spiritual father. Every time you acknowledge your spiritual father with your mouth, all the spiritual forces responsible for the activation of his covenant in your life will automatically be deployed towards your direction.

When you hear Pastor Paul Enenche, Bishop David Abioye, Bishop Thomas Aremu, Pastor David Ibiyeomie and many others say with their mouth "my father in the Lord," "my spiritual father," what they are simply doing is acknowledging that man in the presence of everyone as their spiritual father and at the same time, they are telling God to do with them all He has promised to do with the sons of that man. I hope you know that when these men mention or talk about their spiritual father – Bishop David Oyedepo – in their messages or churches, they aren't doing that because he will hear it or get to know that they acknowledge him. The fact is that the man doesn't need to know. The only One who needs to know is God. Every time you say "I heard my father

in the Lord said this…" you are telling God to do with you what He has promised to do with the sons of that man. Yes, you may quote your spiritual father to communicate a message to the congregation but you are also telling God to do with you what He has promised to do with the sons of that man.

2. Your Works

The part of the works is what many don't engage. Works here refer to serving your spiritual father, giving to your spiritual father, double honor to your spiritual father, etc.

If your spiritual father is one that God has made a covenant of blessing with and had said to him that "I will bless those who bless you…" Evidently, the way a person enters into such covenant blessing is that he blesses the one who God made the covenant to. The way you bless the blessed is by giving to the blessed.

Many keep claiming they are spiritual sons to a man but are not serving that man. Well, those who served their man of God are those who are served apportioned blessings by the God of the man. Every time you serve your spiritual father, you are activating the covenant of God upon him in your life. Service makes the covenant of the man recognizes you as a consistent son of the man.

The man may die but the covenant God made with him can't die. Apostle Ayo Babalola had died long ago, but the covenant God made with him is still at work today and all pastors and members of the church he founded are partakers of that covenant. In fact, the unborn who will be born in the next fifty years in the church he founded will become a partaker of the covenant of that man.

You see, whatever promise God made with a man transcend the lifespan of that man. So, even when that man is no longer on earth, the covenant God made with him is on earth and everyone in the lineage of that man will partake of that covenant. We don't call people "spiritual or apostolic fathers" because they are aged or mature, we do because of the covenant God had made with them. spiritual and apostolic fathers are men of covenant. When they die, their covenant remains alive and active on earth.

Pa. Akindayomi of Redeemed Christian Church of God died but the covenant God made with him remains actively alive. His successor – Pastor E. A. Adeboye is a man of high understanding. That man entered into the covenant of his spiritual father. This is what every successor to church or ministry founders need to do. Successors should always find

out what God had told the founders so they can enter into the fullness and fulfilment of that covenant. There are things you hear from Pastor Adeboye that he would say confidently that God had told his spiritual father and had been fulfilled today. If you don't understand the covenant God had made with your spiritual father, you may labor when God expects you to enter into the glory of another. Yes, I know you should pray and have your personal dealings with God. But I need you to know that it is good sometimes to find out what God had told the fathers.

You will Have Only One Spiritual Father, Even after He Dies

Understanding is powerful. Understanding will always distinguish you from others. When you have understanding, you will reason and think at a higher frequency and have a different mindset. There are people operating by superior understanding. And it is that superior understanding that I want to share with you now.

I have seen ministers that change spiritual father like clothes. The fact is that God will only give you one spiritual father. Even after your spiritual dies, he still remains your spiritual father. If you understand this superior insight, you won't be part of those that

will be seeking who to be their next spiritual father after their spiritual father dies.

Let me ask you this question, if a biological father dies, will a son be expected to start seeking who will be his next biological father? Absolutely no! Even after a biological father dies, a son may only get a male representative in the family to represent his father during a family event. That representative can never be called the biological father but a person standing in gap to represent the father. So, since you can't have two biological father, so, you can't have two spiritual father. Even when your spiritual father dies, he still remains your spiritual father just like when a biological father dies, he still remains the biological father of the son.

One man that I know understand this aspect is Pastor E. A. Adeboye. He has one spiritual father from the beginning till now. When his spiritual father died, he never attempted getting another spiritual father. That is high understanding. Remember I shared above that the man may die, but the covenant of God with him can't die. So, even after he died, his covenant will continue to cover you. In other words, the covenant God had made with that man when he was alive will continue to find fulfilment in the lives of those who acknowledged him. So, after the death of that man, God will continue to fulfil his covenant in the lives of those

who continue to refer to that man as their spiritual father. The covenant of God with your spiritual father is your spiritual covering. And since covenant don't die, your spiritual covering is still alive.

Pastor E. A. Adeboye had one spiritual father from the beginning till now. And as at the time of writing this book, after over forty years that his spiritual father had died, he still refers to Pa. Akindayomi as his spiritual father. That is high understanding. You see, understanding is different from wisdom. There are many people I know that have wisdom but don't have this kind of understanding I am sharing here. You see, you are told to get wisdom because she is the principal thing, but in the same verse, you are told that in all your getting, you should get understanding. When you have understanding, you will know that even when the man dies, he is still your spiritual father. Understanding will teach you that it was the body of the man that died, his grace, mantle, covenant, wisdom, revelation didn't die. And as long as all these spiritual elements are still alive and active, the spiritual covering of your spiritual father over you is active.

You see, as a spiritual son, you must have all the messages of your spiritual father and all his books. As long as you continue to listen to his messages and read his books, his spirits, mantle, wisdom, revelation will continue to live with you. You see,

you don't need to see your spiritual father physically always to father you. What you need regularly are his words. And you can always get those words through his messages and books. As long as you have that, you have him with you always.

Now, since understanding has taught you that the covenant of your spiritual father can't die and that that covenant remains with you as long as you continue to refer to him as your spiritual father. Why will you need to change spiritual father? People just need to grow out of childish understanding. This I am sharing with you are deep insight. When your spiritual father dies, you may have mentors who teach you or whom you learn from, but let your father remain your father.

I hope you know that Pastor E. A. Adeboye was imparted by the late Kenneth Hagin. But are you aware that Pastor Adeboye didn't go to submit to Kenneth Hagin as his new spiritual father after Pa. Akindayomi died? That is it! Your father remains your father even after he dies. You may be blessed by other senior ministers but you know that that doesn't mean they will be your new spiritual father. You see, once God directs you to your spiritual father, that is who will be your father for life, even after he is dead.

Someone may ask, will he father me from the grave? Absolutely no. What you need from him

is the covenant of God with him and that doesn't die. And when you need to learn from him, go get his messages and books, you will hear something that will teach you. In Genesis 26, we saw how Isaac dig the wells of his father after he had died. That clearly shows that you can re-dig the wells of your spiritual father after he dies. How will you do this? You re-dig the wells of your spiritual father by bringing out all his messages and listening to it and also bringing out all his books and reading them. This is the insight all ministers of God should live by. The moment your spiritual father dies, you must continue to sustain the mentality that he remains your spiritual father. His covenant covers you spiritually and his wisdom and revelation should be with you for life. Ministers of God need to understand this insight about ministry and live by it.

An Exception to the Above

Our God cannot be limited and He is the utmost decision maker. We can't limit Him to one parameters of operations. He knows what best fit everyone. Now, there is an exception to the above. You know I remember one time that I was led by God to pray for the grace for balance. The grace for balance will grant you the ability to bring balance to a message, perspective, teaching, etc. The insight I want to

share now is to bring balance to the above.

There are exceptional cases that after a spiritual father dies, God will speak to the son to go submit to another person and adopt another person as his spiritual father. Yes, God can do it but He doesn't do that for everybody. I have heard ministers of God who said God led them to go submit to another person as a spiritual son after their spiritual father died. When I consider the personality of some of this people, it was evident that they heard God truly. Let me explain my point.

You see, there are some people that need the physical presence of a spiritual authority in their lives regularly. Such people often are those who need someone they need to be accountable to physically. Sometimes, because God knows that some ministers can have excesses, he directs them to submit as a son to another who can always caution them and call them to order when they are getting off. You see, when you see a man who God didn't direct to go submit to another man as a son after his spiritual father dies, God knows that such man is mature enough to handle matters even in the midst of pressures. But when you see a person that God led to go submit to another father after his first spiritual father died, it could be because God had seen a weakness in the life of that man and if such isn't under the authority of a living man, he may be

destroyed through that weakness.

Another reason some will be led to submit to another man is because their understanding can only flow with a living person they can relate with. Some of those people often pray to God to show them the next person to submit to. Actually, God is the One who stir up their heart to pray such. He does that so that when the devil strikes, they can be confident that they won't be defeated because their spiritual covering is alive. But there is a level God takes such men to that they now get to understand that real spiritual covering is in the covenant of God with the man.

So, God can lead you to submit to another person as your spiritual father after your spiritual father dies. But that is an insight to you that there are areas of your life that need check and has weaknesses God still need to deal with. God knows that you can't stand alone and will need the guidance of a fatherly voice to guide you.

Now get this, the moment you submit to another spiritual father, you are no longer under the covering of the covenant of your former spiritual father. Submitting to another now place you under a different spiritual atmosphere and operation. The moment you begin to acknowledge the new person as your spiritual father, what was at work for you in the former stops working for you. This is a spiritual

dynamics you need to understand.

Special Counsel

When your spiritual father dies and you love to have a voice speak into your life regularly like your spiritual father does, then, look for someone your spirit connects to and relate with such as your revered mentor. You must learn the use of words. You don't refer to such as your spiritual father but as your mentor. You must apply this. This way, your spiritual father remains your spiritual father even after he dies and the new person you relate with now should be regarded as your revered mentor. If you engage this, the covenant of your spiritual father will continue to work in your life.

Hang the Picture of Your Spiritual Father in Your Office

It is as if the younger generation walks with their eyes closed when relating with older ministers. They seemed not to observe the atmosphere when around them. When you enter the offices of older ministers, especially the fathers in faith, you will see them hang the picture frame of their spiritual father in their office.

Catch this – the picture of your spiritual father

must be hung on the wall of your office. In fact, the way it is done is that you hang both your picture and your spiritual father's picture on the wall of your office side by side.

Many years ago, I used to think such was carnal and worldly until I got understanding. In the secular world, it is essential that the picture of the governor of a state, president of the country alongside the picture of the company boss be hung on the wall. This, you will see in banks and corporate offices. This is a regard and honor for governmental authorities.

Scripture commands that we should give double honor to spiritual authorities. If those in the corporate world can hang the pictures of governmental leaders on their wall, it is essential that we also hang the pictures of our spiritual leaders on our walls. If those in the corporate world give honor to governmental leaders, why can't we give double honor to spiritual leaders?

The insight is that as a pastor in ministry, your picture should be on the wall of your office. Also, the picture of your spiritual father should also be on the wall in your office. Now, you may also hang the pictures of those ministers and leaders you admire – mentors – on the wall too. But the order should be that your spiritual father's picture is placed above the pictures of those you admire.

One day, I saw a pastor put the picture of one foreign preacher on the wall of his office but I looked around but couldn't see the picture of his spiritual father there. That is gross dishonor. As I looked at that man, I smelled dishonor. Even if he was ignorant of this I am sharing here, the fact is that dishonor was in him. Why will you be proud to hang the picture of a man who don't even know you, a man you haven't met but can't put the picture of the man who show you love, gives you his time in your office? Isn't that dishonor!

Let me tell you something about worthy and loving son. There are true sons indeed. When you see true sons, the moment you enter their office, they don't need to tell you who their spiritual father is, you can see it for yourself on their wall. In fact, when you enter their house, you can see the picture of their spiritual father on the wall in their sitting room too. I don't want to dive into the spiritual benefits of such, I only want to share the honor part of it. Many don't even know that hanging the picture of their spiritual father in their office or house establishes his spiritual presence around them. I don't want to dive into this so it won't be as though I am spiritualizing everything. But learn the lesson. Put the picture of your spiritual father in your office.

You also need to learn the placement of such pictures. You should place the picture beside yours.

Since he is your spiritual father and you are his son, the picture frame of both of you should be side by side. Even if you want to put the picture of your spiritual father in your house, you must ensure you put your picture beside his. It must be spiritual father on one side and the son beside it.

Exception

If you work in a Church or ministry organization and the leadership of the church isn't your spiritual father, you may not be able to put the picture of your spiritual father in your office. You shouldn't even do it. If you work in a church or ministry organization, you should follow the administrative procedures of that church or ministry. For example, in churches like Winners Chapel, Christ Embassy, it is essential that you put the picture of the church founder on the wall in every office. That is their procedure. So, if a pastor working in such church now claim to have a spiritual father that is not in that ministry, then, the pastor must know that he can't put the picture of his spiritual father on the wall. Such pastor will have to put the picture of the church leadership there.

You can only decide to put the picture of your spiritual father on your church office wall if it is a ministry founded or headed by you.

2

Spiritual Fatherhood and Ministry Matters

A minister in ministry needs to know his spiritual father. God set the solitary in families. So, you have to know the spiritual family God plants you. You don't choose the spiritual family you belong, God decided that long before the foundation of the world. Ministry sons need to know that their spiritual father is their spiritual root. It is very wrong for a son in ministry to be angry with his spiritual father. Nothing on earth should push you to be angry with your spiritual covering.

When you see certain manifestation in the life of your spiritual father, never be envious or angry that such isn't yet manifesting in your life. Instead of getting angry with the blessed, find out what he has discovered in scriptures that you have not discovered and connect with it.

Fatherhood is different from leadership. The key word for leadership is influence while the key word for fatherhood is impact. Impact is superior to influence. Influence affects while impact transforms. Influence affects the way a person thinks, speaks, judges and behaves. But impact is about transforming who a person is to who he needs to be. Influence affects thinking, talking, doing but impact affects being.

Fatherhood is different from mentoring. A mentor is just a teacher or trainer. One from whom you learn and proceed to the other. No child carries the DNA of a mentor. A child may have many mentors but have only one father. A child only carries the DNA of his father. Another fact is that a child can't carry the DNA of another father, He can only carry his father's DNA. The insight is that a child should know his father.

Facts may change but truth can't change. Spiritual fatherhood is a truth that can't change. Mentoring can't bring you into the covenant of God with a man. You only partake of the covenant of God with a man through spiritual fatherhood. Covenants are automatically activated in your life when you are considered a son or seed of the man who received the covenant. These men are father figures. The children of these men are partakers of their fathers' covenant.

Few years ago, it is revealed to me that there's need to raise mighty people whose influence and impacts are irresistible and undeniable. And God reveals that accurate spiritual fatherhood is the spiritual highway to make this happen. A spiritually intelligent person will distinguish his spiritual father from mentors. Know your father.

Many spiritual fathers are emerging today. God is raising them in their tens of thousands so as to dominate and possess the gates and corridors of authority. My counsel to the younger generation is to avoid discussion with those who castigate spiritual fatherhood. We don't analyze spiritual things; we should only get to understand spiritual things. Your spiritual father is your spiritual covering.

Be Imparted by Your Spiritual Father Daily

The spirit entered me when He spoke to me. Jesus said the words I speak to you are spirit and life. Listening and reading grants access to receive the spirit in another. If you want to be imparted by your spiritual father daily, you must ensure you listen to his messages or read his book daily. You must never let a day go without getting something from your spiritual father into you. If you have the same spirit, you will soon have the same results.

It should be a discipline for you that something

from your spiritual father must enter into your everyday. While it is obvious that you may not see your spiritual father every day in a year, you can make spiritual contact with him every day in a year. When you listen to his message or read his books or sermons, you are making spiritual contact with him. The fact is that if you can permit the words from your spiritual father to enter you daily, you will be too loaded with his spirit within you.

Yes, fellowshipping with the Holy Spirit is the greatest priority any minister in ministry must have. But you also need to understand that receiving words, teachings and insight from your spiritual father daily is very essential too. You see, in ministry, the order is God as the first. The next to God in ministry is your spiritual father. In fact, God set the principle of spiritual father in place so that there will be men who can represent Him to men. Your spiritual father is representing God to you. Now, imagine how you will act and treat God if you see him physically, that is how you should treat your spiritual father. This is not human worship but the acknowledgment of God's working in men.

If you prove to cherish the words of God very well, then, cherish the words of your spiritual father very well. Since your spiritual father isn't speaking the words of satan, you should cherish and value his words. You need to develop the mentality of

eagerness to listening the messages or reading a book from your spiritual father daily. You will receive daily impartation through your spiritual father when you listen to his messages or read his books and sermons daily.

Visit for Impartation

One time, Bishop David Oyedepo visited his spiritual father – Daddy E. A. Adeboye. His visit led to him following his spiritual father to different cities and states for their church annual Let's go a fishing Program. They went from city to city and states to states. He was with his spiritual father for about four or five days. He left his wife and family and was around his spiritual father. The fact is that when you hang around your spiritual father, what is on him will be smeared on you. There are times that you may want to shift levels that you need to visit your spiritual father for impartation.

Impartation here refers to him speaking words over your life, speaking prophetic words into your spirit and laying on of hands on your head. You see, laying on of hands on your head is a spiritual seal over your destiny. Except in situations that your spiritual father isn't led to lay hands on you, you must crave for the laying on of hands of your spiritual father. You see, when your spiritual father

lay hands on you, you have to understand that the Almighty God had laid hands on you. You need to capture this light. Your spiritual father is the representation of your heavenly Father to you in human flesh. So, when He lays his hands on you, your Heavenly Father had laid His hands on you. When he also speaks to you, you must operate with the light that it is your Heavenly Father that is speaking to you.

I hope you remember that David was anointed three times. In other words, oil was poured on David's head thrice. There could be times that your spiritual father is led to anoint your head with oil. If he has done that before and he wants to do it again, you have to be happy. I hope you also know that Solomon was anointed with oil twice. In other words, oil was poured on Solomon twice. Check the life of Saul, he was only anointed with oil once. The head of Saul was only anointed once. So, if the operation of the spirit at work in your spiritual father requires him to anoint with oil every year, then, be glad and flow with that. I understand that the Holy Spirit dwells within us as believers in the new testament. But I want you to know that anointing your head with oil, laying on of hands and so on are not testament matters but prophetic matters that brings manifestation. Every time you are anointed, you are exalted. Whenever hands are

laid on your head, you are elevated. Don't despise special impartation from your spiritual father. It is something you must crave for.

There are times you may be led to visit your spiritual father for shift of levels. In those situations, you may need to engage fasting and prayers before you visit him so you can pull out heavy and weighty unction and utterances from his spirit.

You need to develop the skills of recording or documenting his utterances as he blesses you. That is why many minister would always put on the recording on their mobile phone so that they can capture everything their spiritual father says and listen to it later.

A Spiritual Son Should Connect His Ministry to His Spiritual Father's Ministry

This I want to share here is an aspect many may want to criticize but I will share it as long as I know it is the truth.

As a spiritual son who has a ministry, your ministry should be connected to the ministry of your spiritual father spiritually. You do this by having certain percentage of your ministry income that you send to your spiritual father's ministry. As you receive spiritual substance from your spiritual father, you also must give financial or material

substance to your spiritual father's ministry. This shouldn't be done once, it should be done monthly and annually. Beyond the fact that doing that is a way of spiritual connectivity, it also proves that you believe in your spiritual father's ministry and honor what God is doing in that ministry. There are certain sons in ministry who send 5% of their monthly income to their spiritual father's ministry as a partnership seed. I always tell young ministers that the right thing to do is to ensure they give the tithe of your ministry to the ministry of your spiritual father. That is a major way you connect to a higher ministry.

I know a pastor and friend of mine who told me that the church he pioneered and pastors gives 15% of their monthly income to his spiritual father's ministry and his spiritual father. I asked him how? He said, their ministry sends their ministry tithe (that is ten percent of all their monthly income) to his spiritual father's ministry and send five percent of all their monthly income to his spiritual father as a monthly seed from the ministry. I was blown away when I heard that. Well, I don't know why he did that. To me, I believe that if he is led to do that, he is fine with God.

As a son who has a ministry, your ministry or church tithe should be sent to the ministry of your spiritual father. This has two benefits – you are

connecting to the spiritual blessing of that ministry and also communicating honor. Beyond this, you should know that what is sent to the ministry of your spiritual father is different from what is sent to him personally. You see, spiritual fathers don't like to talk about this so they won't be seen as though they need what their sons give them. But I have to clearly state it here to transfer the ancient wisdom. The fact is that you don't value the grace on your spiritual father if you don't sow into his life monthly and annually. When you sow into the life of your spiritual father or give gift to him, you are not communicating generosity, you are only communicating honor and connecting to the grace he carries. Many people don't honor their spiritual father. Let your spiritual father not see you as who with dishonor. Those who know how to give to their spiritual father and his ministry are the ones who know how to open his heart to them regularly. And when the heart is opened, blessings and teachings flow out freely.

Many years ago, one of my sons couldn't reach me because I wasn't accessible on phone. It was a period that young man was going through some emotional issues. After many weeks that he couldn't see me, he was counseled by his friend to go see a professional counselor. He later told me that he filled a form he paid for, paid for the hours and had to pay for all the three times he met the counselor in his office.

After he told me that, I asked the amount he paid for the form and the fees and he told me. I thought within me, this kind of son didn't value me and I had to cut off the access he has to me. The reason for such is because this young man would call me on phone to talk for many minutes and sometimes up to an hour, he would visit me to discuss extensively with me. For all those years, he never gave a dime neither did he give a gift. So, I thought, if he could pay a counselor for consultation fee and also paid for forms but couldn't give a gift to me, then, he didn't value me. It wasn't that I was gift conscious, but was value conscious. In fact, the reason he came to see me was because the emotional issues he paid for wasn't eventually settled. So, he had to come to me for counsel and prayers over the whole issues. If you are a son, ensure you don't do things that will cause you to be despised and don't block the access you have.

Now, you must be wise enough to let your spiritual father know that your ministry gives and sows to his ministry monthly. As you communicate this to him, his heart will always be opened to bless you and instruct you. When a spiritual father knows that you honor him and his ministry, blessings and uncommon instruction that will advance you will freely flow out of his heart. Giving to the ministry of your spiritual father gives you a spiritual platform to

replicate the grace and manifestation in your father's ministry.

If you want to keep receiving spiritual substance from your spiritual father regularly, you must give financial and material substance regularly. If you don't give to him by percentage, you can put him on your ministry pay roll. The point is that let your ministry have substance – financial or material – sent to your spiritual father monthly and annually. I believe that there are things we don't generalize. I will counsel a son to ask the Holy Spirit what he should give to his spiritual father and his ministry regularly. Divine guidance will really help you in this matter.

For Those Whose Spiritual Fathers Have No Ministry

If you are a spiritual son to a man who has no ministry organization, but you have a ministry organization, you have to look for a man of integrity whose grace and ministry you admire, such can also be regarded as a father figure whose ministry you consider higher to your ministry. The moment you are able to locate such ministry, begin to let your ministry give to that ministry. This is the way you connect to a higher ministry.

Remember that God says "I will bless those who

bless you…" When you give of your ministry to a higher ministry God is blessing, you are telling God to bless you the same way He is blessing that ministry. This is one of the ways to replicate same order of grace.

Follow God's Leading in Regards to Giving to Your Spiritual Father

I once heard Pastor David Ibiyeomie shared the story of his life. He said poverty was at their door as a married couple. Poverty has grades, there's grade A, grade B and all of that, and theirs was high grade. He said his wife had no account because her account was dormant, he had no account either.

They entered the ministry and God said go to Port Harcourt. He obeyed and went to Port Harcourt. In the midst of that poverty, he read a book by Gloria Copeland titled "God's will is prosperity." That was the book that Papa Oyedepo read that made him come out of poverty and when he was meditating, God said to him, "you pay tithe, you give offering but you don't give to your prophet (your spiritual father). He said if you don't give to your prophet (your spiritual father), you will never prosper. He said God told him "don't you know that your prophet determines your prosperity because when you believe your prophet, you shall prosper."

He said God asked him, who is blessing you? And he replied, 'Oyedepo.' So God told him, 'from today, sow to his life, if you don't want to be a beggar.' Pastor David Ibiyeomie said all they had at home that day was fifty naira and he put the money in an envelope for his spiritual father. Two hours after he put the money in an envelope, a man knocked their door in Victoria Island and said 'pastor, God has blessed me with ten thousand naira, I give you two thousand naira.' So, he removed his tithe, offering and prophet offering. He said from that day till date, he has never been broke. He said he has a safe for prophet offering. So, he gives his tithe, offerings and special giving to his spiritual father. I will never forget a statement I heard from him. He said, 'if I stop giving to Papa Oyedepo today, his prosperity will stop and if Papa Oyedepo stops giving to Papa Adeboye, his prosperity will stop.'

You see everyone just need to know what God requires of him. There are people God may not lead to function the way Pastor David Ibiyeomie operates his giving and be led another way. Each person just need to be sensitive to what God requires of him or her to give to his spiritual father.

I remember one of my sons in the faith reached out to me one day that he wants to start sending his tithe to me. God told me not to receive it from him that the spiritual order created for that man

was to give his tithe to the house of God not a man of God. Now, the same God had led some to give their tithe to their man of God. How come he said another shouldn't give his tithe to his man of God. The reason is because God's dealing with individuals differs. We must not generalize God's dealing. The instruction given to you may be different from the one given to another. I had to tell that man not to send his tithe to me but to the church he attends. You see, as men of God, sincerity and integrity must be priorities. It must not be neglected or trivialized.

Now, I realized later that that man really desires to give to me being his spiritual father. So, I had to tell him to give his tithe to his church but can give whatever God puts in his heart to his spiritual father. I remember a man decided he would always send 5% of his monthly income to his spiritual father which he does faithfully. God will reward and bless such for that. But it would be wrong to want to generalize it that everyone should start giving 5% of their income to their spiritual father. That will be very wrong. The conclusion is that individuals should find out what God wants him to give to his or her spiritual father regularly. But if I am asked to give a counsel on this matter, I will counsel you to give your tithe (10%) and you may give 5% of your income to your spiritual father. Remember, this isn't generalized but a counsel. Of course, I counseled

giving and spending in percentage because that is the appropriate financial intelligence approach to money.

You need to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in regards to giving to your spiritual father.

Now, let me be direct. There are ministers that may not be led to give their ministry tithe to the ministry of their spiritual father but will be led to give it to their spiritual father directly. You remember that Abraham gave the tithe of his company to Melchizedek. Just like Abraham gave to Melchizedek a man of high spiritual stature, God may lead some ministers to give their church tithe to their spiritual father. In this case, a spiritual son will send the tithe of his ministry to wherever his spiritual father directs him to send it to. This way, God receives the tithe of that ministry through the spiritual father. Remember, that the emphasis here is according to the way the son is led by the Holy Spirit.

There are sons that the leading they will have is to put their spiritual father on their ministry payroll. That means, the son's ministry have certain amount given to the spiritual father of the leadership as a seed sent monthly.

Now, there are sons who may not be led to give anything from their ministry account but from their personal account. You see, the most important is

to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Whatever He tells you to do, do it.

An established fact is that your ministry should give tithe monthly and according to practice, you send it to the ministry of your spiritual father. In a situation you are led of the Holy Spirit to give your ministry tithe to your spiritual father, you may need to discuss this with your spiritual father notifying him about what the Holy Spirit led you to do before you start doing this.

Your Spiritual Father's Birthday

Sometimes ago, a spiritual son took a cheque and gift to his spiritual father on his birthday. It was so evident that the heart of the man was filled with joy. Blessing flows out of his heart towards his sons freely. The son went further to tell his spiritual father, "this gift is from my wife and I, and this cheque is from our ministry…" The spiritual father smiled and declared words of blessing over the son and his ministry. Now, that spiritual father is blessed already. He is one of the top blessed pastors in the world as at the time of writing this book. I questioned why the man cherished the money and gift since he never lacks money or gift. I later discovered that the spiritual father considered what the son gave as honor to him. It was Pastor Chris

Oyakhilome who said that the way you are blessed by the blessed is by giving to the blessed. Giving stirs up the heart of a man to bless you. Remember that Isaac told Esau to get him a game so that he may eat and his heart would bless him.

There are three things that should be done for your spiritual father on his birthday.

1. You should give a gift on behalf of your family, and your ministry also should present a gift: Two kinds of gifts should go to your spiritual father on his birthday. The first is the gift from you – you and your wife should send a gift to your spiritual father on his birthday. The gift can be material or monetary. The second is the gift from your ministry. You as the leader should give instruction of what should be given from the ministry account. The way some people do things related to this matter is that their family give material gift – like clothes, cars, house, etc. while their ministry give money. And some do it the other way round. Now, it is wisdom to give the money in cash not in cheques. You don't stress your spiritual father to go and make withdrawal, even though he has a Personal Assistant or Accounting Officer. It is wisdom to go withdraw the cash yourself or you make a transfer to his bank account directly. For all the times I have heard Pastor David Ibieyomie gave money to his spiritual father, it is always in cash or transfer into

his bank account. If you give a cheque, you should communicate the amount in the cheque.

Your ministry should have gifts sent to your spiritual father on his birthday. Let me repeat this wisdom – on your spiritual father's birthday, you should send your personal (if not married) or family (if married) gift and your ministry should also send a gift. The spirit of your spiritual father will be opened more towards you and your ministry when you do this.

When you see certain sons preferred by their spiritual father above some other sons, this I share in regards to giving to spiritual father is the secret. Those preferred sons would always send their family gift and ministry gift to their spiritual father before or on his birthday. The ones that are less preferred don't have the initiative to do that – they only send text messages or call on his birthday without sending gifts.

One time, in the early days of Pastor David Ibiyeomie in ministry, He was desperate for growth and advancement in ministry, so he took all the money he had, that is one million naira and took it to his spiritual father. He said his spiritual father told his Personal Assistant that this son is different from other sons who are his colleagues. Others sons will always come and ask for money, but this one came to ask for blessing, therefore he will rise

above them. Pastor David Ibiyeomie shared that the blessing pronounced on him that day was the secret to his speed in ministry.

2. Your spiritual father should be celebrated on your personal and ministry media spaces: If your ministry has a Television station, your spiritual father should be celebrated on that station on his birthday. On your personal and ministry social media account, he should be celebrated too. Many don't know that spiritual fathers get information about how they are talked about behind them through their Personal Assistants. The Personal Assistants have a way of checking through the personal and ministry account of spiritual sons to identify the ones who truly show honor to their spiritual father. This Personal Assistant will later give lists of sons and ministries who publicly celebrate their spiritual father. Many always assume that their spiritual father doesn't know what is going on behind the scene but they don't know that father figures have people that inspect and give feedbacks to them. You know it will interest some sons to know that their spiritual father know that they honor him publicly. And some others also need to know that their spiritual father know that they don't honor him publicly. If you can't identify with your spiritual father publicly, you can't talk about him publicly,

then you are not a genuine son. One day, Bishop David Oyedepo mentioned at a conference that many don't know he is aware of many things going on in their ministries. That is the fact. He may not have the time to check here and there, but there are people around him who are aware of everything going on everywhere.

When you check the social media account of Pastor Paul Enenche, Pastor David Ibiyeomie, Pastor Korede Komaiya, you will see that they will always put up a flyer design on their personal and ministry social media account to celebrate their spiritual father. The flyer designs should always carry the name of your ministry. It should be seen that your ministry celebrates the birthday of your spiritual father. It will interest you to know that your spiritual father will get to know this through his Personal Assistants.

3. Organize birthday surprises for your spiritual father: This is all about creating surprises for him. The surprise may be that you visit him uninformed with some leaders of your ministry to celebrate him on his birthday. You may decide to organize a surprise birthday party for him. A music person may decide to compose a song for him. A spiritual son who wants to create the surprise can go further to mobilize others sons to join him in doing

that.

Note

You create indelible memory of your ministry and yourself in the memory of your spiritual father when you take this aspect seriously. I know some may consider what I wrote here as unspiritual, but the fact is that I have shared deep wisdom and secrets with you here.

Unique Way of Celebrating Your Personal Birthday

Seasons of life are creating and shaped by words. You receive words and speak words to see the quality of life that you desire. Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceed from the mouth of God. You need both bread and word to be sustained in life.

Your season is influenced by the quality of words programmed into it. As spiritual beings, we celebrate our birthday by programming the seasons ahead before the day or on the day. Spiritual beings celebrate new seasons by receiving words. You see, spiritual fathers should not just give birthday gifts to their sons on their birthday, they should give words and blessings to their sons. You see, the material or monetary gifts given by a spiritual father can't be

compared to the blessings and words spoken over your life by him. It is babes that keep expecting gifts from their spiritual father. Mature ones desire and demand for blessings.

Now, a spiritual father may give you gifts on your birthday but you should know that the words spoken over your life are more important that any physical gifts. Fathers have large heart and give gifts, but your desire should always be the words spoken over your life.

Catch this secret. Many months ahead of your birthday, ensure you do things that will make your spiritual father so happy with you. Do some special things for him that will cause him to consider you a special son. What you have done for him will be a trigger that will open his heart to pronounce heavy blessings on you. There are words that come out of the mouth that are weighty. If you don't know how to make the heart joyful, you don't know how to pull out weighty words out of the mouth.

Go and check it all through Bible, any one that gives or sacrifice will bring out a definite word from the mouth of God. It's a divine principle not preference nor discrimination. It's not favoritism, that's why the Bible says, "God loves a cheerful giver." Honor triggers the blessing. Honor will release weaponized words in your direction. How can you honor somebody and you're not sacrificial towards

the person?

Another secret is to engage the power of service. If you are a spiritual son or daughter who serve your spiritual father faithfully, you will receive blessings that are uncommon.

3

Your Spiritual Father Isn't Your Equal, Friend, Brother or Senior Colleague

You lose favor in life and ministry when you don't understand certain things. I want to share with you secrets to overflowing favor in life and ministry. All kinds of trend in ministry. Your spiritual father isn't your senior colleague or big brother in ministry.

As a minister, you must never come under the pressure to equate yourself with your spiritual father in ministry. Any minister who refers to his spiritual father as a friend isn't guided by wisdom. Your father may call you a friend or brother, but you shouldn't foolishly and ignorantly mistakenly refer to him as your friend or brother. It was God the Father that called Abraham his friend. Abraham wasn't the one

who called God a friend. It was Jesus that called his disciples friends, and not the other way round. That your spiritual father refer to you as a friend doesn't mean you are his friend. How can you boldly call your spiritual father your friend? How? How can he become your friend? You see, it is not every trend you see in the Body of Christ that you key into; you must be a man of principles and let the Word of God be the ruling and governing influence in your life.

You know I have seen all kinds of nonsense amidst certain people in the past. It is very obvious that the spirit of counsel was not at work in the lives of many. I have carefully observed and noticed that when the season and waves changed, those sons who are careless with words suddenly miss out. The way it starts based on trend is to start calling your spiritual father your senior colleague. That is very funny. How can your spiritual father become your senior colleague in ministry?

The worst of it is to see minister refer to his spiritual father as my big brother in ministry. I wonder again how a believer or minister can refer to his spiritual father as his big brother. The question I love to find out is "how?" How can a father turn to a brother in your heart and mouth? You know if it is your spiritual father that call you a brother, it is still okay. But when a son himself now open his mouth to refer to his spiritual father as a big brother, you

should know that the seed of dishonor has grown to the tree of dishonor.

You see, you don't refer to anyone above you as your very good friend. Your spiritual father shouldn't be referred to as your friend. Your father may call you a friend, but you shouldn't refer to him as such. In fact, when he refers to you as a friend, you should diplomatically open your mouth to say you are a son. You may never know if your father is testing you by referring to you as a friend.

As a minister who wants to last in the work of the ministry, you must put on the garment of humility. At a time, Peter referred to Paul as our beloved brother Paul - 2 Pet.3:15 but Paul had enough sense not to take undue advantage of that; he saw Peter as one who was before him - Gal.1:17 and also as a principal pillar in the early Church that he looked up to - Gal.2:9.

Remember that after his salvation experience, he went to meet Peter and spent fifteen days in his house to have a firsthand account of the ministry of Jesus and to also learn about ministry - Gal.1:18. This same Paul referred to himself as the least of the apostles - 1 Cor.15:9. We don't follow trend; we follow the word. You see, a senior minister can call you his friend out of his own largeness of heart but you should be wise enough not to call him your friend. This is simple wisdom in ministry.

You see, check it out in Scriptures; Jesus called His disciples friends - John 15:15 but they never called Him their friend - they were wise. Simply put, Jesus calling them friends only shows that he was friendly with them and that's how a good leader does, and they never lost sight of the fact that he was their leader because on several occasions, they called Him "Master". On another occasion, Jesus called them children - John 21:5, so we need to balance this and put it in the proper perspective.

One time, Dr. Mike Murdock told Pastor David Ibiyeomie to pray for him. He replied him that he came so that Dr. Mike Murdock can pray for him. So, He knelt down and received the blessing of Dr. Mike Murdock. Now this is not to say that we can't pray or intercede for spiritual authority figures because Paul asked the Church to pray for him. What I am saying is that God expect you to receive from superior graces. One day, Dr. T. L. Osborn went on his knees and asked Bishop David Oyedepo to pray for him but Bishop responded "Never, the less is blessed of the better…" - Heb.7:7.

One day, Bishop David Oyedepo said, "Even if I build three hundred thousand seating capacity auditorium, it doesn't make me bigger than Kenneth Copeland." Spiritual sons need to learn that their results or impact will never set them above or make them equal to their spiritual father.

As at the time of writing this book, Pastor Paul Enenche who is a spiritual son to Bishop David Oyedepo had built a one hundred thousand seating capacity while his spiritual father still ministers under a fifty thousand seating capacity. The question is that will Pastor Paul Enenche consider himself to be equal or above his spiritual father Bishop David Oyedepo? Never! I have watched that man and saw high understanding. It is amazing to hear Pastor Paul said he still listens to the messages of his spiritual father daily. If it was to be someone from the younger generation of today, such might think he is more anointed than his spiritual father and now above his father. You must learn to distinguish between the spiritual and material. Water never flows uphill, it always flows downhill. Hebrews 7:7. The less is blessed by the better. How to agree that you are less is where the problem is. In relationship to your spiritual father, you must regularly see yourself as the less that needs his blessings. I counsel people to be careful in their approach with their spiritual father. The crown you want that father to put on your head, do you have the wisdom to handle the headache that comes with it?

Bishop David Abioye, Bishop Thomas Aremu, Pastor Paul Enenche, Pastor David Ibiyeomie, Pastor Korede Komaiya will never finish a complete sermon without mentioning the name of their spiritual father Bishop David Oyedepo. This wisdom is for sons who are serving in the ministry of their spiritual father and for those who have their independent ministry. Prophet Uebert Angel, Rev. Tom, Rev. Okocha and so on will always make reference to their spiritual father – Pastor Chris Oyakhilome in their messages.

Let me share this secret with you – one of the proofs that you carry the spirit of your spiritual father is that his words flow out of your mouth freely. Every time you quote your spiritual father, you are indirectly telling everyone who hears you that you carry the spirit and grace of your spiritual father. How people will know that what is in him is also in you is that they hear you say what you heard from him regularly. One of the proofs of consistent followership is the consistent outflow of words of the one you follow. When you quote your spiritual father, you are also saying that whatever people wants to get from your father, they can also get from you.

Another main proof that you carry the spirit and

grace of your spiritual father is that you can repeat his words and reproduce his works. If you can't repeat the words of your father, then, you are not a carrier of his spirit. Why? This is because the spirit of the man is transferred through his words. Remember, Jesus said the words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. So, when you receive the words of your spiritual father, you are receiving spirits from his spirit. The error of many is that they quote the words but failed to mention the name. Here is the secret, every time you mention the name of your spiritual father in your message, you are advertising your grace. This way, people will know that what you are saying are words proven and authenticated. I intentionally put this secret in the middle here so that it won't be obvious to lazy ones. But those who God has shown mercy will surely read this part. If you are reading this section, you are most blessed of all men for your eyes have seen a secret other can't see. I will share the secret in this paragraph. You know many think they are smart or being original by sharing word they heard from their father without mentioning his name. Such people are really limiting themselves. This I want to share with you here is the secret all the top sons of Bishop David Oyedepo knows. First, let me establish that there is something known as privileged information. Such information is

personal or corporate secret that are responsible for certain operation and manifestation. Hardly will you hear Pastor Paul Enenche preached a message and not mention the name of his spiritual father up to five times in his sermon. Same with many other sons. The reason for such is because when you quote your spiritual father regularly, you are advertising and marketing yourself as one who have privileged information you have received from him. *Read the last statement again.* When you quote something you read in his book or heard in his sermon, people will know that you have certain beneficial revelation and information that they need to hear. When you quote your spiritual father regularly, other sons who don't understand this secret will think that your spiritual father is telling you certain things he doesn't tell the other sons. This way, you have indirectly position yourself as the one others sons should listen to. They may not appear at your program, but they will want to hear something you have gotten from your father that they haven't gotten. Like I said, they may not attend your programs, but they will download your message to listen to it. You also need to know that when you quote the words of the one God has commanded men to hear, men will hear you. If you want to be heard, mention the name of the one that is heard. This is a secret that many kingdom rebels have used and it is working for them. The fact is that

when you mention the name of the one the hearts of people have generally accepted, your message will be accepted. Many who are sincere sons in a way to proof originality don't engage this secret and as such, those behind them advanced ahead of them. be wise.

Another secret is that when you quote your spiritual father regularly in your sermon or messages, you are indirectly telling those who want to invite your spiritual father to their program but couldn't access him or invite him to reach out to you and bring you on their platform. This way, you have positioned yourself as one who carries the voice and grace of your spiritual father. When people hear you mention the name of your spiritual father regularly in your sermon or message, they know that you have the fullness of your spiritual father in you and whatever they want to hear from your spiritual father, they can hear it from you. As at the time of writing this book, Bishop Dag Heward Mills of Ghana invited Pastor Paul Enenche to their church conference. He mentioned a point I will never forget. He said they have been trying to invite Bishop Oyedepo for sometimes but such couldn't work out. So, he said he reached out to Bishop Oyedepo that he wants to invite Pastor Paul Enenche. He said something striking. He said he knows that as long as Pastor Paul Enenche was present at that

meeting, Bishop Oyedepo was present. At that meeting, during Pastor Paul Enenche's ministration, He referred to and quoted his spiritual father for more than fifteen times in one single sermon. As I listened to that message, I said to myself, "Pastor Paul is an embodiment of ancient wisdom." It was obvious that he embodied his spiritual father.

Pastor korede komaiya preached somewhere many years ago and it was almost impossible for people to sit down from the beginning to the end, it was at Global Harvest Church. It was so explosive. Rev. Victor Adeyemi told him "I can hear Bishop Oyedepo's voice in your voice." Pastor Korede replied that Papa Oyedepo goes very gradually and gives you points. People don't jump up and scream like they are doing. Reverend Victor later told him that inside that jumping, there were a lot of lines, instructions, punchlines, directions, nuggets, things that people went home with

If you can't talk about your spiritual father openly and publicly regularly, the relationship between both of you can't be strong. The success of a father and son Relationship is sustained by the dogged followership of the son. No matter how powerful and useful you are as a Son, no father will run after you. It is your responsibility to follow after your father.

A Father's Blessing

A father's blessing is a kingdom mystery (secret). Spiritual fathers in the hierarchy of fathers are the highest order of fathers and they represent the order of God. Fatherhood is the establishment of God's order of government. Spiritual fathers are given the power to bless.

There is a side of the government of God that is attached to spiritual fatherhood. Elijah was not the biological father of Elisha, but Elisha said, "my father, my father." In other words, Elisha saw Elijah as his spiritual father. Spiritual fathers are spiritual feathers with which you'll fly higher and words spoken with intent from a spiritual father will always push you to your place in destiny.

That God called you to start a ministry isn't a command to disconnect from your spiritual father. Pastor David Ibiyeomie of Salvation Ministries attended the Bible School of his spiritual father but after God called him, He remained connected to his spiritual father till date. Pastor Korede Komaiya of the Master's place shared that of many who left Winners Chapel, there was no one God helped and lifted like him. Why? This is because he remained connected to his spiritual father after he left. How do you remain connected? You remain connected to your spiritual father by listening to his messages

regularly, attending the major programs he holds, sowing seeds into his life and ministry monthly, defending him publicly and identifying with him publicly. If everyone can't know who your spiritual father is, you are a potential rebel and have a hidden agenda.

Look, to be blessed is to be empowered to succeed. And to be blessed means, words are spoken over you with intent. You remember scripture says "and God blessed them and God said." That's how the blessing is pronounced. Pronounced blessing simply means a spoken word with intent that equals a weaponized word. It goes into your future and rearrange your life. Blessings pronounced on you terminate curses and opens up your destiny. Remember that the less is blessed by the better (Hebrews 7:7). Who is pronouncing blessings over your life? Consistent and long-term struggle is a sign of the absence of blessings.

There is an interesting story I heard from Pastor Korede Komaiya that I want to share with you.

There is nothing I didn't do in Warri for our church to grow. I got home one day, I was on the bed crying - attack from the front, the back, side, right hand, left hand and attack from the skies. We were perpetually living fasted lives. I was on the bed with tears, saying "Lord, I can't continue like this" and then the Holy Spirit said, "you shall take money from you that is your sweat

and you shall go to Canaanland to see your spiritual father, Bishop David Oyedepo, he shall bless you and then, I shall bless you." Men are God's method. Even when God has blessed you, like He did to Abraham, you must continue to show honor to the father figure He puts in your life and you must continue to receive blessings from Him. God blessed Abraham but Abraham must still honor Melchizedek for Melchizedek to pronounce blessing on him. Please, I want you to understand that this is a divine order. You must have a spiritual father figure in your life. He further shared –

I went to Lagos to minister and then the Holy Spirit said, "Move to Canaanland to see your spiritual father" and I got to Canaanland with two hundred thousand naira. Then, I got to the office to wait for my father, Bishop Oyedepo, around 9:30pm on Sunday evening, then he came and drove in around 9:40pm. A lot of people knelt down, he was praying for them, he would lift up his head, he'll look at me and do as if he didn't see me and continued praying for others. I walked closer to him and said in my heart, "today, you will see me". As Bishop Oyedepo was about to enter the office, as they opened the door, he looked at me again, he said, "KomasKos, you didn't tell me you were coming, you know I'm very busy." He took me up, he held me, he carried me like this from the ground, then we entered into his office and he began to speak the words of a father.

A teacher teaches, a father imparts. Only fathers

give inheritance. So, spiritual inheritance is given by spiritual fathers. Whatever your heavenly father has given you, your earthly spiritual father becomes a channel of releasing it on you because that is God's order. I knelt down and dropped the money in my hand as my seed and Bishop Oyedepo spoke with me for some time, I sowed the two hundred thousand naira as a seed and he now asked me, "So, Komaiya, where are you now?" I said, "I'm in Warri", but he knew. You know when God asked Adam, "Where are you?", God knew. He lifted up his head and said, "Now that you came here to tell me that you're in Warri, Warri help him", he placed his hand on me. I returned back to Warri on Monday, by Wednesday evening after service, my wife looked at me and said, "what is happening to us?", things turned. People that don't remember me, people that know I existed suddenly remember me. The fact is that a father's blessing breaks a son's limitation. When your spiritual father pronounces blessings on you, the heaven over you will open, you will shoot out above your contemporaries, your efforts will be colored by grace, your errors will be covered with mercy.

There are a lot of people running from pillar to post, let me say this to you, if spiritual fatherhood is not operational in your life, God's order and God's government is missing in your life. Spiritual fatherhood affects the flow of blessing because the channel is distorted and it's the reason why a lot of

people are struggling. Let me say this to you, the same way you can't change your biological father, you can't change your spiritual father. You don't choose your spiritual father; God connects you to your spiritual father. This is not motivation, this is not psychology, this is accurate knowledge.

Words spoken with intent are provoked. Negative words spoken with intent are called curses, positive words spoken with intent are called blessings and the two are weaponized. How do I tap into a father's blessing? How do I make words to be spoken with intent over me? A father's blessing is not automatic; it is deliberately provoked by the son or the daughter.

You've Got to Believe Strongly in Your Spiritual Father

If you will provoke the blessing to be released on you through your spiritual father, you've got to believe your spiritual father strongly. The father you don't believe can't bless you. I once heard Pastor David Ibiyeomie said "I believe in Bishop David Oyedepo and if you don't believe in him, I have no relationship with you. I'm not neutral. You can't talk against him and I will reason with you. As long as you speak against my spiritual father, whatever you say is unreasonable to me."

I once heard Pastor Paul Enenche said that he believes in his spiritual father (Bishop David Oyedepo) the same way he believes in God. He said, you hate my father, I hate you. Even if you are my best friend, the moment you speak against my spiritual father, our relationship ends. You see, genuine sons are not in the middle. They are always for their father. Their father can never be wrong to them.

Let me address those in ministry. If what you learned from your spiritual father doesn't show up in your message, you are not genuinely connected. There are some who can't even mention the name of their spiritual father in their sermon or message. You know there are many things the younger generation don't know. Will you ever listen to a message by Pastor Paul Enenche and not hear him quote certain points he learned from his spiritual father? You can't find such. You can diligently listen to his message. You can't listen to Pastor David Ibiyeomie and not hear him refer to something he learned from his spiritual father. Let the impact of your spiritual father in your life show up in your messages.

Engage Honor Practically

Honor proves sonship. Only honor proves a son or a daughter and you can't separate giving and honor. Honor is to esteem high, value, high regard,

adoration, celebration, deep respect. Honor is to hold in high esteem.

Honor is to defend and to protect. Your spiritual father should never offend you. I want you to know that he is still human and has his human side, no perfect vessels but perfect virtues. You should honor your spiritual father genuinely and be wise to do things that will cause his heart to bless you.

You should be a loyal son. Fatherhood is not a mere mouth thing, fatherhood is demonstrated. The other sons of the prophet who spoke to Elisha were the eye service sons. They are the hypocritical sons, they were just saying to Elijah; Ye! Ye! Ye! They were the funny type, Elisha was the true son but hear the miracle, by the time Elisha returned with the mantle, the Bible said; they bow at the feet of Elisha, they said, the Spirit of Elijah rest on Elisha.

You may be the least of sons connected to your spiritual father, if your heart is right and deeply connected to him, you will receive something that will set you above others. Those who mock you and claim you are following a man cheaply will later bow to you. Bishop David Abioye once said, 'many people used to call me Oyedepo's boy but today, the boy is a man and all those people are not up to my level today."

If you're a true son there will be connectivity not just proximity. Your heart will connect with the

person. Your heart will accept whatever the person does, you will always think of him that nothing should happen to him. If you don't care whatever happens to your spiritual father, you are not a genuine son. If you're a true son and a true daughter, your heart will flow in his direction regularly.

I once heard Pastor David Ibiyeomie said "there is no day we don't take a prayer point for my spiritual father Bishop Oyedepo in my family. It's a daily affair. We've never told him that this is what we do because it is not necessary. In every prayer that we pray, one prayer must be for my spiritual father." If you are a son that don't remember your spiritual father in your prayers, something is wrong with you. You're not connected genuinely, you pray for one month and you don't pray one prayer for your spiritual father, something is wrong. You see, not praying for your spiritual father just proves that your heart is not connected and sincere with him.

Your Spiritual Father's Enemy Is Your Enemy

One day, I heard Pastor David Ibiyeomie said if you hated Bishop Oyedepo, he hated you. Pastor Paul Enenche said during one of his sermon that he can't be on your side when you are against his spiritual father. True sons don't manage relationship with speak against their father. Why would you keep

associating with anyone who finds it easy to insult your spiritual father.

Prophet Uebert Angel once said, the enemy of his spiritual father is his enemy. In fact, true sons don't keep quiet when their fathers are insulted. If you can't defend your spiritual father behind him, you are not a true son. You know I laugh sometimes. Is it a son that isn't bold to celebrate his spiritual father publicly that will defend him publicly? When social media critics come against father figures, true sons will always rise to confront the critics. I remember a time a social media critic insulted Bishop David Oyedepo, both Pastor David Ibiyeomie and Dr. Paul Enenche spoke up against the critic. Their words scared the man and he became silent over their spiritual father. This unique quality is what differentiates true sons from sons.

About three years ago, I heard Pastor David Ibiyeomie said he has many mentors but one spiritual father. He said, everyone he refers to as mentors know that he has only one spiritual father and that is Bishop David Oyedepo.

In the year 2021, a great man invited Pastor Paul Enenche to minister at their church convention. When Pastor Paul wanted to acknowledge the man, he said "I honor one of the fathers of faith we have in Nigeria." You know if it was another, he would say "I honor *my father*" referring to the host as his father

too. You see, the use of words really matter. The only man aside Bishop David Oyedepo that Pastor Paul Enenche only referred to as "our father" is Pastor E. A. Adeboye. Of course, you know that's his spiritual grandfather.

You must be able to read the lines. Even if you were closer to someone in the past but noticed that person is against your spiritual father, you need to be guided by wisdom and know that you shouldn't be told to reduce how you relate with such. I don't mean you shouldn't show love to people, but saying you should let wisdom guide you and know that your relationship with your spiritual father is more important than your relationship with anyone else in ministry because this is connected to your destiny in ministry. Authentic proof of your loyalty and sonship is to stand with those who stand with your father and never sit with those who are against your father.

4

Benefits of Attending Major Meetings of Your Spiritual Father

It is quite unfortunate that the younger generation don't understand certain spiritual principles and are also not observant to learn from the older generation. This is the reason God prompted me to share many unsaid and unknown secrets to ministers in ministry.

You need to study this pattern from the older generation. You will always see the spiritual sons of Pastor E. A. Adeboye at major meetings organized by the church. Even when they were not invited to speak or minister, they still found their way there. This is a way of showing honor and connecting to a higher grace. Your presence at the major meeting of your spiritual father is a way of telling him that you still remain connected. I once heard Pastor David Ibiyeomie said he shifted a major

program in their ministry to another month because it collided with the major meeting of his spiritual father. That is honor. In other words, he shifted their annual 5Days of Glory (now Glory Reign) from December to January because it collided with the annual Shiloh program that holds in December organized by Bishop David Oyedepo. He didn't not only shift it, he also ensured he attended the program annually. That is high honor for his spiritual father. How many sons in ministry can do that?

Will Bishop David Oyedepo host any major programs and you won't see his spiritual sons present at the meeting? No! And the fact is that over 70% of this sons have thriving ministry. They are flourishing in ministry but they understand the principle of connectivity. You can't claim to be connected when you are absent at the major meeting of your spiritual father. The annual Shiloh program that Bishop David Oyedepo host annually is a meeting where you see the likes of Pastor Paul Enenche, Pastor David Ibiyeomie, Pastor Biodun Fatoyinbo, Pastor Femi Emmanuel, Pastor Samuel Olubiyo, Pastor Korede Komaiya, and so on. They are not coming to minister but to be ministered to. Even the ones that are privileged to minister amidst them are coming to the program with the mindset that they want to come and receive fresh substance flowing out of their spiritually father. You will see all

these ministers with their writing materials writing or typing on their notepad as each ministers speak. The mentality of "I already know what is talked about" will never be displayed by those ministers. That spiritual family is a family of achievers who are continuously learning from their spiritual father.

When you attend a meeting, you must go with the desire to receive fresh substance into your spirit. When you attend the meeting hosted by your spiritual father, you must go with the desires to receive from him. Many years ago, I used to give various ministers the opportunity to minister at meetings hosted by our ministry. A bad habit I saw was that some of those ministers would not be in the auditorium when others are ministering. They will only come when they want to minister. Those were my early days in ministry. The funny thing is that most of these people were far behind me in ministry but would not listen to anything others are sharing. I had to stop committing responsibility to such people and focused on the ones that were willing to learn and receive the word. Today, many of those ministers are no longer in ministry. They have disappeared. May you not disappear in ministry.

You must make it a duty to regularly attend the major and annual program of your spiritual father. You must never go there to minister but to be ministered to. Even when you are given the privilege

to minister, your mindset should be that you want to be ministered to. You must regularly crave for a fresh impartation of words through your spiritual father.

Let me share this two secrets with you. This I want to share with you are secrets I confirmed as authentic by Pastor David Ibiyeomie. The first is that when you want to attend the meeting hosted by your spiritual father, you must go with the mentality that you will serve. In other words, you should have a way you serve your spiritual father when attending his meeting. If you serve your spiritual father, God will command other people elsewhere to serve you. It's only those who serve the blessed that will be served by those who want to be blessed. When you serve your spiritual father, God will issue a decree over your life to be served. How can you serve your spiritual father? Well, there are many ways to do that. You may ask for the cost of something to be done and pay for it. You see, when you serve or give towards the meeting hosted by your spiritual father, you become a partaker of the blessing that will be released on that meeting. Catch this - the easiest way to serve in a meeting hosted by your spiritual father is to give towards that meeting. In a situation there are enough workers in the ministry of your spiritual father, then, let your money do the work. Simply look for something to be done and pay for it.

The second insight is that when attending the meeting hosted by your spiritual father, you must go with a seed to sow into the life of your spiritual father. You should always prepare your seed many months ahead. The moment you get to the meeting; ensure you have a way to see your spiritual father either on the first or second day to give him your seed. After the seed is dropped, pay attention to the words of blessings that will flow out of his mouth. The words that flows out of his mouth should be taken as the prophetic word you will engage for your next phase. When you drop your seed in his hands or table, pay attention to the words that flows out of his mouth.

A Caution

Never you seek to speak on the platform of your spiritual father. If you do, you may be disappointed. You must be careful never to be jealous when other sons are given a platform and you aren't given.

When you are given the privilege to speak on the platform of your spiritual father, you must ensure that you make reference to what you have learned from him when speaking. You must be wise to share with the congregation something you learned from your spiritual father that you are applying to your ministry.

When speaking on the platform of your spiritual father, never use other ministry or minister as an illustration, you should use your spiritual father's ministry as the illustration. That's why you must prepare your message well.

When speaking on the platform of your spiritual father, be careful never to sound the alarm of your ministry exploit on that platform. If you will do that, you should only do that when you want to mention something you learned from your spiritual father that triggered that exploit in your ministry. Your spiritual father may not have issues with this when done, but other sons who aren't given the privilege to speak will think you are bragging.

Never talk about something that you do in your ministry that isn't done in your spiritual father's ministry. And never speak against what is done in your spiritual father's ministry that isn't done in your ministry.

The Unsaid Secret of Many

I once heard a man of God said that for 10 years, he gave Pastor Adeboye a car every year. He said for ten years, the year he didn't give him a car, he'll give him something equivalent in money. The man shared that the last time he went to Redemption camp to drop a car for Pastor Adeboye, as he dropped the car

for Pastor Adeboye, he was number 120+ that day to drop a car for him. He said not one of them knew they were coming, and not one of them knew they were going to be there that day. Some drove down from the North while some drove down from the East. He was number 120+ lined on queue. They were taking it one by one to his compound to park. Actually, that man of God is a spiritual grandson to Pastor Adeboye. Pastor Adeboye is his spiritual father's father. You can connect to the spiritual father of your spiritual father when instructed by the Lord. While you connect through giving or seed to your father's father, you should remain connected to your spiritual father.

Are You Desperate to Receive Your Father's Blessings?

Be desperate for a double portion, it is called the principle of correct alignment. The only reason you relate with the anointed is for collection of the anointing. You're not relating with your spiritual father so he can help you financially. Do you know a lot of people are close to anointed men of God and all they want from them is their money? You're making a mistake. Let me teach you this secret, don't ever ask your spiritual father for money, ask for blessing. Spiritual fatherhood isn't for financial sponsorship

If you understand the principle of rising, you won't be doing certain things. If a day pass and you don't listen to the message or read a book of your spiritual father, you haven't started. What was the secret to the exploit of everyone connected to Papa Kenneth Hagin? The secret was that all of them cultivated the habit of listening to his teachings regularly. The same secret is what the top spiritual sons of Bishop David Oyedepo have practiced over the years. You hear Bishop David Abioye, Pastor David Ibiyeomie, Pastor Paul Enenche and so on say they listened to the teachings and messages of their spiritual father daily.

You can't listen to the messages and read books of your spiritual father and the same thing in him won't drop into you. As you listen to him, his anointing will surely rub off on you. I have some sons in ministry who carry the same thing I carry. The same unction at work in my life is at work in their lives. They don't attempt to copy the way I talk but the unction rub off on them. Listening to the messages of your spiritual father means you will have the same flow.

Let me share something Pastor Korede Komaiya once said – *I was so desperate for what my spiritual father (Bishop Oyedepo) carry that most times, when I was in Winners, we'd finish meeting and I'll wait for everybody to leave the hall and I'll go and sit on the*

chair my spiritual father (Bishop Oyedepo) sat on and I'll be praying for 30mins. We closed in Canaanland one day at 1am, I discussed with Bishop Oyedepo's Personal Assistant, I said, "I want to sit on daddy's seat in the office and pray", he told me, he said, "it's a hard thing, but come," I came, and he told me where to hide until daddy closed. Because I'm a son I had the privilege. A personal Assistant should not do that with rebels. The Personal Assistant knew I had no intention to harm him or cause a damage, it's my desperation. The Personal Assistant knew I sowed financial seeds dangerously into his life to honour him. So, Bishop Oyedepo just came out, I hid somewhere and Papa said to him, "I'm going home now", that's around 2am, So, Papa left, and as he left, he (the PA) just called me and I went and I sat on Bishop Oyedepo's seat in his office and I prayed and spoke in tongues for like 7 minutes. In the dream that I had that night, Bishop Oyedepo came and placed a crown on my head. That season changed for me automatically. A lot of people are not desperate. You can see that they really don't understand transference of grace, they're not desperate. They don't know how to partake of what their father carries. Desperation is the mother of manifestation. Some people are so close to their spiritual father, yet, you can't see any replication of same grace on their spiritual father on them. Look at my life, you can see Bishop Oyedepo replicated.

The Principle that Works

A dear son of mine Kenny Otesile once told me about something he observed about someone. He said, "Sir, I noticed that after every night session at Connect Confluence, this person (a son of mine too) would always sit on your seat when everyone leaves and blast in tongues." He said he noticed that that young man does that every night for many minutes. As at today, when people here that young man speak, they often hear my voice underneath his voice. In fact, there is an aspect of ministry where I have great grace in and that same grace has been replicated in the life of that young man. The insight is that you should know how to enter into the anointing of your spiritual father.

A Sad Story

A man of God told a story that I consider sharing with you.

One of my sons pleaded with me that he wants to host a particular friend of mine. If I can help him talk to the Pastor since he doesn't have access to him. I told him that this Pastor is not me that you normally give 100,000 whenever I come to bless your congregation. I remember even coming to your place and nothing was given to me because you were having an internal challenge you were

managing then. That did not affect our relationship. I don't think he will accept anything less than 500,000, because of his level. That is why you see him only in big churches. I will advise you to leave it for now because it will stress your innocent work. To my greatest surprise, my son said he will pay. That he needs the grace upon that my friend. He wants him to step on his altar. So I called the man of God and did the introduction. They both agreed and fixed a date.

Not too long after fixing the date, he was told to send two business class tickets for the Pastor and his wife. And a reservation in a five-star hotel. When my son checked the money involved, he called me that I should help him plead with my friend to come alone with an economy ticket, since he has accepted to give 500,000 as the honorarium of which the guest speaker was also aware of it. I said to him, that is the standard of that man, I told you he doesn't shift it for anyone.

To cut a long story short, my son out of frustration canceled the meeting. The next thing I heard is My father, you have to come and handle the meeting for me. Let us do our thing the way we used to do it. Leave all this men of God, who don't have mind for upcoming Pastors.

And I quickly borrowed the nature I don't have from those who have it, for the first time, I saw myself telling him, My P. A will reach you on my behalf. After a few days he called, I did not pick up, and he sent a text to say, sir your P. A has not reached me yet. I replied him,

I don't have a leading to come for now. When I have the leading, he will reach you on my behalf. That was how a very sweet relationship died a natural death.

Nobody should blame that Pastor who insists on business class for himself and his wife. In this work, if you don't have standards, they will use you as their sandal. Without a standard, you can't stand out. The only time, you can break the standard of some People is when you have paid the price of years of unbroken loyalty to them. Outside the above, always host your level and forget what is bigger than you. And treat very well the people who make hosting them very easy and stress-free. They are the real ministers of God. Not all the Merchant who parade themselves as ministers.

Lessons from the Story

1. Never ever make what you give your spiritual father equal to what you give other ministers or even below what you give other ministers. The spirit of dishonor is present in your life if you do such. What you give your spiritual father should always be above what you give any other minister. If you establish that standards for your life and ministry, your spiritual sons and daughters too will establish it for their life and ministry.
2. If you are hosting your spiritual father, you

must ensure the treatment you give him is above that of the other ministers. If your spiritual father ever spot dishonor, you have indirectly closed certain doors of depth within his heart.

Spiritual Fathers Are Dispensers of Blessings

Spiritual fathers are dispensers of heavenly blessings. Spiritual sons must be positioned rightly for them to be blessed by their spiritual father regularly. There is something known as the flow of blessing. This is also known as prophetic flow in some circles. Prophetic flow in ministry especially from a spiritual father to a spiritual son is designed for the son's elevation and it is often an extension of the father's authority in the realm of the Spirit.

As a minister, you must know how to relate well with this vital component of a father-son relationship. Your spiritual father does not have to be a "prophet" to be "prophetic". By virtue of his place in your life, he sees, hears and perceives on your behalf as the Spirit wills. It doesn't matter if you're a prophet by primary calling and your spiritual father stands in another ministry office. Fathering in ministry is not a function of the ministry office a minister occupies; it is a function of calling, divine ordination, spiritual authority and spiritual

connectivity.

The fact is that a Pastor can father a Prophet; a Teacher can father an Apostle; a Prophet can father an evangelist; an evangelist can father an Apostle; a Teacher can father a Prophet; a Prophet can father a Teacher, etc. Whoever your God-ordained spiritual father is and whatever ministry office he occupies, there's always a measure of spiritual authority given him to receive on your behalf and also speak into your life.

Now, in the context of this teaching, the "prophetic flow" is that operation and manifestation of the Holy Spirit through your spiritual father designed to bring you into the awareness and tangible manifestation of God's plan and purpose for your life and ministry. There three aspects you should bear in mind:

1. Prophetic words spoken over you
2. Prophetic words spoken of you
3. Prophetic words spoken to you

The first refer to words declared over your life to produce a desired outcome. Words spoken over you are prophetic and creative. Such words can only flow out of the mouth of spiritual authority figures. Words spoken over you are divine programming meant to affect and influence your season.

The second refers to words spoken to give a spiritual, futuristic description of you. This word is meant to explain something about you or about your future. This words are spoken by authority figures in your life and you just come into the awareness of them.

The third refers to words that you receive directly from the Lord. In other words, God speaks to you and communicates to you directly by the Spirit and then you align your activities with such. Often, when you read the Scriptures, you will see examples of prophetic words given ahead of people, and sometimes the people concerned were not yet born.

For instance, God spoke to David about Solomon that he was going to be the one to build the temple, yet Solomon had not been born as at the time David received the prophetic word on his behalf.

Solomon just discovered or came into the awareness of the prophecy that had been spoken of and about him.

1 Kings 5:2-5 says *"And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet. But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent. 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."

We see another example in Timothy; prophecies had gone ahead of him, and his spiritual father, in the person of Paul, charged him to wage a good warfare with them.

1 Timothy 1:18

"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, ACCORDING TO THE PROPHECIES WHICH WENT BEFORE ON THEE, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare."

Now notice that prophecies had gone ahead of Timothy. His own responsibility was to come into the awareness of them.

I will not be out of line to believe that aside the Apostle Paul, who was his spiritual father, God could also have spoken through Timothy's mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois because both of them were sound believers and of course spiritual giants, and even Paul traced Timothy's faith link and connection to them.

2 Timothy 1:5

"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

Talk of how God spoke to Abraham about Isaac.

Talk of how Isaac declared the future of Esau and Jacob. Talk of how Jacob spoke about the future of his twelve sons. Talk of how God instructed Moses to lay hands on Joshua and give him a charge in the sight of all Israel. Talk of how Jesus revealed the future ministry to His apostles. Talk of how Peter, James and John perceived the grace given to Paul and Barnabas thereby giving them the right hands of fellowship.

Scripture is clear about somethings. So, there are prophetic words spoken of or about you and you just come into the awareness of them. Also, there are prophetic words spoken to you directly and we have numerous examples in Scriptures. I will not bother to go into some details here because that's very straightforward and the Scriptures are replete with them. Just one example; the Apostle Paul received direct words that fell from the lips of Jesus and they talked about his future ministry—Read Acts 26:13-19.

As a minister, you should take the words of your spiritual father seriously. Our major area of focus is when your spiritual father (majorly) or any other spiritual authority in your life gives prophetic words about your life and ministry. How should you relate with them? You know; we always teach that any word that you receive from any source that doesn't agree with something you already have in your spirit,

you should discard it, and that is very correct.

A minister of God needs to understand that there are instances that you receive a word or words from your God-ordained spiritual authority and you don't really have a connectivity to it at that moment. You're hearing them for the first time. Now what do you do in that instance? You watch the witness of the Spirit of God in your spirit, and you also leverage the fiducial relationship (i.e. based on trust) that exists between you and the instrument that the Lord is using. Some prophetic words will not become crystal clear to you until you press them further in the place of prayer.

While it stands to reason in the light of Scriptures that a sizeable number of those prophetic words will tally with what you already have in your spirit. it is however also instructive that some will come in the first instance to ignite your spiritual awareness and drive you into prayer for further clarity.

But in all of these, the sanctity of Scriptures must be upheld and the peace/witness of the Spirit in your inner man must be taken into account. Prophetic words are not given to sleep over but to speak out.

In your relationship with your spiritual father, you will come to realize that many of the prophetic words you receive tally with what is already in your spirit, and sometimes you receive some afresh, and while pressing further in prayer, you receive greater

light, clarity and direction. At times as a spiritual son, you must beware of personal prejudice - it can obliterate your perspective of a prophetic flow that God is bringing to bless you.

There are people who received a prophetic word in the past as par starting ministry work in some cities but they said, "NEVER". Why did they say that? Because of their personal dislike for that city, but today, they're in those cities. This actually happened to me. I had said I can't do ministry in Lagos but was instructed by God to go pastor a church in Lagos for some months.

Whenever a prophetic flow comes to you, check your spirit. If you already have it in your spirit, then so be it. If you don't have it at that moment in your spirit but there seems to be a witness of the Spirit of God in your heart in that direction, then take it further in prayer until it becomes a full-blown picture. One day, Papa Kenneth Hagin was ministering and Papa Kenneth Copeland was present. He called Kenneth Copeland and said, "Ken, the Lord is bringing you into the office of a Prophet". As at then, Papa Copeland was a teacher but today, he is both a teacher and prophet.

You see, there are much deposits of grace reserved for you in the prophetic flow, especially from your spiritual father to you.

5

When a Son Hosts a Father

There are many dynamics found in this aspect. The way you introduce him to your congregation really matters. You should talk about his impact in your life and his years of labor over you that have brought you to where you are today in ministry.

In other words, you must be able to state in specific terms the things God had used him to do ~~in your life and ministry~~. You should be able to tell a story and experience that shows his impact in your life. Afterwards, you should proceed to specially appreciate him in the presence of the entire congregation. If his wife is there with him, you can share briefly about her hospitality and cares for you.

Your spiritual father can't be a guest in your ministry or church. Fathers always come with the fullness of blessings. A son who invite his spiritual father to his ministry must desire the blessing of his

father before the congregation. You must ensure you honor your father specially in a way that blessings will keep flowing out of his heart freely towards you.

You don't give your spiritual father honorarium, you give a seed. You give honorarium to guest ministers but give seeds to fathers. Your church accountants, associates or one of the leaders may send or present honorarium to guest ministers but you as a son should be the one to present the gift and seed from your ministry to your father. It's not appropriate to send another person to your spiritual father. That could be termed dishonor except if it's ascertained you are ignorant of the procedures.

As a son, you should be the one to welcome your spiritual father. If he's to fly down from one country or state to where you are, you should be at the airport waiting for his arrival. It's dishonor when a son sends a delegate to welcome his father. Delegates can only be sent in unforseen circumstances. You see, there are protocols in this matter.

What about the seat your spiritual father will seat on when hosting him? This is an aspect many also miss. This is how you show honor to your spiritual father - you should either get a special chair that he sits on or let him seat on the special seat made for you the lead pastor. It's not compulsory you get a new chair if you have good ones, just ensure his seat is different.

Another fact is that a son hosting his father should sit beside his father from the beginning to the end. In fact, here's the order, if he comes with his wife or any of the leader in his ministry, that one should sit beside him. I don't mean his protocol should sit beside him, I mean a top pastor in his ministry. It's like a time Bishop David Oyedepo was invited by Pastor Paul Enenche. Bishop David Abioye was also present at that meeting. So, the host son sat on one side while Bishop David Abioye sat on another side while the father sat in the middle. If Bishop David Oyedepo had gone with his wife, it would be his wife that would sit beside him while the host son would also sit beside him on one side.

Display of Wisdom by Pastor David Ibiyeomie

Recently, Pastor David Ibiyeomie celebrated his 60th birthday, and his spiritual father attended the celebration program. In fact, it was his spiritual father that ministered there. When they were done with the program and about to end, he said something amazing. He said "he would humbly call his spiritual father to round off the program with blessings." He said he knows he's not qualified to be the one to end the program. This happens in the ministry founded by him, yet he understands the spiritual protocol that when a father is in tbe house,

sons don't pronounce blessings, they should receive blessings. He handed over the microphone to his spiritual father to end tbe service.

I heard from Prophet Uebert Angel that it's a prophetic protocol that a son doesn't prophesy when a father is in the house except the father gives the permission. When you invite your spiritual father to your church or ministry, you don't follow the pastoral format on that day. You should hand over the microphone to your spiritual father to bless the congregation. You see, the less is blessed of the better. Water flows down. The higher vessel pronounce the blessing on the less. It is anti scripture when the less step to pronounce blessings on the better. Well, I believe that many young people failed in this aspect because they didn't know.

In a situation that the son doesn't understand this process or protocol, when he tells everyone to stand up for the final blessings, spiritual protocols demand that the spiritual father should sit down. The worst is to see a son attempting to prophesy to his spiritual father at such meetings. As a pastor or leader of a ministry, the next time you invite your spiritual father, humbly request that he ends the service by blessings you.

When a Son Is Planning a Program in His Ministry

Before the Meeting

1. Call your spiritual father to receive fresh blessings before the meeting.
2. You may decide to visit him to receive fresh impartation

During the Meeting

1a. If your spiritual father won't be attending or speaking at the program, make it known to your congregation that your spiritual father prayed and blessed the meeting and all participants. This way, you have registered it in the heart of the congregation that the spirit of your spiritual father is with you at the program.

1b. You may proceed further to tell the congregation the words he declared over the meeting and all participants. That's the reason you should always record the prayers of your spiritual father with you or ensure you write those blessings in your note after the prayers. Telling your congregation the blessing he pronounced activates the same in their lives.

2. You may share with the congregation certain words and prophecies that your spiritual father had

said over the meeting in the past that have come to pass.

3. You must let those who attend the program know that you also have a spiritual heritage that you have received from your spiritual father. Identify the grace you have received through him and boldly tell the congregation that. Doing that informs them that just as you got some graces through who you are connected you to, so also they also can receive certain graces through you since they are connected to you.

4. During the meeting, let all who attend the meeting know that you always attend the major programs organized by your spiritual father. This way, you are telling your sons in ministry too to attend your meeting. Also, saying this will inform the congregation that you are a different minister in that you are not only seeking to minister to others, you are also being ministered to. Let them know that you sit to write and learn when you attend the program of your spiritual father.

After The Meeting

1. Either put a call through to your spiritual father or visit him to share testimonies of the great things God did at the meeting. You must avoid telling stories for long minutes. You should be brief and be able to

communicate this within three to five minutes. The key is to prepare what and how you will speak.

2. Send a seed from the program to him. It's not compulsory if you are not led to. But it's wise to do this. You should sow seeds that will propel his heart to release and speak increased blessings on you and the program.

Have High Regard for Your Spiritual Father in Your Heart

There are true sons and they are the ones God will continue to lift. I heard a story from Pastor David Ibiyeomie that imparts wisdom. He shared that when he was at Living Faith Bible School; Word of Faith Bible Institute, he and his wife were in Bible School under Papa Oyedepo and one day Papa Oyedepo came to them and said; Bible School students (they were about 120 in class), I want all of you to go out for soul winning, so that the Church can grow. Pastor Ibiyeomie said he took it so serious even though he knew he has his own ministry. He said "I told God, I will sow this seed with all my heart, so that when my own comes I will be able to reap." He said something striking. He said "while he was standing, one of his classmate who was standing beside him made a comment and said 'Oyedepo wants to use us to build Winners Chapel.' Pastor

Ibiyeomie said 'this guy was one of the closest people to papa Oyedepo and he bow down when he sees him.' In fact, Pastor Ibiyeomie said he wasn't close to papa Oyedepo at that time, but this guy was very close but made such comment. Evidently, his heart wasn't right towards his spiritual father. Pastor David Ibiyeomie said he led the biggest team in Bible School for evangelism and did that genuinely. The rest is history today.

I want you to make up your mind that you will have high regards for your spiritual father. You will be readily available to serve him and honor him from your heart. Whatever you can't say before him, you won't say behind him. Let the spirit of your spiritual father know that your heart is deeply connected and ensure you remain steadfast in following him as he follows Christ.



About the Author

Niyi Makinde is an apostle, author and crusader. He is the author of hundreds of books on multiple subjects. He writes with high inspiration and creative wisdom. Great leaders recommend his books. As a minister, he is widely known for healings and miracles.

Apostle Niyi Makinde is the pioneer and president of Rebirth Global Church, a network of churches across the globe. He is also the pioneer of Connect Global, a larger body of churches and ministries across the globe. He hosts the annual Connect Confluence, a global gathering of many believers, various churches and ministries.

Niyi Makinde is highly esteemed and respected by great leaders. He is known for simplicity, integrity and uncommon wisdom. Many great leaders consider him one of the wisest and greatest among men. He is a father figure and oversight over many churches, ministries and Christian networks.

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Also by Niyi Makinde

Apostle Niyi Makinde has written many other insightful and powerful books, among which are:

1. Divine Instructions
2. 12 Laws of Divine Instructions
3. Breaking Life Code
4. The Revolutionary Apostle
5. The Power to Prosper
6. The Power to Become
7. 53 Laws of Excellence
8. Church Shift
9. Business Sense
10. Dealing with Human Enemies
11. Wisdom for All-Round
12. Wisdom Power
13. Prayer Force (1)
14. Multiply
15. Tithing
16. You Are Different
17. Phronesis for Dating
18. Dating, Marriage and Sex
20. The Power to Get Wealth
21. Spiritual Fatherhood
22. Managing Divine People
23. Understanding Honor
24. Flourish And Grow (1)

25. Faith Dimension (1)
26. Ministry Laws (1)
27. Secrets to Supernatural (Financial) Abundance
28. Running like the Deer
29. Prayer Force (2)
30. Making Things Happen
31. You Are a Seer
32. 79 Insights Into Favor
33. New Creation
34. Prayer Education
35. 20 Facts about the Human Spirit
36. Supernatural Visions
37. Understanding Church Systems
38. 11 Facts about the Human Mind
39. The Holy Spirit
40. Dominion in the Realm of Abundance
41. Soul Winning Manual
42. Maintaining Sound Health
43. Faith for Abundance
44. New Levels
45. Wisdom for Abundance
46. The Power of Meditation
47. Understanding Supernatural Dreams
48. Stop Multiplying in Affliction
49. Communication Ethics in Ministry
50. Ministry Ethics (1)
51. Warfare for Honor
51. Wave of Increase

52. Praise for Favor
53. Ministers Training Manual
54. Breaking Joy Code
55. The Power of His Name
56. You Are a wonder
57. Roar and Soar
58. The Minister and the Ministry
59. Grace Factor
60. Subdue and Dominate
61. Flourish and Grow (2)
62. Overtake
63. Victory over Afflictions
64. The Power of Patience
65. Stand out to Step out
66. Shining like the Sun
67. 30 Channels of Wealth
68. Breaking into Laughter
69. The Power to Dominate
70. Enjoying Health
71. Stronger than the stronger
72. Battle for Wealth
73. Wealth Transfer
74. Maximum Protection
75. The Power to Be on Time
76. Power Activators
77. The Essence of Obedience
78. The Power of words
79. Planting a Branch Church

80. Power Dimensions (1)
81. The Power to Live Long
82. The Power to Deliver
83. The Power to Bless
84. Raising the Dead
85. The Power to Heal
86. The Power to Separate
87. The Power of Diligence
89. Financial Prosperity
89. Business Success
90. On Top
91. How to Live Long
92. Warfare for Long Life
93. The Hand of God
94. On Pornography
95. 11 Streams of Healing
96. Fresh Insight
97. Money Sense
98. The Power of Prophecies
99. High Fliers
100. Be Creative
101. No Limit
102. Understanding
103. Dealing with Impossibility
104. Highly Favored
105. You Can Prophesy
106. Expand
107. Entering into Fullness

108. 8 Kinds of Men
109. The Headship Anointing
110. God is with You
111. Church Formation
112. Ministers' Personal Development
113. Time-Planning
114. Manifesting Excellence
115. Decoding the Blessing of Tithing
116. Pastors Manual on Marriage Matters
117. Understanding Spiritual Father-Son Relationship in Ministry
118. Your Reality Today (Yoreto)