THE FATHER
 Definitions of the Heavenly Father & Spiritual Fathers

By "Son Stephen"

I am a spiritual father to many sons - literally scattered throughout the world. I have learned the importance of adopting spiritual sons because I have been given the privilege of being adopted as a son. I truly believe the reason I am so articulate at communicating the importance of spiritual authority is due to this reality.

Authority is a key component, if not the main key, in understanding how the Heavenly Father hands down individual missions and the power to carry out His orders. The enemy has erased the importance of honoring all authority (Rom. 6:13). The core Truth is that God alone is the authority in all things; all the authorities of the earth are instituted by God; He passed such authority down to His Son; and then, placed His Son within the believer upon Salvation to demonstrate how He rules His Kingdom on earth.

I grew up in a home where fatherhood neither represented spiritual covering, nor reformation. I do not blame my father for this in any way! He did as any non-Christian would do - he did what came "natural" and necessary according to his darkened mind. Even though my earthly father became an indwelt believer before he died, God used his entire role as a father, or lack of it, to produce in me a passion to find a spiritual father. That is exactly what happened!

Back in the mid-70's, I was introduced to Dr. Charles Solomon by way of his first book, Handbook to Happiness - the first book I read from cover to cover. From this profound book, I was able to embrace the foundational truths of "Not I, but Christ." The remainder of my adult life has been immersed into the message of identification with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension in the believer's various spheres of influence. For this, I am eternally thankful.

Dad (Dr. Solomon), I cannot thank the Lord enough for you being my spiritual father! I can thank many whom God used to guide and direct me through the years, but none quite like you as my spiritual father. It was through the Lord's influence in and through you that God provided a Biblical, Christ as Life, foundation of Truth for my life and ministry. Happy Father's Day!

Now after 40 years of living and functioning as a spiritual son, I have, as I have been told many times, an acute vision and mission statement. I daily press forward to show individuals their freedom from enslaving mental, emotional, and spiritual conflicts, by placing a special emphasis on IDENTITY MATTERS WORLDVIEW. I have learned that this equipping style is to be as direct, honest, focused on the indwelling Life of Christ, and that of my spiritual father.

Each ministry outreach that is a part of our services is designed to provide the learner with an experience centering upon the integration process of strong Christ as Life worldview, faith, and what IOM coins as Transformational Biblical Worldview & Exchanged Life Development. I am firm on the fact that the indwelt Christian will become more established and pronounced in their Christian faith and
become acutely aware of their self-life behavior regarding how it wars against the Word of God, as well as the presence of Christ Jesus within each student.

**As a spiritual son, I am relentless** at offering these life freeing truths to all - Christians (followers of Christ) and indwelt Christians alike (Jesus in the believer). I am particularly passionate at helping indwelt believers who have an interest in learning how to effectively use the Word of God in a discipleship/ministry setting, in gaining personal help, as well as furthering oneself in the equipping process of being a minister of the true Gospel - "Not I, but Christ."

**I am not ashamed to say** that all of what I am in Christ is a result of submitting myself to my Heavenly Father from within and just as significantly through my spiritual father - Dr. Charles Solomon. My faithfulness and loyalty to Dr. Solomon is beyond a father & son relationship - it is cemented by the perfect bond of unity found in my direct relationship with God the Father, through Christ in me, poured out through my relationship with my spiritual father. Since betrayal is the tool that the enemy uses to destroy the benefits that come with established authority, betrayal is not an option. Here is the secret to inherited blessings:

*Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore, whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. (Rom 13:1-2)*

The Father makes it clear that He is the beginning and the end. If we could find all the spoken and inspired words describing God in the Word of God, we still would not come close to describing the Father of heaven. It will take eternity for us to discover all the attributes of God. This is the primary reason why we should be so excited about going to the Father and spending eternity with Him. I have my order in for multiple interviews!

**Think how boring it would be** if we were told everything about a friend at the very first meeting. One of the key elements of finding intimacy is in the search for it. The more time we take to get to know a friend, spouse, child, or God, the richer and more intimate the relationship becomes. So much of mankind’s sinful flesh wants everything right now. God is a God of perfect timing and it will be in His timing that we come to know Him completely. This is not something I fight and battle for any longer. I am learning to enjoy each moment of truth in the moment and portion that it is given to me.

Before beginning today, consider praying this prayer out loud. It will assist you in staying focused on the Truth and train you to pray doctrinal prayers (prayers filled with Scriptural Truth).

*Dear Father, who is in heaven, and in the center of my heart. I ask this day that you take my mind, will, and emotions and yield them to the Holy Spirit for discipline. I ask that You cause me to focus on You today and not on my circumstances. My flesh tends to be selfish and centered on my problems. I reject this selfish way of thinking and yield to You as my Father. I pray that You would use this lesson today to renew my mind and move me to take actions on all that Your inspired Word reveals to me. I pray that you will post angels at the door of my heart, keeping me centered on the way, truth, and life of your Son. As You reveal Your attributes and characteristics, I ask that I will not view them as just words, but that I become transformed as a result of hearing them. I thank you this day for hearing me, and I choose to pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*
The Hebrew word picture for “father” is strength or leader of a house. This Hebrew word includes that of a natural father. It also is used for the founder or the first ancestor, as well as an author or maker of anything. “Father” applies to the one who provides care, like a father to the needy, as well as a master or teacher. “Father” is also for the god that we choose to follow.

This word comes from two primary ancient pictures, 1) Alef--ox, strong or first, and 2) Bet--house. The first letter of the Hebrew alphabet (beginning of the house) is Alef. This word also means the leader of a family or tribe. This is where the English-speaking descendants get the letter A. Aloof is a derivative of Alef, it means gentle or to tame an ox.

Bet is the second letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The ancient word picture of Bet is a tent, a house, or a family. The word Bet is also used as the number 2 in the Hebrew numeric system. The reason this is a significant factor is that Alef, first strong leader, and Bet, house or family, clearly reveals the importance of a father embracing his strength (priority) and applying his strength within his home (second priority).

Twenty-seven primary Hebrew words clearly describe the heavenly Father, as well as the role of an earthly father. Review the list and place a check in the box to the left if you find/found that trait in your earthly father.

Review these words and their definitions (the foundation for all spiritual fathers):

- **Adviser:** Authoritative leader who assists in guiding followers in finding their way
- **Ancestor:** Parent who keeps family beliefs intact from generation to generation
- **Author:** The one who writes the book or way for others to follow
- **Begetter:** One who brings forth life by way of a seed
- **Benefactor:** A patron, supporter, or backer of those who follow him
- **Bond:** One who keeps a tribe together at all costs—particularly between generations
- **Chief:** A principled leader who is in command of a tribe
- **Counselor:** Assists followers in overcoming personal problems that block them from success
- **Creator:** One who forms life or originates ideas for practical prosperity
- **Forefather:** Father who leads his son(s) in the ways of true beliefs
- **Founder:** A leader who establishes a tribe for future generations
- **Governor:** A leader who is known and respected for overseeing community affairs
- **Grandfather:** A father of their children’s children—one who is filled with wisdom
- **Guardian:** A protector, or guard, or has a watchful eye over those in his tribe (family unit)
- **Head:** Authoritative and strong leader who leads by example and service
- **Inventor:** Finds solutions by making use of available resources
- **Lord:** One who owns people, places, or things with integrity and respect
- **Master:** A leader who is responsible for assisting servants to master their gifts and talents
- **Organizer:** A leader who brings order for a tribe or family unit to live by
- **Parent:** Bringing up children in health and proper guidance
- **Patriarch:** A known and respected forefather who has left a legacy for others to follow
- **Protector:** A leader who puts into place “guards of protection” for those he loves
- **Respect:** A leader who has earned his honor by tenderly caring for those around him
- **Ruler:** A leader who establishes reasonable rules for daily living
† **Senior Male:** A respected father who has honor and respect of those around him

† **Teacher:** Educator, helper, or communicator of practical truths for daily living

Did you know that if your earthly father or spiritual father has 20 or more of these traits, your heart has already been prepared for a legacy?

**The view we carry in our hearts regarding the role and life of a father** directly affects our view of God as a heavenly Father. When we perceive God to be like our earthly father, we covertly accuse God of being filled with sin. Earthly fathers are to radiate the characteristics of the heavenly Father. Satan wants us to view God through the lives and behaviors of our fleshly fathers.

“Then God said, ‘Let Us (God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth’ ” (Genesis 1:26, parentheses added).

The original family did not start with Adam and Eve. The first family was established in heaven--God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and the Father’s angels. The angels were organized into three primary arenas: Lucifer (in charge of worship); Michael (in charge of warfare); and Gabriel (in charge of delivering the messages of the Father).

**The first family unit provided the Father with** His central relationships, nurture, and support. God gave us an earthly model to live by through the order and preexisting relationships He had/has in heaven. His creation was based upon an order and flow that He was most familiar with--His own.

According to Hebrew studies, family is based upon several factors: a place of residence, a tribe, descendants, property, dependency on a father, authority, and of course, the firstborn son getting married.

God, the Father, holds His residence in heaven; His tribe is the children of God and His angels. His descendants were created through Adam and spiritually through His Son’s marriage to the Bride of Christ, the Church. God’s property is heaven, and the earth that He created is His footstool. He created man to be completely dependent on Him as His Father, which gave Him authority over everything. This makes up the perfect plan for the development of God’s family unit--His tribe.

**Many modern views of “family” completely rape** the world of the true reason and purpose of a godly family. Because of mankind’s sin, we have made serious modifications to the original design. The design of heaven is not restrictive, but freeing and perfect. God has never modified His view of family here on earth. If He did so, it would be giving in to the plan and plot Satan has to take over the order of heaven. Satan was removed from heaven because God wouldn’t adjust His order to accommodate the views of a follower.

Know that mankind’s guilt and disorder does not tempt God to change the order of the FIRST family.