

Living in the Heavens: Putting God's Equipment to Use

INTRO

This series, "Living in the Heavens" is about Renewal and Using the Gifts

This talk, "Putting God's Equipment to Use" is about claiming our identity as sons and daughters so that we are free to serve God and bring renewal to his Church.

Tonight, I'm going to cover three topics:

1. CHILDREN
2. SONSHIP (Daughtership)
3. BLESSING

And talk about

- IDENTITY, STEWARDSHIP, AUTHORITY, FRUIT, GIFTING

Then we'll have a time of Prayer

CHILDREN

- We are children of God (1 John 3:2)
- **NEEDS:** Children are concerned with getting their needs met (Graham Cooke)
- **BUSINESS:** Sons are concerned with their Father's business
- Example: Global Awakening conference
 - I wanted to receive
 - I was exhorted to give
 - God confirmed in me the gift of words of knowledge

SONS and DAUGHTERS

- Key scripture is Luke 15 – the Prodigal Son
- **SELFISH** – prodigal son is selfish when he leaves, and when he comes back!
- **IDENTITY** (Son/Daughter) – father receives him as a son, his identity was not lost, it is affirmed
- **TRUST** - father bestows authority on him (the Ring) when he comes back repentant, now the father can trust him with his household
- **ELDER SON** – still acting selfish – "you did not let me have party!"
- **EVERYTHING I HAVE IS YOURS** – everything in the Father's household is ours, waiting for us to take it up.
- **BATMAN** – Bruce Wayne has to leave and find himself, once he knows he will work for good, he has all the resources of his father's vast estate available to him
- **AUTHORITY** - Don't ask God to do what he's given you the authority to do!

BLESSING

- **TRUST** - In the Old Testament when the Father gave his son his blessing, it meant that:
 - "You are no longer a child, you are my son/daughter, and everything I have is yours. Now go do as I would have you do"
 - The father is trusting the son to act in his name
- **JESUS -> FATHER** – Jesus didn't come merely to forgive our sins or to lead us to him, the forgiveness of sins is so that we can return to the Father, first as children, but then as sons/daughters
- **A CURRENT OF GRACE**

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- There is a current of grace in the church that is bringing us back to the Father
- Unbound, Global Awakening, and other ministries witness to this
- It is the Father's response to the attack on the family and fatherhood in our time
- **UNBOUND**
 - **CATHOLIC:** Unbound is based on principles of repentance, forgiveness, the name of Jesus, and receiving the blessing of God the Father
 - **ANYTIME:** We can receive his blessing at any time!
 - My experience has been that as important as baptism in the Spirit was to an encounter with Jesus, and awakening of the gifts, **BLESSING** is to knowledge of my identity, sonship, and living in the fullness of the gifts.
- **IDENTITY and GIFTEDNESS**
 - The gifts are not just for the building up of the Church - they also reveal to us who we are!
 - EXAMPLE: my experience with:
 - Praise and worship
 - Praying the Father's Blessing
 - Gift of Encouragement
 - Gift of Prophecy and Intercession
- **VINE and BRANCHES**
 - John 15 "By this is the Father glorified, that you bear fruit and become my disciples."
 - **FRUIT:** The fruit is not what we do, it's who we are!

PRAYER

- I felt that we should have a time to pray the Father's blessing on each other – so that you come to know who you ARE
- **RISK** – this is risky for me, so it will be for you
- **Pair up** with someone you don't know well – no spouses or children
- Take turns
- Ask to see the other person with the **eyes of the Father**
- **Praise** for a few minutes – focus on the Lord and not what you're going to say. It will come if you're in His presence
- I usually get a **picture** right away – and as I speak it, it gets clearer
- Speak in the **first person**

QUESTIONS:

- Have you ever experienced God the Father speaking to you in such a way that it changed how you see yourself and how you acted? Did it bring you greater freedom?
- Do you identify with the prodigal son in the story, or the elder son, or both? Do you see how sometimes you still approach God as a child who is just focused on getting your needs met?
- Do you long for the freedom to walk in sonship/daughtership of the Father, proclaiming the kingdom and dispensing the gifts of his household with love and compassion?
- Would you like to have prayer for the Father's Blessing? If so, you could attend the Unbound Conference or contact Betsey or Marty for prayer.