Lesson 8 – Return to Sonship

Every great story has a good ending and so does this one for you! It is all about turning your hearts towards home. The whole earth cries out for the revealing of the sons of God. **Rom. 8:19**

Sonship Defined

Sonship is gender neutral. It is a matter of position not gender.

- We become sons when we see the Father for who He is – our Daddy! We are legally adopted with His name and rights to His inheritance as part of the family.
- **The focus is on legitimacy**. You are OK because you are a son of God. **Gal. 4:5-7** This must be rooted in the sprit. It does not work in the soul.
- We are joint heirs, brothers and sister of Jesus, and citizens of the Kingdom. **Rom. 8:14-17**
- Our spirit is part of the nature of God. **1Pet. 1:3.** We learn to walk as He walks.
- Every time something good happens to us the Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit, "See, that's what He does for His sons!" **Rom. 8:14-17**
- Faith comes as a result of our position of sonship.
- Only sons, not slaves, can posses their inheritance – The Israelites when they came out of Egypt still had the slavery mindset and could not possess the land. They died in the wilderness.
- We can pray from a position of sonship because we know the Father's heart and not just His power.
- Interaction with the Father is based on a relationship of intimacy not strategy.
- In slavery the pressure is on you because you have to make sure you do it right and not anger the master. As sons, the pressure is on the Father to take care of you and parent you in the right way.
- Sons take ownership of the problem

Two examples of perfect sons in the Bible, Jesus and Adam before the fall.

- God spoke everything else into existence, but He took special care to kneel down and make man from the dirt.
- His face had to be close to Adam's for Him to breathe life into his body. There was a closeness and fellowship between God and Adam and Eve without shame (**Gen. 2:25**), only love and complete freedom.
- God intended for this father-son relationship to be passed on from generation to generation as each son or daughter honored their earthly father and mother first, and then transfer that relationship to their heavenly Father as they grew up.

Sin destroyed God's perfect plan - Adam and Eve were forced to leave the Father, and they took on the orphan spirit, or nature, of Satan.

- Instead of love, the family relationship became a place of wounding and withdrawal because parents could not give their children something they had never received, a father's love.
- If we did not love and honor our parents, regardless of whether they deserve it or not, we will not be able to transfer that father-son relationship to our heavenly Father.
- We must be a son to our parents in our heart before we can truly be a son to our Daddy God.

Forgiveness and the cross take us to the place of sons and daughters of God
(**Jer. 30:17, Is. 61:2-7, Is. 66:12-13, Col. 1:20-22, Col. 2:13-14**)

- We must examine ourselves and acknowledge the areas where our love needs were not met. **(Ps. 139:23-24)**
- We must break all agreements with Satan and any demons that we allowed into our lives.

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- ❖ We must break any soul ties we established with others through sexual contact. All of the negative attitudes, judgments, and curses must be broken and any strongholds or ungodly beliefs must be torn down and replaced with Godly beliefs. We may have to do this daily until we sense that we are free.
- ❖ We may be harboring hidden anger or resentment towards those who did not have the ability to give us the expressed love we needed as a child. We can go through life compacting the negative emotions from those who have hurt us.
- ❖ We also must recognize when we withdrew from our father and mother and then ask them to forgive us and restore our friendship with them, if they are still alive.

Steps to Sonship

- ✓ It is important not to turn inward and focus only on your woundedness. We must keep our focus on the cross of Jesus Christ. It is OK to be wounded!
- ✓ We must recognize that we have problems and need healing: (**Rev. 3:16-18**) There are two kinds of people, those with problems and those in denial! ("De-Nile" is a river in Egypt where people were held in bondage!)
- ✓ A wound not recognized is a wound that cannot be healed. The wound did hurt and it was important.
- ✓ 82% of all Americans are emotionally unhealthy (90% of worldly people's thoughts are negative, accusatory, or judgmental)
- ✓ 58% of all Americans have mild to moderate mental health problems
- ✓ 24% of all Americans have major to moderate mental health problems These problems include such things as self-destructive behavior, irresponsibility, lack of self- discipline, depression, fears, phobias, compulsions, inflexibility, chronic anxiety, disruptive behavior, and chronic relationship problems.
- ✓ The degree of fear in our life is an indication of how much of our identity is still not in Christ as sons of God.

The pain has to become greater than the shame before we will seek help.

- ✓ It is difficult and often painful to deal with the issues that are preventing us from experiencing the Father's love.
- ✓ One of the biggest stumbling blocks is overcoming the shame, fear, and humiliation that come from exposing the sins, faults, and weaknesses that caused the wounding and what we did in response to the wounding.
- ✓ The shame can lead to guilt and embarrassment, or feelings of being alone, abandoned, or full of sorrow.
- ✓ We begin to be afraid that others may know what we are really like.
- ✓ We may compare ourselves with others and feel insecure, inferior, or rejected.

Pride is the greatest barrier to healing.

- ✓ Pride or shame may cause us to put on masks or "fig leaves" to cover up our woundedness.
- ✓ We may try to isolate ourselves from others. We become "news, weather, and sports persons" only dealing with surface level issues, never allowing anyone to see who we really are.
- ✓ We live a life of escapism with a love deficit.
- ✓ We begin to build strongholds about us to protect ourselves. These lies allow demonic oppression to enter in.
- ✓ We wear masks that hide our true pain and loneliness.
- ✓ Pride blames others and God when things go wrong.

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- ✓ Pride causes us to recognize the need in others and not acknowledge our own weaknesses, faults, and hurts.

We must take the pain and woundedness to the cross of Jesus Christ.

- ✓ We have to forgive those who hurt us and forgive ourselves for the way we responded. (**Mark 11:25, Matt. 18:33-35**)
- ✓ We also need to ask God to forgive us for our actions against those who wounded us, and if possible, go to those who wounded us and ask them to forgive us for how we responded to them.
- ✓ You are not responsible for what your parents or others did to you, but you are responsible for how you reacted to those hurts and wounds.

Acknowledge any bitterness or resentment that may have come from our lack of receiving expressed love.

- ✓ Look at the fruits in your life of negative emotions or feelings and sinful actions that you may have done and ask God to reveal the hidden roots that have caused you to respond that way.
- ✓ The root cause must be removed before the bad fruit will stop appearing in your life.
- ✓ When our parents were not able to give us the love we needed, they took something from us. (We needed that love) When we forgive them from our heart, we cancel that debt or loss. We give them something that they could not pay.

Confess sins against ourselves and others that were a result of our woundedness.

- ✓ The first area is secret sins of the heart or mind. We need to confess those to God and ask His forgiveness.
- ✓ Individual sins of misrepresenting the Father's love that may have hurt or wounded others must be confessed to the one we hurt in order to break the stronghold over us.
- ✓ Corporate sin against a group or body of believers must be confessed before the entire group, if possible, in order to break this pattern in our lives.

We may need some deliverance or healing with the help of others. (**Matt. 10:1**)

- ✓ Our sins and responses to wounding may have opened the door to demonic oppression.
- ✓ There may be strongholds or fortresses of thought that need to be broken.
- ✓ We may be in denial, unteachable, or not able to receive from others.
- ✓ Fear of rejection, fear of man, fear of someone finding out how hurt we are may prevent us from receiving from God without help from others through prayer.

How to Receive Sonship

We must acknowledge our need to be a son

- ✓ Requires humbling ourselves and complete submission to God. All of the walls separating us from God and others must be removed.
- ✓ We need to become like a little boy again with a great big Daddy who gives us hugs and kisses (words of affection, affirmation, support, and recognition) every day.
- ✓ We need to start giving away senseless acts of love. Every time you do an act of love and give, God gives you more of His ability to love.
- ✓ We must move into spiritual sonship in the natural before we can receive it in the spiritual realm. We must reestablish the basic trust with our parents.

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We must forgive our parents and other authority figures in our life for misrepresenting the Father's love.

- ✓ Give them a gift that they do not deserve.
- ✓ Seek forgiveness from your mother and father for not being the son that you should have been, closing your heart to them and hurting them.
- ✓ Realize and repent for the pain that you have inflicted on others as an orphan.
- ✓ Seek forgiveness for the rebellion against the spiritual fathers in our lives such as our youth pastor, senior pastor, teachers, etc. We have hurt them when we rejected their leadership.

Renounce inner vows against our parents and those in authority such as, "I will never be like…" "I will never put myself in that position again."

- ✓ If not broken, these inner vows can lead to strongholds of independence, self-reliance, unbelief, fear, insensitivity, control, and rebellion.
- ✓ **Renounce any death wishes you may have made against yourself** like, "I wish that I was never born." I hate myself!" "I wish that I would just die and get it over with." "I wish that I could just go to heaven right now." "I wish that I had different parents." (**Eph. 5:29-30**) Ask God to forgive you for rebelling against life and judging God. Then choose life instead!

Expect a homecoming. (**John 14:18-24**) In verse 21 the word "manifest" literally means to make known to one or more of our five senses. The Father is right there ready to receive you when you humble yourself and turn away from the sins of the past. (**Luke 15:20**)

- ✓ Be ready to receive your inheritance of sonship! (**Mark 1:11, John 16:27, John 17:23**)
- ✓ You will be ready to do the greater works that Jesus spoke of in **John 14:12**.
- ✓ Expect your loved ones and friends to be saved and healed, even the nations! (**Ps. 2:8**)
- ✓ Find rest and peace in your Father's love. Say this prayer, "Father, wrap you arms around me and give me the love I never received from my dad and mom."

Living as a Son

See yourself as God sees you! (**2 Cor. 5:17-21**)

- ➢ As a son you have free access to the Father all the time. You can take your place in Daddy's lap and let Him hold you and love on you (**John 1:8**). In His lap is perfect peace and rest, a comfort for whatever is troubling you.
- ➢ Seek times of quietness and solitude in the presence of your Father and His love. The center of our prayer life should be, "I am your son!"
- ➢ Worship Him and spend time in His presence. Experience His love in your heart. (**Rom. 5:5**)
- ➢ Be open and honest with Him about everything in your life. He wants to have an intimate relationship with you!
- ➢ Begin to live like a son and joint heir with Jesus (**Gal. 4:4-7**).
- ➢ Do not do anything that might separate you from that intimate fellowship with Father God. Hate sin and start wanting to be holy (**Lev. 11:45**).
- ➢ Serve the Lord with gladness and bring praise and honor to His name (**Ps. 100:2**).
- ➢ Live in the liberty and love of your Heavenly Father.
- ➢ Enjoy your inheritance here on this earth!
- ➢ Walk in the authority and power of a son to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- ➢ Use the name of Jesus to stop the devil from stealing and killing from you or your loved ones (**Mk. 16:17**).
- ➢ Pray in the assurance that your Daddy hears you and will grant the requests as you make them according to His Word (**1 John 5:14**).

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Live by the Law of Love.

- Give knowing that your Daddy will supply all of your needs according to His riches in glory (**Phil. 4:19**).
- Receive love from Father and give it away to those around you.
- Share the good news of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ and the love of God to all you meet.
- Love covers and does not expose the sins of others. Love your brother and overlook his faults (**Prov. 10:12**). Pray for him instead of finding and pointing out his faults.
- As you give love away, you will begin to receive love from others. (**1 John 4:19**)

Join in communion with other believers. (**Heb. 10:24-25**)

- The healing process can continue as you come together in love with one heart and purpose.
- There is no healing and wholeness outside of having close intimate relationships.
- As we love and encourage each other, God's love flows and helps fill the deficit in our hearts.

Get rid of all fear in your life.

- If you still have any fears, it is just a warning that you need more revelation of Father's love (**1 John 4:18**).
- Resist fear by doing the things that you were afraid of doing.
- Ask Daddy to help you overcome all fear in your life. Stay close to God all of the time and fear will flee from you!
- Cast down any lies of self-condemnation and take every thought captive (**2 Cor. 10:5**). Say God's Word.

A son still has certain responsibilities

- Honor your mother and father
- Receive instruction and correction – then walk it out
- Stay in the house (in His protection) and on Daddy's lap (intimacy) to receive His love
- Be obedient and quick to obey
- Enjoy the fruits of His labors for you
- Receive your inheritance
- Treat everyone else as your brother and sister

We need to know that we have a place in His heart

- God puts a longing in our heart to know that we have a place in someone's heart. It starts with our parents, especially our father, and then with another person in marriage. Ultimately, we want to know that we have a place in Father's heart.
- We get a sense of "place" when we receive tender words, gentle touches, and loving looks.
- Knowing that we have a place in someone's heart gives us a sense of security and safety where we can be at peace with God and ourselves.
- When you have a place in someone's heart, you don't have to say or do anything to receive their love, and there is nothing that you can do to stop that other person from loving you.

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