

“Food For Thought For Fathers”

- Ron Stullenbarger -

Father and son or daughter is one of the most important relationships in this life, because it wields such power to shape and influence what we believe about who God is. A loving father can point directly to the love of God, our Heavenly Father, so clearly and directly.

In the same way, a father who seems distant, angry, hard to please, or vacant, may unfortunately invite some difficult feelings in how a child views God and His care for us. Many have lost fathers too early in life – due to death, divorce, or abandonment. Others still wrestle through hurtful memories of abuse and fear of the very one who was supposed to protect them.

No matter what our experiences have been growing up, or where we find ourselves now, God still reigns supreme over all. He cares. He loves. He is near. He is trustworthy. And His heart for you as your Father shines through every step of life. He is powerful enough to help you navigate through the most difficult of memories and experiences, sheltering, embracing you in it all. We can take every difficult experience and allow God to use it for good, by helping us to become the best parents possible for our own children. Pain is never wasted when God is Supreme over our lives. Where experiences have harmed us -- even if unintentional, even if seemingly unfair -- God can still use it for His purposes to bring good through it all.

If you are blessed to be a father, you've been given a priceless gift in this life -- the gift of pointing your children to Him; the gift of leading; the gift of loving. Your actions matter. How you choose to live makes a difference in the lives of all you know.

Fathers, you are powerful in the lives of your children. You are a solid foundation. You hold the potential for great influence in the generations to come.

Live wisely. Live well. Live strong. Live with grace. Your Father God is with you, always.

*“Be on your guard, stand firm in the **faith**, be men of courage, be strong. Do everything in love”* (1 Corinthians 16:13-14). *“...but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord”* (Joshua 24:15).