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## **I Ain't Ya Momma – Who's Ya Daddy? By Mark Gorman**

Many of you are familiar with my teachings on the need for Spiritual Fathers – spiritual mentors. (Ladies, I have tried to always defer to those of you who may feel "left out" by this wording. In the Bible, both men and women are referred to as the "Sons of God", not daughters. Why? Because in the Jewish home, the heir was the son – not the daughter. And since you ladies are the heirs of God, He refers to you as his sons.) Anyway, I hope this helps to avoid any offense in that regard.

Several years ago I began teaching about what I consider to be the 3 most important types of spiritual relationships we can have, as leaders: Spiritual Fathers, Spiritual Sons & Spiritual Brothers. (Ladies, please translate into wording with which you are comfortable – please be "bi-lingual". Ha!)

In recent years, I have not only heard an amazing amount of response to my teachings on this topic, but I have also become keenly aware of an overwhelming cry from people around the world – a cry for mentors – for fathers.

But as I have invested my time and energies into this matter, trying to be of help to those who seemed to be in search of a Spiritual Father, I have become more and more frustrated with many of these people who portray themselves as "orphans" in need of a Father.

Why have I become so frustrated? Simply this: I am finding that most of these people aren't really looking for a Spiritual Father – to mentor them – to speak into their life, with teaching, training, wisdom and Godly counsel. But rather, in most cases, I find that these people have successfully avoided wise counsel for years, by WAITING to ask for advice until AFTER they have already MESSED UP EVERYTHING!

Am I being too gentle – too VAGUE??

Seriously, these people don't want a Father! They want a Mother – to clean up after them!

They don't want my counsel as to which choices they should make for their future!

Instead, they inform me of the wrong – selfish choices they made – without even a thought of seeking counsel BEFORE the choice was made.

And then, when the COMPLETE LACK of counsel results in the INEVITABLE; pain, disappointment, financial catastrophe, embarrassment, etc, SUDDENLY, they have an EPIPHANY!

They turn to each other and say, "WE NEED COUNSEL!"

DUH!

They needed counsel BEFORE they ran FULL SPEED into the UNKNOWN, with NO CLUE as to where they were headed, or how to handle things when they got there!

It is SO EASY to get excited and enthusiastic when we get our hands on something new! It's so easy to just "throw caution to the wind", and DO OUR OWN THING, while we DARE ANYBODY TO QUESTION US, because we have the best "argument proof" excuse of all: "God told us!"

And who can argue with that? If you do, you're arguing with God!

But think about it – if you really DID hear from God, and you're seeking Godly counsel, and if the same God who spoke to you is also speaking to these wise counselors, then doesn't it stand to reason that, rather than "holding you back" and "preventing you from achieving your destiny", isn't it even more likely that these WISE, GODLY COUNSELORS would "echo" what God truly IS speaking?

And if you really have heard from God, they will say the same thing, RIGHT???

And if they DO NOT ECHO what you're saying, maybe, just maybe, there's a chance that you MISSED IT! Just maybe there's a chance that, instead of hearing from God, perhaps you heard yourself, and for that brief moment, your voice sounded an awful lot like God's voice. Isn't that possible?

Anyway, I'm just speaking out on behalf of those of us who ARE Spiritual Fathers, trying to bring some thought and reason to this conversation.

And, while I'm at it, may I suggest that, when you look for a Spiritual Father, try to find one who HAS a Spiritual Father.

In other words, if I'm going to let you speak into my life – to give me advice and counsel about my life, I'd feel a lot more "safe" knowing that you also answer to someone who speaks into your life. Doesn't that just make sense?

And, I think it's obvious that it would be IMPOSSIBLE to cover any and all questions regarding MENTORING and Spiritual Fathers in this one e-mail. But my hope is that you will seek God in prayer, asking Him to show you the path that you should take.

Remember, the Bible says that when anything or anyone is "of God", His spirit will "bear witness" with your spirit that it is from God.

So, don't do ANYTHING unless God's Spirit bears witness with your spirit that this is God speaking to you.

And one last word about those who may be reading this, feeling as if I'm "criticizing" you in regard to your request for a Spiritual Father: If you truly want someone to "Father" you, then you need to understand that a true Father is a mentor – who wants to help you to grow and to learn as they speak into your life.

But, if the ONLY time you think of the need for a Spiritual Father is AFTER you've already MESSED UP EVERYTHING, then here's a clue: You don't really want a Father. You want a Mother – to clean up the mess you made.

So, now, does my title make sense? "I Ain't Your Momma. Who's Your Daddy?"

Based on this teaching, I hope that you will realize:

1. We need fathers
2. Our world needs more fathers and mentors
3. We need to be teachable – otherwise, we don't really want a father
4. If you only want a father when you've already made a mess, maybe you're looking for a Mama to clean up after you.
5. If so, ask God to forgive your presumptuous zeal – your independent spirit, and humble yourself to ask for a mentor – a father – to truly mentor you.

I hope this has answered more questions than it has raised. Please let me know if this helped you.

Blessings,  
Mark Gorman

PS: Let me know if I was too vague! Ha!

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