

▶ The Power of a Spiritual Father



by Dan Schaffer

I define a Spiritual Father as – (1) driven to know God, (2) a Servant Leader, (3) restoring his family, Church and community, and (4) is leaving a Legacy as a Spiritual Reproducer. A Spiritual Father is a man who loves God and has a spiritual passion to Reproduce that love into others so they can become Reproducers themselves.

“exposure” we hide ourselves in complex mechanisms that we are sure will demonstrate how really valuable we are—but *the nagging feeling of worthlessness is like a shadow that haunts our every move*. I’ve observed many men who get to this point and take one of two separate self-protection paths: (1) move towards arrogance or control, or (2) total disengagement. Have you ever felt this? Have you caught yourself responding defensively as you attempted to protect your fragile sense of self worth?

We must ask, *what makes us truly valuable?* Is it our accomplishments or maybe the position we obtain through them? Is it our abilities or money? Could it be the fact that we are loved and needed by others? Any of these can bring a sense of value, but it’s fleeting. In Philippians 3 the Apostle Paul lists his *many* accomplishments and credentials and then describes their value as garbage or dog dung. In verse 10 he clearly states the only thing that matters—**to know Christ** (the word, “know” used here, is the same one used in other passages to describe sexual intercourse). It is through *knowing* God intimately that one is Transformed and can participate with God in the Father’s role of confirming value. It is through knowing God that Spiritual Fathering gives us the power to affirm value, and that leads to eternal significance.

I believe the Church is at a crossroads. In 1 Corinthians the Apostle Paul said, “For even if you had ten thousand others to teach you about Christ, you have only one spiritual father. For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you.” (NLT) *We have many “teachers” but far too few Fathers!* The Churches crying need is for Spiritual Fathers.

Fathers affirm the value of God’s children. Confirming another person’s worth releases God’s children to serve Him and His church and restore their world. The benefit of fathers who affirm is immeasurable. Every man speaks something—*will you speak death or life? Will you commit to become a Father who passionately follows Christ and reproduces generations of Fathers who will begin to meet the crisis in the Church, Culture, Family and in Men?*

In the past I have shared the **responsibilities** of a *biological father* to his children as:

1. Protector
2. Provider
3. Corrector
4. **Affirmer of Value through the spoken word and physical touch**

In the opening paragraph I listed the four “attributes” of a Spiritual Father, but he also has parallel responsibilities to God’s children that are similar to those of a biological father. Based on years of “fathering” others I find that “spiritual children” mature at different levels depending upon their unique make-up, physical and spiritual maturity. This especially impacts the first three responsibilities. It is the fourth responsibility, to provide the affirmation of value, which gives a Spiritual Father the greatest opportunity for influence, growth and healing. I want to focus on this vital responsibility to clarify a man’s potential impact as a Spiritual Father.

I have yet to meet a man that hasn’t spent a major part of his life trying to prove his value and significance. We put everything into accomplishing goals and accumulating possessions that will prove that we are valuable. But, almost all of us have a nagging feeling of insecurity that says *if people really saw us for who we are they would see through the charade*. Out of fear of

Bridging the “Fathering” Gap

I remember asking my son, “Why don’t your friends come to church?” He honestly replied, “Dad, *church sucks!* It’s not a place where my friends want to hang out.” This rocked me and was a part of God’s “hook” in getting me to attend the Building Brothers Leadership Training and understand more of the process that God wanted me to be on with the men in my church. I had to ask myself, “Where were the men and why weren’t they attending my church?” God was opening my eyes to the great need in my church and the church at large in America.

It took a year of “percolating” after the training to begin the year-long process with our men. As I met with each man in my leadership team I discovered that we didn’t know where the “itch” was for our men. There are brothers who have gone before us, like Dan Schaffer, who have discovered where it is that men “itch.” I realized that, as their pastor, if I wasn’t going to do it, then who was?

We started the Building Brothers Phase I Training, and the men were a bit skeptical at first and asked some non-threatening questions. But the trust factor started to fall into place and this skepticism melted away. The men were going from just being “attenders” to becoming spiritually impacted and engaged in the process.

During that year, I was invited to try to build a spiritual bridge to the teenagers at a local youth detention facility. Many churches had tried and failed, giving up in a few months. Many of my men, some of whom used to be just “attenders,” told me they were going to be a part of this. They said, “If you’re going, I’m going.” We now regularly have over thirty-five teens attending our interaction times, and I have witnessed fourteen of these youth accept Jesus into their lives. Also, I have seen my men planning how we can “love on them” as they leave the facility and reconnect into society.

God has been correcting and directing us. I am very satisfied to see these young men being used in the transformational process in others’ lives while I sit back and be their “dad.” My actions tell them, you go “blow it out” in reaching the wounded, and I’ll keep saying this message to them: (1) Jesus Christ came to seek and save the lost; (2) he came to destroy the work of the enemy; (3) he came to give his life for my behalf. Go tell the world these three facts, and I’ll be here cheering for you on the sidelines so you can do this well. That’s what this lost world is hungry for—a real man they can rely upon and call “Pops!”

Pastor Tony’s Story

Written by Pastor Tony Costa

Senior Pastor, Outside the Walls Ministries, Aurora, Colorado

Personal Prayer Requests:

- The summer months bring some great opportunities for the Ellsmore Family! Pray for us as we travel back to visit our families in the East.
- For wisdom/direction for Ken and Bonnie to make the best decision concerning Micah’s (their son) education this Fall. And, pray for physical healing for Ken.
- For Dan’s as he Pastors Church in Jefferson and continued prayer for Carla’s health.
- Since the pace has picked up Dan and Jan ask for prayer for strength, health, protection, provision, wisdom and clear direction.

Ministry Prayer Requests:

- The resources and strength necessary to carry the message to the Church.
- Clear direction for Building Brothers as we get the message out that God has entrusted to us.
- God’s blessing of financial resources in 2006 to assist in taking the ministry to the next level.
- Health as a team as we’ve all been fighting staying healthy.

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Ministry Update

▶ **Building Brothers Leadership Training**

August 15-17, we will be holding Building Brothers Leadership Training here in Denver, Colorado. There has been tremendous interest in the Building Brothers Process since the book has been released. Please download the brochure at www.buildingbrothers.org and share it with Pastors or Ministry Leaders who might be able to attend these three life-changing days. We hope to see you in Denver in August.

▶ **United Methodist Men**

We continue to move towards Building Brothers providing curriculum to build men within this denomination. Over the summer we are looking to begin a year-long pilot process. Pray that God will protect and bless this movement that is taking place through these leaders.

▶ **Church of God (7th Day)**

We have been experiencing tremendous spiritual momentum within this denomination for the Building Brothers Process. We have seen Pastors and their men being Transformed within every Church we partner with. Please continue to pray for this partnership.

▶ **Spiritual Fathers Book**

Please go to our website www.buildingbrothers.org to see a preview. Order your copy today!

▶ **Denver, Colorado**

In June, Dan'l and Ken will be presenting Building Brothers Phase IV Training at Outside the Walls Ministries. They have a tremendous group of men who have been spiritually on fire since starting this process (see the Pastor Tony's Story on the other side).

▶ **Marion & Eugene, Oregon**

June 10-11, the team will be teaching Building Brothers Phase III and Phase IV Training at Church of God (7th Day) Church in

these two communities. We are encouraged by what is taking place in both of these communities.

▶ **Page, Arizona**

In July, Dan'l will be presenting Building Brothers Phase IV Training at Faith Bible Chapel. The Pastors and their Core Leadership Team are so pumped about the Transformation they have seen take place that they are already making plans for the "second year" and would like to host a Leadership Training in Arizona.

▶ **Kansas City, Missouri**

July 23, the team will be presenting Building Brothers Phase III Training in two Church of God (7th Day) congregations: Kansas City, Missouri and Topeka, Kansas. We continue to hear great reports of how this Process is drawing these men closer to Christ and to each other.

▶ **Las Vegas, Nevada**

August 12, the team will be teaching Building Brothers Phase I Training to Church of God (7th Day) congregations from Southern California, Phoenix, Arkansas and Las Vegas, Nevada. There continues to be intense spiritual movement in this region of the country!

▶ **Washington**

August 19-20, the team will be teaching Building Brothers Phase II Training at the Community Bible Church in Dayton on August 19 and at Spokane and Toppenish Church of God (7th Day) congregations on August 20. We have seen a tremendous amount of interest in the Washington/Oregon area of the country!

▶ **Germany/Hungary**

August 24-September 5, Dan will be traveling to further our partnership with CMT (Christ-like Man Training). The focus of these two weeks will continue the training required to launch the Building Brothers Process in early 2006. The first part of his trip will be spent in south Germany and the second in Hungary. Our hearts continue to be aligned with our brothers in these two countries.

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Summer 2006 Newsletter

Volume 7 • Issue 3

BUILDING BROTHERS™