

Apostolic Balance

When we talk of “balance” in Christian circles it is usually in regards to doctrinal issues, and this is an area that the Apostolic Reformation must address as “evil men and seducers wax worse and worse.” (2 Timothy 3:13). But the thought I want to address is “balance in relationships”, since we have entered a season where “family” is being restored to the Church through the Apostolic Networks that have emerged as “new wineskin families”. One of the main scriptures that Holy Spirit has emphasized to the Body of Christ in recent years is found in Malachi 4:5-6,

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

Here we see that God, according to His prophetic plan has **first** “turned the hearts of fathers to the children,” changing them from being “religious leaders” to “spiritual fathers”. This speaks to me of the love for others and their interests, as opposed to love for self and our own interests. True spiritual fathers have sought to know what is in the heart of their family members, those they are called to serve in a parenting role by helping to prepare them for their destiny. The Elijah Anointing is an anointing of “preparation” for the coming of revival, and ultimately for the return of Jesus Christ. Those spiritual leaders who have been touched by the end time Elijah Anointing have turned their hearts from any self interest, to serving what is in the heart of those God has called them to prepare. They are no longer “using people resources” to build their own “legacy,” but they are “building people” to fulfill the call of God. This is how we can discern whose “hearts have been turned” into “fathers” in the family of God.

But what about the “turning of the hearts of the children to the fathers,” really becoming true “spiritual sons and daughters”. The balance of this relationship comes when the sons and daughters are not just “using the fathers” to gain the advantage they perceive will be beneficial to them and their interests. This is why Elisha had to go through the “proving of his motives” before receiving the validation as a “son of Elijah” (2 Kings 2) and receiving his “fathers mantle.” Being delivered from “self interest” in the relationship and truly “serving the destiny of another” is the “hard thing” that Elijah spoke of when his “would be son” asked for an inheritance from him. This is where many seeking sonship are “sifted out” of relationship, not able or willing to trust another with their well being. God will bring many of those seeking an inheritance to the fathers whose “hearts have been turned” with a desire to truly prepare people for what God has for them. This is the phenomena we see occurring now that is resulting in the formation of the “apostolic families” popping up around the world. These are true “safe places” for the next generation of ministry leaders to find affirmation, impartation, validation and separation for ministry.

But every son and daughter will have their hearts “sifted” (Luke 22:28-30) until the motives for relationship will be pure. The sons and daughters must also know what is in the fathers heart, and seek to serve the destiny of the fathers as well. Malachi said that

“hearts would be turned toward each other”, this is the balance of relationship that will bring about the fullness of blessing and remove every residual curse. A balanced relationship between fathers and families will result in “giving to one another” the things that God has provided us with for the mutual advancement of both. A balanced relationship will mean that both parties will sacrifice for each other, pursue each other, pray for each other and promote each others interests. As relationships mature they lose more and more of the “one sidedness” that is the usual start of the relationship with the parents giving the most which is only natural since they are more mature. As the sons and daughters mature they lose the fear of being taken advantage of, and develop a deep love and trust that is not only the sign of “turned heart,” but of a “healed heart.” May God continue to turn our hearts into the fullness of the blessing available to us through the Elijah Anointing.