

Introduction

Lord, Happy Father's Day! Every day is your day! God is an Excellent Father. He IS the model of a Father's heart. He understands and knows what it feels like to love your children unconditionally. As we do. Father chooses to love us on levels we cannot begin to comprehend. This morning, I want to honor all of you who are positioned in your children's lives as fathers. And, to those of you who have chosen to stand in as a role model for those who have not had a father in their lives, I want to honor you. And, I also want to acknowledge all of you who are remembering and honoring your fathers who have transitioned to be with the Lord. I am going to share with you today about the contending father.

David prays this prophetic promise in **Psalm 35:1-3 (NIV)** 1 Contend, LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me. 2 Take up shield and armor; arise and come to my aid. 3 Brandish spear and javelin against those who pursue me. Say to me, "I am your salvation."

Isaiah 49:25 (AMP) says "Indeed, this is what the LORD says, Even the captives of the mighty man will be taken away, And the tyrant's spoils of war will be rescued; For I will contend with your opponent, And I will save your children."

Contender: n. a combatant; a champion. One who is clashing, opposing, a rival; striving. For there to be a need for a contender means an enemy exists. And there are a few things the enemy desires to take from you. Mainly, everything. Our faith, our marriage, our children, and our finances.

Romans 8:37 (AMP) says, "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Our Father God chose to contend for us as soon as Adam sinned and caused us all to be born into sin. But Father God immediately put into motion a redemption plan to save us. And He chose to come down and do it Himself by becoming flesh and blood as one of us in the person of Jesus! He is a contending, Father. He is a Dread Champion.

The Contending Father is A Dread Warrior

Pastor Tim taught us recently that Jesus is the ultimate Dread Champion!

A Dread Champion was a warrior who is chosen by the king to represent him and the nation he ruled in, to battle against his enemies, to combat against a warrior chosen by the opposing king or ruler.

The king chose one warrior from his best, bravest, mightiest, and most loyal warriors. The winner took all for his nation or king.

In the book of **Jeremiah 20:11 (AMP)** it says, But the Lord is with me as a dread champion [one to be greatly feared]; Therefore, my persecutors will stumble and not overcome [me].

Jeremiah indicates God as his Dread Champion (Hebrew word "*ariyts*"), meaning awe-inspiring, terror-striking, formidable, terrifying, ruthless, mighty, warrior that is feared or dreaded by His enemies. Sounds to me like the father of a daughter.

As sons of the King of kings, as fathers who are sons of the King of Kings, we too are to be dreaded by any foreign or domestic enemies of the Kingdom of God. Jesus gave us His word, power, anointing, victory, and righteousness to contend against an unseen enemy and dominate him. We are to be contending fathers, dread warriors.

And the battle is already won. Jesus gave us His victory. And we are to walk in a lifestyle of a *perpetual victory parade*. So, we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus. We are **Dread Champions** in our homes against the enemies of God and our mission as a father is to maintain the victory, He has given us.

Contending for The Family

Joshua 24:15 (AMP) But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Joshua demonstrated before his family what serving the Lord is supposed to look like.

He was saying to the people to do what you think is best for you and yours. I know what He has done for me, and my family and I am letting it be known that we are serving the Lord God.

Dwight L. Moody once said, *"A man ought to live so that everybody knows he is a Christian... and most of all, his family ought to know"*.

Protect and contend to secure a Family legacy of God experiences.

I submit to you fathers that there is no greater protection we can provide for our children than to teach them everything we can about God. Teach them to have God experiences they can pass on through stories and testimonies. Even the little things. It is the single most important thing we will ever get to do in this world. It is our greatest achievement,

and it is to be our legacy that our children love, worship, and serve God. That is the legacy that matters. That is what you want to leave behind when you leave this world. The word says not to irritate your children. The Apostle Paul writes in **Ephesians 6:4 (AMP)** concerning children: "Fathers, do not **exasperate (irritate or frustrate someone intensely)** your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

So, there is a difference between frustrating our children and training them.

We sometimes have what can be viewed as lovingly controlling behaviors.

For example. We see the untapped potential in our children and envision them sharpening their gifts and talents. We can just see all the possibilities that we believe will make them great! But we keep reminding them what **we see** about them. And we begin to frustrate them because they cannot see it for themselves. We begin to irritate them. And with good intentions we create a divide. They just need to know you love them. And you are contending by praying that wisdom, clarity and understanding is released into their lives. That they discern God's voice for themselves. They need us to follow the blueprint God left for us through Jesus of how to love our children well.

Paul writes in **Colossians 3:21 (NKJV)** "Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged." Sometimes tough love is necessary. But let us not confuse tough love with provoking discouraging, frustrating or irritating them. There is a difference. Sometimes we must resist the urge to help them out because they must learn how to trust God for themselves to navigate through difficult times.

And other times we resist the urge to assist or help them out because there must be consequences of being disrespectful, ungrateful, argumentative, or divisive. And there is no rewarding bad behavior.

And because sometimes you may have to remind them that they still must respect you as a parent. Unfortunately, when they become young adults, they forget what respect and honor looks like. And we must lovingly remind them.

As we are learning how to treat them, especially as young adults, they will also continue to learn what we will and will not allow. As they begin to develop boundaries as young adults, we are maintaining boundaries of our own, as we entrust their lives to God. Sometimes tough love may be necessary, but eventually they will understand that you were looking out for them.

Contend for Gods plan in your children's future.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. We all want what God wants for our children. Even when they become our adult children.

And you would think at some point it would become easier for you when they are grown and gone. But it does not. There is no age limit to a father's love. We do not stop loving our children when they turn 18 or 21. Our role may change, but not our love.

We begin to come alongside them in a supporting role as we learn to respect their choices and decisions. And that does not always look like agreement. And we do not contend to have our desires imposed into their lives. We continue to pray that God's best for them prevails.

Regardless of what we believed it to be. Because we are not only contending for their future but future generations. Our grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Because as a father you always will be in protective mode for them. It's how we are hardwired as dads. As parents. 2 Cor. 10:4 says, "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." They are not visible. They are not made by hands. They are spiritual.

As our children grow, so do we. We grow in our understanding of how our roles are changing. As the Lord reveals new revelation, we are learning to flow and walk in them. Particularly in areas where we may need to apologize and own our faults. As a father I have discovered this brings healing for your children and your relationship with them. It is ok to admit you were wrong. It's a rare ordeal but it happens. They need to see you are strong and secure enough to admit we are still evolving to be who God has called us to be.

Contending by imparting The Blessing.

The book of Genesis emphasizes the blessing of a father to his sons. The patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all gave formal blessings to their children—and, in Jacob's case, to some grandchildren.

Receiving a blessing from one's father was a high honor, and losing a blessing was tantamount to a curse.

An Old Testament blessing of a father to his sons included words of encouragement, details regarding each son's inheritance, and prophetic words concerning the future. For example, Isaac's blessing on Jacob (which was meant for Esau) gave him the earth's bounty and authority over his brother (**Genesis 27:28-29**).

It also promised that those who blessed Jacob would be blessed, and those who cursed him would receive a curse—words that echo God's promise to Abraham in (**Genesis 12:3**). Fathers, contend for your children by speaking words of life over them and into them. Tell them you love them, and nothing is ever going to change that. Allow them to see and hear you pray for them. Impart the blessing into their lives. Prophecy over them. Chase them with anointing oil if you must. They may run away from you at some point in their lives but you chase them! Be the priest in your home.

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV) says, but you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Pray for them. Be the priest in your home and impart the priestly blessing into their lives.

In **Numbers 6:22-26** The Lord said to Moses, 23 "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: 24 "The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. What is the power of the blessing? The blessing is a supernatural force that drives a person into the center of God's will, plan, or destiny for them. In the name of Jesus, you will not miss the people you are supposed to meet; and you will not meet the people you are meant to miss. The blessing of God is supernatural power for enlargement, expansion and increase of His favor and presence in your life.

I have spoken the blessing over my children from the time they were very young even until now. I am declaring and saying to them God be with you in every season of your life. I have a few who will still come to me and place my hand on their head and ask for the blessing before they go into something major in their lives.

Conclusion

The Lord wants to do a work of reconciliation in the lives of fathers and children this morning. There are fathers who are contending for their children from a distance because relationships have been severed. And they really want things to be healed. God our Father wants to remove bitterness and hurts and un-forgiveness which caused separation. I am praying that the anointing of God be released into your special

circumstance this morning. If father and children are here today, I pray that they both hear from the Lord this morning and reason together. If one is here, I pray that they would have the strength and courage to make this relationship right. I pray forgiveness saturates fathers and children. I pray this morning there is no condemnation on anyone. We have all made mistakes, we all have had to trust God to restore relationships with our children and adult children.

Even when we believed we were doing what was best for them it caused us to be even further removed from them. Today, I pray that fathers are restored with their children and relationships are healed. I pray the Lord will make all things new in each father here today and they become the contenders they are called to be. That they desire to be. If you have never acknowledged Jesus as Lord that you would do that by asking Him to forgive your sins, acknowledging Him now as Lord of your life, and deciding today that you will live for Him (all in) and allow him to speak to the things going on in your life.

And now, The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Love well. Contend well. Amen.

Benediction