



## A Godly Father

Proverbs 20:7 declares, "The righteous who walks in his integrity—blessed are his children after him!" (ESV). This verse captures the profound impact a father's faith

and character have on his family. In an age where fatherhood can be overlooked, Scripture reminds us that a father's righteous example is a legacy that shapes generations. Through biblical wisdom, real-world evidence, and stories of grace, let's celebrate the important role fathers play in our families and throughout the world.

Fathers are called to be spiritual leaders, guiding their households toward God's truth and Proverbs 20:7 stresses a life to be rooted in biblical values. A father who models honesty, humility, and devotion creates a home where faith thrives. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 urges fathers to teach God's commandments diligently, embedding them in daily life through prayer, service, or faith under pressure. This leadership enforces a love for God and His Word, fulfilling Genesis 18:19, where God chose Abraham to direct his household in righteousness. Research also highlights a fathers' spiritual impact. A 2016 Touchstone study found that when fathers regularly attend church, 44% of their children become regular attendees as adults, compared to 33% when both parents attend and 2% when only the mother does.

Consider a young man from a small town, drawn to a city's bright lights, chasing wealth and success. He invested everything in a risky venture, ignored his father's concerned messages, and lived extravagantly—until the venture collapsed, leaving him broke and alone. Hitchhiking home, he braced for a lecture. Instead, his father ran to him, and whispered, "I never stopped waiting or loving you." This story, echoing the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), shows a father's steadfast and unconditional love, reflecting God's heart towards His children and Proverbs 20:7's promise.

Fathers also provide stability in their homes. Ephesians 6:4 instructs fathers to nurture children with discipline and instruction, avoiding provocation. This balance fosters security and confidence. A 2021 study from the Journal of Marriage and Family found that positive father involvement—through activities like reading or playing—reflects better academic performance and fewer behavioral issues. Over 100 studies since 1980 showed fatherly love is as critical as motherly love for happiness, well-being, and social success, with emotional health often tied more to fathers. Affirming God's Word in the fact: fathers are irreplaceable.

Fathers model healthy relationships. Proverbs 23:24 says, "The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him." A father's love for his spouse, as Ephesians 5:25 teaches commitment. A 2014 Gospel Coalition report noted children with involved fathers are more likely to form stable relationships as adults, strengthening communities and churches and the world.

Proverbs 20:7 is both a promise and call. Fathers, your integrity shapes futures. Whether biological dads, stepfathers, or mentors, you mirror God's love. Let's honor and pray for the fathers in our world, trusting their influence will teach and encourage their children and the generations to follow.

## THANK YOU DAD

When we are children we just assume there will be clothing on our backs and food on the table. We do not always see how hard a dad works to make life better for his family. Sometimes it is not until we are fully grown and have children ourselves that we know all our father's did for Us



"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the **WORD** of God." Romans 10:17 June 2025 VOL. 210

## The Two Woods Christopher Kolker MD

Once upon a time, a young pastor in a country church walked along an old trail that led deep into the woods. He was troubled. His flock seemed so stale, so dead, so complacent.

But he did not seem to have the answer to get them out of the doldrums. No matter how many fiery sermons he preached, with his threats of hell and promises of heaven, they just sat there—no expressions, no "Hallelujahs", nothing.

They always seemed to appreciate the sermons, but in a superficial way. "Nice sermon" was the most common thing said as the congregation left the church each Sunday. From there, they would go to the local restaurants for Sunday dinner and then repeat the whole thing one week later, without an ounce of change that could be seen. And so, our young pastor hiked. He needed to clear his head and think. "What's wrong? I don't get how these people can be so unmoved by the Gospel!"

He came across a deep forest. The tall oak trees were close together, with brush surrounding each tree. The trail got very narrow, and branches continually stuck him in the face as he struggled to get through the massive thicket of trees. Dying trees reached in vain against more vigorous, taller trees for sunlight, and the underbrush smothered the forest floor for room to root. He wondered if he would ever get through the bramble he found himself in.

But he did. Next, he came to a place where pine trees grew. These trees were spread farther apart, and you could see where fallen pine needles neatly replaced the thick undergrowth around the trees. The trail widened, and there was more than enough space to walk. Every pine seemed proud and strong.

By the grace of God, our pastor suddenly understood his congregation's problem. "We are the oak thicket. We are too close together. We are not meant to be just in one place. We should be expanding and growing. We need to be out in the world spreading the Gospel, not just in our little church suffocating."

Does this describe you? Do you keep your faith in the oak thicket and not spread it to grow stronger? Will you spread the Gospel by showing your faith and proclaiming the Good News?



In a world filled with uncertainthe need for God's **WORD** has live in fear and despair due to and moral confusion. Others seek gle to find truth amid the distraclike these that believers are called money, and prayer to ministries making sure the gospel reaches





ty, division, and spiritual hunger, never been greater. Many people war, poverty, natural disasters, meaning and purpose, but strugtions of modern life. It is in times to step forward, giving their time, like *Spreading the WORD Ministry*, those in need.

Romans 10:14 asks, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?" Without access to God's truth, millions remain lost. Spreading the WORD Ministry has touched countless lives across the globe. Through the ministries efforts, individuals from all walks of life have found salvation and experienced life-changing transformations. From remote villages to bustling cities, testimonies pour in from people who have encountered the gospel through this ministry and have been led to salvation in Jesus Christ. Their stories serve as a powerful reminder that without dedicated supporters giving of their time, finances, and prayer this mission could not be accomplished. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) commands us to make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them. Spreading the WORD Ministry is dedicated to spreading the gospel and fulfilling this divine calling, yet we rely on the faithfulness and generosity of believers

- 1. **Giving Time** Volunteering ones time can be life-changing. Whether by teaching new believers, engaging in our out reach efforts, or offering your time which helps strengthen all aspects of the ministry.
- 2. **Financial Support** Your financial gifts help sustain and expand the efforts of Spreading the **WORD** ministry.
- 3. **Prayer** Prayer fuels the ministries work. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 reminds us to "pray without ceasing". Pray for those who devote their time and talents to the ministry. Pray the hearts of those hearing the gospel will be open to the Holy Spirit. Pray for God's will to be accomplished in all that we do.

Supporting ministries like *Spreading the WORD* is fulfilling God's calling to evangelize. Through time, money, and prayer, lives are changed, communities are restored, and God's truth reaches the nations. Whether through small acts or grand sacrifices, every effort contributes to the eternal mission of Spreading God's **WORD**.

Your support of *Spreading the WORD Ministry* is invaluable, and we'd love to know how our mission is making an impact in your life. Are you tuning in to our broadcasts? If so, on what radio stations? Your feedback helps us understand where we are reaching people and where there may be opportunities to expand.

If there's a particular market you believe we should pursue, let us know! Our goal is to bring the gospel to as many people as possible, and your insight is vital in helping us spread His effectively. Whether it's a city, region, or an underserved community, your suggestions could guide us in reaching those in need.

We also invite you to share our newsletter with a friend. If you know someone who would benefit from uplifting messages, biblical teachings, and ministry updates, send us their name and address. We will be happy to provide them with the monthly newsletter.

Please take a moment to drop us a line using the enclosed envelope. Your thoughts, prayers, and suggestions mean the world to us. Thank you for being part of this mission and helping us change lives through the power of God's **WORD.**