

Purpose & Destiny – Part 4

Phil. 3:9-17

–Recap:

- Paul is a pattern for New Covenant believers.
- His life was marked by a 3-phase development.
 - General calling – bondservant/child.
 - Specific calling – apostolic ministry/ young man.
 - High calling – embodying Christ/father.



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Phil. 3:9-17

- Paul's *pattern of becoming a spiritual father has never changed.*
 - His life being conformed to a spiritual father (the image of Christ), *renders through the ages down to us.*
- This is *far more than the specific calling as a pastor, doctor, business owner, etc.*
 - These *specific callings are but doorways* to fulfill God's *high calling* for each of us.



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Phil. 3:9-17

- The *effect* of Paul's life in being conformed to the image of Christ (a spiritual father) *is still active in the earth although he is in heaven.*
 - There is *no higher calling than to be a spiritual mother or father!*



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The Specific Calling:

–Paul's *vocational calling* as an apostle was the *doorway to fulfilling his HIGH CALLING as a spiritual father.*

•He *passed the tests as a bondservant, laying down his rights and vision to serve others.*

•Only after *proving faithful in his apostolic stewardship* (patient suffering, uncompromising in his walk and message, etc.) did he enter into *spiritual fatherhood and authority.*

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The High Calling:

–When Paul entered this phase, *just about all ACTIVE ministry ceased!*

–From *PRISON flowed authority, revelation and wisdom that was the very word of God.*

•*Paul had become ONE with his Master and his message.*

•His *fatherhood in prison now extends down through the ages into the life of every believer and New Testament church.*

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The High Calling:

–In fulfilling this high calling, *we become to others what Abba has become to and in us – LIFE.*

–We *enter the specific calling NOT to just develop a church, build a business, win souls, ad infinitum...*

•Most of the time *we enter this specific calling with self-centered visions*, but *it's God's training ground to fulfill the high calling of spiritual fatherhood/motherhood.*

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The High Calling:

–Until spiritual fathers and mothers emerge, Satan's power and kingdom remain intact and go unchallenged.

•Only spiritual mothers and fathers can **REPRODUCE** the image of the Son, thus fulfilling the original Genesis mandate to take dominion.

•Dominion can only come through the multiplied family of mature sons and daughters in His image – a **BODY** connected to the Head.



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1 Cor. 4:14-17: "I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church."



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1 Cor. 4:14-17.

–True **spiritual fathers bring multiplication of Christ's image, training and equipping, and authority**, breaking Satan's hold (the curse) over peoples and lands.

•To become a spiritual mother or father is to **enter into this high calling and bring His life and power into the earth realm.**

–Is there anything more noble, exalting or satisfying than the joy of seeing a vast, worldwide family putting Abba and the Son on display?


