

The Missing Ingredient Pt. 2

Ephesians 6:1-4 Sunday AM, February 11, 2024

Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 6:1-4 (NASB85) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Wives, submit, Husbands love your wives—give yourself up for her. Children, obey your parents. These commands seem so firm, so unbending to ones who work hard to protect our individualism. So often, we would rather drown protecting ourselves from our fears and guilt than yield control to God, submitting to His means of reconciling to Him. But to those whose eyes are opened to see the power, wisdom, and love needed to reconcile us to a holy God, there is a treasure of identity and purpose that leaves us beloved and chosen, not merely for salvation, but for a calling. Walk worthy of the calling lives not by looking at ourselves and our resources, but by being controlled by the Spirit. This is the only way we can truly obey the commands to “**be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**” Seeing the privilege of being chosen and beloved, we look to God with gratitude which overflows in song. Be imitators of God as beloved children and walk in love, just as Christ loved you and gave Himself up for you. Willing submission to this command stems from seeing and receiving this great love. Church, worship God by singing the matchless love of the One who calls you to yield in submission.

*Hymn #92: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Does this love grip you? enough to yield to God for Him to finish His new creation until you are pure and spotless? Obey, that it may be well with you. Children, while your parents at times disagree with each other, most of them want you to listen/obey/honor so you can grow/avoid trouble—**so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.** Don’t you want it to be well with you? Yes, but why did they talk to me like that? Ask me to do that? Why should I do what doesn’t seem good and why do they have to treat me in ways that seem unloving? Your hope for good lies in looking beyond your parents—**obey your parents in the Lord.** And today, parents are told to look farther as well. **4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.** HOW you train and HOW you enforce is not merely your business. Discipline, training, goals—all these must come not from society or from your experience or wisdom, but from the Lord—**bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.** This kind of training demands we look to God for the paths, the goals He chooses. The focus is not on producing perfect children, NOT on your perfect training or your goals, but on looking to follow God who is both the perfect Father AND the creator of fathers and mothers. When you think of all the grace you need to give grace to a self-centered sinner, look to our perfect Father. Receive His grace. Then from that grace, love, train, discipline, and encourage your children.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): God of Grace

***Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: My Help Scripture: Nehemiah 9:16–31** (NASB95) “But they, our fathers, acted arrogantly; They became stubborn and would not listen to Your commandments. 17 “They refused to listen, And did not remember Your wondrous deeds which You had performed among them; So they became stubborn and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But You are a God of forgiveness, Gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness; And You did not forsake them. 18 “Even when they made for themselves A calf of molten metal And said, ‘This is your God Who brought you up from Egypt,’ And committed great blasphemies, 19 You, in Your great compassion, Did not forsake them in the wilderness; The pillar of cloud did not leave them by day, To guide them on their way, Nor the pillar of fire by night, to light for them the way in which they were to go. 20 “You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, Your manna You did not withhold from their mouth, And You gave them water for their thirst. 21 “Indeed, forty years You provided for them in the wilderness and they were not in want; Their clothes did not wear out, nor did their feet swell. 22 “You also gave them kingdoms and peoples, And allotted them to them as a boundary. They took possession of the land of Sihon the king of Heshbon And the land of Og the king of Bashan. 23 “You made their sons numerous as the stars of heaven, And You brought them into the land Which You had told their fathers to enter and possess. 24 “So their sons entered and possessed the land. And You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, And You gave them into their hand, with their kings and the peoples of the land, To do with them as they desired. 25 “They captured fortified cities and a fertile land. They took possession of houses full of every good thing, Hewn cisterns, vineyards, olive groves, Fruit trees in abundance. So they ate, were filled and grew fat, And reveled in Your great goodness. 26 “But they became disobedient and rebelled against You, And cast Your law behind their backs And killed Your prophets who had admonished them So that they might return to You, And they committed great blasphemies. 27 “Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their oppressors who oppressed them, But when they cried to You in the time of their distress, You heard from heaven, and according to Your great compassion You gave them deliverers who delivered them from the hand of their oppressors. 28 “But as soon as they had rest, they did evil again before You; Therefore You abandoned them to the hand of their enemies, so that they ruled over them. When they cried again to You, You heard from heaven, And many times You rescued them according to Your compassion, 29 And admonished them in order to turn them back to Your law. Yet they acted arrogantly and did not listen to Your commandments but sinned against Your ordinances, By which if a man observes them he shall live. And they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck, and would not listen. 30 “However, You bore with them for many years, And admonished them by Your Spirit through Your prophets, Yet they would not give ear. Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. 31 “Nevertheless, in Your great compassion You did not make an end of them or forsake them, For You are a gracious and compassionate God.

Offering: *Doxology:

Do not provoke your children to anger. This does not mean that every time they are angry, you are at fault. But it does mean that we are to study them and carefully seek to work with their souls in addition to their behavior. Did you hear the merciful, intentional “parenting” of God in Nehemiah? As the people of Israel hungered for the law of God read to them, they recognized their disobedience and wept with repentance. How could hope for God’s favor as they prayed for help? Note His character in the face of their disobedience. He disciplined them, and yet was known for being slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. Do you desire to lead with this kind of compassion? Then worship Him for His lovingkindness, receive it, and THEN seek to imitate.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Lovingkindness

As Pastor preaches, it’s easy to check boxes—I do this, I fail, or it’s not relevant. Remember, all this describes a submissive attitude. Be filled with/controlled by the Spirit. Don’t listen to horizontal roles without a vertical gaze, looking for the Spirit’s provision for change and obedience. Pray this—it’s in line with the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

*Hymn #251: Breathe On Me

Message: The Missing Ingredient Pt. 2 Eph. 6:1-4

*Hymn #525 (Red): A Christian Home

*Prayer