

## **"3 Must-Have Building Blocks" /June 17, 2018**

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**Happy Father's Day to all of you Dad's, Grandfather's, Great-Grandfathers, Uncles, Brothers, Men, Leaders, Royal Ranger Commanders out there that have really made a difference in the lives of those around you! You are to be celebrated and commended for loving and leading! We have some gifts for you. Can we say thank you to all of this men?**

**On Screen - 36% of all children (Caucasian (21%), African America (68%), and Hispanic (32%)), live in single-parent homes. Children who live apart from their fathers account for...**

- **63% of teen suicides**
- **70% of juveniles in state-operated institutions**
- **71% of high-school dropouts**
- **75% of children in chemical-abuse centers**
- **80% of rapists**
- **85% of youths in prison**
- **85% of children who exhibit behavioral disorders**
- **90% of homeless and runaway children.**

**When these children become "adults," the social consequences become even worse. Men, we have a big-time responsibility! Let us take our task of raising our families with seriousness and with passion! Remember, Proverbs 3:32 "For the LORD detests a perverse man but takes the upright into his confidence." Let us lead with His Confidence!**

**Fatherhood by Mark Alexander June 14, 2012**

**When I think "father," the word first invokes my relationship with the person who irrevocably shaped my own life. When recalling my early trials with my father, I'm reminded of a great quote attributed to Mark Twain: "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."**

**"Father" next evokes my relationship with my heavenly Father, my Creator. That relationship has also experienced great trials, but He has stood by me through all my trials.**

**Of course, "father" also brings thoughts about my relationship with our children, and that is precious beyond words -- a greater gift I could not imagine.**

**Finally, the word "father" evokes the heritage given to us by our Founding Fathers.**

**These four contexts for "father" -- God the Father, my own earthly father, my role as father to my children, and the legacy of our forefathers -- combine to create a rich and abiding sense of what fatherhood means, what it should look and feel like in heart and practice.**

**But for tens of millions of Americans from broken homes, the consequences of failed fatherhood are the enormous obstacles their children must endeavor to overcome in**

relationships with their Creator, with their own spouses and children, and in their ability to honor their forefathers' legacy. In 295 B.C., Mencius wrote, "The root of the kingdom is in the state. The root of the state is in the family. The root of the family is the head."

The Father Factor, the statistical social and cultural consequences when fathers abandon their natural role, is well documented. Nowhere are those consequences more evident than when fatherless children, in their relentless pursuit of approval never provided by their own father, become overachievers and ascend to positions of power. The pages of 20th-century history are rife with the terrible misdeeds of those who were raised without fathers, or with abusive or ineffectual fathers: Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Saddam Hussein, Osama bin Laden and many others of lesser infamy.

Above all, the greatest inheritance I hope to leave my children is not material, but spiritual. 3 John 1:4, "I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth." In the words of the Father of our Nation, George Washington, "May the father of all mercies scatter light, and not darkness, upon our paths, and make us in all our several vocations useful here, and in His own due time and way everlastingly happy." (1790) Pray

I want to give you Title Slide "3 must-Have Building Blocks" for Fathers, Men, Christians that help us be Resolute in our Life! We are going to use the text found in Gen. 22:1-19 (NLT).

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Building Block: Hearing that Reveals our Trust (Prayer)**

- Gen. 22:1-2, "<sup>1</sup> Sometime later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am." <sup>2</sup>"Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."
- Scripture doesn't talk about the doubt factor in Abraham's life, but I assume – there was plenty of doubt in his head and heart!
- What I am assured is this, Abraham's complete dependence on the voice of God.
- When God speaks, have an urgency to hear and respond to the Lord's voice.
- Have Courage to HEAR the message God speaks to you!

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Building Block: Trust that Guides our Actions (Faith)**

- Gen. 22:3-7, "<sup>3</sup> The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about. <sup>4</sup> On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup> "Stay here with the donkey," Abraham told the servants. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back."

<sup>6</sup> So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together,

<sup>7</sup> Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?"

- **Just as in tithing our resources to God, we have to be ready to move early and quickly as to the response to the Heavenly Father.**
- **When He calls us to action, He will confirm it through...**
  - **His Word – Reading that Reveals**
  - **His Direction – Prayer that Prevails**
  - **His Church – Worship that Wars**
  - **His Servants – Life that Loves**
- **All pointing to the place where we see the question answered, "Do we trust Him?"**
- **When God speaks, have an urgency to do as He is calling you. Have Courage to DO whatever God calls you to do, with whatever He gives you to do it with!**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Building Block: Actions that Trust FULLY in the Lord (Provision)**

- **Gen. 22:8-14, <sup>8</sup> "God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together. <sup>9</sup> When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. <sup>11</sup> At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!"**

<sup>12</sup> "Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son." <sup>13</sup> Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. <sup>14</sup> Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the Lord will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

- **Part of trusting for His provision, is leading the people around you, the people in your circle, your family, that God will provide when it seems impossible!**
- **Bring Unity in the fact that God will provide!**
- **Abraham had heard the voice of the Lord before in vs. 1; when the times are tough, the knife is coming down, he heard the voice of God again in vs. 11 & 12.**
- **When God takes you to a place of total dependency on Him, have the trust to follow Him FULLY!**
- **Have trust that you have heard His voice before!**
- **Have trust to know that your God will provide!**

**The reward is well worth it!**

- **Gen. 22:15-19, <sup>15</sup> Then the angel of the Lord called again to Abraham from heaven. <sup>16</sup> “This is what the Lord says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that <sup>17</sup> I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. <sup>18</sup> And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.” <sup>19</sup> Then they returned to the servants and traveled back to Beersheba, where Abraham continued to live.**
- **When God rewards you for your faithfulness and obedience, return to the place where your... Hearing and Trusting and Actions <sup>1st</sup> Heard His Voice!**

**1<sup>st</sup> Building Block: Hearing that Reveals our Trust (Prayer)!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Building Block: Trust that Guides our Actions (Faith)!**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Building Block: Actions that Trust FULLY in the Lord (Provision)!**

<p><b>Listen to this – James 2:17-26 (The Message) Not on screens!</b></p>
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**Title Slide: Let me tell you the words of the Apostle Paul...Rom. 5:6&8, <sup>6</sup> When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. <sup>8</sup> But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.**

**Whether you feel like you are a cheap painting or a masterpiece, now is the time to say yes to Jesus! And begin to know what unconditional love truly is all about...**

**Can I again remind you this morning of Rom. 8:31, “If God is for you, it doesn’t matter who’s against you!”**