

Family, Fathers & Faith

I. Family, Fathers & Faith

Ezra 1:5 (NIV)

Then **the family heads of Judah and Benjamin**, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.

A. Restoration of Family

Luke 1:11–19 (NIV84®)

¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. ¹⁶ Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And **he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**” ¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” ¹⁹ The angel answered, “I am Gabriel.”

B. Revelation: God Is Our Father

Hebrews 1:1–2 (NIV®)

¹ In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days **he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

Luke 11:13 (NIV®)

“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your Father in heaven** give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

C. Confusion/Deception & Disobedience

John 8:39–42 (NIV84®)

³⁹ “Abraham is our father,” they answered. “If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do the things Abraham did. ⁴⁰ As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. ⁴¹ You are doing the things your own father does.” **“We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have is God himself.”** ⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.”

II. Instructions RE: Seeking the Lord

A. Seek or Forsake

2 Chronicles 15:1–7 (NIV®)

¹ The Spirit of God came on Azariah son of Oded. ² He went out to meet Asa and said to him, “Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin. The Lord is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you. ³ For a long time Israel was without the true God, without a priest to teach and without the law. ⁴ **But in their distress they turned to the Lord, the God of Israel, and sought him, and he was found by them.** ⁵ In those days it was not safe to travel about, for all the inhabitants of the lands were in great turmoil. ⁶ One nation was being crushed by another and one city by

another, because God was troubling them with every kind of distress. ⁷ But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.”

B. Gaining Spiritual Strength

1. Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NIV84®)

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

2. Anointing

2 Corinthians 1:21–22 (NIV84®)

²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. **He anointed us,** ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and **put his Spirit in our hearts** as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

James 5:14 (NIV84®)

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and **anoint him with oil** in the name of the Lord.

Exodus 40:9–16 (NIV84®)

⁹ “Take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and everything in it; consecrate it and all its furnishings, and it will be holy. ¹⁰ Then anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils; consecrate the altar, and it will be most holy. ¹¹ Anoint the basin and its stand and consecrate them. ¹² “Bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and wash them with water. ¹³ Then dress Aaron in the sacred garments, anoint him and consecrate him so he may serve me as priest. ¹⁴ Bring his sons and dress them in tunics. ¹⁵ Anoint them just as you anointed their father, so they may serve me as priests. Their anointing will be to a priesthood that will continue for all generations to come.” ¹⁶ Moses did everything just as the Lord commanded him.

3. Serving

Matthew 23:11–12 (NIV84®)

¹¹ The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹² For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Matthew 20:26–28 (NIV84®)

²⁶ “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ **just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,** and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

4. Giving

5. Learning (Bible Reading)

6. Praying

7. Under Authority