

Receiving A Father's Blessing by Douglas Raine. Revised

Testimony

I received a father's blessing in 1992 at a FGBMFI regional convention in Oklahoma City. John Schmook stood in for my father who had passed away in 1976. My father was a very private person and didn't talk about his past. He was not a Christian, but a man of integrity. When my family visited my parents for the Christmas holidays in 1975 my dad weighed 210 pounds. In August 1976 I received a call from my mother to come home right away. Dad had a very aggressive cancer and was down to 125 pounds. The week before my father died he told me everything about himself. His father had abandoned his children (3) after his wife died. The three children were individually farmed out to foster homes. As my dad shared his biography, I could see why he didn't know how to be a father because he didn't have a father. For the first time in my life I had compassion for my father and the only thing I could think of to say was that I love you dad.

I continued to make all the same mistakes until I was forced to be a father. Here a portion of my testimony.

Do My Will - Douglas Raine

With my education and my military active duty commitment completed, I launched my business career and started my family in 1966. My life was committed to my business and hobbies. By world's standards I was a success.

For 39 years I worked for Blue Chip chemical companies developing sales and marketing strategies to solve industrial corrosion problems with composites. This market was huge as over one billion dollars were spent per year in the USA on corrosion. Our products saved industries millions of dollars with low maintenance fiberglass process equipment. My technical expertise, experience and excellent track record for solving corrosion problems in the chemical process, pulp and paper, semiconductor, power, oil and gas industries gained industry recognition and respect.

However, there was a price to pay. My 84 hour work schedule destroyed my relationship with my family. On July 2, 1984, my wife of 18 years said, "I'm leaving. You can have the kids and the farm." And she left. I didn't know how to be a father, but I was going to try. The stress in my life caused my first stroke in 1986. I began to seek God for help. My life was in shambles.

While attending a meeting in October 1987, I was experiencing my second stroke. The pressure in my head was so great I thought it would explode all over the back of the room. In my desperation before I thought I was dying, I called out to Jesus and said, "You can have all of me!" Immediately Jesus spoke to me and said, "Do my will." He was calling me to obedience. The pressure in my head left as I was standing in the presence of a Holy God. As I thought what is your will, Jesus replied "As I have forgiven you, so must you forgive others." Then I saw a film strip with a picture in each frame of a person I had not forgiven. My dad was on the first frame. I said "Father I forgive them all." Immediately I felt the love of the Father. It was incredible. I felt clean as He washed away all my corrosion and gave me new life

and spiritual gifts. I did not know the purpose or how to use these new gifts. Two weeks later in November 1987 I asked the Lord for three things: 1. Is there someone for me?, 2. Help me raise my children, 3. Please send me a mentor.

As I made Jesus savior and Lord, he restored my health, family, and business. Jesus changed my direction in life. He taught me to love him with all my heart, mind and soul, and to love my neighbor as myself. (Prayer 1 answered) In April 1988 while attending a Wednesday evening dinner, I saw a glow surrounding a lady. I thought "Was she the one Lord?" And instantly He put love in my heart for her and we were married in September 1988. My wife's prayer was "Lord, send to me a suitable husband even if you have to raise him from the dead."

(Prayer 2 answered) The Lord started to remove the rebellion from my children and the Lord was teaching me how to be a father.

My third prayer request was answered in January 1989 - the need for a mentor. While entering a men's prayer breakfast the Holy Spirit instructed me to pray with a man. This man was the local FGB president and he mentored me for the next 10 years. We prayed together every Saturday and Sunday morning between 6:00-7:00 AM and during the week by phone.

While I was being mentored local university students started coming to me asking to be discipled. They wanted to know how to experience God in their lives. This small beginning became my passion to take the message of hope to our community, state, nation and world.

I wanted to make spiritual investments in our future generations. My message to individuals and audiences on forgiveness ends with me standing in as their father to pray a father's blessing over them. Before we pray let's first make peace with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Did you know that God still loves you? He never stopped loving you. He loved you so much that He sent His Son Jesus to bring you back. All you have to do is let Him bring you back. Will you pray with me?

Salvation Prayer

"Lord Jesus... I want to stop trusting in myself...and what I can do...and start trusting in you...and what you have already done...when you died for me on the cross. I know that I am a sinner...and I am sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me...I believe you rose again...and I invite you to come and live inside of me. I want you to be my Savior and Lord...which means being #1 in my life. I want to repent and turn away...from everything you and the Bible call sin...and I totally commit myself...to obeying you...everyday, for the rest of my life. Lord Jesus baptize me in your precious Holy Spirit. Thank you Jesus."

Now that you have made peace with God, I am ready to pray a father's blessing over you and declare your manhood.

Request Permission to Stand in as Their Father

As I stand in for your real father, I ask your forgiveness for not performing as a real father and for any injustice committed against you son. Will you forgive me as your earthly father for not confirming manhood, and any wrong doing as your father to you son?

Confess & Ask for Forgiveness

Will you confess that you forgive me son? My son, since you have forgiven me of my short comings as your earthly father, I now declare you a man, a mature man which gives you authority with responsibility, and I declare these blessings for you.

The Blessing

My child, I love you! You are special. You are a gift from God. I thank God for allowing me to be a father to you. I bless you with the healing of all wounds of rejection, neglect and abuse that you have suffered. I bless you with overflowing peace, the peace that only the Prince of Peace can give, a peace beyond comprehension. I bless your life with fruitfulness—good fruit, much fruit and fruit that remains. I bless you with success. You are the head and not the tail; you are above and not beneath. I bless you with health and strength of body, soul and spirit. I bless you with overflowing prosperity, enabling you to be a blessing to others. I bless you with spiritual influence, for you are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. You are like a tree planted by rivers of water. You will prosper in all your ways. I bless you with a depth of spiritual understanding and a close walk with your Lord. You will not stumble or falter, for the Word of God will be a lamp to your feet and a light to your path. I bless you with pure and edifying relationships in life. You have favor with God and man. I bless you with abounding love. You will minister God's comforting grace to others. You are blessed, my child! You are blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. Amen!

Declaration of Sonship

Now that you have received a Father's blessing my son, I would like you to repeat after me the following declaration of sonship before God and man.

1. I DO solemnly resolve before God to take full responsibility for myself; my wife, and my children.
2. I WILL love them, protect them, serve them, and teach them the Word of God as the spiritual leader of my home.
3. I WILL be faithful to my wife, to love and honor her, and be willing to lay down my life for her as Jesus Christ did for me.
4. I WILL bless my children and teach them to love God with all of their hearts, all of their minds, and all of their strength.
5. I WILL train them to honor authority and live responsibly.
6. I WILL confront evil, pursue justice, and love mercy.

7. I WILL pray for others and treat them with kindness, respect, and compassion.
8. I WILL work diligently to provide for the needs of my family.
9. I WILL forgive those who have wronged me and reconcile with those I have wronged.
10. I WILL learn from my mistakes, repent of my sins, and walk with integrity as a man answerable to God.
11. I WILL seek to honor God, be faithful to His church, obey His Word, and do His will.
12. I WILL courageously work with the strength God provides to fulfill this declaration for the rest of my life and for the glory of God.
13. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. JOSHUA 24:15