



Fathers: The Point Man of the Family Part 3 2 Timothy 2 *Guided Growth with Pastor Keith* @ CBC June 30th

The Bible often describes life in terms of a spiritual warfare. As Christians, we are in enemy territory (2 Cor 4:4; Eph. 2:1-3; 6:10-18; James 4:4; 1 Jn 2:15,16; 5:19; Phil 2:15) on mission for our King and Commander in Chief. (Col. 1:13; Phil. 2:13-16; 1 Peter 2:9) God has commissioned the Father to act as the “Point Man” in the spiritual battle for the hearts and souls of his family “unit”.

How do we succeed in our God given mission to safely lead our family “units” safely through this hostile world?

- **Accept your Responsibility!** (To Lead {Eph. 5:23} and Love {Eph. 5:25})
- **Know your Enemy.** Eph. 6:12
- **Get equipped to lead your family.** (Eph. 6:10-18)

Last week we discussed some qualities a point man needed to develop including: Prayerful, Provider, Protector, Patient, Persevering, Partnering, Patterned after Jesus and Perceptive. Here’s what received this week from some of you about what the “O” in Point man might be.

1. **Observant (quick to notice/perceive, alert, heedful.)**

A. The Word “Observe” is found 55 times in scripture.

1) Hebrew (Shamar) to protect, guard and preserve. *It has the idea of not just “noticing”, but prioritizing!*
Joshua 1:8 *“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and t...have good success.”*

2) Greek (tēreō) watch, guard from loss or injury. *This has the idea of assuming a personal responsibility for that which has been committed to your care!*

Mt. 28:19,20 *“teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded.”*

2. **Open (Transparent, Vulnerable, Sincere)**

A. Men can become masters of the masquerade! 1 Peter 3:4 *“But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”*

“Our Faith may be personal, But it should not be private!”

B. Why is openness important in a Point Man?

1) It builds trust. 2 Tim. 3:10 *“thou has fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith...”*

2) It produces partnership. (1 Jn. 1:7) *“if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship”* (also 1 Pt. 3:7)

3) It dispels confusion. (1 Cor. 14:33) *“God is not the author of confusion.”* (See James 3:13-18)

4) It facilitates accountability. (1 Cor. 4:1,2) *“...ministers...stewards...A man be found faithful!”*

3. **Optimistic (Hopeful and confident about the future.)** John 16:33

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. (eirē’ nē: to join!) In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; (Tharse’ō: courage, from tharsos: daring!) I have overcome the world!”

Heb. 6:19 *“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, oth sure and steadfast.”* (elpis: expectation that produces confidence)

What’s your hope anchored in? (Mt. 25:21; 2 Tim. 2:4)

4. Obedient (to God) Mat 8:9 *"I am a man under authority"* (See Phil. 2:10,11)

Jesus before Pilate (Jn. 19:10,11) *"Speakest thou not unto me? I have power to crucify thee, and the power to release thee."*

11 *"Thou couldst have no power at all ...except it were given thee from above!"* (You will answer to that same power!)

It is both egotistical and evil to expect those in your "unit" to obey and follow you when you fail to follow your ultimate Authority! (Mt. 15:14)

5. Objective (Mission Minded)

A. Definition:

1) Not influenced by personal feelings or other's opinions in considering and representing facts.

Are you more influenced by feelings and opinions (or those of others) than you are by God's clear commands?

Pr. 3:5, 6 *"Lean not to your own (or other's) understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths"*

2) Focused on a goal. Pr. 29:18 *"Where there is no vision, (Hāzôn: Sight, revelation, objective) the people perish:*

(pāra' : exposed, vulnerable.) but he that keepeth (shamar: guards) the law, happy is he." ('esher: strait, prosperous)

B. Application. You are under orders from the *"captain of the LORD'S host"* {Joshua 5:13-15}

1) Do you know what His orders (objectives) are?

2) Are you following them? *If you were as faithful in following your company's "mission" as you are God's, Would you still be employed?*

Conclusion:

Where are strongest?

Observant? (Aware, committed) _____; Open? (Clear, honest, vulnerable) _____

Optimistic? (Confident, courageous) _____; Obedient (to God)? _____

Objective? (Focused, Mission Minded!)

Where are you weakest/most vulnerable? What will you do about it?

Application: The last words of Jesus to his disciples are known as "The Great Commission"

Involving Salvation, Baptism & Discipleship. (Mt. 18:16-20; Mk. 16:15; Lk 24:47-49; Acts 1:8)

Fathers have a personal "Great Commission" to lead, train, and prepare their families.

What is a "Commission"?

1) A Command given & the authority to execute it. (Eph. 5:25; 6:4; Heb. 13:17)

The focus is on the "Mission" that we've received from our commander. (2 Tim. 2:4)

2) Bring something into working condition. *Prepare and/or repair that which is newly built or broken.*

We're all naturally "broken" and need the healing grace of God in order to accomplish our mission.

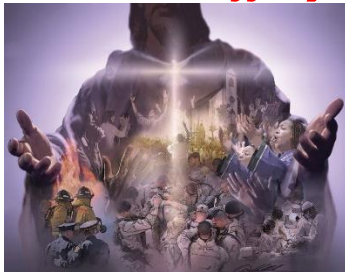
Eph. 5:26,26 *"sanctify and cleanse with the ... word. ... present it to himself. ... not having spot. ..."*

Ps. 127:3 *"Children are the heritage of the LORD"*

Pr. 22:6 *"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

But remember, this is a "co-mission".

Mt 11:29 *"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me. ..."* 1 Cor 3:9 *"For we are laborers together with God!"*



This is the very foundation of the word Fellowship.

(koinonia: communion, fellowship, partnership!)

If we cultivate a genuine fellowship with God, He'll partner with us!

(Phil. 2:13; 4:13)

In the execution of our "Great Commission", Jesus promised:

"Lo, I am with you always. ..." (Mt. 28:20)

Phil. 2:23; 4:13 *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"*

First Prayer of the Continental Congress, 1774



The Prayer in the First Congress, A.D. 1774

“O Lord our Heavenly Father, high and mighty King of kings, and Lord of lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers on earth and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all the Kingdoms, Empires and Governments; look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, on these our American States, who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor and thrown themselves on Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only on Thee. To Thee have they appealed for the righteousness of their cause; to Thee do they now look up for that countenance and support, which Thou alone canst give. Take them, therefore, Heavenly Father, under Thy nurturing care; give them wisdom in Council and valor in the field; defeat the malicious designs of our cruel adversaries; convince them of the unrighteousness of their Cause and if they persist in their sanguinary purposes, of own unerring justice, sounding in their hearts, constrain them to drop the weapons of war from their unnerved hands in the day of battle! Be Thou present, O God of wisdom, and direct the councils of this honorable assembly; enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundation. That the scene of blood may be speedily closed; that order, harmony and peace may be effectually restored, and truth and justice, religion and piety, prevail and flourish amongst the people. Preserve the health of their bodies and vigor of their minds; shower down on them and the millions they here represent, such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come. All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Savior.” Amen. Reverend Jacob Duché Christ Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania September 7, 1774, 9 o’clock a.m.

Continental Congress: 1787 Ben Franklin “Mr. President

The small progress we have made after 4 or five weeks close attendance & continual reasonings with each other, our different sentiments on almost every question, several of the last producing as many noes and ays, is methinks a melancholy proof of the imperfection of the Human Understanding. We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom, some we have been running about in search of it. We have gone back to ancient history for models of Government, and examined the different forms of those Republics which having been formed with the seeds of their own dissolution now no longer exist. And we have viewed Modern States all round Europe, but find none of their Constitutions suitable to our circumstances. In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the Contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection. ”Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a Superintending providence in our favor. To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth- that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that “except the Lord build the House they labour in vain that build it.” I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and bye word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments be Human Wisdom and leave it to chance, war and conquest. I therefore beg leave to move, that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of the City be requested to officiate in that service.”