

BFF384 Rise Up Men of God

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families Podcast with Steve Demme." I'm your host Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today.

Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I'm well, how are you?

Scott: I'm up and awake and ready to go. Let's do this.

Steve: OK, let's pray. Father, thank you that how you have made us because we recognize our fingerprints, your fingerprints, and how you form man, you form woman, you formed us in your image. There's a part of you that knows how to compartmentalize, so to speak, and there's a part of you that carries us on your heart all the time.

You're praying for us, you're watching over us, you've got the very hairs of our head numbered. Thank you that there's a motherly part of you, there's a fatherly part of you, and there's a manly part of you, and that's what we want to talk about today.

Help us to catch the spirit of what you've placed on my heart, which trusting you.

Give us ears to hear, give us hearts to understand what you're speaking to us today, and help us just to drink it in from these passages that we're going to read in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: I've been praying for men. I did a workshop on how to have family worship a couple weeks ago. Two men showed up. Two men, three moms. That was it. When I was done, the coordinator said, "If this had just been for moms, we'd have had 100 people here. You said you wanted to bring the dads."

Two weeks after that, we had a men's retreat. Room for 20, advertised high and low. Eight men showed up. I saw a podcast title from a friend of mine, Durinda Wilson. She was interviewing a man who's written a book called "The War on Men."

I've also read a book by a guy up in Alaska, who I've met at conferences who wrote "25 reasons why men don't want to go to church."

Perhaps you've seen that book. There is a war on men. I'm praying that God will restore men to their proper place in His creation, that God will work in the hearts of men, and today I want to read some passages that give me confidence to pray for this to happen.

And I want to address "the spirit of a man". This subject is not limited to men. I'm going to say this right up front, so ladies, don't turn the dial. This is for all God's people as it says in Psalm 149:9, "This is an honor for all His saints."

There seems to be a concerted effort against men to emasculate them, to marginalize them, to take away their sense of who they are and discover their place in His creation. I don't think there is any question about that. I'm going to talk about the spirit of a man by reading about a horse in Job 39.

This is after many chapters of Job wanting to speak to God, wanting to figure out what is happening, and his friends giving him the wrong advice at the wrong time.

Finally, Job gets what he's asked for. God shows up, and God's talking to him in Job 39:19–25, "Do you give the horse his might? Do you clothe his neck with a mane?" "Do you make him leap like the locust? His majestic snorting is terrifying. He paws in the valley and exalts in his strength, he goes out to meet the weapons."

"He laughs at fear and is not dismayed. He does not turn back from the sword. Upon him rattle the quiver, the flashing spear, and the javelin. With fierceness and rage, he swallows the ground, he cannot stand still at the sound of the trumpet."

"When the trumpet sounds, he says, 'Aha.' He smells the battle from afar, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting!"

Scott: That paints a picture.

Steve: God is a great picture painter. He created the horse. He gave him his might. He knows how that horse is going to act when it's time to fight. He doesn't run away, he doesn't quiver, he doesn't fall down on the ground and whimper. He swallows the ground, he can't stand still at the sound of the trumpet. This is powerful stuff.

There's something about that spirit which is what I believe God has placed in men, and it's being squashed. Let's read these passages of inspired Scripture and believe them, and be a part of God restoring them to men. I'm reading a lot of these passages in context to help us all be on the same page.

Revelation 12:7–12. "Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon, and the dragon fought back. He was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."

"I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come. For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.' They have conquered him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death."

"Therefore, rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them. Woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short."

I want to read that one verse again which says, "They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of their testimony, and they didn't love their lives even unto death."

I was praying the other night with my friends. We'd been praying about the war in Israel and about other matters that God puts on our heart. Such as abortion. One man was praying, and he was weeping. He said, "God, whatever it takes, even if it means losing my life." I felt like right then, the Spirit said, "That's what I'm talking about."

This man was willing to lose his own life so that others could be saved. This is what Moses said in Exodus 31:31–32, "Moses returned to Jehovah and said, 'Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. But now,

if You will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.” He didn't love his life, even unto death. This is one of the three things with which we will overcome the devil.

When the blood of the lamb is applied, when they are declaring the truth, the word of their testimony, and when they don't even love their own lives unto death. Powerful. That is the spirit of a man. God designed men to lay their lives down. That's why he says, "love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:12–13)

In Ephesians 5:25, we see the same Spirit, Paul takes Jesus' words in John 15 and updates them, so to speak, when he says, “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” That's what won the day, laying our wives down for our wife, as Jesus laid His life down for us. That's the spirit of a man. He's not afraid to fight. That's the spirit of the horse.

He's not afraid to lay his life down for the people that he loves and for God himself. That's the thing that God designed and put into man. I believe this with all my heart. However this spirit is being squashed, it's being trampled upon, but it's still there. We're going to breathe on those embers today and ask God to revive men and make us just like these verses. Only God can do this. In Malachi 4:6, "He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, etc.”

That's where we're going to end but let's read the whole context. In the 3rd chapter, the 16th verse, and I like this because I want to be in this book someday. "Those who feared Jehovah spoke with one another. Jehovah paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before Him of those who feared Jehovah and esteemed His name.”

"They shall be mine, says Jehovah of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.” I want to be in that book of remembrance.

I've said this before, and I'm going to keep saying it. I'm not going to say “Lord” when the Hebrew is Yahweh, or Jehovah in English, let's just use His name. Let's think about His name. Let's think what His name means. "I am that I am". Let's think about Jehovah Shalom. Jehovah is peace. Jehovah Tsidkenu or Jehovah is Righteousness, El Shaddai, which we've discussed in previous podcasts. Let's esteem His name. Let's think about it and talk about it with each other so we can be in this book.

In the 4th chapter of Malachi, it says, "Behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says Jehovah of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”

"For you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. You shall tread down the

wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act, says Jehovah of hosts."

"Remember the law of My servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. Behold, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the great and awesome day of Jehovah comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

This is the same spirit of Elijah that was present in Elijah, in Elisha, and it was present in John the Baptist. I'm trusting that God will help us to have that same spirit of Elijah in our days, and as a result of it, we will stand by God, we'll esteem His name, we'll be on fire for him. And then the hearts of fathers will be turned towards their kids, and vice versa.

I believe that it starts first with us loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and then His love pouring through us to our families. Here are two more passages, Romans 8:12–23, there's one verse in there that I frequently quote, but we're going to get the whole package.

First of all, this is Romans 8 which you can read with benefit, every day. It's about the Holy Spirit. Romans 7 is about our flesh. We know too much about that. I don't even like to read it, but Romans 8 is about life in the Spirit. In the 12th verse, it begins, "Then brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh."

"For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba, Father'."

"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. If children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him." We will suffer. "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

Here it comes. "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. Not only the creation, but we ourselves who have the first fruits of the spirit groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies."

This passage begins with the spirit making us know that we are sons of God. Then we see that creation is also waiting and groaning for the revealing of the sons of God. I call that the sons of God stepping up to the plate. These is the sons of God who the devil is trying to crush.

The world, the flesh, and the devil are conspiring to emasculate them but the Spirit of God is going to do something. He's going to rise up in them and in us, because we're part of that. We are going to be who God designed us to be and all creation is waiting for this to happen.

Ezekiel 36, I get goosebumps because that precious passages in verses 24 to 27, "I will pour clean water on you. You shall be clean. I will put my spirit upon you. I will take out the heart of stone, heart of flesh, etc" Powerful stuff.

In the 33rd verse, to get the context, through the 38th, "Thus saith the Lord Jehovah on the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited in the waste. Palaces shall be rebuilt. The land that was desolate shall be tilled instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by."

"They will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the Garden of Eden. The waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.' Then the nations that are left all around, you shall know, that I am Jehovah. I have rebuilt the ruined places and replanted that which was desolate. I am Jehovah. I have spoken and I will do it."

"Thus saith the Lord Jehovah, this also I will let the house of Israel ask me to do for them to increase their people like a flock. (Another translation says, to increase their men like a flock) Like the flock for sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feast, so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of people, then they will know that I am Jehovah."

He basically says, I will let the house of Israel ask me to do this, to increase their men like a flock. I'm going to pray first, and then we can talk. Father, in Jesus name, my heart knits on with the spirit of these words. Put that spirit of the stallion in men. Revive it. I know it's there. You created us in your image. I know it's there. Revive it, I pray, in Jesus' name.

As a result of that, I pray that you will help us to love your name. Help us to speak on your name and turn our hearts towards you in a new way. Men, men who are working hard, men who have been like those poor guys in Egypt, that they're trying to make bricks, and now there's not even any straw.

Men that are laying their life down just to put food on the table. I pray that you will, in the midst of that, turn their hearts towards God in a new way and towards their families. I pray that we will be helped to step up to the plate. I pray for the revealing of the Sons of God. I pray for the revealing of the Sons of God, in Jesus' name.

I pray because you told us to ask this, Increase our people. Increase our godly men like a flock. Increase godliness in the men. Increase spiritual masculinity, increase Christ-likeness in the hearts of men. I know that we could fight this on several different fronts, and we could start ministries, and we could start new initiatives, and the whole package.

I know that there's going to be a day when a group of men are going to conquer the devil by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. They loved you so

much, they didn't even love their own lives even unto death. Help us to have that spirit. Help us to walk into that passage. I pray that you will wrap these scriptures around our hearts today and make us walk in them in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: All right. Are you going to respond to that?

Scott: It's a big issue and it seems like we've been dealing with this for decades now, and it's probably longer and probably been going on since as long as there's been sin. I want it to be true. I want men to rise up and all that, but I see the faintheartedness in the church.

I don't know, this is one of those ones where I'm like, "Yeah", I get riled up and excited, but then I see where we actually are, and I'm like, "OK, God, you better pour your Spirit out on us" because it's not going to happen otherwise.

Steve: In one of our topics recently we discussed, "Faith takes things as they are, and makes them bend to the will of God. You and I are standing in faith.

Scott: I'm still stuck back in Romans 8 when you were reading about...

Steve: Sons of God?

Scott: Yeah.

Steve: Adopted sons of God.

Scott: Then I looked down just past where you were reading, and it talked about the Spirit helps us in our weakness in verse 26, "For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes with us with groanings too deep for words." It's like, basically, God says, "Here, if you don't know what to do, I'll give you my Spirit to help you too."

Steve: Amen.

Scott: Then, "What, then, shall we say to all these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? "He who did not spare His own son but gave Him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

"Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died more than that, Who was raised, Who is at the right hand of God, Who indeed is interceding for us."

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake. We are being killed all the day long. We are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

Steve: Amen. You're right.

Scott: Well, I might as well finish it off. "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

I've never put that passage together with the mightiness of God and the sons of God, but it's right there, man.

Steve: You got it, brother.

Scott: My heart aches for this too, and I get so discouraged because it just seems like... What's that quote? It might have been C.S. Lewis. I'm not sure. Something about "neutering the stallion."

Steve: We've just restored the stallion. No more neuters.

Scott: Right on.

Steve: I don't know if that's a word, but that's what we did. OK, everybody, have a great week. Scott will wrap this up.

Scott: That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the "Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme." If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scott@unsocializedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.