

WHY DADS NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT

EXODUS 29:1-7

Exodus 29:7, **“Then you shall take the anointing oil and pour it on his head and anoint him.”**

With four kids of my own, with three more by marriage, and now with seven grandkids, over the years I've gotten some really nice Father's Day gifts...

One year I got a **fungo bat** - it's a long, skinny bat a baseball coach uses to hit grounders to his team...

Another year my wife helped the kids purchase me **a riding lawnmower** - that was a really, big deal...

And once, my boys purchased me **a medal tool box** for my pick-up truck - a great Father's Day present...

Recently, I heard of one dad who's kids got together and bought him **a shot-gun ride in a pro stock car**.

That would be a pretty cool gift!

Yet as appealing as these gifts might sound, here's what I want this year for Father's Day... *I want oil!*

And I know what you're thinking... *That's bizarre! Pastor Sandy has gone nuts - he wants oil for Father's Day? But when I say "oil" what are you thinking?*

Some of you are assuming I'm talking motor oil. I'm changing the oil in my truck... Others of you figure I'm beach bound. I'm asking for some tanning oil... A few of you who don't know me, might think I've taken up cooking, that's why I need some vegetable oil... Or I've got a squeak at the house,

and need a can of lubricating oil... But that's not what I'm interested in.

When I tell you I want oil for Father's Day, I'm not referring to *motor oil - or tanning oil - or cooking oil - or hair oil - or 3n1 oil - or linseed oil - or lemon oil*. **What I want for Father's Day is the oil of the Holy Spirit!**

And this is the one gift none of *my sons* - no matter how rich they become - will ever be able to afford.

Only *God's Son* can pay for my forgiveness - make me right with God - and obtain for me the Holy Spirit.

For the last 33 years, with all my heart, I've wanted to be a good dad - a godly dad - a father who models my Heavenly Father. Now I want to be a good grand-dad, and to do either, I need the oil of the Holy Spirit.

Usually, the initial impression we glean of our Father in heaven, *and often the most lasting impression*, comes from the man on earth we call "*Dad*."

That's why to reflect God to our kids a dad needs supernatural help. Which is why as a dad, and as a granddad I want to be filled and overflowing with the presence, power, love, and wisdom of the Holy Spirit!

Throughout the Bible, God gives us pictures of the Holy Spirit. Various idioms and symbols are associated with the Spirit. These spiritual snapshots give us insights into the nature and ministry of God's Spirit...

A picture is worth a thousand words... and this is particularly true of God's Spirit. The Bible portrays the Spirit as a **dove**, as **wine**, as **water**, as **fire**, as **wind**.

At the baptism of Jesus, the Spirit descended on Him as a **dove**. A trademark of the Holy Spirit is His gentleness and sensitivity. He has nurturing instincts.

The Holy Spirit also brings to life in us the sparkle and excitement of new **wine**. It's said, "A drunkard starts out to get mellow, then he gets ripe, finally he ends up rotten. Whereas, a Christian filled with the Spirit starts out rotten, ripens with fruit, and then ends up mellow - living and abiding in the peace of God."

The Holy Spirit is the believer's buzz.

If you want real joy - a heavenly high - don't resort to *distilled spirits*, rely on the new wine of the *Holy Spirit*.

Jesus also spoke of the Spirit as **water**.

He said in John 7, "If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me... out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." Jesus depicts the Holy Spirit as a *rushing, cooling, refreshing drink of water*.

And the Holy Spirit is also seen as a **fire**. He ignites the kindling of confession and repentance. Then He blows on it and sets a life ablaze with passion for God.

When the Spirit was poured out on the first disciples in Jerusalem, flickers of fire were seen dancing over the heads of the disciples. *The fire over their heads* was a metaphor for *what was occurring in their hearts*.

From Pentecost the revival spread like a *wildfire*.

And of course, in John 20 (*it's been our text every Sunday for the last month*), Jesus breathed on His disciples, and said to them, **“Receive the Holy Spirit.”**

The Holy Spirit is also like a *puff of breath* or a fresh **wind**. And a move of the Spirit is like a windstorm.

Remember, God portrays the Holy Spirit to us as a dove, as fine wine, as water, as fire, and as the wind.

But another significant idiom for the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures is the **oil** that flows from a freshly squeezed olive. Olive oil played a vital role in ancient Israel...

It soothed tired and sore muscles.

It cooled a flushed brow.

It moistened wounds.

It softened brittle surfaces.

And likewise, the Holy Spirit does all the above... *He **soothes** the troubled soul... softens the calloused heart... **moistens** or saturates a dried-up imagination... He even **cools** hot passions and violent tempers...*

In the Bible the sick are anointed with olive oil - and prayer is offered for their healing. Again, the oil speaks of the Holy Spirit and His ability to *treat us* and *cure us*.

It's interesting, when Jewish **kings**, and **priests**, and **prophets** were inaugurated for office they were always anointed with oil. A ram's horn full of olive oil was poured out over their head. They were soaked in oil.

An anointing always came with an appointing!

In a sense this is done today when a coach wins a big game. The players anoint him with gatorade!

The difference though is that the coach's anointing is *celebratory* - whereas a biblical anointing was *anticipatory* and *preparatory*. Olive oil was a symbol of what was needed to do the important, God-given job.

God's calling - *whatever it is* - is always big shoes to fill... but with *God's calling* comes *God's equipping*. And the olive oil dramatized the need for Holy Spirit power.

And let me say, another huge God-ordained job to fill is that of a dad! The appointment of a dad is a big deal! A lot now rides on his determination and faithfulness.

And a dad needs to be anointed. I wouldn't mind if a ram's horn full of oil was poured over every dad - or at least a gatorade shower of spiritual power was poured on the life of every dad... for he certainly needs what that anointing represents - *the power of the Holy Spirit!*

Realize the calling of “**father**” is a bit of all three OT offices - part **king**, part **priest**, and part **prophet**...

Every dad should be the **king** of his castle... *and if he gets out of line his queen will be there to crown him.*

A dad needs to be a benevolent monarch. He needs to take charge and *rule... but rule with kindness.*

Jesus is king *and* servant. That's the goal of a dad... *to rule his subjects with their best interests in mind.*

A dad is also a **prophet**. He is the one called by God to communicate God's word to those under his roof.

God's ways are not man's ways - and it was the prophet's job to remind the nation accordingly.

Likewise, a father's job is to both **confront** his kids *with* God's truth - and **convince** his kids *of* God's truth.

A dad can't abdicate this role to mom. God makes it a father's job. He is God's spokesman to his family.

And surely, a father's role resembles that of a **priest**.

Every dad should be a priest to his family. He brings to them God's heart. He's willing to sacrifice for them.

In fact, "**priest**" may speak more to a father's role than either "**king**" or "**prophet**." A godly dad will assume a priestly role. He'll stand in the gap for his family!

The OT priests were the overseers of Hebrew worship. They were the caretakers of the Temple. Their primary function was the offering of various sacrifices.

The Hebrew word translated priest is "**kohen**."

I have a Jewish friend who is a believer in Jesus. For years we went to Haiti and Irv always join us to cook for our team. His name is *Irv* **Cohen**. If Irv had lived in OT times, he probably would've been a *priest* instead of a *cook*. Irv is a great guy, but an average cook.

I told Irv that I knew he was of priestly descent even before I learned his name was "**Cohen**" - *because everything he cooked tasted like a burnt offering!*

The Hebrew dictionary defines the word “kohen” or “priest” as “one who undertakes anyone’s cause... or stands up in anyone’s matter... or labors in his cause.”

A “kohen” was the mediator between two parties. He represented *God to people*, and *people to God*.

The Latin translation literally meant “*bridge builder*.”

The priests built bridges to communicate God’s Word to people - and to bring the people’s needs to God. They proclaimed God’s truth, and interceded in prayer.

Today, in the strictest sense, there is no more formal priesthood. The priestly role was eclipsed by Jesus.

The book of Hebrews refers to Jesus as our great, High Priest. He is the one and only mediator between God and man. Hebrews 2:17 refers to Jesus as the perfect priest... *faithful to God and merciful to men*.

As the God-man, Jesus is our bridge to God, and He’s God’s bridge to us. With Jesus as our great, High Priest we no longer need any other kind of priesthood.

Yet in the life of a child the priesthood of Jesus can be subsidized in part by the role of a godly dad.

For a father is also a bridge-builder...

Like a Jewish priest, dads also *sacrifice for*, and *intercede for*, and *supervise the worship* of their kids.

A dad stands in the gap for his kids in lots of ways. We represent God *to* them. We pray to God *for* them.

Like a priest, each day a dad undertakes another person’s cause... He feels for the trials and struggles his kids face... He

seeks to bring his kids hope, and help, and healing... A father takes a stand for his kids...

He offers his kids *moral support* and *practical help... protection* and *direction... provision* and *supervision...*

And he labors for his kids in a million - *often unseen ways*. Most importantly, a good and godly dad stands up for his kids... even while he's on his knees.

I'll never forget an incident that happened at the ballpark when my youngest son, Mack, was a toddler.

I was coaching my older son's baseball team, while little Mack was innocently throwing rocks. He accidentally hit a lady who was strolling in the park.

She wasn't hurt - *and at the time Mack couldn't throw with enough velocity to break a window pane* - but this lady was angry, and wouldn't let bygones be bygones.

Her husband was a foreigner - who apparently was from a part of the world where conflicts were settled with sword fights, and kids were beaten in the town square. He wanted me to chastise my son publicly.

I apologized for Mack, and told the man I would correct him - *but that wasn't good enough for this guy!*

He wanted to take matters into his own hands...

I had to bristle up and physically step between Osama and my toddler. I thought for a moment there was going to be an altercation. He might've had a sword, but I had a baseball bat. And I stood my ground.

Finally, he backed off. But the incident gave me a new appreciation for the phrase, "*standing in the gap.*"

And this is what every father is willing to do! He'll stand in the gap for his kids, even if it threatens his own welfare. Every day a dad stands between his kids and a hostile world. He resists the evil influences that are trying to attack his kids. He's forced to deal with the mistakes his kids make - *unintentional and deliberate*.

And I've learned one important truth - it's a lot easier to *sit on the sidelines* than it is to *stand in the gap*.

Often in the gap you feel as if you're being shot at from both sides. The world is attacking from without - while your rebellious kids are resisting from within.

But a father belongs in the gap.

It's in the gap that his kids rub up against the world, and grow desperate for God. In the gap is the most dangerous place to be, but it's the place where a kid learns lessons that end up shaping who they become.

This was where the OT priest stood – *in the gap*.

The priest had a messy, bloody, grueling job. He was constantly squaring up with the people's sin. He heard their confession; then took his knife to their sacrifice.

And this is what a father does. A father who stands in the gap is not oblivious to the mistakes of his kids.

He knows their failures and shortcomings, *but instead of condemning them - and being embarrassed by their mistakes - and hanging his pride on their performance* - he's willing to get messy, and bloody, and work at it to see his kids forgiven and restored.

A father loves his kids no matter what they do.

Certainly, a father should **stand for God**. A godly father never compromises God's truth - not even for his own children's sake. But he also **stands with His kids**.

A godly dad, like a priest, prays for his kids and works tirelessly to restore them to God when they fall.

Remember Job. He served as a priest to his kids.

Job 1:4-5, "Now his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly." Job offered a sacrifice - just in case his kids had sinned against God.

He was concerned about his kid's spiritual welfare.

Here's a poem that talks about a father's priestly role. It's a dad's job to leave a legacy of faith to his kids, and build bridges of encouragement and support.

"An old man traveling a lone highway, came at the evening cold and grey, to a chasm deep and wide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim, for the sullen stream held no fears in him, but he turned when he reached the other side, and built a bridge to span the tide. 'Old man,' cried a fellow pilgrim near, 'You're wasting your strength with

building here. Your journey will end with the ending day, and you'll never again pass this way. You have crossed the chasm deep and wide, why build you a bridge at eventide?'

'Good friend, on the path I've come,' he said. 'There follows after me today, a youth whose feet will pass this way. This stream, which has been as naught to me, to that fair-haired boy may a pitfall be. He, too, must cross in the twilight dim; Good friend, I'm building this bridge for him.'" A dad builds bridges for his kids.

The priest was the people's closest link to God.

Their knowledge of God's wisdom, love, mercy, and truth was derived from their contact with the priest.

The priest had tremendous influence for better or worse. Because of him the nation ended up *loving God* or *avoiding God*. And this priestly power is the same sort of sway a father has over the lives of his kids.

A dad forms a child's impressions of God.

If you're ever in San Antonio, TX a must stop is the Alamo. I remember my first visit. I had always wanted to see where John Wayne held off Santa Ana's army.

Near the entrance to the Alamo, there's a portrait of one of its brave heroes - under which is an inscription.

It reads, "James Butler Bonham - no portrait of him exists. This is a portrait of his nephew, Major James Bonham, deceased, who greatly resembled his uncle. It is placed here by the family that people may know the appearance of the man who died for freedom."

And understand, no portrait of our hero exists either.
Jesus died for our freedom - yet God has ordained for our kids to know Jesus by looking at their dad.

It reminds me of the Sunday School class where the teacher ask the kids to draw a picture of God...

One child portrayed God as a brightly colored rainbow... Another child drew Him as an old man coming out from the clouds... Still another little boy drew God with a strong resemblance to Superman...

But the best sketch came from the little girl who said, **“I don’t know what God looks like, so I just drew a picture of my daddy.”** This is why I say, a father’s role are big shoes to fill! For better or worse, a child learns about God by looking at the character of their dad.

Which brings us to the text I read from earlier - **the dedication of the first priests**. Imagine Aaron and sons, preparing and waiting for their day of dedication.

The tabernacle was newly constructed. God had started a new work... Prior to this tent or tabernacle, the heavens and all nature had served as God’s temple. His sanctuary included the land, sea, and sky...

Everywhere was God’s altar.

But now God was constructing a footstool on the earth - a centralized location where men could come, and sit at His feet, and focus their worship on Him. And God had chosen Aaron and his sons to orchestrate the tabernacle worship. *Imagine how Aaron must’ve felt?*

God had communicated to Moses that He'd selected Aaron's family as the priestly breeding ground. The Jewish priesthood would all sprout from Aaron's stock.

A new day had dawned! A new place of worship... a new priesthood... even newly designed uniforms...

Put yourself in Aaron's sandals... It's his dedication day! He's assuming a strategic office... wearing garments tailored to divinely-inspired specifications...

Aaron is blown away this is happening to him! God has chosen him – *even after the golden calf fiasco.*

Aaron had introduced Israel to idolatry, yet God had forgiven him, and appointed him, and would use him.

He feels so unworthy - so loved - so honored! Who is he to live and work within the orbit of God's holiness?

Here in Exodus 29... it's his first day on the job!

No wonder his pulse is racing - his heart is about to pound out of his chest. *Aaron feels like a new dad the day he brings his child home from the hospital. He's happy and proud, while trembling at the responsibility.*

Aaron is standing before God, about to become Israel's first High Priest. Exodus 29 conveys God's instructions for dedicating the Hebrew priests...

Read with me, verse 1, **“And this is what you shall do to them to hallow them for ministering to Me as priests:**

Take one young bull and two rams without blemish, and unleavened bread, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil (you shall make them of

wheat flour). You shall put them in one basket and bring them in the basket, with the bull and the two rams. And Aaron and his sons you shall bring to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall wash them with water. Then you shall take the garments, put the tunic on Aaron, and the robe of the ephod, the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the intricately woven band of the ephod...”

This ephod was a smock worn over the priestly robes. Attached to the ephod was a breastplate that contained twelve gems - each of the precious stones represented one of the twelve tribes of Israel. The ephod hung from the priest's shoulders, over his heart.

This garment represented God's love for His people, and our security in Christ. As Christians, God considers us jewels or valuable gems (*Jims*) - *Jacks, Jills, Johns..*

We hang from the big, broad shoulders of Jesus.

There's nothing tentative or probationary about our status. We're as secure as the shoulders of Jesus – *shoulders that bear the world and bore the cross.*

The High Priest wore the breastplate over his heart, as a reminder to us all of God's love for His people.

Verse 5 continues describing the priest's attire, “**You shall put the turban on his head, and put the holy crown on the turban.**” He also wore a *holy headdress.*

The turban and crown were the final pieces in the priestly uniform. By the end of verse 6, Aaron is all dressed for dedication... The priest is in full uniform...

The proper sacrifice is in his hand.

He's been washed and cleansed with water.
He's clothed in the right garments.
The breastplate is hanging over his heart.
His head is even properly wrapped.

You would think Aaron was ready for the job. He's all spruced up and dressed up for graduation... *He's covered, cleansed, clothed, conditioned, even capped!*

But there's one detail that remains.

Apparently all the preparations of the first six verses were not enough to insure a good priest. In verse 7, God adds a detail, **“And you shall take the anointing oil, pour it on his head, and anoint him.”** A priest was not ready to begin his duties until he was drenched with oil.

And here's the application for fathers this morning...

Dad, you can trust in Jesus as your sacrifice - your thoughts and feelings are washed with the water of His Word - you're clothed in the righteousness of Christ - you've even wrapped your mind in a turban of truth.

You've invited God to be at home in your house... And you love your kids with all your heart - you treat them as jewels - and carry them on your shoulders...

But realize, all this is insufficient apart from the olive oil. **You still need to be anointed with God's Spirit!**

I once saw a Father's Day card that on the outside read, **“Being a dad can be expensive, time-consuming, frustrating, confusing, and emotionally draining...”**

Then you open up the card, and on the inside it reads...
“Actually, it’s a lot like playing golf.”

God gave golf to the human race - especially the male gender - to keep us humble. You know why they call it “golf?” All the other four letter words were taken.

Golf is the most difficult game to master. Even the best players don’t win every week. Trust me, some *strange things - fluky things* - happen in a round of golf.

And the same is true with rearing kids!

Just about the time you think life is under control again, and you’ve got your game together... *Junior brings home a note from school - or Missy wants to date some creep - or the police call with bad news...*

And suddenly you’re right back where you were before the last crisis - on your knees, crying for help.

This is why a dad needs help greater than himself!

If you have young kids - *I mean really young* - you might be living under the illusion you have this parenting gig down pat... You listen to *Focus on the Family* every night - and you’ve read all of the best parenting books. You’re now an expert on child-rearing.

Well, hold on to your hat, buddy. The teenage years are fast approaching - and very soon you’re going to be facing situations you have no idea how to handle.

And then comes *the murky years* - the late teens and early twenties when you still have all the responsibility, but very

little authority. I've done more serious parenting after High School than I ever did beforehand.

There're challenges at every stage of a child's growth - that's why the indispensable ingredient for successful parenting is the Spirit. He is the edge all dads need. The Holy Spirit is a dad's secret weapon.

As Christians we know the battle we fight isn't against flesh and blood - it's against spiritual wickedness. We battle the flesh, the world, the devil.

And those are the foes we face in our parenting. The *flesh* will cripple your kids... The *world* will draw them into temptation... The *devil* will try to finish them off...

This is why every parent needs a spiritual arsenal. Conventional weapons are not enough. You don't fight a nuclear war with conventional weapons, and neither do you fight a spiritual battle with fleshly techniques.

All the how-to books - and self-help manuals - are not enough. We need weapons that can counter spiritual forces. We need the power, and gifts, and wisdom, and strength, and love of the Holy Spirit.

I started out as a father, believing a *paddle* was my most important tool. But it didn't take long for my kids to hardened at both ends - the seat *and* the head...

Now I realize my most effective tool is *prayer!* Priestly intercession is a father's most strategic tool.

Steve Farrar writes this of a praying dad, "[A godly father is the unseen spiritual submarine who lurks below the surface of every activity of his child's life. A man who has put on the full](#)

armor of God and goes to warfare on his knees, is a force to be reckoned with...

We cannot be with our kids 24 hours a day... (but) through prayer we have the ability to affect situations even when we are not physically present. You may be *undetected* but that doesn't mean you are *ineffective*."

Before you scoff and laugh it off, let me ask, "*Have you prayed? Really prayed for your rebellious child?*"

Notice, in chapter 29 the priest was dressed to the hilt - but the right robes weren't enough. He needed oil!

And likewise, it doesn't matter what righteous deeds a man might put on - or how pure His thoughts might become - he needs more than that to be a good dad.

He needs to be anointed with the oil of the Spirit!

Good works - Bible knowledge - even strong love are important - but they don't always impress our kids.

But here's what your kids can't deny... If your experience of God is real and authentic, and the power of the Holy Spirit is evident, it'll capture their attention.

Dad, oftentimes your kids will *overlook you*, but it's far more difficult for them to *overlook God*. A dad, filled with the Holy Spirit, will be a much more effective dad.

A couple of years ago, Zach and I were eating dinner at a pastors' conference in California. We were seated at a table with several other pastors, when one of them asked Zach, "*What was it like being a pastor's kid?*"

I pretended not to listen, but trust me, I was hanging on every word... Zach said, “It was real. We saw God working in our parents. We knew His power was real.”

I’m sure God has been just as real in other people’s lives, and their kids failed to recognize His hand at work. Just because a kid rejects God, doesn’t mean his parents were hypocrites, or failed to live out their faith.

But I do think the best testimony we can provide our kids is a living witness of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Tim Dalrymple was a top gymnast at Stanford University before a broken neck ended his career. Tim had plenty of reasons to deny his Christian faith, but he had one big reason to hold on and trust God. He writes, “(It was) the example of my father... I saw in his life something undeniably true I couldn’t explain away.”

This is why I say, a man’s best friend - *certainly, a father’s best friend* - is not his dog, or army buddy, or old teammate, or even his wife - it’s the Holy Spirit.

Men, if you want to be the priest in your home - and stand in the gap for your kids - then you need the power, and presence, and peace of the Holy Spirit.

Once, a little girl posed a question to her mom, “Mommy, if the stork brings us babies - and if Santa Claus brings us presents - and if Jesus gives us our daily bread... *then why do we keep Daddy around?*”

I hope I’ve answered her question this morning...

It's because every home needs a **benevolent king** who lovingly leads - a **brave prophet** who speaks the truth - and perhaps most importantly, a **faithful priest**.

Every child needs a dad who will stand in the gap. A man in their life with a heavenly calling to represent God to them, and to intercede for them with God.

A father's goal isn't just to *pay the bills, and take out the trash, and mow the lawn* - it's to reflect God... And that's why every father needs to be filled with His Spirit.

It might sound strange, but this Father's Day, as well as all our days, I'm praying God will pour His oil on us!