

**Raising Up Godly Children  
Part 8**

***“11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”***  
***(Ephesians 4:11-16 KJV)***

The gift of Jesus to His church when He ascended up, ***he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*** These five spiritual gift had great impact on the life of the church. The following is brief description for each one of them:

- A- Apostles: Are the Apostles of Jesus who laid the foundation of the New Testament church. The current disciples who continue to lay the foundation of the church are not apostles but are doing and continuing the apostles ministry.
- B- Prophets: Who declare the whole will of God and what is going to happen to those who obey and to those who disobey.
- C- Evangelist: Who bring the message of salvation to those who did not yet hear the message about Jesus and exhort them to repent and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, and His work on the cross as the only way to be saved.
- D- Pastors: Who lead the sheep, feeding the flock and make them to go through green pasture and guide them in their life and protect them and bring them away from dangers.
- E- Teachers: Who precisely gives the meaning and the application of God’s Word in the Holy Bible.

Now we need to take these five gifts and make them fit and applicable in the life of the church. The church composed of members who interact with one another. And the smallest possible unit in the church who interact with one another is the family. And from this point of view the family would have these five spiritual gifts and implement them in their family life.

- A- Apostles: The family, in particular the parents with the help of the church that they are part of will implement the foundation of the apostles in their family
- B- Prophets: The parents will function as prophets to declare to their children the whole will of God. To their obedient children they will declare to them prosperity and good future, but to their disobedient children they will declare failure and deterioration unless they will repent.
- C- Evangelist: The parents will function as evangelists to declare the message of salvation to their new children who did not yet hear the message about Jesus and exhort them to repent and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior and His work on the cross as the only way for them to be saved.

- D- Pastors: The parents will lead their children into green pasture, feeding them with the Word of God through daily bible reading inside the family, and making them go through green pasture by guiding them in their life and protect them and bring them away from dangers.
- E- Teachers: Parents should precisely gives to their children the meaning and the application of God’s Word in the Holy Bible. They should be strict to their children and discipline them so that God’s Word in full will be applied in their lives.

The family is the place that the spiritual gifts will operate to raise up Godly generation and make new disciples of the children, to be the future servant of God. Parents and grandparents, uncles and aunties should work together for one mission and in one direction to raise up Godly children, and the church should continually impact each and every family and remind them of the calling that God had placed in their lives to raise up Godly generation. The fruitful experience of each and every member of the family with God should be employed for that purpose.

From the book of Ruth we will look into some application of the message in order to make it easy for you to grasp, digest and apply. Please read the book of Ruth in your bible if you have not yet read it.

We know that the family of Elimelech with his wife Naomi had left Bethlehem with his two sons and went to Moab because of famine in the land of Bethlehem. But we know that this was his own decision and not God’s. However, Elimelech died, and there his two sons got married to two Moabites women, Mahlon to Ruth and Chilion to Orpah. After ten years in Moab Mahlon and Chilion died and without children. Naomi left with her two daughters in law Orpah and Ruth. Naomi decided to go to Bethlehem after she heard that God had come to give bread to His people. At the Road toward Bethlehem Naomi preached his sermon to Orpah and Ruth, and in her sermon she declared to them the following:-

***“8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. 9 The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept. 10 And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people. 11 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? 12 Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons; 13 Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me. 14 And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her. 15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law. 16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: 17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me. 18 When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.”***  
***(Ruth 1:8-18 KJV)***

Naomi had already experienced the consequences of disobedience and learned her lesson of what are the bad effects of moving away from God, and the consequences of doing her own will. In her sermon she preached wisely, and she said that she had nothing to offer to her two daughters in law. Her purpose of that was to filter out their wrong motive of following her; that they should not go along with her expecting to get something. She was pushing them away from her to see who is among them is of God. The same of what Jesus did to His disciples when he said to them, “67 *Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?*” (John 6:67 KJV) After her sermon, Ruth remained with her and insisted of not to leave her unless death separate between them. Ruth was not a believer but the law of God was in her heart, “14 *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: 15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another; 16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*” (Romans 2:14-16 KJV) In addition to that, on that meeting after the preaching of Naomi, Ruth she declared and said to Naomi, “*thy God my God:*” Ruth after that sermon she received God as the Lord over her life.

The law of God that compelled Ruth not to leave her mother in law was “3 *Honour widows that are widows indeed. 4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.*” (1 Timothy 5:3-4 KJV) Ruth she knew by God that she cannot leave her mother in law because she is old widow and without children, therefore she need to stay beside her and even to provide for her, “16 *If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.*” (1 Timothy 5:16 KJV)

The meaning of Ruth is friendship. Friend in need is a friend indeed. Truly when they reached Bethlehem Ruth found a work in the field of Boaz to provide for her and for her mother in law, “22 *And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field. 23 So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.*” (Ruth 2:22-23 KJV)

The meaning of Naomi is delight, and she finally learned how to delight herself in the Lord who will give her her heart desire. God gave her Ruth who was better than seven sons “15 *And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.*” (Ruth 4:15 KJV) Naomi in return cared for her daughter in law whom she was also a widow, as well as Naomi cared to obey the law of God and the will of God to bless and to restore the family line, “1 *Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? 2 And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor. 3 Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking. 4 And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do. 5 And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do. 6 And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her. 7 And*

*when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down. 8 And it came to pass at midnight\*, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet. 9 And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.”* (Ruth 3:1-9 KJV) Through the obedience of the two women, Naomi and Ruth, the Lord hastened the restoration of the family line of Elimelech. The meaning of Elimelech is “My God is king.” God truly is King over the life of His people and He knows how to deal with them when they do their own. God used another Godly man in this restoration process. He used Boaz the owner of the field that Ruth was working. The meaning of Boaz is “fleetness,” and other meaning of it is rapidity, quickness, or fastness. He was a diligent man who obeyed God steadfastly. Boaz when Ruth approached him with the matter he promised her good and sent her to Naomi with blessings. Ruth went to her mother in law and reported to her what had happened. In return of what she heard, this what Naomi said, “18 *Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.*” (Ruth 3:18 KJV) Boaz did exactly what God wanted him to do; he bought the land and marries Ruth, the widow of Mahlon. The meaning of Mahlon is sick. Sickness will not hinder the plan of God. The meaning Chilion is "pining," The other meaning of it is longing or yearning. God truly satisfied the longing of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz to have and to be in a Godly family. “13 *So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son. 14 And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. 15 And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him. 16 And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. 17 And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.” (Ruth 4:13-17 KJV)*

Obed should be raised in the fear of God and to serve the Lord. The meaning of Obed is “Serving.” All our children should be serving the Lord. Going back to the five spiritual gifts that we discussed previously, in this new family, speaking in the New Testament context, those who will be responsible to prepare and train Obed *for the work of the ministry*, are Boaz, Ruth, Naomi. Three of them had great experience that would be imparted to Obed and would mold him to be God’s servant. Naomi with her painful experience of going away from the will of God and the suffering she exposed to can be a prophet to the child, foretelling him the future that God had a good plan for him, and he need to obey God so that God’s plan with come true. Naomi can forth-tell to Obed and speak forth the words of God for his benefit to put him into the will of God. Ruth can be the first one to tell him about God, evangelizing him with God’s word and commands. His father, Boaz is the pastor of the child, leading him, feeding him daily with God’s Word, providing his needs and guiding him. Boaz is also the teacher who is firm and stern with him to correct him and discipline him. The church that this family is part of will help them to lay the foundation of the apostles inside the family.

*My dear and beloved:* Let us be more serious in caring for ourselves and for our families and the children that God had entrusted to us to raise them up in the fear of the Lord, and to be His servant in the future. Let us humble down before God and use the spiritual gifts that He gave us to care for our families and our children in the proper way, *13 Till we all come in the unity of*

*the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: We ought to watch over our families and children and to protect them from the hands of the enemies who are trying to pull them out of the way, 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.*

We, as a Church of God, should care and look after each and every family in our congregations, and to be sure that the apostle foundation are applied in each family, 15 *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.* Therefore commit yourself to the principles of this message as you agree to pray.

***My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that showed me clearly of how to use the spiritual gifts that you had given me and to your church to apply in my life and in the life of my family. Lord I commit myself to apply the principles that I learned in this message in my ministry to serve you in a better and more effective way. Lord protects me and provides for me, so I can continue to serve you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

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