

LIKE FATHER LIKE SON

Sylvester Onyemalechi

Every animal is known by its nature, behavior and character. A goat can easily be identified to be a goat because it looks like one, bleats like one and manifests the mannerisms of a goat. A dog can be identified as a dog because it does not only look like one, it backs like a dog and behaves like one. In the same way, a child of God, should look like one, talk like one and behave like one.

If the believer has been given power to be a son of God, it means he is like God and is expected to, from that moment, reason, talk, behave and live like God his Father. A goat will always behave like a goat. A pig will always behave like a pig. A sinner will always behave like a sinner. A son of God will always behave like a son of God. A son of God will reason, talk and act like God his Father. What you are determines how you live life. The life that flows within you is what you manifest. The proof that one is a son of God is that he talks and behaves like God his father. No wonder Jesus said, *"By their fruit you will recognize them"* (Matt 7:16-20) and *"I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!"* (Luke 13:27 NIV)

God empowers everyone who believes in Jesus Christ to become His son. This empowerment delivers to the believer the life, character, authority and power of God to enable him to think, talk and behave like God his Father. It delivers to the believer the ability to reign in life and bring glory to God. The empowerment to become a son of God is not a title but an impartation of God's kind of life so the recipient can live like God on earth pleasuring God his Father with his life.

John 1:12 (KJV)

12. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

The New Creation Is Created In Christ To Be Like God, So He Is Expected To Talk And Behave Like God.

Ephesians 4:24 (NIV)

24. and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

All believers are righteous, holy and perfect on the inside because the life of Jesus is a holy, righteous and perfect life. It is a complete life. All of God is in the believer. As the Father is, so the son. As the Father is righteous and holy so is his son. So the believer who is now a son of God is expected to manifest his Father's character, authority and power. Because the life of God is a holy, righteous and perfect life, the believer is commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ to manifest perfection like our Heavenly Father.

Like Your Heavenly Father, Be Perfect In All Your Ways

Matthew 5:48 (NIV)

48. Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

God will never ask us to do anything He has not empowered us to do. If we do not have the capacity to be perfect, Jesus will not ask us to be perfect. Do not ask, "is perfection possible?" If it is not possible, Jesus will not ask us to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is. His life in the believer is perfect, so perfection is in the believer. We can only be what we are empowered in Christ to be. All we need is to yield to it.

Forgive Others As Your Heavenly Father Forgives You

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

32. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Our heavenly Father is a loving God. Love is His nature. And forgiveness is an integral part of love. God is forgiving in nature. He forgives all who repents no matter the sin they have committed. The believer is enjoined to forgive just as God in Christ has forgiven us.

How does God forgive?

1. God reaches out to the offender. He does not wait for the offender to come to Him. He reaches out to him.

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

8. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God reached out to you and won you over though you are the one that sinned against Him. So the Lord Jesus wants you to reach out to your offender.

Matthew 18:15 (NIV)

15. "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

Stop waiting for your offender to come to you. Reach out to him or her and settle the problem and reconcile.

2. He forgives and does not remember or remind the offender of a case he has dealt with and forgiven.

Isaiah 43:25 (NIV)

25. "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

God forgives for His own sake. You should forgive for your own sake. If God does not forgive He loses the contest to the devil – He loses his creation to the devil. So He has to forgive to win us back. You are not doing the offender a favour when you forgive him. You are doing yourself a favour. You keep your fellowship with God and keep the door of blessings, favour and good open to your life, and you shut the door against the devil that would have loved to use the opportunity of the offence and the anger and bitterness created to enter your life and afflict you.

3. For God, forgiveness is the closing of a case. Forgiveness is the conclusion of a matter. Forgiveness means the issue has been treated and dealt with, and the case closed and should be buried and not to be resurrected or revisited again.

Micah 7:19 (NIV)

19. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Be Merciful, Just As Your Father Is Merciful.

Luke 6:35-36 (NIV)

35. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

36. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Like your Father in Heaven, be merciful to others. If you always show mercy, you will love those whom you know that don't like you and hate you. This means we are not expected by the Lord to have enemies or to hate anyone. We are expected to do good to those who do evil to us. We are to pray for and not against those who ill-treat or persecute us. We are to love only, for love is our nature in Christ. You can only manifest what is in you. If Jesus is in you, then love is your nature. If Jesus is in you, you will love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless and not curse those who curse you and pray for those who persecute you.

Like Jesus, be merciful to all no matter what they have done against you and your loved ones. In mercy, help those who ask for your help without expecting them to pay you back one way or another. The Lord Jesus assures us that when we live this way, our reward will be great.

It is your nature to love as Jesus has asked us to in the scripture we are considering. All you need is to change your attitude to those who don't like you and show it and you will be able to manifest this wonderful loving nature without restriction.

Be Holy As Your Heavenly Father Is Holy.

1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)

15. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

16. for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

You cannot be a child of a holy God, possessing His holy nature and characteristics and yet be living in, and enjoying sin. The nature of Jesus you received when you believed in Him is holy and righteous; therefore, manifesting holiness should not be a problem at all. Just yield to the life of Jesus in you. Yield to the Holy Spirit and you will daily walk in holiness.

Talk Like Your Heavenly Father

Even the language of the believer is expected to be like that of God.

John 3:31 (NIV)

31. "The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all.

The one from heaven speaks as one from heaven. The one from the earth speaks as one from the earth. Now that the believer's life is from heaven, it is very important that you as a believer learn how the one from heaven speaks and change your language and start speaking as one from heaven.

God calls the things that are not as though they were. God speaks the language of faith. He says what is not yet visible to the physical eyes as though they are visible to the physical eyes. We are to say what we want to see and not what we are seeing that we don't want. Speak prophetically by faith.

Romans 4:17 (NIV)

17. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed-- the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

The believer is not to speak carelessly. The believer is to say what he means and means everything he says. God says only what he means, and means everything He says. He never speaks carelessly. He doesn't speak for speaking sake. He says what He means that He is committed to bring to pass. He does not flatter anybody. He never speaks for speaking sake. He means His words. That's why He said we should remind Him of His words (promises). God wants every of His son to be a man of his word, a promise keeper and a man of integrity. Say what you mean and commit yourself to what you have said till the end.

Matthew 12:36-37 (NIV)

36. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.

37. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

Your words can set you free from a problem and can put you in prison. Your words can enslave you and your words can set you free. Set yourself free through your words and keep yourself free through your words. There is power in words. Speak like your Father in heaven.

Let your words be words that will, like salt, spice up food and make it tasty. Let your words like salt, preserve relationships and not kill them.

Colossians 4:6 (NIV)

6. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Do not let unclean and hurting words come out of your mouth. Speak only words that heal, encourage, gladden the heart, and bring joy to the heart. Speak words that will benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

29. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Like Our Father, We Are To Also Manifest His Power And Do Miracles In His Name.

John 14:12-14 (NIV)

12. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

13. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

14. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

The Lord Jesus has empowered the believer to be like Him and do the work the Father assigned to Him – the reconciliation of the world back to the Father. Signs, wonders, miracles and healings follow the believers. So God is expecting you and I to move in the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the manifestation of God's power. As a son of God, let God through you heal, deliver and save and help others in Jesus name.

Mark 16:17-18 (NIV)

17. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;

18. they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

Conclusion

Be like your father. Prove that you are Jesus on the inside. Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Be an imitator of your Father in heaven in everything.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)

1. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children

2. and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.