



FOREWORD BY
BISHOP JOHN R. BRYANT
SENIOR BISHOP AME CHURCH

Healing ^{the} **FATHER-WOUND**

BISHOP STEVEN W. BANKS

*Healing the
Father - Wound*

BISHOP STEVEN W. BANKS

Healing the Father-Wound



AND HE SHALL TURN THE HEART OF THE FATHERS
TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEART OF THE
CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS
MALACHI 4:6

BISHOP STEVEN W. BANKS



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Life Application Bible
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Research on some Scriptures was found in the Unger's dictionary, Vines Concordance, and the Complete Book of Quotes.

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Foreword

I am honored and very proud to support my husband, Bishop Steven W. Banks, in the release of his monumental written work, *Healing the Father-Wound*. Steve is a man of great substance, wisdom, and integrity. As his wife of twenty-three years, I know my husband to be a man of great conviction and a strong believer. I know that he believes in a God whose mercy and compassion is available to all. I know he also believes in the blessing and the importance of marriage and family. He believes in his children and in their hopes and dreams. Ultimately, he believes that every day he is called to leave the world a little better than he found it.

Steve's path to healing and wholeness has not been an easy one. When I met my husband so many years ago, Steve was courageously dealing with the pain of his past. I also saw the beginning of his process towards restoring broken family relationships and trusting God for healing, forgiveness and renewal. *Healing the Father-Wound* is borne out of my husband's search for a place of restoration and wholeness and serves as a light to guide others along this same path. This book is also about identifying a pervasive condition that

is all too often expressed through unmanaged anger, escapism and addictions, broken relationships with the opposite sex, and emotional disconnection. Furthermore, *Healing the Father-Wound*, for my husband, is a personal triumph and a testimony to the grace of God which looks beyond our human weaknesses and celebrates the divinity within us.

As a voice in favor of the restoration of the woman in this hour of Kingdom advancement, I am privileged to endorse *Healing the Father Wound*. I believe that when men are emotionally healed, the cycle of emotional wreckage and dysfunction upon the entire family is broken; vital relationships are restored, marriages flourish, and families are redeemed. This is a book written for men, but it is really about all of us.

Dr. Keira Taylor-Banks

Pastor, Author, and Television Host

If I had to describe my father in one word, that word would be consistent. He's consistent in his walk with God, in his loyalty to family, in his compassion, in his viewpoints, and in his role as provider. This quality, among many others, makes me proud to call him "Dad". I've always felt a certain amount of pressure with being the only daughter of a well-known Bishop. But the older I become, the more I realize that his role of "Father" was just as important, if not more important than his role of "Bishop". Never once, did I feel as though my father judged me because of my shortcomings. He has always uplifted and encouraged me and will continue to do so, even when I face new challenges. And I know this as truth because he's been consistent thus far, and I love him for that.

Keira Iman Banks

My dad is my hero, because he is very intelligent. He takes care of me when I need help. He is a brave man, because he is fearless. He is willing to give to other people. He makes me feel fantastic when he supports me in everything I'm involved in.

My dad loves me no matter what and I love him back always.

Jordan Imanuel Banks

Congratulations to Bishop Steven W. Banks on your new book, *Healing the Father-Wound*. We live in a world that hurts and hates because of the wounds of fathers. In Luke 9:11 we are given a very powerful image of Jesus' desire to heal. "And the people, when they knew it, followed Him: and He received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing". I trust every one of us will receive help and healing through the revelation of this book, *Healing the Father-Wound*.

NATE HOLCOMB

*Christian House of Prayer Ministries and
Presiding Bishop, Covenant Connections International, Inc.*

Steven Banks has written an insightful and accurate description of a key psychological issue that affects most members of our society today. The Father-Wound, as he describes it, is something I see and address frequently with patients. Steven's approach is compelling and full of practical wisdom to help people heal and be whole.

JEFFREY GARDERE, PH.D

Psychologist, Author and Television Commentator

Having done extensive counseling and hosted many marriage conferences, I have witnessed first-hand the devastation of the fatherless generation. I believe Bishop Banks is being used of God to put his finger on one of the primary dysfunctions facing the Christian home.

RON CARPENTER JR. FOUNDER/SENIOR PASTOR
Redemption World Outreach Center, Greenville, SC

Healing the Father-Wound can lead to a better understanding of our internal emotional conflicts, and provide a path for a more fulfilling relationship with our significant other. Through Bishop Banks' work we gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the importance of fathers' affirmation in the healthy development of their children.

JEREMIAH WILLIAMS, PH.D, LCSW
Marriage and Family Therapist

I am so excited to write this endorsement because I believe that Bishop Banks has tapped into an area of the spirit that will truly release years of pain and bring deliverance to the blood line of many. God has blessed Bishop to be able to give name to the generational dysfunction of many. I dare say that almost everyone has been affected by a Father-Wound directly or indirectly. This is not just a book but

an eternal offering to God. We celebrate that this offering has a high call to heal wounds, bring peace and manifest clarity for all who will embrace the truth in which it releases.

DR .K. W. BROWN, SENIOR PASTOR

The Mount-Chesapeake, VA

In his book, *Healing the Father-Wound*, Bishop Steven Banks, not only identifies the wounds, but through spiritual precision and acute attention, provides healing and hope for a world with Father-Wounds. This work is not just theory, but a testament to the authenticity of the principles of Fatherhood that Bishop Banks has provided for my own life. Get ready to be fathered from woundedness into a new place of wholeness.

DR. DAVID B. MILLS

*Through the Word Bible Fellowship, Chester, PA
National Director, Living Waters International Alliance*

Bishop Steven Banks provides a reflective look at the effects of not having the affirmation of your father. This is a heartfelt book for any and everyone – fathers, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and even mothers. This insight is much needed for the Body of Christ.

BISHOP LYLE DUKES, SENIOR PASTOR

Harvest Life Changers Church, Woodbridge, VA

Early in my career, I was an attorney working in the family courts in New York and had a chance to see first-hand the physical effects of absentee fatherhood manifested in the form of extreme juvenile delinquency (rape, robbery assault, and teen pregnancy). Bishop Steven Banks is a true prophet of God who, in his new book, has tapped into an area of great concern for the body of Christ and filled it with the word of God and revelation to heal the sin-sick soul.

ATTORNEY D. BOYD JONES

Global Justice Ministries

Bishop Steven Banks has written a superb book that should be required reading for anyone interested in restoring the hearts of the fathers to their children... In very descriptive and stylistic language, Bishop Banks has captured a culture that has been tucked-away and un-exposed for too long. This well-written book exposes our ontological wounds and our existential bruises as it addresses the brokenness millions have endured at the hand of absentee fathers. This important work is a game-changer for those searching for answers in the often complex world of father-son/father-daughter relationships.

THE REV. DR. EARL C. JOHNSON, SENIOR PASTOR
Martin Street Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina

I believe that through the revelation shared within the book, God has allowed Bishop Banks to expose the root of many challenges that people are facing today. Regardless as to whether you would characterize your relationship with your father as positive or

challenging, the relationship has an effect on where you are today. This book, *Healing the Father-Wound*, is critical and paramount to your success.

BISHOP DANIEL ROBERTSON, JR.
*Mount Gilead International Full Gospel Ministries,
Richmond, VA*

What a timely masterpiece addressing the epidemic and impact of the absence of fathers in the lives of their children. Bishop Steven Banks definitely heard from God and recorded the words in this book entitled *Healing the Father-Wound*. As a result of reading this book, the hearts of fathers will be drawn to their sons and daughters and the hearts of the children will be reconnected to their fathers. This book is more about restoration and healing than exposing the symptoms or flaws of men. Read it and be blessed!

CHARLIE AMMONS, ASST. PASTOR
Living Waters Christian Fellowship, Newport News, VA

Healing the Father-Wound, is a book with Apostolic foundations - tearing open the prison doors, rescuing the captives, revealing our emotional dis-eases, so as to begin the healing process. In his book, Bishop Banks masterfully reveals the hurts from absentee, emotionally withdrawn or abusive fathers. Sadly, we haven't known where to go.....Bishop Banks supplies wise direction.

ELDER CORNELIA BROWNING-MOORE
M.Div., LCSW, MSW

In a fatherless world where men abdicate their roles and shun their responsibilities, gaping wounds, as a result, have occurred, creating hurt in the hearts of men and women, causing them to hurt others. This book, *Healing the Father-Wound* articulates the societal ills such as abuse, abandonment, and addictions, and brings forth healing for the inner soul. I am convinced this book will navigate you into a life of wholeness. Read with GREAT EXPECTATION!

DR. DEXTER HOWARD

Founder/Pastor of Life Harvester Church International Outreach

Healing the Father-Wound is a practical resource to begin the journey towards emotional and spiritual wellbeing. It is a tragedy that many in our communities and churches believe that ignoring a wound by pretending it is not there will allow it to heal on its own. Although that strategy may work for minor emotional and spiritual wounds, it is not effective to ignore a gaping wound that impacts a person's sense of self and how they relate to others... Through this book, the readers will be able to identify the problem, symptoms, and treatment to begin the active process towards emotional and spiritual healing.

PATRICE TURNER, PSY.D.

Clinical Psychology Resident

One of the greatest pandemic and the gravest problems of this generation is the absence of fathers in so many families across the globe. However, there is an uncompromisingly desperate need across every culture, tribe and tongue for a healthy father-figure in the lives

of each and every individual son and daughter. Bishop Banks has put forth a significant and comprehensive study of this most imperative subject, providing practical solutions and taking a biblical and balanced approach that shows us how to identify, reckon with, and heal some of the deepest wounds of our lives.

BISHOP DANIEL DAYANANDHAN

*Synod of the Independent Christian Churches of Asia
Asia International Ministers (AIM) Fellowship*

Bishop Banks' book is the antidote to many of the ills in society that has caused men and women to fall short of their destiny in life. *Healing the Father-Wound* exposes the genesis of the hurts and pains that many of us have tried to camouflage through exterior outlets, such as drugs, sexual addiction, among other vices; without seeking a permanent cure. Bishop Banks through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and his personal experiences has provided every lost man or woman an opportunity to gain restoration and redemption suffered from their fathers. I applaud Bishop Banks for courageously addressing an issue that many men and women find too sensitive to confront due to the emotional and psychological wounds that have been perpetual since childhood. To that end, *Healing the Father-Wound* pardons the wounds and provides emancipation to a generation of wounded adults who can truly ascertain their identities and attain the goals that have been preordained by our Heavenly Father.

ATTORNEY MELVIN WRIGHT JR.

WWW.HEALINGTHEFATHERWOUND.ORG

This Book is Dedicated

To

The men I've always loved and admired

Robert S. Blueford

Harold A. Banks

Rev. Dr. James R. Taylor

William P. Blueford

Robert S. Blueford Jr.

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Introduction

“We need fathers to realize that responsibility does not end at conception. We need them to realize that what makes you a man is not the ability to have a child – it’s the courage to raise one.”

BARACK OBAMA
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This book will bring tremendous insight and healing to the readers. As I released this to our local congregation, I realized that this was more than a sermon to be preached within the church. It is a message to all men; black, white, rich, poor, educated, uneducated, Christian, or Muslim. This is a message that crosses race, religion, age, and culture. To this text, I bring my uniqueness. I am an African-American, educated man who was reared by a single parent. I am a husband, a father of two children, and a Bishop. Yet, what you are about to read is not restrictive to only those who share my uniqueness. This message transcends my uniqueness and speaks to all men. There will be some jargon that’s akin to my profession and calling; however, I will clarify and expound upon the terminology, so that you may understand the meaning. Ultimately, this is not a Sunday-go-to-meeting message, but it is a message for this prodigal generation in search of meaningful relationships.

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Restoration is defined *as the act of bringing back something to its former condition or original intended state.* Within the House of God, we describe this as *revival.* **Revival** is understood *as the act of restoring, refreshing, recalling, or returning to a former consciousness or life.* The Old Testament prophet Elijah embodies this spirit. The major part or primary function of the spirit of Elijah in this hour and these last days will be to bring about the restoration of relationships between the father and his children. Malachi 4:5 states, “The spirit of Elijah *shall* turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to the fathers.” This **turning** means to *heal and to restore the relationship between fathers and their children.* Only the spirit of Elijah operating in the earth realm can accomplish this restoration of relationship.

This book will be a journey of discovery, healing, and restoration for you. Mainly, I will be addressing the father and son relationship. I have also included a chapter that specifically addresses the father and daughter relationship. Even though my primary focus is on the father and son relationship, I’ve been grateful that so many women have been helped through this message as well. Additionally, I will identify specific father-wounds and provide methods to assist you in your healing.

The Father-Wound is a topic that I am familiar with personally. When I was 13 years old, I met my father, Harold A. Banks Sr., for the very first time. It was an awesome experience! We had very little contact thereafter, until I turned 16 and reconnected with him. Every summer, I would go to visit him in Philadelphia. I had no idea that God was restoring our father-and-son relationship and making it

into what it is today.

I recently visited my father in Pennsylvania, and I interviewed him for the purpose of this book. I also had an opportunity to interview my father-in-law, Rev. Dr. James R. Taylor. I believe that their stories will give added depth to what will unfold.

God has entrusted me with the responsibility to *raise men*. I am called to develop fathers into their fatherhood. Writing about the father and son relationship is part of my assignment. As you read *Healing the Father-Wound*, I believe that God is going to release understanding and healing into your life. You will comprehend your assignment and grasp the importance of being involved in the lives of your children. In addition, you will recognize your responsibility to make an impartation into their lives – spiritually, physically, emotionally, and financially.

Come with me on a journey into restoration and wholeness!

Bishop Steven W. Banks

Chapter One

THE FATHER-WOUND SYNDROME

One night a father overheard his son pray, "Dear God, Make me the kind of man my Daddy is." Later that night, the father prayed, "Dear God, Make me the kind of man my son wants me to be."

~Author Unknown

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Malachi 4:5-6



Symptoms of a Father-Wound

A **father-wound** is *the injury inflicted on a child who does not sense or receive the affirmation of a father.* This wound is a wound that

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can be produced intentionally and unintentionally. It is usually an undiagnosed hurt that can remain buried deep within the psyche and the subconscious. It may remain hidden and submerged throughout childhood, and begin to expose itself in the developing stage of young adulthood and beyond. Sufferers of a father-wound are able to live somewhat normal lives, until adverse effects from the wound begin to surface. Then and only then, can the father-wound be acknowledged, addressed, and dealt with.

When father-wounds are not addressed, men may live their lives as a masquerade. This masquerade can cause a man to act as if everything in his life is in order and he has no problems. However, over time the public and private persona may come into conflict. Things may appear fine on the surface and can lead some men to believe that others are the cause of the problems they are facing. In order for healing to take place, these wounds must be identified.

The symptoms of a father-wound can be displayed in the form of abusiveness or disrespect to others. These symptoms can be manifested physically, emotionally, sexually, verbally, and/or mentally through men who have internalized wounds. According to Kathy Rodriguez, men and boys who carry father-wounds may exemplify some of the following symptoms:

- *Consistently overly defensive about mistakes*
- *Cannot handle criticism*
- *Feeling inferior and insecure as a man*
- *Feeling intimidated in the presence of other men*
- *Overly controlling in order to cover up the feelings of inferiority*

- *Physically or emotionally dependent on the women in your life*
- *In and out of relationships (instability)*
- *Sexually addicted - Chemically addicted*
- *Little or zero emotional connection with others*
- *Abusive and/or disrespectful to others (physical, sexual, verbal, mental, etc.)'*

As we look at father-wounds from a male perspective, be honest with yourself and prepare to deal with your wound. As you begin to deal with it, God will usher you into the process of healing, closure, and completeness.

When you have experienced a father-wound, you may develop and encounter feelings of inferiority or insecurity. You may feel that you do not measure up to other men. You may constantly feel as if you have to prove yourself and your manhood. Few men will admit to this sentiment.

Men who have experienced a father-wound may also feel intimidated in the presence of other men. Oftentimes, they may feel as if they do not have as much to offer other men, as other men have to offer them. To compensate for feelings of inadequacy, some men feel the need to subconsciously engage in competition with other men. I assert that men feel this way because they have not been affirmed as a man. These feelings of inferiority and insecurity can produce a sense of intimidation. As in the words of President Barack Obama, *"you are far from disqualified merely because you may have come from a single parent family. You are larger than any statistic and that you*

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are inferior to no man.” You may not know your biological father, but if God is on your side, you can achieve anything. Allow the hand of God to nurture, develop, and mature you. Do not allow the absence of your father to anger or frustrate you. Even though it may be painful, choose to become better and to beat the odds.

A man with a father-wound may become controlling, mainly to cover up his sense of inferiority. Many marital issues can be traced back to father-wounds.

Some of the issues that you are facing in your relationship with your spouse may have little or nothing to do with her, but instead, it may be the product of a father-wound. Fathers that are actively involved in their children’s lives may try to control and manipulate them, not out of love, but out of the hurt from their own father-wound. These wounds tend to affect those who are closest to you.

Another symptom of a father-wound within males is sexual promiscuity or addiction. Psychologists have suggested that male sexual addicts and deviants are men who have never felt the affirmation of their fathers. This is really a powerful statement. It is hard for most of us to understand how a man is able to go from one woman to the next with no sense of regret or feelings of emotional involvement. Each woman *conquered* becomes just another trophy to put in his case or on his mantle. This type of wounded man has no appreciation for women and zero emotional connectivity to the act of sex. He can experience the act without investing himself emotionally. This type of behavior can be directly traced back to deeply inflicted father-wounds.

Chapter Three

FATHERS AND DAUGHTERS

“Before I had Ming, there was nothing greater than me. I cared only about myself. Now I’d lie in the box and close the lid for my daughters. I never thought I’d say that.”

~Russell Simmons

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3:17(NKJV)



Healthy Father and Daughter Relationships

The relationship developed between a daughter and her father will be the prototype she will use to develop future male/female relationships. In a healthy father and daughter relationship, the daughter grows up with the sense that her father does affirm her. She

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grows up knowing that she is celebrated and safe in her relationship with her father. She feels protected and cherished by her father and knows she can open herself to him without the fear of being violated or betrayed. She trusts him and feels whole and complete in his presence. It is a totally non-threatening and non-sexual type of relationship where she has connected wholeheartedly with her father.

As fathers, our role in the lives of our daughters is bigger than being the disciplinarian or just the financial provider. We have an instrumental role to play in every stage of their life – when they are born, when they are toddlers, when they are teenagers, and when they become young adults. The most critical role is to affirm them, to assure them, and reinforce to them that they can be and do whatever they desire to do, and that nothing is impossible to them.

She is looking for you to be there to speak vision and direction into her dreams and ideas. She is looking to you for guidance, as she develops socially and intellectually. As a father, you can impart wisdom into your daughters just as you do with your sons. You can help her understand that God is doing great things in and through her. She has full and rightful authority to enter into any realm that she desires. There is no job that is excluded from her and no possibility beyond her reach because of her gender. As a young woman, she needs to know that her value is not based upon her physical body, but that she carries much depth, creative energy, and genius on the inside. She has much power and intellectual influence.

The words and actions of fathers cultivate, shape, and mold their

daughters. It is important that we speak the things that they need to hear from us. We cannot allow ourselves to be the fathers that do not give the needed affirmation to our daughters.

One day I asked my daughter, Keira Iman, what a father meant to her. I said, “Honey, what is a father to you?” She replied, “A provider.” I laughed and said, “I know that’s right.” Then she went on to share how she saw a father as “the provider.” She said, he is not just a provider financially, but she saw a father as a *‘problem solver.’* She saw a father as a *‘disciplinarian’*, a *‘protector’*, and someone who *brings confirmation to her about what God is saying.* She said a father is a *‘guiding hand.’* She even stated that she saw a father as a *‘crisis manager.’* For example, if her car breaks down, her father would know what to do. She went on to say that a father to her is the *‘bridge between the mother and the daughter.’* Isn’t it amazing? We have to be a *‘provider’* and much more to them. We have to be the role model. Our daughters need to see that although daddy may not wash the dishes a lot, he is responsible for other things in the home. They need to observe the equality in the relationship between the father and the mother. They have to know that they are not restricted by the roles that the father and mother play.

During my time with Rev. Dr. James R. Taylor, whom I affectionately refer to as Pop Taylor, I discovered a man who takes great pride in being able to exemplify true manhood before his children. Pop Taylor raised three wonderful daughters, including my very own wife Keira, told me that first and foremost, he wanted to be an example to his daughters. And that as a good example of a man, he had to treat their mother the way they should be treated.

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Later in my conversation with Pop Taylor, I asked him to share the legacy he desires to leave to his three daughters. He answered, *“Take care of your kids. Educate your kids so they have opportunities and get a good job. And then teach them how to be independent. Stand by your husband. Treat people right. Try to do the right thing. We’re not perfect, but be as perfect as you can be. Be honest. My grandmother used to say, tell the truth if it kills you. And above and beyond all, love each other. Be faithful to each other to the end.”*

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Chapter Six

THE FATHER'S BLESSING

My dad had an incredible ability to reach out and teach you to do what you never thought you could do.

~Kim Hunter Reed, Ph.D.



A Tangled Web of Deceit

Again, a father-wound is experienced from a lack of *affirmation from a father*. As explained before, this 'wound' can have a variety of causes that are connected to a father; absenteeism, the unknown father, or even the emotionally disconnected father.

Here, I would like to uncover a less obvious cause for the lack of a father's affirmation. I say uncover, because the reason it may happen is not only alarming, but requires a high level of deception. This deception occurs when a child is deliberately and intentionally

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misinformed about the identity of their father. This deception can inflict a tremendous amount of damage to the psyche of a child. It can cause severe psychological trauma, which is amplified when a mother, who has the honor and trust, intentionally conceals this vital information. There may be valid reasons why this happens, but usually the reasons are selfish and self-serving. Imagine being wired for years with erroneous information, because your mother wanted “his” name on the birth certificate. The thought is staggering. Perhaps it was done because the mother knew “he” had the means to provide a generous amount of support. For some, this act may be incomprehensible, but it does happen very often and can have a lasting affect for years to come.

Mothers, it is vital that you let go of this practice of deception. Children not only have a right to know who their father is, but they have a need. Additionally, fathers have this same right and need. Regardless of the state of the father of your child, it is the honorable and right thing to do. Every child needs to know who ‘daddy’ is. They need to be in a rightful position to receive the blessing of the father. The fact is that the father has vital gifts to bring and impartation to make beyond the tangible. The father brings with him undeniable gifts - the gift of unconditional love and of laughter, the gift of pride, the gift of self-confidence and self-worth, and ultimately, the gift of hope for a greater destiny and future.

Chapter Nine

SATISFYING THE FATHER- HUNGER

Growing up, I didn't know about families who were missing a father, because there weren't any in our neighborhood. Today over a third of American children are born into single-parent homes.

~Tim Russert



The Remedy and the Solution

A time of restoration has come to this nation with the purpose of recovering these vital father and son relationships. God is visiting our nation in incredible ways. Spiritual Fathers, mentors, and community leaders are emerging with messages of hope to men who are broken, bitter, and without hope. God has not forgotten this nation or this generation. We are in a great time of spiritual restoration, healing, and renewal for men. We are shifting from a nation and a generation

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of men who insist on using militaristic force, dominance, control, and violence to solve our problems. We are discovering that as men, we can sit across from our enemies and use the gift of reason. We can employ our compassionate and nurturing side to serve those with healthcare needs in our nation. We are also discovering that we can have great relationships with our spouses when we seek to have partnerships with them, rather than to dominate them. For men this is a time of great transition and change, resulting in personal transformation. Greed and excess is taking a back seat to altruism. Finally, as mature and authentically spiritual men we can say, "*I am my brother's keeper*". No longer can we cling to the fears and the insecurities of the past. Human consciousness is shifting into a time of greater and more harmonious relationships between father and sons, husbands and wives, as well as between and amongst nations. The restoration and healing of the father-wounds in men is critical to this new age and era. It is a new time and season. I welcome the shift.

Near the end of the interview with my dad I asked him a question. I had already asked him about his memories of Martin Luther King Jr. I'd asked him about Obama. He talked a little about these great men, but he didn't say much. I was trying to find out his heroes; which men he looked up to most and why, when he said that he could put me at the top of his list. He called me his hero. I was blown away.

There is no greater honor I can think of, than to have my father tell me that I have changed his life for the better. Through my obedience to the Word of God, and through my willingness to reconnect with my dad and build a real relationship, God changed his

life, and changed mine.

I thank God for leading me to reach out to my dad. The Lord restored our relationship, and it has been an incalculable blessing to him, to me, to my children, and to our family line to come.

My dad is now a father to more than me and my brothers. Now, other men and women in his neighborhood come to him with questions asking advice.

Whenever you're ready to approach restoring a relationship, the first step is prayer. Although I may have gone to see my father those first few times out of just a desire to know him and reconnect, that reconnection was successful, because God was in it. I'm now in the position to minister to my father, because I asked the Lord to be the Lord of my life, and I daily seek to follow His direction.

God wants us in positive relationships. He loves us. If your father or your son is at all willing to be in a positive relationship with you, then God will support it. It may not be easy, but He will show you what to do and what to say.

My Father, the man I did not see until I was 13, said this, *“Communication is key. You're busy. I'm busy. I know we can't correspond or communicate everyday. But I know where you're coming from. It's part of knowing you and you knowing me, being able to communicate, reach out and touch somebody, and your relationship keeps getting better. Set a point and go for it.”* He went on to say, *“My son Terry has got a tattoo on his shoulder that says ‘the sky is the limit’. I looked at that and asked him what does that mean?’ But when you look at it, it means all things are*

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possible. You told me [when I asked you how you've been so successful] that it wasn't you, but it was God." Pop added, "but if God's going to take you to that place, you have to be willing to go. Get on your chariot and go in that direction."

Look at what God can and will do to restore relationships!

Thanks be unto God, who has sent the spirit of restoration and healing for relationships in this hour. There is a remedy; there is a balm in Gilead for those who need healing.

There is a God who will be the Father you never had. He is the God of your healing and your peace. He affirms you this day. He is here to heal every father-wound. He is here for everyone who calls upon Him. Like the prodigal son's father, He will never ask you what you did or where you were, God is just here for you, no questions asked! You do not have to stay where you are. After this moment, you are a fatherless son no more.

About the Author

Bishop Banks is the Senior Pastor and the Chief Executive Officer of the Living Waters Christian Fellowship and General Overseer of the Living Waters International Alliance, Newport News, Virginia. He is married to Dr. Keira Taylor-Banks who also serves as Senior Pastor of LWCF. They are the proud parents of Keira Iman and Jordan Imanuel.

*Bishop Banks holds a Masters of Divinity and a Bachelors of Science from Virginia Union University. Bishop Banks is a visionary and global leader whom God has gifted with an Apostolic and Prophetic mandate to strengthen the Body of Christ. Through his weekly television broadcast *Expanding Your Vision*, Bishop Banks powerfully impacts the lives of viewers nationwide. Bishop Banks and Dr. Keira appear as hosts and frequently appear as guests in various regional and national television broadcasts, including Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN).*

We are in a great time of spiritual restoration, healing, and renewal for men. We are shifting from a nation and a generation of men who insist on using militaristic force, dominance, control, and violence to solve our problems... Human consciousness is shifting into a time of greater and more harmonious relationships between father and sons, husbands and wives, as well as between and amongst nations. The restoration and healing of the father-wounds in men is critical to this new age and era. It is a new time and season. I welcome the shift.



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