

No Place Like Home (Part 2 of 2)

“So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”

Luke 15:20 NIV

“...Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it...” (Psalm 127:1). In the previous writing, we began looking at the parable Jesus Christ gave in Luke 15:11-32 as a source to identify the characteristics of a home that embodies the Spirit of God...a house built by the Lord. We discovered that, based upon inference of the text, a home built upon God’s word and filled with His Spirit, will offer liberty, provision and compassion for those who are a part of it. Are those traits present within your home? Do the members of your household have the freedom to choose the path for their lives as adults...even if you do not understand or agree with it? Are the spiritual, physical, mental and emotional needs of you and your family/household being provided for by everyone in the house? When mistakes are made by someone in your household or someone finds themselves in affliction or trouble, do they find a merciful and compassionate heart within the household or condemnation?

In addition to those traits, we also find the following traits in the home presented in the parable of the prodigal son:

4. **Restoration** (Luke 15:21-24) – When the son acknowledged his disobedience, the father wanted to acknowledge to that son and others that the son was forgiven and his relationship with the father had been restored. In many families, when someone makes a mistake, acknowledges it and tries to make a change for the better, members of that family often ostracize the person and constantly hold that mistake over their head. The truest evidence of forgiveness is when you don’t allow the wrong of the past to cause you to mistreat the person in the present. When someone makes a mistake in your household and has the courage to admit it and seek your forgiveness, reassure them that they are still loved and are a part of the family.

5. **Unconditional Love** (Luke 15:25-32) – The elder son felt that the younger son should have been treated differently by the father because of the younger son’s actions. However, the father had to reassure that elder son that his love for both of them was not based on their actions but their relationship to the father. A household filled with the word and Spirit of God demonstrates concern, care and compassion (love) for one another not based on what a person does or doesn’t do but because that is who God is and what He commands. (Luke 10:25-37; 1 John 4:7-8)

A house built by the Lord will exemplify the traits of God and His love. You will know that God’s Spirit dwells there and it will be a place where people always want to come back to. If you desire that these traits be present in your home, the Lord must be, first, present in your life/heart. Remember the words of Christ in John 15:1-7, submit yourself to God’s word daily and ask Him to begin to build your household into a family that exemplifies and glorifies His word and His Spirit.