



HE SETS THE SOLITARY IN FAMILIES

**...TRANSCRIPT OF A WORDFEST 2020 TEACHING ON LIVING
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Good evening, Living Stones! It is an honor to be given this opportunity. Thank you all so much for the warm welcome! I give God all the glory

I would like to thank my Spiritual Father, Reverend Temilolu Aliu for this privilege to share on Living stones. I learned a lot from what I am going to share from him

Our topic today is **HE SETS THE SOLITARY IN FAMILIES...**

Praise The Lord! Today, we are going to be focusing on families – in the context of families of faith.

Our primary scripture is derived from

Psalms 68:6

God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

Other words that can be used to mean solitary include:

Friendless, Companionless, Lonely, Singular, Alone, Lone ranger... In simple words, being solitary is the opposite of being in a family.

Let's begin by defining a family. A family is the basic unit of society. Studies have shown that many of the **issues** individuals face today is traced back to **dysfunctional** families. A dysfunctional family is a broken society, and a crippled civilization.

This truth is applied to spiritual matters as well. What is a family of faith? A family of faith is a unit of Christian society. Everybody must belong to one. Everyone must benefit from a family of faith.

A family of faith is headed by a called man, whom God has appointed as His representative head over the family, just as fathers are the heads of their homes. Through them, God supplies everything the family of faith needs. This does not mean that any man of God is self-sufficient, a know it all or has it all

Like we learned yesterday the body of Christ is one and what God releases to one part of the body is for everyone. But this does not mean we should go shopping around for graces from one family of faith to another.

When the **set man** over the house determines that the family **needs** a grace that has been specially provided to another person in the body of Christ, he should **expose** the family to that grace. This may be done by recommending books or teachings, or inviting guest ministers for conventions.

A believer must be well planted in a family of faith.

2 Samuel 7:10 (NKJV)

Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more..."

A believer does not need to shop around for graces!

You too, reason it out. If a child is adopted by a different family structure every two months, how will he grow? Even if all the families he is adopted into are good families, each family will have slightly different learning patterns. The poor child will never flourish!

Therefore, you must trust God to lead you to a family of faith, and trust Him to supply everything you need through that family and be attentive to other graces you're introduced to. For better understanding, we must learn the different types of families of faith;

1. Transient families e.g. a house
2. Permanent families e.g. your home

When you join a campus fellowship that is a transient family of faith. After you're done with your course, you will leave the campus, and the campus fellowship. It is a **transient family** of faith because you only belong to that family of faith for **a brief period** of time.

A permanent family of faith comes with God's divine joining. For example, spiritual fathering - This is a lifelong joining and commitment. Just as your last name identifies you as part of your physical family, so does your permanent family of faith. It is your home.

Every member of the body of Christ has a particular role to play in the body.

Ephesians 4:16 (NKJV)

*From whom the whole body, joined and knit together **by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the edifying of itself in love.***

There are joints in the body of Christ. Everything flows through the joints. It is an orderly structure. God is a God of Order. However, God may join you to transient families of faith until you find a permanent family of faith.

Example: Some people are born in a church, they attend Sunday school in that church, but may join another church after growing up.

Or you may be a part of transient families of faith together with permanent families of faith

Example: For those who are joined to a spiritual father and a ministry (permanent family of faith) if you're transferred to a geographical location where a branch of your ministry doesn't exist, you may join a family of faith in that location for the duration of your stay

Or when you join a campus fellowship, it doesn't mean that you're not a part of your home church. You are part of both.

At no point in time should you be without a family of faith. No point in time at all! It is important that you differentiate between your **transient** family of faith and your **permanent** family of faith. Has God called you to a family of faith for a season? Is He calling you to join the mandate of that family of faith and to make it your own?

Let's go back to Psalm 68:6

God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

Meditating on this scripture, I wondered aloud,

Why did God put the solitary in families?

Why are families of faith so important?

These two questions are interrelated - It helps to keep going back to that verse

From Psalm 68:6, we can derive that:

1) Man being solitary is not a good thing

If it was good for man to be solitary, God would have left man to be solitary. For God to put the solitary in families, it must mean that it is not good for a man to be solitary!

Genesis 2:18

"It is not good for the man to be alone..."

God pronounced everything as **good**, but after he had made Adam into a family with Eve, He pronounced it as being **very good**.

Genesis 1:31

*When God made Adam and Eve into a family it was **a very good thing***

The family institution was attacked viciously after man sinned. Not long after the fall, Cain murdered Abel. After Cain was confronted with his sin, his punishment was to be *“a homeless wanderer on the earth”* – Genesis 4:12

Genesis 4:14

You have banished me from the land and from your presence; you have made me a homeless wanderer. Anyone who finds me will kill me.

The punishment for Cain’s sin was for him to be homeless, without a family of faith!

Genesis 4:16: (NKJV)

Then Cain went out of the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.

2) God intends for everyone to belong to a family

3) Solitary people being joined to families is a thing of victory in Heaven.

We can say that putting solitary people into families is a priority to God. It is a testimony too. We know this because Psalm 68 is a psalm of victory and jubilation! Furthermore, Jesus reestablished the spiritual family institution when He came on earth and reconciled us to God.

4) God’s presence in us as the Holy Spirit reenacts the bond of Family

Romans 8:15-16 (NIV)

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.[a] And by him we cry, “Abba,[b] Father.”

5) The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children

But that was not all. Jesus also reinstated a spiritual family amongst us believers with each other –

1 Corinthians 12:12

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

The body has to work in synchrony for it to function normally. 1 Corinthians 12 goes on to say that one part of the body cannot say to another: "I don't need you." So, one part of the body cannot decide to self-isolate itself with the excuses of...

"Christianity is a personal relationship."

Or "it's between me and God."

Or..._"I don't need spiritual authority to tell me what to do, I can hear God for myself..."_

Or "I only need God to succeed in this life eh..."

Ahhh, these are all excuses I have heard!

In biology, when one system of the body tries to self-isolate, it results in an autoimmune disease! This happens in the systems of the body. A solitary, isolatory, anti-family mindset is deadly to the believer! It is self-sabotage!

Let me tell you a story. I had a dear friend who told me quite frankly one day that he didn't believe that the devil attacked believers. All of my explanations were for naught.

His logic was simple – He reads the Bible for himself. He told me that Jesus conquered all principalities and powers, and so how can a believer be in Christ and be spiritually attacked? It made no sense to him. He had received this "higher" inspiration by himself. He had decided no spiritual authorities could change his mind.

...And he had also lovingly renamed the Holy Spirit...by himself. This is a classic example of what happens when you are a lone ranger.

Another example – When I was about 12, I received “a revelation”. I was so excited! I happily informed my friends. "God is spirit," I said. "He is neither male nor female. Males and females are fashioned in his image, equal in his sight. So we can say our mother who art in Heaven!"

I was quite ready to refer to the trilogy as the Father or Mother, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The spiritual elders in my life nipped that in the bud very quickly, and explained to me where I had gone wrong. A friend kindly informed me that my revelation was sounding like a cult...

I received many such “rhema” and insight – many trains of thoughts that my father shut down immediately before I could share them. I was already singing "She is Lord Amen". But after that rebuke, I have learned to share with set men in my family of faith before accepting any rhema that drops in my mind.

It is very easy, too easy, to go awry as a lone ranger. This is why God designed us to be in families of faith. With time and training, in a family, you learn the rules of faith, you learn which train of thought is good, and which one is leading you straight into error.

Another excuse lone ranger’s love to give is: “I want to figure it out for myself. I want to find God for myself.” It sounds good, right? But it is most often just an excuse to self-isolate! Yes, God called you to have a personal relationship with Him, but there are revelations you will never get until you are submitted under spiritual authority in a family of faith!

This is why God calls us to have both relationships, dear brethren: a personal relationship with Him, and a personal relationship with a permanent family of faith.

Being a solitary person, a lone ranger, is very dangerous o!

The 7 Dangers of Being a Lone Ranger

1. The Danger of Alienating Jesus

We have talked about how God sets the solitary in families. The lone ranger mentality is contrary to this structure.

Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

2. The Danger of Risking Salvation and Faith

Jesus calls his disciples sheep in John 10. Sheep are meek and good at following, but they need to be guided. They graze together in flock.

Matthew 18:12

If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost?

God has therefore set up a structure in which set men in families of faith guide the sheep under Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Sheep that insist on wandering off on their own get lost and God's solution is to find them and return them to their family flock.

3. Danger of Falling Into Error

4. The Danger of Not Having an Accountability Structure

These two points go hand in hand.

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NKJV)

Imitate me as I imitate Christ

Being in a family of faith gives you set men who are God's representatives to imitate.

5. The Danger of Immaturity

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

My father likes to say: "You know an untrained man when you see one." There are dos and don'ts of conduct about how to do ministry, how to interact with other believers etc. God uses set men, to train families of faith. You can't just behave anyhow and get away with it in a family! There are rules and consequences when those rules are broken!

6. The Danger of Losing Perseverance

There is much comfort and encouragement in a family of faith.

Hebrews 10: 24-25: (NKJV)

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

And the last danger of being a lone ranger...

7. The Danger of Being a Confusing Witness

We are the representatives of Christ. Unbelievers are watching our witness closely. Lone rangers set a bad example for young believers and unbelievers. It teaches them that we can walk with God in an isolated relationship – which is not what God intends.

Beware of the "lone ranger" mentality. In fact, avoid lone ranger ministries as well!

- We have discussed the importance of a family of faith in the Kingdom.
- We've talked about how everyone must be joined to a family of faith.
- We've dealt with the dangers of not being joined to a family of faith and being a lone ranger.

Now, before we go today, let's talk about what makes you a part of a family of faith. In every family, there is a part for everyone to play. It is the same way in families of faith

1 Corinthians 12:27- *"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."*

Your family of faith is like an organ in the body of Christ; and you are supposed to function there as a "Member in Particular." Some translations call it "Actual (authentic, tangible, real) member." When you think of the family of faith that God has joined you to, will you call yourself an actual member there?

Can you be referred to as a "Member in particular", or you are just a passive attendee? Are you one of the people who is a worker in the ministry where God has joined you to or do you come to service, sit down, hear the word and go home, on repeat?

There are three things that define actual members from passive attendees:

- They are a **part**
- They are **partners**
- They are **participants**

1. PART

Someone who is part of the family goes for

“Our fellowship”,

“Our prayer meeting”,

"Our fasting"

"Our 40 days of Wordfest"

Or such as the case may be.

A passive attendee on the other hand goes for “Their fellowship”, “Their service”, etc. You see the difference? When you are a part, what concerns the whole concerns you as a person.

Being a part is an **attitudinal** disposition; a place where you see **yourself** as an **integral part of the family**. When your own grandfather is celebrating a party, do you say "we are going for their party?" Or is it "we are hosting a party"?

2. PARTNER

A partner is one who has a stake in something. They commit their time, talent and resources to the common good of the larger whole. As a partner, you will avail yourself, your time and your resources (financial, material, etc.) for the benefit and progress of the ministry.

3. PARTICIPANT

A participant is different from an observer. An observer/spectator **watches** what is happening, whereas a participant is one of those **doing** what is happening. As a participant, you will share in the burden of the assignment. You will play a part in the ministry. You will join-in in every aspect of the service... worship, prayer, etc.

A participant is role-player, not an on-looker.

My final charge to you is this:

If you don't know your family in faith, ask God to join you to one.

I want to encourage you today to become a "Member in particular" in that family of faith where God has planted you.

Become a part, a partner, and a participant.

Only then then can you optimize having a family of faith.

Thank you so much for having me. God bless you, Living Stones!

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