

TAP ROOT INPUT FOR May 19, 2019

"FATHER KNOWS BEST" by Pastor Vaden Gilloth

Many of you older folks may remember the TV show *"Father Knows Best"* that aired in 1950's and 60's and has been rerun continuously since then. It is centered around a Dad (Robert Young) who was always ready and available to help his family in any circumstance of their lives. His wisdom and guidance was unmatched and this series elevated the Fathers role in the family. Another movie that depicts the same focus on Fathers is *"It's a Wonderful Life."* In it, the main character faces a serious situation and doesn't know what to do. In the drug store where he works there was a sign on the wall that says "Ask Dad!" So he rushes out to find his Dad and get his advice.

In the Bible there is another DAD that stands ready to help you in any situation too. We find this statement in 1 Samuel 22:19: *"In the day of disaster...the Lord was my support."* A phone call in the wee hours, a malignant tumor, a police cruiser at your door, a child addicted to drugs—if you live long enough you'll be confronted with *"a the day of...disaster"* of your own. Just like in the examples above, it will be the strength of your relationship with God the Father that will dictate your response.

C.S. Lewis said that we can either acquire the wisdom assigned to a trial, or keep repeating it until we "get it." One author points out that God's "disaster-preparedness kit" is found in Psalm 31:24: *"Be Strong."* Why? Because God is fighting for you. You must know God, know your convictions, and know how to tap into God's unlimited power. You are not who you or anyone else thinks you are. When God says you are strong, BELIEVE HIM!

So, when you find yourself in a serious bind and have run out of options, take heart, don't let your pain shut you down. Take the broken pieces of your bad situation and offer them to God. Choose to operate in love where others are concerned. A closed heart isn't worth fighting for. Hope in the Lord and put no stock in emotion, circumstances or "chitchat." Place your hopes and dreams at the altar. God has no limitations, knows what you need, and can make all things new.

Any other counterfeit "helps" program will fail. Realize that no matter how long you have spent in God's workshop, your progress is proven only in the moments of peril you face. If you prepare in advance, your responses will be involuntary. When you believe in your heart that God will always be available to help you, there won't be a situation, a temptation, or a question where Ephesians 6:10 doesn't apply: *"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power."* God isn't telling you to be tough on your own...He wants you to rely on His strength and let Him do for you what He knows is best. Why? Because: FATHER KNOWS BEST!