

Authority

Part 3

Prayer

Dear Father God, thank you for putting people of authority in our lives. Thank you for loving us so much that you put people in place to help us along this journey we call life. We ask that you give us the wisdom, understanding and knowledge to be obedient to authority and to always give respect to those in charge over us. We want to be an example to the world so those who don't know you will come to know you, because they see you in us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Real Life App

Who can relate to that skit we just saw? Some of us. Most of us have wished we didn't have *our* parents. But did you ever stop and think *why* God gave you your parents? Well let's go over a few things. Can we agree first of all that God knew what He was doing when He made you? Psalm 139:13 says that God formed you and in Jeremiah 1:5 it says God knew you *before* you were in your mother's womb. That's interesting. So God knew your personality. He knew what He wanted you to do for His kingdom. He needed someone who would help guide you and get you to where He needed and wanted you.

As much as God would have loved to have been here on Earth with each and every one of us to raise us, God has other things to do in the universe. So God in all of His infinite wisdom created mom and dads. Beings who would be in charge of the life He created. Parents are God's ambassadors, so to speak. God needed to have someone to carry out His instructions for the new lives He was creating. Beings that would do what He told them to do. Follow the Word of God in *training up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6)*. God being the brilliant God that He is, made your mom and your dad.

God specifically put parents *in charge* of their children. In Ephesians 6 God goes through the whole hierarchy of authority. And just so there was no confusion, in the *very* first verse of chapter 6 God put what? *Children....* that's you guys, *obey your*; who? *Your parents in the LORD, for this is right*. God put your mom and dad in charge and just so you wouldn't be confused, he told you what to do. O-B-E-Y. And then He added, in the Lord. Pretty much God is saying, *Obey your mom and dad because I said so*.

Many times in Proverbs God addresses you guys. He knew you would have tons of *excuses* you would give your parents so He wrote the answer to your parents. Let me give you one. Who gets corporal punishment at home? That's was the law calls it. Here we call it spankings, whooping, swatting, hiney-

whacks and whatever other cherished name you would like to give a smack on the butt. But, in Proverbs 23:13 God tells moms and dads, *Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die.*

He knew the minute you guys heard anything regarding discipline you'd start whining. And if it involved spankings, He knew what you would say. He let your mom and dad in on a secret. *They are going to say "you're killing me". Don't believe them. Spank them and they won't die from it.* Your mom and dad have no choice *but* to obey God. GOD PUT THEM IN CHARGE! God chose your mom and your dad for you. He loved you so much He gave you your parents. People who would love you and take care of you and raise you up *as if God Himself were here.* Now let me tell you a little secret. Your parents have to answer to God *directly* for the way they raise you, how they discipline you, how they teach you, how they direct you and how they take care of you. They have to answer to God for your life and how you turn out. So please, don't give them a hard time. They are just doing what God has told them to do!

Okay, let's wrap this up. *But you don't know my mom and dad.* It's ok. God does. So here is your job if you have a problem with your parents. First of all we need to understand and agree that God put your parents in charge. Do we agree? Good. So, you need to pray for your parents. I don't want you to think you are tattling on your parents to God, because that's not what prayer is. If you have a problem with your parents, ask God to show them if there is a better way to do something. BUT – and here's the key if you are going to go to God about your mom and dad. The second thing you pray is, BUT GOD...you know what's coming don't you? This is what you say to God, *But God, if there is anything I, me, your lovely, your precious needs to fix in my life...you don't just get to hang this on your parents. You have to go to God knowing you may be the one at fault. That's what your parents do. If there is anything I have done...if there is anything I need to change...if there is anything I am responsible for...why do they pray this?* Because they know they have to answer directly to God. So, please, cut your parents some slack and let them do their jobs. Why? Because God put them in charge.

Lifeline

KEY SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:10 (NLT) – Carefully determine what pleases the Lord.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3:20 - (NKJV) – Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

Interesting little note here: Ephesians says to carefully determine what pleases the Lord. THEN in Colossians He ends this verse with...this is well pleasing to the Lord. God gave you a FREEBIE!

Motivational

Veggie Tales: The Little Boy that Woodn't

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvBQ0hkmTvo>