

# A FATHER'S LEGACY

REV. MARK MAGANGAT

Being raised in a Christian home, I was privileged to learn about Christ in an environment that made it very easy for me to accept the simple truths of Christ and God's Word. My dad was very instrumental in my spiritual journey. He was the one who encouraged me to attend Sunday school and church activities. He taught us how to pray and he always scheduled family prayer meetings. As an obedient son to my father, I always complied even if at times I felt disinterested. I was in high school and wondered what I was to do with my life. Surely, there was more to life than just getting up each day and going through the motions. I didn't have a purpose in life.

In May 1997, at the age of 15, I responded to a simple invitation to receive Christ as my Savior and Lord. I knew I needed direction in my life. I prayed to God, agreed with His Word that I was, by nature, a sinner, and that Jesus Christ had died on a cross and rose from the dead for me. God used Romans 10:9 to cement my decision to fully turn to Christ. It says, "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." I thanked Jesus for loving me and asked Him to be my Savior and Lord.

I consider my Dad not only as my biological father but also

my spiritual father. In spite of the fact that he was an OFW, he made sure we all took care of our spiritual lives. And so, upon growing up and having a family of my own, I have learned to value and live out my father's spiritual legacy to us, his children. As a father, I strive to live by the following principles I've learned from my dad:

### ***Enrich your children with great spiritual inheritance.***

I am blessed and privileged because I did not have to learn everything from scratch. I learned many things from my dad who gave me a head start by passing along to me stories of what God had done and by the way he modeled a godly life despite his imperfections.

### ***Guide your children toward what is right and good.***

Discipline was an important way and method my dad showed his love. He was strict, but what I admired about him is how he was always calm and loving in guiding us to always choose what is right and good. He was never harsh and was always careful in disciplining us.

### ***Boldly claim your family for God.***

My dad would always say in Ilocano, "Isuna laeng met ti pagkamangan tayo", meaning, God alone is our shelter. Whatever problems we had then as a family, my dad would

always affirm and declare God's protection, provision, and presence for the whole family.

### ***Recognize that fatherhood is by the grace of God.***

My dad was not perfect: no one is. But despite his imperfections, the grace of God was very evident in his life. No matter the challenges we faced as a family, God was not ignorant of the fact that my dad needed help. God knows our limits. And that's when He says to us "Come to me, and I will give you my strength and power. I will do what you cannot do on your own." When we feel down and exhausted, God's grace flows to us and through us. When we have had enough and want to throw in the towel, God's loving arms are outstretched, ready to catch us when we fall. When the demand of parenting overwhelms us, God's grace carries us through.

Friends, let us cherish our fathers' godly legacy and live it out by the grace of God. Happy Father's Day to all dads.

Let us all be encouraged by Proverbs 3:11-12, "**My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.**" ✠