

**THE ANGELIC CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 338 – June 17, 2012**

**/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES**

**Good Morning!**

**Let's Make a Mental Shift\**

To get ready for biblical study, your first shift is a mental shift. It was a command to His apostles, but it is no less a command to you...

/JOH 15:12

*This is My commandment (mandate...a request directed toward your free will), that you love one another (unconditionally), just as I have loved you (unconditionally).\*

As the Word of God fills your soul, it changes your perspective. You begin to see yourself differently, and you begin to see others differently. It creates the situation where you are much more willing to overlook your own faults. And when you are, you are much more willing to overlook the faults of others. Welcome to your next inoculation of the Word of God, which is good for all that ails your soul.

**/INVITATION TO RESTORATION**

**Make a Spiritual Shift\**

The second shift, before your study of the Word of God, is a spiritual shift. You assess your soul condition. <WHAT IS YOUR SOUL CONDITION?>

God makes a simple request...if you believers in Christ have any unconfessed personal sins on your soul right now, that you simply identify them, admit them to God the Father, forget them, and return to fellowship with your God. You make this spiritual shift by claiming one of God's RESTORATION promises...like Isaiah, Chapter 43, Verse 25...

/ISA 43:25

*"I, even I, am the one who wipes out (completely forgets) your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins (after you have admitted them)."*\

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**/SILENT REFLECTION**

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ\

Please take a few moments in silence, to fix the eyes of your soul on the Lord Jesus Christ, as He gets you ready to know His exact thinking...

**/OPENING SONG**

Father I'm Yours\

**/OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray...\(0:30)

We're grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute truth...the Word of God...

We ask you to edify Fathers all over the world with this message...

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...Amen.

**/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES**

**Pastor Rory Clark\**

My name is Pastor Rory Clark. You're listening to lesson three hundred and thirty-eight of the Angelic Conflict series. Welcome to a ministry designed for serious students of the Word of God.

**/TODAY'S STUDY**

**The CREATOR Wants You to Know His Father and Yours \**

Happy Father's Day to all you Dads out there!

What do you think about your dad? If your dad is no longer alive, what are the things you remember about your dad? These are the things I invite you to reflect on during this tribute to Fathers. My father would be ninety-nine years old if he were alive today.

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/Dad

Roy Joseph Clark

Natchitoches, Louisiana

June 13, 1913 - July 10, 1993\

Yet my father, Roy Joseph Clark, is no longer on this earth...it is my sincere hope that I will see him again in eternity...I hope he is at home face-to-face with the Lord. He was a non-practicing Roman Catholic. He was born in Natchitoches, Louisiana (NAK-I-TOSH) on June 13, 1913. My sons are fifth generation Americans on my father's side of the family. Dad left this life on July 10, 1993. The official cause of death was pneumonia, but his death was really caused by the complications of lung cancer. He was a smoker and an alcoholic. He drank five fifths of Canadian Club whiskey a day, and ate one meal a day. When he died, he was eighty years and one month old. He died alone.

Dad married four times to four different women, and fathered at least seven children. His favorite marriage was probably his last one to Barbara...he enjoyed helping her raise her children, which I found to be a bit ironic. Every marriage lasted more than 13 years, except the one to my Mom. He left her thirty days after they got married when she told him that she was pregnant with me. He told me he thought Mom had "set him up..." that my Mom was already pregnant, and she was looking for someone to pin it on. That wouldn't have been an issue today, but in 1954, it was. Funny thing... if he and I were in a room, there would be no question in your mind that I was his son, yet he denied me for years. I was a carbon copy of him, especially in personality. He told me that when he left, he never came back. His exit began with one of his famous quips...he had a million quips...I'm sure he was a comedienne in a former life...he told my Mom, "One of us has to get our hat." "Getting your hat," in those days was usually the final act before leaving someone's home.

Not long before his death, my sons, Zachary and Elliott had met my dad for the first and only time, on a trip we made to Disneyland. My dad lived in Carson, California in the final years of his life. He was quite resourceful in the matter of money. He owed a home, and he rented rooms to college students at California State University - Dominguez Hills. He had a philosophy about life that he expressed this way..."the only thing that an old

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person can do for me is introduce me to a young person.” He had a youthful vigor and a sense of humor and a vitality that would never reveal his age.

When I heard the news that my dad had died, I was driving in a car in Westmont, Illinois with Zachary, who was four years old at the time. I pulled the car to the side of the road and started crying. Zachary asked me what was wrong. I told him my dad had just died. Zachary crawled out of his car seat, put his arms around my neck, gave me a hug and said, “Everything’s going to be alright dad.” It was a bittersweet moment.

My relationship with my dad ended on June 2, 1991, about two years before his death. It ended in a phone conversation. I was in the Detroit airport on a pay phone. Remember those? My dad was a rabid Los Angeles Laker fan. They were easy to love. The Chicago Bulls had made it to the NBA finals, and had a chance to win an NBA Championship. It was Magic Johnson versus Michael Jordan. Dad and I had a fifty-dollar bet on the series. The Lakers won the first game on the Bulls home court. It was a disaster in the mind of Chicagoans. I called my dad right after the game to get his assessment. When I suggested that the Bulls were still going to win the series, he berated me with a humiliating, excoriating, drunken tirade that got me so mad it gave me cottonmouth. This was his habit. He had a scorching and relentlessly unforgiving tongue, and it was torture to be on the wrong end of it. The essence of his message was that I knew absolutely nothing about basketball. I’ll spare you the details of our profanity-laced conversation, but I ended up hanging up on him. The last words I said to him in the conversation were, “I may not know anything about basketball, but I do know this. The Lakers won’t win another game.” They didn’t. I didn’t talk to him again for over a year. The next time I talked to him was when I brought the boys to his door, unannounced, on the Disneyland trip in the summer of 1992.

At Christmas 1991, I wrote him a letter, evaluating him and our relationship. I’ll spare you the details of the letter. I guarantee that no one ever had the words to capture who he was like I did. I’m sure that letter crushed him just as surely as his words had crushed so many others. The words were true, and there was nowhere for him to hide from this truth.

I will share with you a poem I wrote about him right after the Chicago Bulls incident. It’s called Disappearing Dad.

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/Disappearing Dad

Conspicuously absent  
From my thoughts and hopes and dreams  
Is a man whose very essence  
Is inside of me it seems.\

/Disappearing Dad

And even as I write this  
It feels empty and so sad  
Because I seem to have no memory  
Of my dear old dad.\

/Disappearing Dad

From ages one to ten you see  
I have infrequent memories  
Of weekends with him and after then  
He'd disappear from my life again.\

/Disappearing Dad

From ages ten to twenty six  
He disappeared...as if to fix  
His gaze on things more important than I  
Dad disappeared yet did not die.\

/Disappearing Dad

And from the blue he gave a call  
“Want to know my son after all...  
We should soon meet before I die...”  
“Okay dad, let's meet for dinner...I'll buy.”\

/Disappearing Dad

“But I wonder why suddenly the desire to meet?  
To get together and to eat?”

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At twenty-six am I to learn...  
You suddenly, now have concern?"\

/Disappearing Dad

"I find that I was wrong, my son...  
For years I feared your mom had won  
You over to her side, to find  
You're an adult...you make up your own mind."\

/Disappearing Dad

How I feel now, dad, I do not know  
I dare not deep inside to go  
To find out how I really feel  
To peek behind my protective shield.\

/Disappearing Dad

Abandoned is a word I find  
That describes the certain state of mind  
In which I find myself when thoughts of dad  
Creep near...and then I feel so bad.\

/Disappearing Dad

His alcohol I cannot take  
His abusive tongue just like a rake  
Which combs my soul until I cry...  
Inside...feeling like I want to die.\

/Disappearing Dad

But none of this do I let him know  
On my annual visits, I just go  
To visit in a year again  
When capacity returns to take him in.\

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/Disappearing Dad

My calls to him much less frequent now  
We cannot talk for long somehow  
Without him proclaiming to my face  
That my thinking, to him, is a total disgrace.\

/Disappearing Dad

You see opinions other than his  
Disregarded, he's the one to quiz  
You on a subject then let's you know  
Your learning has so far to go.\

/Disappearing Dad

Well I haven't abandoned four different wives  
Or created more than seven lives  
Through reaping where I did not sow  
And after, proclaiming I must go.\

/Disappearing Dad

Without returning to show I care  
He'd disappear...it isn't fair  
How some can run a game for years  
Dashing others...leaving scars and tears.\

/Disappearing Dad

So dad's a man who runs, you see  
When commitment gets too close...  
And he...would not get to run his game  
He'd leave and run it just the same\

/Disappearing Dad

So on that dinner day we met  
I forgave him for just leaving, yet

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I did it out of spite you see  
In hopes that he'd feel so guilty.\

/Disappearing Dad

He did...I succeeded...motive poor  
Perhaps I should have left the door  
Of my life closed for now he sees  
Just what he missed not raising me.\

/Disappearing Dad

So disappearing dad has learned  
That my contempt for him was earned,  
And now our relationship is no fun  
For now I'm the disappearing son.\

The letter that I wrote to my dad as his “Christmas present” in 1991 was cruel. I’ve been asked several times in my life, “If you could have dinner with anyone, living or dead...who would it be?” As much as I love my mom, without question, I’d want to have dinner with my Dad. For one thing, it would be a laugh fest, because he was a genuinely funny man. More than anything, though, I’d want to apologize for my self-righteousness and for my insensitivity in treating him poorly and in judging him. I am my Dad. And if it were not for the Word of God firmly implanted in my soul by the wonderful Pastors I have studied with, I would be just as interested in seducing and abandoning women, just as interested in the dissipation of substance abuse, and just as verbally excoriating as he was.

In my opinion, fathers receive short shrift in Satan’s kingdom. They are ignored, undervalued, and in many cases despised.

/USA Today Article  
Fatherhood Could Alter Men’s Behavior\

This week, in USA Today, there is an article entitled, “Fatherhood Could Alter Men’s Behavior.” Duh! Here’s an excerpt from the article...

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*Many studies in the past decade have shown that a father's involvement can improve a child's well-being. Newer research finds that becoming a father affects men, too. New fathers exhibit hormonal changes, and in turn, alter their behavior, which suggests that having children influences men in far-reaching ways. "We're finding that (fatherhood) does have mental health, well-being and actual physical health benefits," says David DeGarmo, a research scientist at the non-profit Oregon Social Learning Center in Eugene. DeGarmo is lead author of an 18-month study of 230 divorced fathers of children ages 4-11 that was published in 2010 in the American Journal of Men's Health. It found that when a father was more involved with his kids, "he had better health, drank less and had lower substance use."*

*Other recent findings have shown that "fatherhood prompts men to be less self-centered, more giving and more outward-focused. It can prompt them to be more responsible and become more mature, especially to temper some of their risks," says Richard Settersten Jr., professor of human development and family sciences at Oregon State University in Corvallis. He says involved fathering promotes "more positive attachments and relationships."*

*Setterson says, "I think...psychology and child development as fields of study have been so caught up in proving the importance of parents for children that they skipped the issue of the influences (of children) on parents."*

### **End of Article Excerpt**

We may have varying levels of closeness to our human fathers. There is no doubt that a father has a profound effect on a child. More importantly, children have a profound effect on fathers. I think God planned it that way.

All of us have a Heavenly Father...God the Father. We celebrate Him today.

/BREAK

*Somewhere\*

In a bible conference question and answer period, one of my least favorite activities in life, I was asked a question. The question came right after I had said, "Please ask your question. There are no stupid questions." Then came the question...

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/Our Heavenly Father...God the Father  
What is God the Father doing right now?\

We deflected the question. As soon as all of us Pastors got back to our room to debrief the evening's lessons, I said, "Is it just me, or was that the stupidest question you have ever heard?" Uproarious laughter followed. Then I started researching the question, and it wasn't so stupid after all. There truly are no stupid questions...only stupid Pastors, a fact that God the Holy Spirit was all too willing to make me intimately aware of...

What is our Heavenly Father...God the Father...doing right now? Well before getting to that, it's easy to point to things God the Father has done in the past...

He sent His Son to die for us...

/JOH 3:16

*"For God (the Father) so loved the world (all mankind...so much), that He gave His only begotten (uniquely born) Son (the Lord Jesus Christ)..."*\

He is the planner of divine history...

/ACT 2:23

*...this (God-)Man (the Lord Jesus Christ), (was) delivered over by the predetermined plan and (by the) foreknowledge of God (the Father), (and) you nailed (Him) to a cross by the hands of godless men (unbelievers...men who have thrown off the harness of authority) and put Him to death.\*

But what is He doing right now...on Father's Day? He's doing what most Fathers are doing today...he's continuing to work for His children.

/God the Father is working all things together for the good of His children...

ROM 8:28-29

*And we (believers in Christ) know that God (the Father) causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.//For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He (the Lord Jesus Christ) would be the firstborn among many brethren... \*

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/God the Father is busy being “for” his children!

ROM 8:30-31

*...and these whom He (God the Father) predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.//What then shall we (believers in Christ) say (face) to (face with) these things? If God (the Father) is for us (and He is), who is against us?\*

/God the Father is providing the “all things...” to his children...

ROM 8:32

*He (God the Father) who did not spare His own Son (the Lord Jesus Christ), but delivered Him over (as a sin substitute) for us all, how will He (God the Father) not also with (our union with) Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) freely give us all things?\*

/God the Father is perfecting his children...

PHI 1:6

*For I am confident of this very thing, that He (God the Father) who began a (divine) good work in (the creation of) you (believers) will (keep on) perfect(ing) it until the day of Christ Jesus.\*

/God the Father is making Jesus Christ’s enemies a footstool for His feet

LUK 20:42-43

*“For David himself says in the book of Psalms, ‘THE LORD (God the Father) SAID TO MY LORD (Jesus Christ), “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, //UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.”\*

/God the Father hears and rewards his children’s prayers...

MAT 6:6

*“But you (believers in Christ), when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your (God the) Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees (in omniscience) what is done in secret will reward you (in your time on earth).”\*

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/God the Father provides logistical grace....

MAT 6:31-32

*“Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ //For the Gentiles eagerly seek (scrounge for) all these things; for your heavenly (God the) Father knows that you need all these things.”\*

/God the Father provides restoration when his children rebound...

1JO 1:9

*If (3) we believers in Christ admit (name or cite) our known sins to God the Father, He is faithful (He always does the same thing) and He is righteous (free from sin Himself and thus completely qualified) to forget our known sins, and to cleanse us from our unknown sins as well.\*

/God the Father is being merciful right now to his children ...

LUK 6:36

*“Be merciful, just as your (God the) Father is merciful.”\*

/God the Father is giving unbelievers eternal life...

JOH 3:16

*“For God (the Father) so (much) loved the world (all mankind), that He gave His only begotten (uniquely born) Son (the Lord Jesus Christ), that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life (the Zoe life).”\*

/God the Father is adopting new believers as adult sons...

GAL 4:6-7

*Because you are sons, God (the Father) has sent forth (God) the (Holy) Spirit of His Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” //Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if (1) a(n) adopted) son (and you are), then (you are also) an heir through God (the Father).\*

/God the Father helps his children be glorified through union with Christ

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ROM 8:17

*...and if children, heirs also, heirs of God (the Father) and fellow heirs with (the Lord Jesus) Christ, if (1) indeed we suffer with Him (Christ...and we do) so that we may also be glorified with Him.\*

/God the Father is keeping secrets from Jesus Christ!

ACT 1:7

*He (the Lord Jesus Christ) said to them (the apostles), “It is not for you to know times (chronology) or epochs (sequence of events) which (God) the Father has fixed by His own authority... \*

/God the Father is indwelling his children...

EPH 4:6

*(There is) one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in(dwelling) all.\*

/God the Father is the giver of all gifts...

JAM 1:17

*Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from (God) the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.\*

God the Father doesn't change...and He especially wants you to know that He will never change one thing...His unconditional love for you.

Happy Father's Day!