

God's Household

VIKTOR PROKHNEVSKIY

A free English translation from the original Russian manuscript



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God's house building Introduction Both in the material world and in the spiritual world there is A certain pattern. In the earth's nature, these are the seasons, Autumn, winter, spring and summer. These are the seasons set by God for Preparation of crop ripening, on which our Well-being in this temporary earthly life. If for one or another Reasons what we sow did not give the desired fruit on earth Hunger is coming.

Natural seasons serve as a blessing for all Living on earth, both for the good and for the evil. Because loving The father is not personate and equally cares about his creation. In the spiritual world, God's seasons are God's housekeeping in The basis of which is our Lord Jesus Christ. As in Both in the physical world and in the spiritual world, these seasons consist of four Mutually complementary components.

Spiritual seasons Given by God only to believers called to serve Him and Intended for our growth in the full age of Christ. These are four age groups consisting of spiritual children, -1- Spiritual young men, spiritual boys and spiritual husbands. In the Bible It is also said to spiritual babies, but they do not belong to any

Age group. In my further reasoning, I will try To convey the material offered to you based on what was said about This in the Bible and some examples from my personal spiritual Practices. Four spiritual ages Part One - Spiritual Children "I, according to the grace given to me by God, as a wise builder, laid The foundation, and the other builds on it; but everyone looks at how he builds. For No one can put any other basis than the one that is supposed to, Which is Jesus Christ.

Does anyone build on this basis from Gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, - each The matter will be revealed; for the day will show, because it is opened in fire, and Fire will test everyone's work as it is. Who has the business that he Builds, will stand, he will get a reward. And whoever burns the case will tolerate it Damage; however, he himself will be saved, but as if from fire." 1-Cor.3:10-15 I will put this Biblical text as the basis of all my further Reasoning on this topic. After you get acquainted with The material presented by me, you will become even more understandable Said by Apostle Paul.

And now let's step by step in -2- Strict consistency in relation to our spiritual

Age, let's start our reasoning, which the Apostle John talks about In the second chapter of his first letter to the Church. "I am writing to you, children, because your sins have been forgiven for the sake of His name." Spiritual childhood is a period of first love for God and God is very Is close to us with His care and His care for us. Thanks to This is why we get to know His Fatherly love for us and power more and more Received from God in accordance with our spiritual age.

"And to those who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave the power to be and Children of God, who are not of blood, not of the will of the flesh, of Husband's wishes, but were born of God." John 1:13 In the Epistle to the Romans, Apostle Paul reveals even more deeply Importance in God's home building of children's spiritual age. "Because you didn't accept the spirit of slavery to live in fear again, but Received the Spirit of adoption, with whom we call: "Abva, Father"! This The Spirit itself testifies to our spirit that we are children of God.

And if Children, then the heirs of Christ, if only we suffer with Him, so that with To be famous for him." Rom.8:15-17 The first thing I want to note from what is said in this Bible The text is that after being born again, our reborn spirit -3-

Freed himself from any kind of slavery. And first of all sinful Slavery. As it is said in the letter to the Romans. "Knowing that our old man was crucified with Him, so that it would be abolished There was a sinful body, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for The deceased is freed from sin...

So let no sin reign in mortal Your body, so that you may obey him in his lusts; and not Betray your members of sin into instruments of unrighteous, but imagine Themselves to God, as those who have come to life from the dead, and your members into instruments Righteousness. Sin should not rule over you, because you are not under By law, but under grace." Rom.6:6-7; 12-14: In childhood spiritual age, believers are at the first stage Of their spiritual recovery, take the first steps towards growth In the full age of Christ. In this period of time, spiritual children are still Are highly vulnerable and taking advantage of this, the enemy of human souls is strongly Attacks us, pointing out our imperfection in God.

Because of this We are often disappointed in our imperfection and fall under Condemnation in one's conscience. To resist demonic attacks It is necessary to arm yourself with the promises of God, so that through Them to reflect all the arrows of the evil one. One of these promises says The following for us. -4- #####

"What can I say to that? If God is for us, who is against us? ...Who will be Blame God's elect? God justifies them. Who condemns?

Christ Jesus died, but also resurrected: He and the right hand of God, He and Petitions for us." Rom.8:31-34 There are also other promises in the Bible that kind of contradict Said in the Epistle to the Romans and the devil can use them To embarrass us. He tried to use some of them against Jesus Christ, during His temptation in the desert. Pulling out of The context of the Bible separate places of Scripture and I do not study completely Scripture, you can proclaim condemnation to yourself, not justification.

Let's see one of these Scriptures. -5- "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth Not in us." 1-In.1:8 And based only on this verse torn from the context of the Bible We give way to the devil and fall under the condemnation of our conscience. Being in this state, God's children become unprotected And allow their opponent to freely destroy their faith. But the next verse of this message puts everything in its place, and Instead of condemnation, justification from God comes to us. "If we confess our sins, then He, being faithful and righteous, will forgive

Us our sins and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1-In.1:9 Recognizing and confessing our sins before God, we immediately We get justification from God. And not only justification but also purification From all untruths. Since it is also said that the blood of Jesus Christ, Shed on Calvary for us cleanses us from all sin, as well as in The Bible also says that I will not remember their sins and their iniquities More. All this looks like our dirty clothes cleaned after Dry cleaners.

It becomes completely clean again without a single Stains. I want to offer you another place of Scripture, which Will finally put everything in its place in this matter. "For by one offering He made perfect forever Consecrated". Ev.10:14 What is the advantage in the physical life of young children over Adults?

First of all, in simplicity and trustiness of their Parents and people around them. Children don't have such envy as Adults, easily forgive and forget grievances, which is not quite -6- Characteristic of already established adults. If children even Quarreled, then the next day as if nothing had happened again Communicate with each other. So one day in a conversation with my Disciples Jesus Christ told them to be like children, because

Such is the Kingdom of Heaven. And already in another place of Scripture He Goes even further, pointing to the advantage of children over Adults. "At that time, the disciples proceeded to Jesus and said: who is greater in The Kingdom of Heaven? Jesus, having called the child, put it in the middle of them and Said: truly I tell you, if you do not convert and wake up like children You will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven...

And, sat down, called twelve and said To them: whoever wants to be the first, be the last for all and the servant of all." Mt.18:1-3; Mk.9:35; Using the example of a small child, Jesus Christ showed The importance of the state of spiritual childhood to your students. In which The main advantage is humility. At the time when alone Believers strive to be superior to other believers in their Status or in your ministry, at this time a human Pride. And in this way they give way to the devil, who is Father of pride.

Therefore, the word of God says that God is proud Resists and only gives grace to the humble. Jesus Christ Once said, if someone wants to be the first, he must be the last And a servant for everyone. And when the Apostle Paul said that we -7- Imitated him as he imitates Christ, he meant the greatest

The humility of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who didn't come for that To serve Him, but to serve us. "For you must have the same feelings as in Christ Jesus: He, being the image of God, did not consider it aft to be equal to God; But he despised Himself, taking the image of a slave, having made himself like People and by appearance becoming like a man; humbled Himself, being Obedient even to the death of the godmother. That's why God exalted Him and Gave a name above any name." Phil.2:5-9 The Church of Jesus Christ that He created is His body and Reflects the fullness of the head of the body.

And this is first of all The greatest humility both before God and before people and complete Dedication to the service of God and people, honoring each other above themselves. This is the foundation laid by Jesus Christ in God's House building. Which should be put by us in the very Beginning, when we are still in the spiritual age of children. Since A building built on sand, not on stone, will not stand during Of the trials that befall him.

This is the first season in our spiritual Increasing and with the skills acquired in it, we must -8- To go in the other three spiritual seasons. All spiritual Ages complement each other and find in complete harmony between

Myself. Starting my discussion about spiritual children, I said that this is the time The first love for God with which we need to go all the way Of our growth in the full age of Christ. With the loss of the first Love, we can lose everything we have achieved on the path of faith and even Lose salvation. And this is very well said in Revelation from John.

"Write to the angel of the Ephesian church: thus says the Holder of the seven stars in His right hand, walking in the midst of the seven golden lamps: I know Your deeds, and your work, and your patience,

and what you can't To demolish the depraved, and experienced those who call themselves Apostles, and they are not like that, and found that they are liars; you are many Endured and you have patience, and worked for My name and did not Was emitted. But I have against you that you left your first love Yours.

So remember where you came from, and repent, and do the same Business; and if not, I'll come to you soon and move your lamp from His place, if you don't repent." Rep.2:1-5 This biblical text gives a description of God's servant Who completely devoted himself to the service of God, jealous and Faithful in the work of God. This man went through with dignity

Various trials showing patience and resisting false Apostles, but with all this did not preserve his first love for God. But with all this, his narrow and thorny path in the absence of The first love he acquired in his spiritual childhood, in It looked very insignificant in God's eyes. Believers who have grown into full spiritual age at the same time Must reflect the spiritual qualities acquired in all Four spiritual ages. The first love for God acquired In children's spiritual age is of paramount importance, because God himself is love.

To grow to the full age of Christ for us It is necessary to be in a state of the deepest humility not Depending on what we have already reached. -9- "So, humble yourself under the strong hand of God, may he raise you to his Time." 1-Pet.5:6 Part two - Spiritual boys Now let's talk about spiritual adolescence. It's already The next level of spiritual age in which you and I We move on after we have already left the state of spiritual children. And that's what Apostle John says about it. "I am writing to you, you boys, because you have known the Father"...

During the spiritual adolescence, we are already beginning to listen to the voice Holy Spirit, build your relationship with God and receive revelations From Him. I want to show it on the example of Samuel, the last The judge of Israel, when God called him into the season of adolescence. Even before Since he was born, his future mother Anna was infertile and not Could have had children. It upset her a lot and to get What is desired from God, Anna made a vow to God by proclaiming the following words: "Lord, if you give me a male child, I will give him away A gift to you for all the days of his life." God heard Anna's prayer, sent Her son and she fulfilled her lunch.

Now let's turn to To the Word of God and let's see how the service of the boy Samuel went Under the priest Elijah. -11- "The boy Samuel served the Lord under Elijah; the word of the Lord was rare In those days, visions were not frequent. And it was at the time when Eli was lying In his place, - his eyes began to constrict, and he could not see, - And the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying in the temple of the Lord, Where is the ark of God; and the Lord called to Samuel: Samuel, Samuel, Samuel! And He answered: here I am! And he ran to Elijah and said, "Here you called me." But He said: I didn't call you; go back and lie down.

He went and went to bed. But The Lord called to Samuel another time: Samuel, Samuel! He got up,

Came to Elijah for the second time, and said here I am! You called me. But he said: I I didn't call you, my son, go back and lie down. Samuel didn't know then The Lord, and the word of the Lord has not yet been revealed to him.

And the Lord called To Samuel for the third time. He got up and came to Elijah and said: here I am! You called me. Then Elijah understood that the Lord was calling the boy." 1-Tsar.3:1;7-8; From that time on, the little boy Samuel began to hear the voice of God and God communicated with him more and more often, sending His revelations for Israel.

Similarly, believers of the period of the Church during Of their adolescence become guided by the Spirit of God, receive Revelations from God. Solomon's parables say that without revelations The people are not curbed from above. Spiritual adolescence is the time when God Starts talking to us. And if we neglect it and don't build Our relationship with God and we don't need His guidance, We incur the wrath of God. -12- "My people will be destroyed for lack of knowledge: since you rejected Guidance, then I will reject you from the priesthood before Me: and as You have forgotten the law of your God, so I will forget your children." Os.4:6 God has equipped His Church with various spiritual gifts.

Special The gifts of the Holy Spirit occupy a place in God's housekeeping

Through which we receive revelations from God and build our Relationship with God. These gifts come to us during our Spiritual adolescence. This is a prophet as a gift of service and prophecy As one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. And also the gift of languages in the Commonwealth With the gift of interpreting languages.

Some Christian associations claim that all The prophets were before John the Baptist based on what was said Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Matthew. "For all the prophets and the law should be proclaimed to John." Mf.11:13 But this is said only in one place of Scripture and nowhere else in The Bible has no confirmation of this. Theology is never built on Such a principle. In this case, Jesus Christ tells only about The old cherished prophets who have already said everything that should have been To happen during the period of the Church.

When Jesus Christ said these words The Church has not yet been born and there have been no New Testament prophets. And already in The book of the Acts of the Apostles and in the letters of the Apostle Paul to the church The prophets appear again, but not the old ones, but the new ones New Testament. During the Church period, the ministry of the prophet changes a lot Its essence, it belongs to the five-sided service and as a gift Ministry is the basis of God's house building. -13-

"And He made some Apostles, others prophets, others Evangelists, other plasters and teachers, to the commission of the saints, For the work of service, for the creation of the Body of Christ, until we all come to Unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, in a perfect man, in moderation The full age of Christ." Eph.4:11-13 Five-fiver service or gifts of service occupy a particularly important Role for the creation (building) of the body of Christ. Each of the gifts Service is intended for a specific purpose. But out of five gifts Of the ministry, the Apostle Paul allocates two gifts, these are the Apostles and the prophets. These gifts of service play an extremely important role in God's House building.

Since our faith is built on the basis of these Two gifts of service and through which we achieve all goals Set before us by God. -14- "Being approved on the basis of the Apostles and prophets, having the very Jesus Christ is the cornerstone." Eph.2-20 What Paul said to the Apostles is more about the old To the cherished prophets who told us everything about the period of the Church. Thanks to this, we walk with

faith in all the events that are happening In our time and should still happen in the future. Also in the created Jesus Christ of the Church is still prophets who are

Messengers from the Lord and our faith is also affirmed through their Service. Now let's talk about the New Testament prophets and their Service in the body of the Church. "In Antioch, in the local church, there were some prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon, who is called Niger, and Lucius the Cyreneite, and Manil, Co-apil of Herod the ter-rule, and Saul When they served To the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said: separate Barnabas for Me and Saul to the cause to which I called them." Acts 13:1-2 In this biblical text, we see that in Antioch in the local The church had two gifts of service, prophets and teachers, and it was a whole A group of people who served God there.

In the book of Acts of Saints There are still two examples of the Apostles showing the New Testament Prophets. To finally dispel any false doctrine about That with the beginning of the period of the Church, the ministry of the prophets ceased, Let's also consider these Scriptures. -15- "In those days the prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them, Named Agab, getting up and foretewed by the Spirit that throughout the universe There will be a great famine, which was under Caesar Claudia Then the disciples Put, each according to his wealth, to send an allowance to the brothers,

Living in Judea, which they did, sending the collected to the elders Through Barnabas and Svla." Acts:11:27-30 To the great regret of believers who reject the spiritual side The Scriptures are quite satisfied with their position and they are jealous Defend their beliefs. Such believers claim that it is quite Enough of what is written in the Bible to in your life and ministry To God, we must do the will of God. And all kinds of additional Revelations can only mislead us and retreat from Gentlemen. But in the biblical text I gave above, we will see That such statements do not reflect the will of God.

Word What was spoken by the prophet Agab saved many from starvation Of God's children in Judea. We also see that more than one came to Antioch from Jerusalem The prophet Agab, and a whole group of prophets. And this suggests that in The period of the Church, the ministry of the prophet, as well as in the period of the Old Testament, was Mass. Let's look at another example related to The ministry of the prophet. -16- "The next day Paul and we who were with him went out and came to Caesarea And entering the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the seven deacons,

Stayed with him. He had four girls' daughters, Prophetizing. While we stayed with them for many days, A prophet named Agab came from Judea, and when he came to us, he took a belt Pavlov and, tying his hands and feet, said: thus says the Holy Spirit: A man whose belt it is, so the Jews will bind him in Jerusalem and hand him over Pagans." Acts 21:8-11 And again we see a prophet in both the first and the second case Agave as a messenger from God. Perhaps the prophet Agav is like Elijah and Elisha held a leading position among other prophets, as It was also in the days of the Old Testament.

And that's why God uses it As His messenger in a special way. All this indicates that in The period of the early Church, the ministry of the prophets was quite important. I also want to draw your attention to the fact that Philip has. -17- Evangelist in whose house the Apostle stayed for some time Paul had four daughters of the prophets. And I think they are so Participated in joint prayers together with Apostle Paul and His team.

But with all this, God did not reveal anything to them from the fact that The prophet Agab said. God had to send a prophet from Jerusalem to announce what will happen in the near future Was with Apostle Paul. The answer is very simple. The prophet is God's

The messenger and the gift of service, and the prophet, this is one of the gifts The Holy Spirit has a completely different purpose in God's House building. Having figured out the ministry of the prophet as a gift of service, let's Now let's move on to the reasoning of the prophecy as one of the From the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Since the purpose of the gift of prophecy on Directly refers to the age of spiritual adolescence. "And he who prophesies, speaks to people in edification, admonition and consolation." 1-Cor.14:3 Very often believers do not see the difference between the gift of service A prophet and a gift of the Holy Spirit by prophecy.

For this reason, from Of the prophets require deep revelations. And they didn't eat it Happens, they humiliate the prophetic gift and question The ministry of the prophet. But Apostle Paul warns us about So that we don't do it. -18- "Don't treat the spirit. Don't humiliate the prophecies." 1-Thess.5:19-20 We see that when we are treated to the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in us, The next step will be the humiliation of the prophetic gift.

In order to To figure it out and not act rashly, I want to

To offer you a broader meaning of the words edification, admonition And comfort. The meaning of the word edification is as follows. This is - Instruction, instruction or advice aimed at raising us, Teach us a moral lesson or give us some experience. Usually it's a wise, spiritual moral instruction, which Helps a person to live properly, build relationships and Analyze the steps.

The warning looks like this - to call, to ask, To comfort, to approve. Consolation is something that helps a person feel better After disappointment or sadness. In other words, pure prophecy does not carry an element Revelations, but uses various methods to bring us to State of peace, to make ready to accept any God Definition both in our lives and in our service to God, not Depending on whether it suits us or not. -19- For this reason, the prophetic daughters of Philip the evangelist Through prophecy, Apostle Paul was prepared to accept the lot Intended for him by God. And I believe that before the arrival of the prophet Agave,

After many prophecies through Philip's daughters, Apostle Paul Was already ready to make the right decision on his path of faith. And this We see this from the position taken by the Apostle Paul despite Persuasion of those who accompanied him not to go to Jerusalem. "When we heard this, both we and those there asked him to Didn't go to Jerusalem. But Paul answered and said: what are you doing?

What? Are you crying and crushing my heart? Not only do I want to be a prisoner, but Ready to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." Acts 21:12-13 Having given extensive information about I want to finish my reasoning about Adolescence as a spiritual age. But this is our growth in The full age of Christ does not end.

Two more are waiting for us ahead Spiritual age, these are spiritual young men and spiritual fathers. If two Previous spiritual ages with which you and I are already. -20- We got acquainted were mainly intended for our personal Building on the path of faith. Then spiritual young men and spiritual fathers

are already in Are more involved in serving other people. Part three Spiritual young men "...I'm writing to you, young men, because you defeated the evil one..."

I wrote To you, young men, because you are strong, and the Word of God dwells in you, and You defeated the evil one."

In this biblical text you can see the difference between Characteristics of the Apostle John about spiritual children and spiritual Boys and a description of spiritual young men. In this case Said not about one thing, as it was in relation to the first two Spiritual age groups, about two qualities of the character of spiritual Young men. And this shows a special significance in God's House building of this spiritual age. First of all, we see that spiritual young men no longer have the power not Only to resist all the intrigues of the evil one, but also confidently I defeat him in a personal confrontation.

Their life and service to God Is under God's guidance and guidance of the Holy Spirit. They confidently use God's promises, destroying all plans The devil. But at the same time, sometimes self-confident because of the apparent success in Your service to God. It seems to them that they have already achieved everything and in Perfection know the will of God for themselves.

But it only happens At the level of their mind, since spiritual young men have not yet reached the full Spiritual maturity. That's why they often make mistakes and come to Disappointment. -21- At one time, being in this spiritual age due to my jealousy In the service of God, I literally took on everything thinking about what I should

To fulfill it. God tried to stop me from time to time, in In different places and at different times through prophecy told me about That I walk ahead of God. But it only lit up in me even more Jealousy of God. I started looking for other services for myself, Wanting to serve God as much as possible.

But it's time for me too I realized that God is just stopping me. After that, I completely Trusted the guidance of the Holy Spirit who began to guide me to The right channel for the service intended for me by God in the body of the Church. I want to use the example of physical young men to show how it looks in their Of life. Having reached adolescence, young people at the level of Of their mind and intelligence almost already know everything about Of your life.

In addition, thanks to modern technologies, their Knowledge is constantly multiplying. And when already mature people try to To insuate these young men in some way, they immediately answer them that we are We know. But only after their knowledge passes the test Life, grown-up young men will be able to manage them wisely in my Of life. The same thing happens with spiritual young men.

And here What the word of God says about this. -22- "Whoever thinks it knows something, he doesn't know anything yet like Should know. But whoever loves God is given knowledge from Him." 1-Cor.8:3

In the spiritual life, knowledge comes from God when we love We seek God's intimacy with Him through the Holy Spirit living in us. Guided by the knowledge received from God, we are protected from All kinds of misconceptions that believers often fall into Hope for their knowledge. Therefore, Apostle James warns Us about not rushing to become teachers based on Your knowledge. "My brothers!

Not many people make teachers, knowing that we are subjected to greater condemnation, because we all sin a lot. Who does not sin in word, that man is perfect, able to curb and The whole body." Jacob 3:2:1 If we teach something, we should teach according to what The Holy Spirit taught us. And also in line with our spiritual Age. In other words, the word that went through us and Taught us God's lesson, is able to teach and listen to us.

So it is not unimportant when you and I are called by God in Teacher's ministry. As mentioned. -23- "If you have a service, stay in the ministry; whether the teacher is in the teaching." Rom.12:7 During the period of spiritual youth, because of our jealousy of God, we

We take on everything, and even for what God did not command us to do. Often we make mistakes, fall, get disappointed, but at the same time we gain spiritual experience. And all this leads us to a spiritual Maturity. "In fact, we know that those who love God, called according to His will, all contribute to the good." Rom.8:28 It is also very important to understand that our service will be successful and Pleasing to God only if it will be done in accordance with our vocation in the body of the Church.

Personally, I always pray for my children's families that all members of these families can find your vocation not only in life, but also in serving God. And so we entered into their vocation and fulfilled it. Since each of us was born on this land to fulfill certain goals intended for us by God. And if on their life path someone managed to find these goals, enter them and fulfill them, he is the most happy person living on earth.

That's where I want to end your reasoning about spiritual youth and move on to the reasoning about The last age group of spiritual fatherhood. -24- Part four - Spiritual Fathers "I am writing to you, fathers, because you have known the thing from the beginning... I wrote

To you, fathers, because you have known the Unattained." From what the Apostle John said, we see that the spiritual fathers already knew God who lived from the beginning. There is a difference between believers who seek to learn more about God, and believers who thirst to know God more. The word to know is intimacy, an experience deep and close relationship with God, will connect with God on the level of our spirit. "And those who join with the Lord have one spirit with the Lord." 1- Cor.6:17 The Apostle John also says that the spiritual fathers also learned God as a beingless.

This indicates that believers those who have reached spiritual fatherhood already have the full knowledge about God. Let's now talk in more detail about spiritual fathers, because everything said in the word of God about this category of believers is not so definitely. And I'll try to explain it. -25- "And you are not called teachers, for you have only one Teacher - Christ, all but you are brothers; and do not call anyone on earth your own father, for one you are the Father who is in heaven; and do not be called your teachers, for you have only one Mentor - Christ." Mt.23:8-10 Reading the Bible, we sometimes find contradictions. In one place

The scriptures say one thing about the same thing, and in another completely other. And this can confuse us in the proposed by me the above biblical text says not to be called teachers, because we have one Teacher Jesus Christ. And I don't have anyone's father called as we all have one Father who is in heaven. Yes and no one was called a mentor, because we have one Mentor Christ.

And then we see that the five-sided service is one of the The gift of service is the teacher. And in my physical life Each of us has his own earthly father and calls him his father. Just as the Apostle Paul, as if contradicting what Jesus said Christ gives us such instruction. "Although you have thousands of mentors in Christ, not many fathers; I gave birth to you In Christ Jesus by the gospel." 1-Cor.4:15 If you look at all this from the position of the supreme power coming from God, there is no between Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul No contradictions.

Earthly fathers, earthly teachers and earthly Mentors, they are all sent to us by God for our temporary Stay on the ground. And calling them in accordance with their -26- Purpose in our lives and in our service to God, we do not

We violate the order established by God. If, of course, we don't put them In importance for us on a par with God. Spiritual fathers are already mature believers who have grown to full The age of Christ. God entrusted them with the most important mission, Father's mission.

And as Apostle Paul says, you and I have thousands Mentors in Christ Jesus, who were given by God in a difficult period Of life to support us. Help us not to stop on the way Faith and overcome on our life and spiritual path various Obstacles. But with all this, spiritual fathers are incomparably more. And this can be clearly seen in the example of our earthly fathers, who Invest a part of themselves in us.

They don't just temporarily care about Us, but they lead us through life as long as we are already alone We will be able to build our own prosperous Life. In the same way, spiritual fathers help us to become On the path of spiritual maturation and confidently grow into a full age Christ. But with all this, there are some conditions that Believers need to observe in order not to deviate from God's providence in his vocation from God. And it's in my personal The example shows us the Apostle Paul. -27- "Brothers, I don't consider myself an achiever; but only, forgetting the back and

Stretching forward, I strive for the goal, for the honor of the highest title God in Christ Jesus." Phil.3:14 Let's look at some of the obstacles that prevent us To grow in the full age of Christ. In the same way, we create them ourselves For yourself not wanting to leave the zone of my spiritual comfort. Often Believers who have reached one of the spiritual ages to stop In this state, not wanting to grow spiritually further. By this very These people destroy their faith and degrade without reaching Goals set by God in their calling from God.

One of the reasons This is that such believers are not ready to enter into a spiritual The swing that stands in their way and prevents them from growing in God. -28- Another reason for this is that we want to go back to Our blessed spiritual past. This is most often that time When we were at the age of spiritual young men. Since in this Period of time God used us like never before on his Field. Let me give you an example from the life of one blessed God A servant who was once under the leadership of The Holy Spirit and God used it strongly.

But over time they came Difficult trials after which this brother weakened in faith and

Due to his advanced age, he was no longer able to lead Spiritual swearing. Because of this, he refused to grow in full The age of Christ, to move from the age of the spiritual young man to the age of Spiritual father, which he never became, although all the prerequisites were to To this. This brother has been

constantly for several decades Just remembered what blessings he experienced being At the age of a spiritual young man. This is also peculiar to some believers Who have already reached the age of spiritual fatherhood, but have not been in Unusual situation for them are not able to enter the ministry Spiritual fathers.

I want to show it with an example of one more Blessed servant of God. -29- When the iron curtain collapsed and came to the former Soviet The Freedom Union for the Preaching of the Gospel, at the same time opened Departure to the United States for believers persecuted during the period Government of the communist regime. At this time, the family of one A minister who performed a pastoral ministry for a long time in Underground, wanted to emigrate to the United States. This servant was not Very successful in his ministry while under the leadership Holy Spirit. And don't look at the fact that this brother was already in a long Age, he did not want to leave the church and his ministry.

But under

With the pressure of his family, he still left for the United States. Being in America, brother Turned out to be in a bad way, was completely cut off from what was familiar to him Ministry and it destroyed him. He was constantly depressed Condition, survived several heart attacks and prematurely Died. -30- And what was this man's mistake? This brother couldn't forget Abundant blessings of his past ministry and could not Will accept the fact that it is impossible to return there.

The exit was and very Simple, which would allow him not only to extend the days of his Of life, but also to fulfill its purpose in the body of the Church. Spiritual The maturation of this brother was already at the level of spiritual fatherhood, Which he could realize in the conditions in which he found himself. And not Just to realize, but also to be very useful for believers In need of it. And that's what he needed to do.

To look for Communication with people in need of the ministry of spiritual fathers. This There could be small home groups, believers who wanted Grow spiritually, but do not have fatherly care for themselves. Let's take a look at it, but it's a simple life example. An experienced combat general, but because of his age he is in Reserve became a consultant at the army headquarters. sometimes more His wise

Strategic advice without direct participation in the clash on the field Battles can be very useful and lead the army to confusion Enemy. It wouldn't hurt to learn and the servants already Who grew up to the full age of Christ, but found themselves outside their Active service in the past. Many experienced ministers who emigrated to the United States and remained Without their usual service, resigned to it completely Degrade. They stop being active only because That their ministry was in the past.

Being in the thousandths Slovenian churches, these brothers only occasionally, in order Of the established queue serve there with the word of God. Once again, I want to say that this servant needs to be changed The way of your thinking and understand that in this spiritual season God Wants to use the spiritual potential they have accumulated in a new Direction. They should start to be active in conversations and Pastoral care with believers in need of fatherly care About them. Create home groups and attend already functioning Home groups.

Sharing your experience with believers is not yet Confirmed in faith, revealing the essence of their problems and pointing to their Decision. -31-

At one time, Apostle Peter after his long apostolic Ministry and has already grown in the full age of Christ, in the last Years of his life was a pastor of the Roman Church. It was his The ministry of the spiritual father, which is confirmed by Catholics, calling Apostle Peter as his first Pope of Rome. I want to say that That the violation of the principles of building a full spiritual age Prevents us from fulfilling our purpose in the body of the Church. Having reached all four spiritual ages on the path of faith, in our Service will manifest all their individual qualities, without Which we will not be able to increase in the full age of Christ.

Bats in Christ In addition to the four spiritual ages, there are also babies in Christ. Spiritual babies do not belong to the age groups of believers, These are mainly newly converted believers to God. But Spiritual babies can also be believers who have long known God Located in all spiritual age groups. -32- And this is clearly visible on the example of physical babies. Baby It's also a baby who is not able to take care of himself and In need of constant self-care.

Therefore, it is quite It is natural to take care of such a baby, as it is

Contributes to its further growth into a mature person. But When there is a paralyzed adult in the position of an infant Man, for all guardians about him it becomes overwhelming Burden. Believers may not be in this state Wishing to grow spiritually and reach the full age of Christ. Such believers feel quite comfortable in their Infancy.

And at the same time, among this category of believers There may also be people who have been in the service of God for many years. And about that Well said in the epistle to the Hebrews. "For judging by the time, you should have been teachers; but you again You need to teach the first principles of the word of God, you need milk, not Solid food. Everyone who eats milk, who is not knowledgeable in the word of truth, Because he is a baby; but solid food is characteristic of the perfect, Whose senses are skillfully accustomed to distinguish between good and evil." Ev.5:12-14 The danger of protracted spiritual infancy is that That such believers do not do what they should do in God's House building.

They themselves do not grow spiritually and are worth -33- An obstacle in the way of those who want to grow up to a full age Christ. Their life and ministry are not a role model

Believers who have not yet grown up in the Lord. And it stops on the way Faith of converts and weak in faith. In their sermons such People constantly present the beginnings of the teachings of Christ, as themselves Are still in them. A church built on such a doctrine is not Is able to achieve God's goals in God's housekeeping.

In In the epistle to the Hebrews, we find a solution by which we can To fix this problem in the church. "Therefore, having left the beginnings of the teachings of Christ, we will hasten to perfection; And we will not again lay the basis for conversion from the dead deeds and Faith in God, the doctrine of baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection Of the dead and eternal judgment. And we'll do it, God willing." Ev.6:1-3 We all need the beginnings of the teachings of Christ, but only on The initial stage of our service to God. This is the foundation in God's House building, which you and I have to put for Further our spiritual growth.

But the code instead To start your spiritual under the guidance of the Holy Spirit Structure, we are laying the foundations again, God's house building Stops and because of this, the church comes to a state of -34- Spiritual stagnation. You can pray a lot about awakening, but The awakening will not come until you and I leave our

Spiritual infancy that has already taken deep roots. "I couldn't talk to you, brothers, as spiritual, but as with Carnal, like babies in Christ. I fed you with milk, not Solid food, for you were not yet able, and now you are not able to, Because you are still carnal. For if there is envy between you, disputes and Disagreements, aren't you carnal?

And not according to human custom You're doing it." 1-Cor.3:1-3 From what the Apostle Paul said, we will see that babies in Christ Are not spiritual believers, they are believers who live according to the flesh. And we know from the Scriptures that those who live according to the flesh cannot please God. This category of believers needs more that only everyone And they were pleased in everything. Which is quite natural for both physical Infants, as well as for spiritual ones.

The Apostle Paul also shows that In the initial period of infancy of these believers, he fed milk, Because at that time they were not yet able to take solid food. But even after the same believers should have already Eat solid food, they still continued to stay on -The position of infants. This was evidenced by their actions, it's Envy, arguments and disagreements. All this is not peculiar to believers Who have reached spiritual maturity and we see this from what has been said -35-

Apostle Paul in the first Epistle to the Corinthians. "And if someone wanted to argue, we don't have such a custom, nor Churches of God." 1-Cor.11:16 Now let's see what were directly manifested in Disputes in the Corinthian Church. And why is it so Apostle Paul Worried a lot. "For from the household of Chloes it became known to me about you, brothers My, that there are disputes between you.

I understand what you say: "I Pavlov"; "I am Apollosov"; "I am Kifin"; "and I am Christ". Did you split up? Christ? Did Pavel give up for you?

Or in the name of Pavel you Were baptized." 1-Cor.1:13 In this biblical text, the Apostle Paul talks about believers Who are in three different Christian denominations Associations that adhere to the teachings of their spiritual leaders. What Apostle Paul says was not only happening in Corinthian Church, but perhaps in some other churches of that Time. All this can be observed in our time. According to this Reason, using the example of what Apostle Paul said, I will show As it applies to you and me. -36- In the first case, Pavel is talking about himself.

On the basis of confession

Apostle Paul had excessive revelations from God. And that's why his Followers could argue that the fundamental factor of their Revelations from God are worth the vocation in God. As it is said that without Revelations from above, the people are not curbed and die for lack of knowledge In turn, another spiritual leader, Apollos, was strong A speaker and knowing the Scriptures well. The main purpose of confession Of this association could be a preaching of the Gospel to people not To those who know God, as well as teaching, a deep study of the word of God.

Their The leader could show that this is what the ministry of the Apostles looked like Christ, who were engaged in evangelization and taught the word God to his students. And that's why there is God's will for Church of Jesus Christ. Another category of believers together with their spiritual leader Apostle Peter was jealous of the manifestation of the power of God. Apostle Peter can appeal to His Christ said by Jesus Disciples before ascending to heaven, that they will accept the power when on The Holy Spirit will come down to them.

And so by the fact that in His great By guarantee, Jesus Christ commanded believers to serve Him Through the manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, such Believers question exceptional loyalty. -37-

Confessions of the associations of the other two leaders. They claim that The manifestation of the power of God in healing and various miracles and signs Is the basis of the helping factor in our vocation in God. But what Apostle Paul said, you can see that confession Believers in all three different directions are wrong and Only serves as a division in the body of the Church. This is pure water Spiritual infancy, as it not only generates disputes, but also Exaltation over each other, envy and even open enmity.

The Church of Jesus Christ is His body, the fullness of the One who fills everything in Everything. He is the head of the body and you and I are of Christ. For this reason, all these Three directions in our ministry cannot be separately by themselves To myself. In the body of Jesus Christ, they are all one. -38- "For in Him dwelled all the fullness of the Deity bodily, and you have Fullness in Him, who is the head of all authority and authority." Col.2:9-10 Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry at the same time Was God and man and all the fullness of the Divine was in His Physical body.

All the directions of God's grace that we are about Spoke above manifested themselves in His earthly service. Similar

In this way, believers filled with the Holy Spirit are called by God so To be in His fullness. In conclusion, I will give my reasoning about spiritual infancy Several practical examples of the manifestation of infancy among the The first look of spiritually mature and deeply religious people. In This is mainly due to the affirmation of the position we have adopted because of Of our beliefs. -39- I personally knew a bishop who is twenty-five years old Served time for faith in Soviet prisons. His ministry and life were Worthy of imitation.

We young believers were spiritually built on Testimonies about his life and service to God. But with all this, often His conversations showed a character peculiar to the spiritual Babies. He said that our brotherhood is The founder of the Pentecostal movement in the Soviet Union and all The rest of the Pentecostal associations should come to us, because The truth is only with us. And he called the Baptist brothers ours Cousins.

This is how babies reason in Christ, because The church of Jesus Christ is a single and not lasting organism. Once I was sent by the Holy Spirit to one small group Believers. Despite the fact that there were opposites between

Views on some Bible truths, I was mistaken for my own. Because in the spiritual issues in which they developed, we had A lot in common. The pastor and I often had frank conversations about Reasons for

our contradictory views on some Biblical Truths. We never argued, but we tried to figure it out on Based on the teachings of the Bible.

And when I succeeded using the word God convince the pastor that their church doctrine does not correspond The teachings of the Bible, he immediately referred to the approved by his church Charter. -40- The pastor was unable to change anything in the charter they adopted For two reasons. On the one hand, it was necessary to admit our Beliefs for erroneous, and this could lead to a division in this And so a small group of believers. And on the other hand, so as not to Turn out to be an oath criminal and not fall under the condemnation of God. The current situation in this community resembled an act Of the elders of Israel with the Gabonites.

Elders of Israel Swore to save these people's lives and thereby violated that What God commanded them to do. On the other hand, if they Killed these people by fulfilling God's command, then they would bring on Yourself a curse from God. Finding yourself in such a situation, pastor,

In order not to become a criminal and not to fall under Condemnation from God, chose the church charter established by him. This way of thinking of this pastor is inherent in thinking Spiritual babies. Unshakable to stand in the position of your own Beliefs, even realizing that their beliefs do not correspond to The teachings of the Bible and prevent further growth in full The age of Christ. And very often in such situations they find themselves Some pastors, guided not by God's fear, but Human fear.

Even if they have already realized that they are standing on False path, in order not to lose what they created, they will be unshakably To assert your mistake. The main problem of such pastors is the loss of fear God's. The devil bound them with human fear and they became To please people, not to God. People's opinion, personal authority, Authority, such pastors were put above God's will for them.

This Spiritual people are very practical and rely on wisdom in everything Human. Apostle Paul characterizes such people as follows Image. -41- "The soul man does not accept what is from the Spirit of God, because He considers it crazy, and can't understand, because about it

It is necessary to judge spiritually. But the spiritual judges everything, and to judge him No one can. For who knows the mind of the Lord, that he can judge him? Oh We have the mind of Christ." 1-Cor.2:14-16 From what Apostle Paul said, it can be seen that believers are not Those who want to grow spiritually become spiritual people.

They Reflect the state of believers sitting in a state Babies. These people not only do not accept what comes from the Spirit God's, but also unable to do it, because they reason from the position of Human wisdom, practicality and prudence. According to this The reason why such believers are not able to reach God's Definitions in your life and in your service to God.

The church Which Jesus Christ created is designed to achieve God's goals and To grow in the full age of Christ. -42- "And He made some Apostles, others, others prophets, others - Evangelists, others - pastors and teachers, to the commission of saints, For the work of service, for the building up of the Body of Christ; so that we may not be More than babies who are carried away by all wind teachings, by cunning People, by the cunning art of seduction, but with true love All returned and the One Who is the head of Christ." Eph.4:11-15 In conclusion, I want to say that what I taught in this book

Today is more important than ever for the construction of the body of Christ. We are with you We are in anticipation of the admiration of the Church and must prepare Yourself to meet our Lord in the clouds. That's why I ask you not to Be idle, don't be like unreasonable virgins, stock up Oil, fix your lamps. So that when the voice sounds Archangel, we went out with the burning lamps to meet our To God.