

The Strength of a Father

Silent Men

Men are uniquely called to remember what God has said and to speak accordingly, to move into dangerous uncertainty with a confidence and wisdom that comes from listening to God. Instead, like Adam, we forget God and remain silent.

And Satan keeps winning too many victories: in our society, in our churches, and in the lives of our wives, children, and friends. It is time for men to recover their voices, to listen to God – and to speak.

(Larry Crabb in *The Silence of Adam*, pg 12).

Today's Dad

- 4.2 million fathers in Canada
- 20% of single-parent homes are led by fathers
- new dads are taking more parental leave
- wanting to work smarter, not harder
- want to be their child's superhero
- want to be good role-models for their children
- an involved family man who would rather spend time reading to his children than watching the news

Strong Fathers

When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe.

Luke 11:21

Strong Fathers

- “When”
- a strong man
 - strength under control
 - Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Eph 6:4)
 - strength for when things get tough
 - self-control
 - control that calls us from dominance to respect or from silence to initiative

Strong Fathers

- fully armed
 - prayer
 - listening to your child
 - give your child time to listen to you
 - your quiet time
 - your hope in your child
 - your character matters
 - your band of brothers

Strong Fathers

- guards his own house
 - relationship with mom
 - value of his children
 - acknowledges the Lordship of Christ
- his possessions are safe
 - good guidance
 - His father had never interfered with him by asking, “Why do you behave as you do?” He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom. (1 Ki 1:6)

Strong Fathers

See I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.

He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.

Malachi 4:6