



“...they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.”


— Luke 5:19

# Recap

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- We are called to be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, and thus His Church.
- Discipleship is a lifelong journey
- Having a spiritual father will help provide security on our path to the Kingdom.





# Discipleship and Spiritual Fatherhood — Part 2

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Precautions regarding spiritual  
fatherhood

How to benefit from a spiritual father



# Precautions Regarding Spiritual Fatherhood

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# 1. Those who object

## OBJECTIONS

- “It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.” (Jn. 6:45)
- “But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. 9 Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. 10 And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.” (Matt. 23:8-10)

# A response for those who object

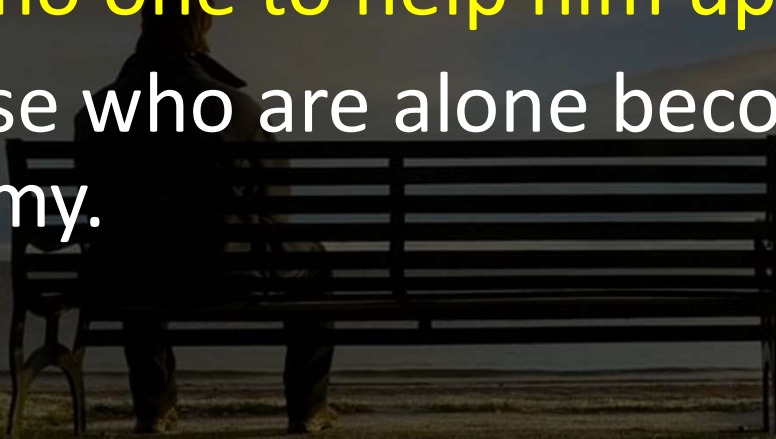
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- “Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.” (Heb. 13:7)
- “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” (Heb. 13:17)
- Discipleship requires humility
- All heretics refused to learn from the Church, and chose their own ideas



## 2. That we remain alone

- Lest we fall and have no one to raise us up
- “... woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up.” (Eccl. 4:10)
- Those who are alone become easy prey to the enemy.





### 3. Frequently changing a spiritual father

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- When he does not tell me what I want to hear
- “There is still one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the Lord; but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.” (1 Kings 22:8)



## 4. Hiding a sin

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- Perhaps out of shame
- He/she knows what their spiritual father will say and does not want to change.
- “But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.” (Eph. 5:13)



How to benefit from a  
spiritual father?

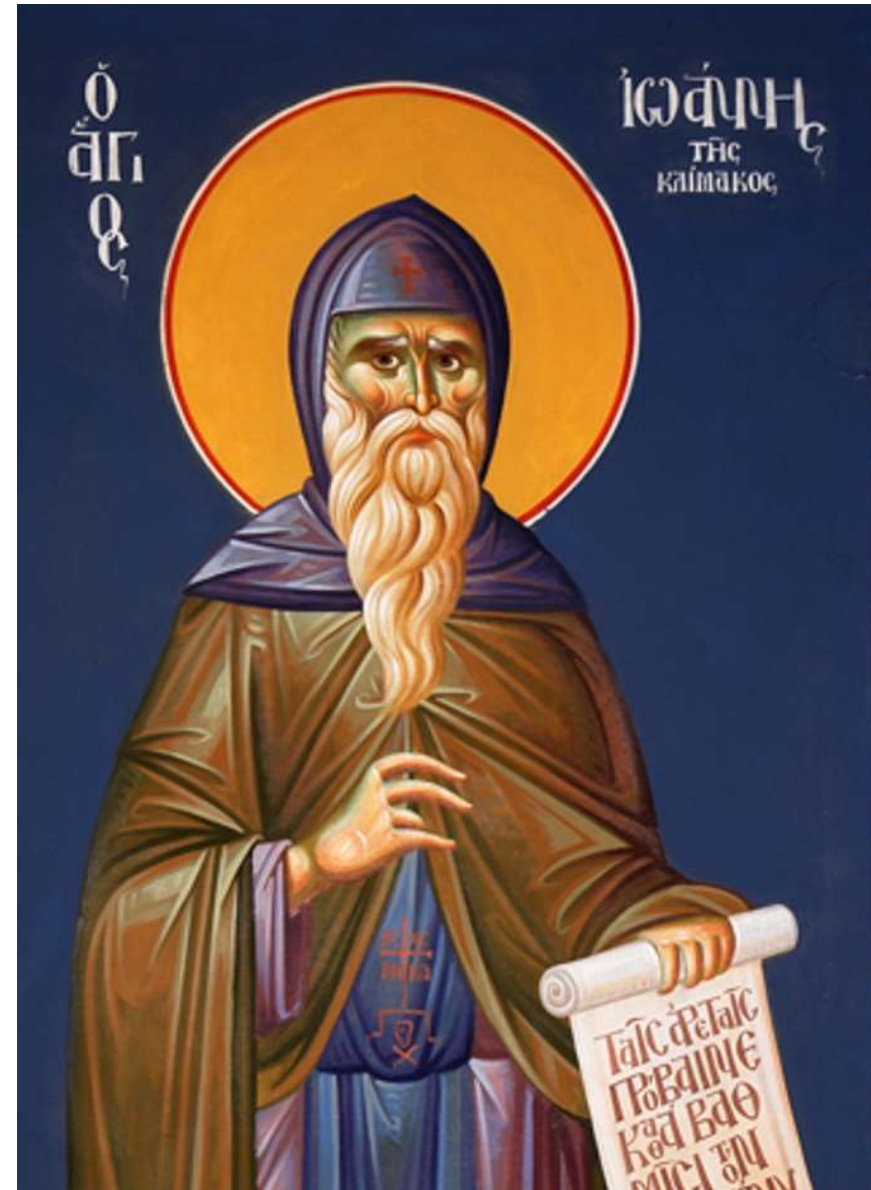
# 1. Love

- Mutual love
- *“There is nothing that can lead to learning thus; only by love and by being loved.” (St. John Chrysostom)*



## 2. Faith/Trust

- We trust without hesitation or inner doubts
- *“One must believe without a care in those who have undertaken to tend us.”* (St. John Climacus)





### 3. Obedience

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- Just as it is the father's duty to remain alert, it is likewise the child's duty to obey and faithfully observe his guidance.
- God speaks to us through our spiritual fathers
- Do not try to use your spiritual father as a stamp of approval

**OBEDIENCE**

*is not the mark of a slave; it is  
one of the prime qualities of*

**LEADERSHIP**