

Pastor Patrick Kaveny: A father in the making...

Getting Started

In November of 1987, Patrick Kaveny met Jesus Christ, who began revealing to him the Father young Patrick had never known.

Right away Patrick asked God for a family who he could teach about the things of God. He asked if he could have at least a boy and girl. He then asked to become a grandparent...and told God he would also teach that generation about Him. As God gave him years of life he soon learned God would be faithful in answering those prayers.

Today Patrick Kaveny has been in ministry going on nineteen years. One of the things people always remark about him is his deep intimacy with God and his ability to hear from God. The other would be his passionate heart for children. When asked about his relationship with God, he says "I would attribute everything to Jesus who loved me so much He gave His life for me, so I could know His Father as my Abba Father (Daddy). The Father has taught me how to be a father, and Jesus has taught me how to be a son of God through the Holy Spirit. All I did was let them."

He also attributes his relationship with God to those who God used on earth to bring His Kingdom into his life. When he was a baby in the Lord, with many extreme issues, it seemed that most of those helping to raise him up as a Christian were women at church. He said "The lack of commitment in the men to do this always concerned me."

It was only later, as he felt the call to ministry, when men who were leaders from churches nearby, were willing to help him. He was grateful to those who had the heart to shepherd and guide him. He recalls three men in his life who were "fathers" to him. All of these men felt called by God to see that he became all that God wanted him to be. They spoke the things of God into his life. They were willing to commit to him, without reservation, "until the last breath left their body." Their role in his life was much different than just mentoring. These men had a "father's commitment." He says that it has taken him all twenty-two years to fully realize just how valuable and how much of an impact these men have been in his life.

Although Pastor Pat has been a pastor for many years and has traveled quite often to bring a prophetic voice to many regions of our nation, these ministry things are not his main focus. If you were to ask what was most important to him, he would answer, "The first thing is to really know God as your father through Jesus, and walk with Him, to please Him. The second is to be a father to as many as God will allow so he could pass on to the children everything he receives from God during the rest of his lifetime."

He has always believed that God has called believers in America to come into much deeper commitments to Jesus which would prepare them for the dark time he saw coming to this nation. He would both minister locally and travel to different regions, pleading with believers to go deeper in the Word, to prepare, to pursue the heart of God, not just His hand of blessing. He consistently called people to seek a radical relationship and obedience to God. He would always tell them to be listening, be willing to do anything for God at anytime.

The testimony of His life in Christ has been powerful...and painful. A few years back, someone asked him what is the most important thing you have received from God since being saved? His reply was **“BROKENNESS.”** He said brokenness is the place where you are prepared for the heart of God and His extreme will in your life.

Only Believe

Prior to 2004 he had no children of his own, at least not on paper. He was, however, a “father” to many. Although he was a pastor to a mostly adult, inner-city congregation, at Saturday night church many area children started showing up just to receive people’s attention. Most nights there were only a handful of adults to oversee many dozens of children, so he sometimes thought he had failed to minister to the children. Then, to his surprise, more children would show up the next week. Some weeks there were as many as eighty.

Every year his small inner-city church would raise thousands of dollars so they could take 20-30 children to camp for a week. One year their camp experience was a disaster. The type of children his church brought from his poor neighborhood did not fit well with the well-behaved “church choir” type of children that typically came from other churches. You see, Pastor Pat wanted the children no one else wanted. He was heartbroken when most of his adult congregation came to him and said they would no longer be going along to help with camp.

Once more, God was faithful. In prayer one day, he heard God say to him, “I am going to pay for you to take more than one hundred children to a camp that will love the children you love.” When he shared this with others, they told him, as he had heard so many times before, that he was crazy.

Two years later, he met a man named Harry Douma. Harry operated Camp Penuel. Camp Penuel was a camp geared toward the inner-city children Pastor Pat loved. When Pastor Pat saw Harry’s camp he thought it was not only nice, it was the nicest camp he had ever seen. One day, Harry drove through Pastor Pat’s neighborhood with him. As they drove, Harry began to weep. He told Pastor Pat that if he could get one hundred children from this area, then he would pay for their week at camp (about \$32,000). Pastor Pat’s immediate answer was “Yes, I’ll do it.” Within a few years, Pastor Pat was bringing nearly 300 children to Camp Penuel...all paid for by God!

Something Was Missing

As he went to camp every year, he felt that although this was a very good work, with many decisions for Jesus, and many lives changed each year, that much was still missing. It seemed what most of the children really wanted, was just a family to love and guide them. Camp provided that sort of environment for a week, however, when camp was over, many of these children would go back to turmoil and chaos in their homes and neighborhoods. Some would later even be killed. Pastor Pat always had a vision of a people with deep commitments to the Lord, taking these precious children as their own, and raising them.

Broken To Serve

In 2004, Pastor Pat went through a season of extreme brokenness. After long battles with cancer, his mother passed away in March, and then three weeks later his wife of almost seventeen years went to be with the Lord.

That year at camp, Pastor Pat was even more passionate about these little ones. One day, some of the boys had been fighting. Camp leaders took them down to the campfire area and ministered to them about how they should bless even their enemies because that pleased God. On the way back up the hill, one little boy came running up behind Pastor Pat. He said with a sad face that he wanted to bless someone, but that he could not. When Pastor Pat asked him why, he said he wanted to bless his dad, but his father had been killed. Pastor Pat just stopped, sat down and held him. The boy said his dad was murdered just weeks before, at about the same time Pastor Pat had lost his wife. As they wept together, the little boy looked up at Pastor Pat and said "Will you be my daddy." Needless to say, Pastor Pat became even more passionate toward helping these children.

From Childless Widower To Husband...And Father

Later that same year God brought a new family into his life. He met a single mom whose husband had left her for another woman. She stayed single for a long time, waiting on God for the right man. One of the important standards she had set for any new relationship was that the man would have to love her children and raise them God's way. She had a girl and a boy. God confirmed Pastor Pat's relationship with her many times and in very specific ways. They later married and Pastor Pat gained a family. A few years later while sharing the testimony about his life and his new God-given family with some folks, his daughter was listening and began doing a little math. She figured out that she was born nine months from the time Pastor Pat had asked God in prayer for a family in November of 1987. She was born in July of 1988 (do the math). Those who knew Pastor Pat could begin to see that God was now molding this pastor/prophet into a father for such a time as this.

During the first years of being a father in this new family, Pastor Pat cried out a lot to God. He needed more wisdom and began constantly asking God to teach him about being a dad. While he learned much about being a father, he also learned about God as a father. He found God was not looking for him to be an expert already, but God wanted someone who was willing to learn what He would teach. The Bible is the handbook.

Pastor Pat's new family had a lot of wounds. So did Pastor Pat. He said, "If you would have seen them all together at first, you would have thought his family was a disaster." Yet it was God's choosing to bring them together and His healing power would be more than enough. Today, they are one of the closest families you could ever meet...all focused on God. There's is a house of prayer. Their whole family walks as a tight knit ministry. Pastor Pat says only God could have done this. He states "I have learned much about God's restoring power as a result of what He has done in my family. God has taught me to be a father, my wife to be a wife, and my children to be sons and daughters as the Bible shows we are to be. If we would not have had to walk through this together with God by our side, then we would not be where we are today."

During this time Pastor Pat had lost his spiritual father, a man of God who had shown him more about fathering "God's way" than anyone ever had. Pastor Pat had developed such a close relationship with this man, they thought of themselves as father and son. One day, Pastor Pat was missing this man, his "daddy." He began to pray and tell God how much he missed having the encouragement of a man who believed in him and stuck with him, "no matter what." The Lord's response to Pastor Pat was, "It is now time for you to become what he was to you. And this is his legacy, I am going to give you a double portion of a father's heart." All Pastor Pat could do was weep and thank God.

The Night He Heard “The Cry”

By 2007, he had been a pastor of a local church for many years. The church was growing, they had large outreach ministries, and they had a ministry program on radio and even were interviewed a few times for TV news stations. To onlookers it probably appeared as if things were going well. However, all Pastor Pat could do was weep, and say “I am not in God’s will.” Many around him thought it to be depression, but it was not. He was on the “potter’s wheel” being molded and broken for God’s purposes.

One night on his way home, as he approached his exit, he heard the voice of the Lord say “Keep driving.” Then the Lord said, “I am about to show you what I have created you for from the foundation of the earth. I am about to show you why I have created you for such a time as this.”

As he passed the exit, he felt God’s presence fill his vehicle. He was led by God for two and a half hours through the east side of the St. Louis metro area. God allowed him to hear hundreds of cries of the fatherless children in that area. Each time he would hear a cry, it was as if he knew the whole life of that person. It was as if God allowed him to hear and see what was coming before His throne. God told him that evening, that these cries were His main issue with the American people and that He would soon visit the nation concerning the peoples’ response to these cries. God also gave Pastor Pat a vision of a great move of healing that would come to those whose cries he heard that night. All Pastor Pat would say is that it was a sound of mercy, restoration, forgiveness, and compassion unlike anything this world had ever seen. To him it was such a great outpouring that it must be God fulfilling the words from Malachi 4:6.

Pastor Pat knew the time of darkness he had seen coming for years was soon approaching and that he had to drop anything and everything which did not have to do with these cries he had heard. He knew deep inside God would bring forth what he saw in the vision and pour out mercy and open the Heaven in the midst of this dark time he saw approaching. During the next months he spent countless hours in fasting and prayer, seeking wisdom, and understanding about what had been revealed to him.

Sent Out

The one thing he did know was that responding to these cries was more important than anything God had ever asked of him. And he knew the outcome of our nation was riding on its peoples’ response to God’s heart on this matter. After the death of his spiritual father, the Lord graciously put another man of God in his life to discuss the things of God with him. He told this man, who was also a pastor, that he was not able to let him know everything right then, however, he just needed for him to cover his family with prayer while God worked out the details. Pastor Pat was grateful to this man for his steadfast commitment to honor the request.

A short time later, Pastor Pat felt a release to share what had he had heard from God with the man. All this pastor could say is “That is the burden of the Lord.” Then the pastor brought Pastor Pat and his family before the church and blessed them, sending them forth to carry out the Lord’s mandate.

The Test

Since that time Pastor Pat has tirelessly shared the message of “The Cry” with whoever would listen. Many have viewed it as “just another message.” However, others have now begun to receive it and live it.

Wherever the message of “The Cry” has been received, a cry of mercy comes forth, with a move of God following. Hearts begin to change. A heart of fathering rises, and so does the level of God’s presence. Where the message is rejected, the presence of God seems to leave.

He and his family were about to go to Mobile, Alabama, a city said by some living there to have nearly a 50% fatherless rate. He felt led by God to meet with pastors and intercessors and explain to them that if they wanted a real move of God in their city, God wanted them to take responsibility for the fatherless there.

The night before he was to depart for Mobile, his wife was teaching her last college class before they would leave. He went to a prayer meeting. The worship got intense and the topic came up “What will you do when God confronts you and the cost of your obedience is high?” At this same time a young girl in his wife’s class approached her with a personal question. The girl told his wife that her friend was facing prison time for drugs and the woman didn’t know what to do with her two boys, ages two and nine months old. She was looking for a family to take them and asked us if Pastor Pat’s family would help her by taking them.

Immediately Pastor Pat’s wife came over to the church and shared what had just taken place. Suddenly, Pastor Pat was confronted by God. He was going to Mobile to tell them to deal with this fatherless issue and now God was asking him to do the same. What was he was going to do? The decision was made that very night and now Pastor Pat’s family has two wonderful little boys name Christian and JJ. Pastor Pat has found that whoever truly receives the message of “The Cry” will be soon be tested by God when they start to respond as God desires. He has witnessed that God’s test cannot be avoided as it determines who really is walking according to the Bible and willing to raise God’s children according to His ways.

Pastor Pat’s family went to Mobile a week later. After they arrived, for eight nights his family would go down into the heart of the city to fast and pray. Each night, God would move in awesome ways in the lives of people there. Folks they met were saved, healed, and delivered every night. He watched as God was doing these things through his new family which only God could have knit together with His love.

For the most part, though, the Mobile area people and churches he met with rejected the message of “The Cry” he brought from God. They wanted something different. After spending a month in the city, Pastor Pat was out of money and discouraged. He and his family went one last time to pray in the heart of the city. While battling inside his heart, Pastor Pat and his family sat waiting for some sort of a response in prayer. But there was only silence. Pastor Pat was silent and down. Then out of that silence came a small voice. It was the voice of Christian, their two-year-old little boy. That voice said “Papa pray.” At first, Pastor Pat did not respond. The little boy got more demanding and said this again twice more. It was clear to Pastor Pat that he had heard God’s voice through a child, who only a few weeks before had not been part of his family. Moreover, the little boy had not been taught the things of God before joining his new family. Pastor Pat knew God had not only spoken to him, but to a city. Then he heard God tell him to go back home and stay; that a move of God’s heart would soon take place in the area where he lived.

God’s Favor

One thing Pastor Pat began to realize as he went to his home near St. Louis was that God’s favor was really on all of this he had been given. It was obvious that God had chosen to pour out His move of restoration in the area. What started out as a faint heartbeat of this new move of God, has now become stronger, and stronger.

The Lord began connecting people and ministries whose hearts were being stirred by God. Heavenly appointments became a normal, almost daily occurrence. God spoke to Pastor Pat, telling him that He had chosen specifically to adopt Granite City, Illinois, to raise up a “daddy’s heart.” This place was known mostly as an abortion city. However the atmosphere and the heart of the city has now begun to change. At some level, many of the area churches have begun to receive the message Pastor Pat was bringing from God.

The ones who were really beginning to “get God’s heart” were the youth, particularly one group made up of youth from several area churches. They were gathering weekly for worship and prayer. One day Pastor Pat was invited to attend. Although being a leader and being much older than these youth, he was made to feel as part of their group. Most nights when he attended their meetings, Pastor Pat just prayed, listened, and watched God work in them. God was revealing to them much of what He had already shown to Pastor Pat over the years. These youth walked in the things that Pastor Pat had longed to see in God’s people for years.

Pastor Pat felt called to serve them as a father. He sensed his responsibility was to raise them up, not exalt himself; that God’s plan was for him to be a father to them and to serve them. To his surprise they later decided to call him a “daddy” of the group. To him, this was the highest honor he could have been given from them.

Members of this group began to be sent out by God. People around the state, and even the nation, are now starting to ask “What is going on in Granite City?” God is using these youth to birth His “heart for the fatherless” in other areas of the nation. Now, Pastor Pat is seeing them beginning to walk in the restoration that God had revealed to him prophetically on the night of that drive with God.

Broken Further

While away from home one day, Pastor Pat felt the urgency to get home ASAP. As he approached his community, he was passed by two county sheriff’s cars, and they were really moving. When he got closer to his neighborhood, he asked God where he was to turn. Around the next corner were the two police cars, two ambulances, and a rescue vehicle parked in front of his neighbor’s home. The Lord prompted Pastor Pat to stop. In the front yard was a little boy, about eleven years old, crying and holding his two-year-old sister in his arms. The mother was quickly giving information to the ambulance driver, then she got into the ambulance and rode away. This little boy was now alone with his sister. He said to Pastor Pat, that his three-week-old brother had quit breathing. Pastor Pat just held him and prayed.

This family had many issues, which included receiving an eviction notice only days earlier. However the immediate dilemma was the three other children, ages 4-7, who were on their way home from school and their grandmother had not arrived yet. The paramedic got in touch with the grandmother and received permission to leave the children with Pastor Pat until she arrived. For a short while that day, Pastor Pat’s family had nine children, including their own, in their home. The four-year-old, thought to suffer from Autism, was very afraid, but as Pastor Pat picked her up to hold her, she just melted in his arms, as if to say, “I am safe in a fathers arms.” His heart also melted.

It was at that point when Pastor Pat told the Lord, “OK, I’ll do anything you want for Your children.”

Taking Another Step In Faith

Once again Pastor Pat felt stirred by God. With all that was happening, something still seemed to be missing. He needed to get away and hear from God. But funds were tight. He couldn't handle an expensive trip.

After some prayer, Pastor Pat really was impressed by God to go down to the rivers in southeast Missouri. His family had never been to this area. When they arrived, everyone commented how "they were in the middle of nowhere." No cell phones, internet, or noise...just peace. Pastor Pat thought to himself how nice it would be to have a place like this for city youth to come and hear from God. It would be a place where they could hear the things God had for them. A place where their cry could go out to a waiting Father.

The next morning as he went with his son to get a cup of coffee, Pastor Pat began to talk to the lady at the cash register. He shared with her from his heart concerning what God had been showing him. As he did, she opened the cash register and gave him his money back. She said, "I feel God wants me to bless you." This caused Pastor Pat to wonder if God was up to something. Almost every place he went in the region began to give him favor like this. Business people seemed almost willing to give him anything.

He returned a couple of weeks later to this same area, and once more this favor followed him everywhere in this area. Even non-believers gave him favor for no explainable reason. It had to be God! Now God had his attention. It was obvious that God had something for him in southeast Missouri. Pastor Pat sensed God wanted him to get land for these youth. But he knew he needed God's direction and heart on the matter.

God, What Do You Really Want From Me?

As Pastor Pat asked God this question, the Lord began to reveal His will in great detail one day. Pastor Pat heard God clearly, as if sitting down listening to his father's wishes. He gave him a plan to one day build a children's home which would be a place where he could pour the things of God into their lives. It would be a place where God could teach a fatherless generation how to be good parents when they grew up.

It now seems as if God has given him the keys to this southeast Missouri region for His divine purposes. An area land developer is helping him secure the land. Not just some land, but some of the best in the area. Everyone involved is responding to what is important to God.

The Heart of God

God has called Pastor Pat not only to be a prophetic voice in these dark times, but to be an example of God's heart and will for His people. What God had been speaking, Pastor Pat had now become.

Much more could have been said about this journey with God which Pastor Pat has been on for over twenty-two years. Along the way, God has been slowly revealing his heart to, and through Pastor Pat.

It took God all these years to bring Pastor Pat to this place of understanding concerning what is on God's heart. And it took Pastor Pat all these years to realize God had been asking him two very important questions all along the way. Pastor Pat's passion of his heart is now for you, too, to be able to answer these same two questions in a way that will please God.

Do you here the cry? What will you do?