



# HOAW Newsletter

*Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13*

*I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13*

## January 2022

HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

## Lessons from Jonathan

**Dr. Greg Bourgond**

In every man there is a hero longing to emerge—a hero who will save the day; who will rise above threatening circumstances; who will be victorious against impossible odds; who will spend his life on a cause to die for, a challenge to embrace, or loved ones to protect; who will be remembered for the good he has done when God calls him home.

Every man wants to know there is purpose to his life, that he is productive in accordance with his potential, and that his life matters.

Every leader in Christ wants to expand God's kingdom on earth, to make a difference in the world, and to further God's redemptive purposes.

**Yes – there is a hero deep inside each of you dying to get out like “Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies (Hebrews 11:32-34).”**

### **What is a hero...**

A **hero** is a man distinguished by exceptional courage and nobility and strength; champion: someone who fights for a cause.

*A **hero** is someone who moves beyond fear toward battles his heart has to win, who conquers not so much with forceful bravado; but by summoning strength from within.*

*A **hero** is someone whose sense of what's right propels him as nothing else could, and when he performs beyond all his dreams; it is selflessly for other's good.*

*It is not within him to carry revenge, nor to boast of victories won, but to quietly face every new challenge; doing what needs to be done.*

*And even if fate deals him less than fair hands, he plays them with fairness of heart, for it is an inherent goodness within that sets a **hero** apart.*

**How about God's unsung heroes; men and women who lay it all on the line every day without notoriety or acclaim, without applause or acknowledgement, without ceremony or reward? Such obscurity is honored by God.**

Maybe God is calling you to **obscurity** (not drawing attention; unnoticed; unsung; inconspicuous),

the **brotherhood of the unheralded, the company of the unappreciated.**

In my devotions one day I read the following ...

God will not take us down easy paths to conform us to Jesus. He does not lead us on a walk in the park, but toward a struggle in the garden of Gethsemane, where strong wills are subdued, and the glory of God and the welfare of others compete with our own personal plans. And we know when we get there, that He will lead us into death.

It's a painful death, but a glorious one. The other side of it is resurrection, which God has planned all along. Our ultimate, humble obedience will lead to high exaltation. Why?

Because a lowly-then-exalted Jesus has called us.

**What do heroes have in common...**

- 1 They put their self-interests aside for the sake of others.
- 2 They leaned into their fear and acted on their values.
- 3 They stepped outside of their comfort zone and took uncharacteristic risks.
- 4 They shunned the mantle of 'hero' and simply did what needed to be done.
- 5 They acted on their beliefs and values because it was the right thing to do.

You may not feel like a hero but there is a hero within you.

What does a hero after God's heart look like? We could look at Moses, Daniel, Elijah or Paul.

Instead, I would like us to look at four heroes in the Bible that have received less acclaim than these giants of the faith—two warriors and two prophets.

We can learn a lot about leadership from their example!

## How about Jonathan?

**Jonathan** was a close friend of David. Although he was the rightful heir to the throne of his father Saul, he recognized that David was God's anointed. He must decrease and David must increase. He defended and protected David at great peril to his own life. He challenged the Philistines and trusted God for victory against great odds.

His courage, valor, and humility set him apart as a man after God's heart.

## Nine Characteristics of a Hero after God's Heart (1 Samuel 14:1-14)

**Let's pick up the story ...**

*One day Jonathan, son of Saul, said to the young man bearing his armor, "Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side." But he did not tell his father.*

### 1. A hero after God's heart takes initiative (v.1)

*Saul was staying on the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree in Migron. With him were about six hundred men, among whom was Ahijah, who was wearing an ephod. He was a son of Ichabod's brother Ahitub son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD's priest in Shiloh. No one was aware that Jonathan had left.*

### 2. A hero after God's heart does not always announce his plan (vs. 2-3).

*On each side of the pass that Jonathan intended to cross to reach the Philistine outpost was a cliff; one was called Bozez, and the other Seneh. One cliff stood to the north toward Micmash, the other to the south toward Geba.*

### 3. A hero after God's heart doesn't allow circumstances to overwhelm him (vs. 4-5).

*Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few."*

### 4. A hero after God's heart trusts the outcome to God (v.6).

*"Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul." Jonathan said, "Come, then; we will cross over toward the men and let them see us."*

### 5. A hero after God's heart is a risk-taker (vs. 7-8).

Neil Anderson, founder of Freedom in Christ Ministries and author of Victory Over Darkness and Bondage Breaker, speaks on the important subject of risk.

*"Risks," says Dr. Anderson, "must be taken because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing. The person who risks nothing does nothing, has nothing, is nothing. He may avoid suffering and sorrow, but he simply cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love . . . live. Chained*

*by his certitudes, he is a slave; he has forfeited freedom.*

*What a privilege for us to be able to walk by faith in God Himself, armed with all the promises of His Word. I suppose we all desire the security of the solid tree trunk, but the fruit is out on the limb. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.*

*The timid soul asks, "What do I stand to lose if I do it?" The fruit-bearing Christians asks, "What do I stand to lose if I don't do it?" Real life is lived on the cutting edge."*

*If they say to us, 'Wait there until we come to you,' we will stay where we are and not go up to them. But if they say, 'Come up to us,' we will climb up, because that will be our sign that the LORD has given them into our hands."*

#### **6. A hero after God's heart relies on God's guidance (vs.9-10).**

*So, both of them showed themselves to the Philistine outpost. "Look!" said the Philistines. "The Hebrews are crawling out of the holes they were hiding in." The men of the outpost shouted to Jonathan and his armor-bearer, "Come up to us and we'll teach you a lesson." So Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "Climb up after me; the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel."*

#### **7. A hero after God's heart engages the challenge regardless of the odds (vs.11-12).**

*Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and*

*killed behind him. In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre.*

#### **8. A hero after God's heart lays it all on the line (vs.13-14).**

*Then panic struck the whole army—those in the camp and field, and those in the outposts and raiding parties—and the ground shook. It was a panic sent by God.*

#### **9. A hero after God's heart knows he isn't fighting alone (v.15).**

**Hebrews 12:1-3** *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us **throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles**, and let us **run with perseverance** the race marked out for us. Let us **fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.***

### **Three Purposes for Our Lives**

**John Eldridge**, author of *Wild at Heart*, says God has created men for three purposes; **a cause to die for, a challenge to embrace**, and **loved ones to protect**. If we run from these responsibilities we will lose our true identity—the identity God gave us before we ever came to be.

Christ is our model for manhood — He had a '**cause**' to die for — atonement for the sins of the world, a **challenge** to embrace—the

suffering of the cross, and **love ones to protect**-- the redemption of mankind.

- 1 What cause, larger than yourself, are you prepared to die for?
- 2 What challenge does God want you to embrace?
- 3 Who has God called you to protect?

Living in accordance with who God wired (*ordained, designed, created*) you to be will take courage and risk. We are told in Scripture to...

*Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.*  
1 Corinthians 16:13

My friend Erwin McManus says "courage is not the absence of fear; it is the absence of self.

Taking risks is a part of life. Taking risks is a part of every man's DNA.

What have you risked for the sake of another lately?

What have you risked for the sake of God's kingdom lately?

*Philippians 4:13* *I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.*

It is fairly easy today to sound like an expert on just about anything to day. The Internet gives us access to data on just about any subject. We can sound like an expert.

Politicians often make statements, declarations, proclamations and promises they rarely keep. Each political hopeful builds his campaign on the broken promises of the politicians they hope to



replace—the cycle repeats itself over and over again.

The same can be said of many Christian leaders. Talk is cheap as the saying goes. Standing in stark contrast to empty rhetoric is committed action.

***You see--nobody really cares what you have to say until they observe how you live. If you live a life of courage, honor, and integrity; if your life bears testimony to what you believe and what you value; if you choose to live and act in accordance with God's redemptive purposes—then people will notice, then they will listen to what you have to say, even if they disagree with you.***

A life well lived appears extraordinary to ordinary people. Take a risk for the kingdom, do something out of the ordinary, be courageous, be different—be a Jonathan and see what God will do!

**Have you identified a cause to die for, a challenge to embrace, and loved ones to protect?**

**Causes to die for ...**

- 1 Getting serious with God
- 2 Living in bold relief (godliness).
- 3 Defending a just cause
- 4 Giving your life for another
- 5 Answering God's call
- 6 Spreading the Gospel

**Challenges to embrace ...**

- 1 Suffering for Christ.
- 2 Victory over bad behavior
- 3 Sacrificing for others. *Out-serving your wives*
- 4 Forgiving others. *70 x 7 – Same Person*
- 5 Doing the right thing.

- 6 Changing the direction of your life.
- 7 Being the husband and father, you need to be.

**Loved ones to protect ...**

- 1 The under-privileged, under-resourced, under-served, or under-represented.
- 2 The unsaved, unwanted, unloved, or unattractive.
- 3 Our wives, children, or grandchildren.

## OTHER NEWS



**Heart of a Warrior Ministries** offers four journeys you can take to become who God created you to be.

**The Foundation** (Ground Zero) helps

establish strong biblical foundations for the battles ahead.

**The Compass** (Phase I) calibrates a warrior's heart and tunes that heart to the heart of God. I am currently leading 45 at Calvary Church WBL Campus on this journey.

**The Map** (Phase II) helps men focus on what matters in accordance with their unique divine wiring.

**The Guide** (Phase III) develops the spiritual discipline of being mentored and mentoring others.

Go to our website for more details.  
[www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/](http://www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/)

If you would like to contact me directly, email me at [Greg@HeartofaWarrior.org](mailto:Greg@HeartofaWarrior.org).



## Donations

Please consider giving to Heart of a Warrior Ministries. HOAW Ministries needs your financial support. Our ability to help men live God-honoring lives depends on the resources we can use to that end. Simply go to the

donations tab on [heartofawarrior.org](http://heartofawarrior.org). Thank you for being a subscriber.

Check out **The Store** on our website ([www.heartofawarrior.org](http://www.heartofawarrior.org)). There are downloadable resources you can use to lead a group through Phases I, II, or III, Foundations of a Warrior, and Bible Study Guidelines.

## Websites for Men

**Heart of a Warrior Ministries**  
[www.Heartofawarrior.org](http://www.Heartofawarrior.org)

**Legacy Minded Men**  
[www.legacymindedmen.org](http://www.legacymindedmen.org)

**Church for Men**  
<http://churchformen.com/>

**Resolute**  
<https://beresolute.org/>

**Life Way Men**  
<https://blog.lifeway.com/leadingmen/>

**Men's Fraternity**  
<http://www.mensfraternity.com/>

**Man in the Mirror**  
<http://maninthemirror.org/>

**Men with No Regrets**  
<http://www.menwithnoregrets.org/>

**National Collision of Men's Ministries**  
<http://ncmm.org/>

**Every Man's Battle**  
<https://newlife.com/emb/>

**Iron Sharpens Iron**  
<http://ironsharpensiron.net/>

**Ransomed Heart Ministries**  
<http://www.ransomedheart.com/>

**Band of Brothers**  
[www.bandofbrothers.org/](http://www.bandofbrothers.org/)

**Man Up God's Way**  
<http://www.manupgodsway.org/>

**Iron Works**  
<http://www.ironworksmen.com/>