



HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

# HOAW Newsletter

The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name... The Lord will march out like a mighty man, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies... But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonor will never be forgotten Exodus

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## A Warrior After God's Heart - Part 1

by Dr. Greg Bourgond

Many young men look for strategies to inform and manage their lives. Many older men live lives of quiet desperation struggling with strongholds they desire to conquer. And every man is driven by a desire to rise above their circumstances to live a life that matters—one of courage, honor, valor, and integrity.

*Every man I know* desires to be a part of something larger than themselves, something that will make a difference, something that will be remembered long after they are gone.

*Every man I know* wants to be tested and proven worthy, wants to compete for a prize, wants to win the battle, wants to be a victor, wants to defeat what is holding him back, and wants to vanquish the enemy.

Antarctic explorer **Ernest Shackleton** posted the following advertisement in 1913:

**Men wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages. Bitter cold. Long months of complete darkness. Constant danger. Safe return**

**doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success.**

Who would respond to such an ad? More than five thousand men applied for fifty-six slots.

*Every man I know* is compelled to protect their loved ones, the vulnerable amongst them, the defenseless around them, the marginalized who have no voice, the uncared for, the unwanted and the unloved.

Why do these things stir within us? Why do they stir our imagination? Why do they matter at all?

God has instilled in each of us three primary motivations, the ignorance of which will lead us wander in this world in search of meaning and significance.

- **A cause to die for,**
- **A challenge to embrace, and**
- **Loved ones to protect.**

Yet, many of us lack the courage to embrace these driving motivations. Many of us have forgotten five critical truths...

1. **We are called to a Unique Purpose (we are not here by mistake or coincidence).**

**Ephesians 2:1-10** *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. **For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good***

works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## 2. We have a Distinctive Design.

J. I. Packer, the world-renowned theologian and author of the best seller *Knowing God*, offers helpful counsel at this point.<sup>1</sup>

**“When God made man, he communicated to him qualities corresponding to His moral attributes. This is what the Bible means when it tells us that God made man (meaning both men and women) in His own image – namely, that God made man (and woman) a free spiritual being, a responsible moral agent with powers of choice and action, able to commune with Him and respond to Him, and by nature good, truthful, holy, upright (Eccl 7:29): in a word, godly.”**

**“The moral qualities which belonged to the divine image were lost at the Fall; God’s image in man has been universally defaced, for all mankind has in one way or another lapsed into ungodliness. But the Bible tells us that now, in fulfillment of His plan of redemption, God is at work in Christian believers to repair His ruined image by communicating these qualities to them afresh. This is what Scripture means when it says that Christians are being renewed in the image of Christ<sup>2</sup> and of God.”<sup>3</sup>**

J.I. Packer goes on to say...<sup>4</sup>

**“We are familiar with the thought that our bodies are like machines, needing the right routine of food, rest, and exercise if they are to run efficiently, and liable, if filled up with the wrong fuel—alcohol, drugs, poison—to lose their power of healthy functioning and ultimately to ‘seize up’ entirely in physical death. What we are perhaps slower**

**to grasp is that God wishes us to think of our souls in a similar way.”**

**“As rational persons, we were made to bear God’s moral image—that is, our souls were made to ‘run’ on the practice of worship, law-keeping, truthfulness, honesty, discipline, self-control, and service to God and others. If we abandon these practices, not only do we incur guilt before God; we also progressively destroy our souls. Conscience atrophies, the sense of shame dries up, one’s capacity for truthfulness, loyalty, and honesty is eaten away, one’s character disintegrates. One not only becomes desperately miserable; one is steadily being de-humanized.”**

When we violate God’s designed purposes, we can expect less than favorable results.

## 3. We have a New Home.

Ephesians 2:19; Phil 3:20  
Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household...But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

## 4. We have a Great Leader.

I don’t know what your mental picture of Christ is—meek and mild, soft and mellow, or pacifist and non-aggressive. That is often how He is portrayed in our culture and in art. But how does Scripture depict Him?

He is certainly **merciful**, but He is also **strong**...

He is certainly full of **grace**, but He will also be our **Judge**...

He can certainly relate to **women**, but He is also a **man’s Man**.

He is certainly **peaceful**, but He is also a **Warrior**...

*In Revelation we read...I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name*

*written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Revelation 19:11-16). In Exodus we read...The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name (Exodus 15:3). And in Isaiah we read...The Lord will march out like a mighty man, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies (Isaiah 42:13).*

## 5. We have a Clear Objective.

**Titus 2:11-14** *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

**I believe God is looking for men after His own heart**—men who have the courage to lean into their fear and go where God calls them to go, be who God calls them to be, and do what God calls them to do—men who understand what authentic manhood looks like.

**Robert Lewis of Men’s Fraternity defines an authentic man as one who rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously, and expects God’s reward.**

David, the second King of Israel, was such a man—a man that was in the process of becoming, yet not having arrived; a man a great virtue and significant flaws; a man like us capable of great feats of courage and destructive behavior

<sup>1</sup> Packer, J. I. *Knowing God*, 1973, Pgs. 89-90

<sup>2</sup> 2 Corinthians 3:18

<sup>3</sup> Colossians 3:10

<sup>4</sup> J.I. Packer, pgs. 102, 103

David was man of many contrasts...much like you and I.

- Highs and lows,
- Victories and defeats,
- Integrity and treachery,
- Honor and dishonor,
- Consistency and inconsistency,
- Godliness and compromise,
- Happiness and sadness,
- Triumphs and failures,
- High roads and low roads,
- Mountain tops and valleys,
- Excellence and mediocrity.

Yet, God said of David, the second King of Israel...

*David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them. Psalm 78:72*

*"I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do." Acts 13:22*

**There is also hope for you!**

## OTHER NEWS



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

**Foundations of a Warrior** (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.

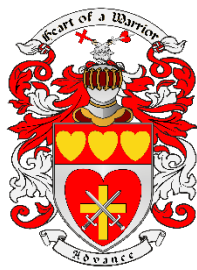
**The Guide** (Phase III) develops the spiritual discipline of being mentored and mentoring others.

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 HOAWMinistries.com.

## Speaking Engagements

- **March 14** – Iron Sharpens Iron Conference, Baxter, MN
- **October 2-4** – Man Camp, Westboro, WI
- **October 24** – Men's Breakfast, Alexandria, MN



## 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

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

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