



HOAW Newsletter

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2 ESV

Now therefore in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the Lord, and in the hearing of our God, observe and seek out all the commandments of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land and leave it for an inheritance to your children after you forever. 1 Chronicles 28:8 ESV

February 2021

HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

What's Your Aroma?

by Dr. Greg Bourgond

How will these people be remembered? What legacy have they left? If those who are alive today keep doing what they are doing, what legacy will they leave? How will you be remembered?

Mother Teresa, Bill Clinton, Billy Graham, Ronald Reagan, Bono of U2, Tiger Woods, Charlie Sheen, Bill Cosby, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Donald Trump, Bill Hybels, Joseph, King David, C.S. Lewis, or anyone else you might recall?

*Some time ago I met with **businesspeople** who were responsible as benefactors in the renewal of run-down area of their city. As they settled in, I told them that what they accomplished was remarkable. However admirable their achievement chances are few would remember their financial sacrifice over time. I told them "If they erect a statue in*

your honor it will primarily serve as a perch for pigeons within the first two weeks of its construction. If they name a building after you, chances are people passing by will wonder how much money you had to give for such a distinction. Few will take the time to learn about the substance of the person's life." I continued to say, "I'm not against philanthropy. However, from a biblical perspective, the only legacy worth living and leaving in the lives of others is a godly legacy."

Everyone leaves a legacy. Legacy is the aroma left in the nostrils of those we leave behind, those who God brought within our sphere of influence, long after we are gone. For some of us it is a stench, for others it is a pleasant fragrance that recalls who we were and how we lived our lives.

The question is what legacy will you leave? What will remain long after you are gone? What artifacts will bear testimony to your life and how you led it?

How will you finish the journey? At some point in time, we ask ourselves, "Why am I here? Where am I going? What is the significance of my life?"

Personal questions of purpose, progress, and permanence haunt us throughout our lives compelling us to repeatedly ask **ourselves "Is there more to life than I am experiencing?"** We cannot claim originality in pondering these issues. God placed a spark of the eternal in our souls that beckons us to contemplate the purpose of our being.¹ Not only were you on the heart of God before you ever came to be, but God has prepared, in advance, a unique purpose for your life.² Finding your niche and meaning can only be attained when you tune your heart to the heart of God.

After an encounter with Ahab and Jezebel, Elijah sought God's voice. He wasn't in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. His voice was heard as a 'gentle whisper.' In the chaos of life, we too often succumb to the tyranny of the

¹ Ecclesiastes 3:11

² Psalm 139:13-18; Ephesians 2:10

urgent. The business of our lives creates so much noise we can't hear the voice of God. I believe the reason God speaks so profoundly in a gentile whisper is that it forces us to lean forward to hear it.

At the turn of the century small communities would erect ice houses to preserve their food. These buildings were generally made of thick walls, no windows, and a door at the front and back. When the weather turned cold and rivers and lakes began to freeze, the men in the community would cut large chunks of ice and transport them to the icehouse by horse and sled. They would cover the ice with straw or sawdust. People would bring their perishable foods into the icehouse. Because of its construction the ice would often last into the summer before the icehouse needed to be cleaned out of rotten food and debris. On one such occasion, a small boy was witnessing the men going in and out of the icehouse as they cleaned it. One man came out frantically declaring that he lost a family heirloom, his watch, in the rubble. The boy quickly ran into the icehouse and emerged ten minutes later holding the watch. The men were astonished and asked how he found it. He said, "It was simple. I laid down in the straw until I heard a ticking. When is the last time you laid down in the 'straw' to hear the 'ticking' of God's voice?"

Erik Erikson and social scientists after him, identified a stage of adult psychological development happening during middle adulthood between the ages of approximately 40 and 65 called generativity. It elicits a growing concern and need "to nurture and guide younger people and contribute to the next generation," to pass on a legacy to others, something that matters to whom it matters to him or her.³ This finding resonates with the Bible when we are told to entrust to others what we have learned.⁴

There are four possible legacies you could leave. No legacy whatsoever which is a legacy itself. Some people are born, live and die with few, if any, remembering they existed at all. A bad legacy that leaves scars and damage in its wake. We have plenty of examples past and present of this type of legacy. A perishable legacy such as a company, a business, a medical breakthrough, or some other tangible manifestation reminds others of the contribution we have made.

The only legacy that will echo in eternity is the godly legacy we leave in and on the lives of others. It is never too early or too late to begin living a legacy worth leaving in the lives of others, especially those closest to you. It doesn't matter how you start the journey; what matters is how you finish the journey. Each of us has something of value to pass on to someone of value. Each of us has been given something of value by God to give to someone He values.

Early on I gave values to each of my grandchildren. My hope is that the decisions they make in life will be filtered through these values.⁵ At first, they were terms of endearment. I would greet them with their values. "Strength and honor Braedan. Goodness and integrity Gaelan." They would return the greeting by stating their values, "Strength and honor Papa. Goodness and integrity Papa." I would look for teachable moments to illustrate the importance of their values. I embedded them in blessings I wrote for each of them realizing that the world wouldn't be so kind. I wanted them to know what I saw in them, that they were valued and esteemed, that they mattered; my legacy for them.

My mentor, Dr. J. Robert Clinton, identified several possible legacies one could live and leave. He called them ultimate contributions - a lasting legacy

of a Christian for which he or she is remembered, and which furthers the cause of Christianity by one or more of the following means: a legacy that a person will leave behind after life is over. It is possible to leave several ultimate contributions or legacies.

- Setting standards for life and ministry.
- Impacting lives by enfolded them in God's kingdom or developing them once in God's kingdom.
- Serving as a stimulus for change which better the world.
- Leaving behind an organization, institution, or movement that will further channel God's work.
- The discovery of ideas, communication of them, or promotion of them so that they further God's work.

Other examples of legacies you can strive for by visualizing a preferable future and making present day decisions that will guarantee that outcome.

- REKINDLE broken or strained relationships by forgiving and asking forgiveness and acting in the best interest of others.
- LIVE out your faith by winning, enfolded, equipping or deploying faithful followers of Christ.
- FIND someone to mentor in spiritual or personal matters.
- INVEST in others by becoming actively involved in a ministry area.
- SERVE as a stimulus for change which better the world.
- BE a loving, godly husband or wife, father or mother, son or daughter, sister or brother, grandfather or grandmother to those that should mean the most to you.

³ Erikson, EH & Erikson, JM. The Life Cycle Completed. New York: Norton; 1998.

⁴ 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Chronicles 28:8

⁵ Derrick: peace and justice; Braedan: strength and honor; Talisa: love and joy;

Kieran: courage and valor; Gaelan: goodness and integrity; Lochlan: truth and wisdom.

- LIVE your life for an audience of One!

Questions to ponder...

What fragrance will linger when God calls you home?

Are you investing the treasure God has given you in the lives of your loved ones, in the lives of your friends, in the lives God has given you an opportunity to influence on His behalf?

When you meet the Lord face to face will He honor you for wisely investing your talents in the lives of others or will He chastise you as He did the servant who buried his talent in the ground?¹

How do you want to be remembered?

Filling the Legacy Void

1. **Eccl 3:11** He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set **eternity** in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
2. **Ps 139:13-16** For you created my inmost being; you **knit me together** in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was **woven together** in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the **days ordained for me** were written in your book before one of them came to be.
2. **Eph 2:10** For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared **in advance** for us to do.
3. **2 Tim 2:2** And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.
3. **1 Chron 28:8** "So now **I charge you** in the sight of all Israel and of the assembly of the Lord, and in the

hearing of our God: Be careful to follow all the commands of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever.

4. **Matt 25:14-30** "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

"After a long time, the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So, I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "His master replied, 'You

wicked, lazy servant! So, you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned, I would have received it back with interest.' "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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.

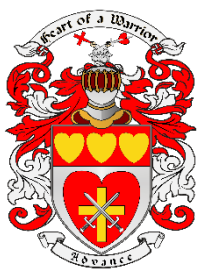
The Compass (Phase I) calibrates a warrior's heart and tunes that heart to the heart of God. I am currently leading 45 at Calvary Church WBL Campus on this journey.

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/

If you would like to contact me directly, email me at HOAWMinistries.com.



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. Thank you for being a subscriber.

Check out *The Store* on our website (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.

NOTE: Throughout the course of the year, I will be adding helpful and informative resources to

Heartofawarrior.org. They may be found on the **RESOURCES** page of the website.

Websites for Men

Heart of a Warrior Ministries
www.Heartofawarrior.org

Legacy Minded Men
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/

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

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

ⁱ Matthew 25:14-30