



HOAW Newsletter

Values are the hills we will die on,
the principles we will live by; the
filter through which we process all
decisions of consequence.
Greg Bourgond

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HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

Stand Firm

by Dr. Greg Bourgond

The world is getting darker. This shouldn't be a surprise. The Bible gives several indicators of this reality. We shouldn't be astounded that when sin goes unabated, its shrill voice grows louder. Here are several observations of our current state of affairs.

- Continual Wars
- De-evolution of Cultural Perfection
- Pervasiveness of Evil
- Increase of Perversity
- Growing Tribalism and Factionalism
- Loss of Civility
- Growth of Terrorism
- Moral Relativity and Deterioration
- Might Makes Right
- War on Christianity
- Everyone A Victim
- Permissive Tolerance
- The Ascendency of Vitriol Politics
- Acceptability of Personal Attacks
- Failure of Human Government
- Unabated Sin
- Mounting Impotence of the Church
- Escalating Violence
- Unraveling of Society
- Situational Justice
- Breakdown of Western Civilization
- Spiritual Impoverishment
- Aggressive Political Activism
- Expanding Immorality
- Progressive Compromise
- Competing Worldviews
- Weaponization of Religion

- Autonomous and Situational Ethics
- No Absolutes
- Value of Life Disintegration
- Pluralistic Behavioral Standards
- A New Dark Age
- Judicial Factional Activism
- Sexual Permissiveness

If there is one thing we have proved is that when man is left to himself, when he insists on living on the horizontal plan devoid of any vertical relationship with his creator, he cannot manage himself.

So, do we wring our hands in defeat, live in fear, and hope to endure? Or do we live in bold relief, always prepared to give a defense for the hope that is in us.

We must remember, we are no longer of the world. Our citizenship is in heaven. We are sojourners, aliens in a foreign

culture, representing kingdom values and our king, Jesus Christ. We are called into the world, to minister to the world, for the sake of the world, but we are not of the world. Whatever light we have is all the brighter against a dark background.

There has never been a greater time for the Gospel because so many other sources of expectant help have disappointed us. Our trust is in the Lord who does not disappoint. To live in the world today without compromising our beliefs and values on the altar of expediency takes courage.

My friend, Erwin McManus defines courage in the midst of difficulty. He says, courage has never been the nascence of fear, but it has always been the absence of self. We may be fearful, however, we set aside those fears for the sake of others and engage what we have before us. We stand firm in the midst of chaos, difficulty, crisis, and danger.

In Ephesians 6:10-14 we are introduced to the armor of God. Every follower of Christ is encouraged to put on this armor "so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." In these introductory verses we are called to 'Stand' 4 times.

A friend and colleague at Bethel Seminary, Ralph Hammond, just before his death, penned a challenge to 'Stand Firm.' I share it with you in hope you too will 'Stand Firm' for what matters.

*When you get weary, **stand**.*

*When you're tired, **stand**.*

*When you feel alone, **stand**.*

*When your strength is almost gone, **stand**.*

*When you feel overpowered, **stand**.*

*When you feel you are out of everything, **stand**.*

*When you don't feel up to it, **stand**.*

*When you're not in your spiritual rhythm, **stand**.*

*When the path is not clear, **stand**.*

*When you've done everything **stand**.*

*When you don't know anything else to do, **stand**.*

Stand! Stand!

Stand because God has commanded us to **stand**.

Stand because God has instructed us to **stand**.

Stand because it's God's will for us to **stand**.

Stand because Jesus said He would never leave us or forsake us.

Stand because greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world.

Stand because the Holy Spirit is the source of our strength.

Stand because we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Stand because God is able.

Stand because God is faithful.

Stand! Stand!

Stand as a witness to God's mercy.

Stand as an object of God's love.

Stand as the recipient of God's grace.

Stand to follow Him.

Stand to share Christ with others.

Stand to be a testimony for Christ in word and deed.

Stand as an ambassador for Jesus Christ.

Stand! Stand!

Stand for justice.

Stand for righteousness.

Stand for goodness.

Stand for godliness.

Stand for peace

Stand as God's instrument of holiness.

Stand for the glory of God.

Stand for you labor not in vain.

Stand because we have victory in Christ.

Stand because Christ first stood for us.

Stand! Stand! Stand!

FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS FOR MEN

All of creation suffers as a consequence of sin (Rom 8:18-25).

I will not be free of suffering here on earth (1 Pet 1:6; 4:13; Rom 5:3; 2 Tim 1:8; Phil 3:10).

Love is unconditional and others-oriented (1 Cor 13:4-8).

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.

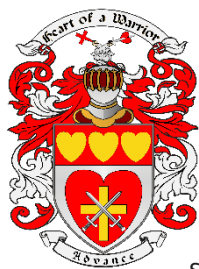
The Compass (Phase I) calibrates a warrior's heart and tunes that heart to the heart of God.

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.

Websites for Men

Heart of a Warrior Ministries
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/

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

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