



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 15:3; Isaiah 42:13; Jeremiah 20:11).

April 2020

A Warrior After God's Heart - Part 2

by Dr. Greg Bourgond

What does a Warrior *after God's heart* look like?

1. A warrior after God's heart lives his life for an audience of One.

Living your life for an audience of One means that you are under new management. You are not your own, you were bought with a great price. Jesus not only has saved you, but He is now Lord of your life. You have surrendered your earthly passport and received a new passport for the Kingdom of God. You are a citizen of heaven (Phil 3:20-21). Therefore, you now live under a new constitution and a new code of conduct.

A New Constitution

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 (Titus 2:11-14).

A New Code of Conduct

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires (Galatians 5:22-24).

2. A warrior after God's acts on his beliefs ...

Nobody cares what you have to say until they have observed how you live. If you live a life of integrity and authenticity, people will want to listen to you even if they disagree with you. Why? Because they cannot get past a life well lived.

They can deconstruct your faith proclamation; they can argue with your belief system. The cannot, however, argue with a life well lived.

James 2:14-26 *What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, **faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.** But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and **I will show you my faith by what I do.** You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and **his faith was made complete by what he***

did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? As the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without deeds is dead.**

3. A warrior after God's heart is obedient ...

2 Corinthians 9:13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

2 John 6 And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

Obedience Check: God tests one's personal response to revealed truth in the life of a person. We will be regularly challenged when circumstances, events, and encounters with others set up a scenario requiring us to decide whether we will be obedient to our Lord or disobedient to Him and His word. This will test us.

- Putting God first
- Willingness to trust a truth God has shown
- Willingness to be used by God (the inconvenient moment)
- Willingness to forgive
- Willingness to right a continuing wrong.

Obedience produces strength; disobedience produces weakness.

4. A warrior after God's heart prepares for the conflict ...

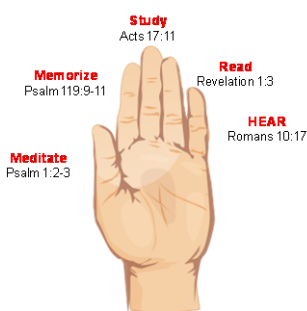
1 Corinthians 16:13-14 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; **be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.**

Life can be pressure filled. The world, the flesh, and the devil can press in on us in moments of vulnerability. Withstanding these pressures depends on our ability to counter these influences and circumstances. We must never drop our guard. We must be vigilant, standing watch over our souls.

Give attention to the integrity of your heart. Your beliefs, values, attitudes, and motives tuned to the heart of God? Is your faith vibrant or lifeless? Is your relationship with God healthy or sickly? What are you doing to handle the pressures that seek to crush you?

The only way to thwart the external pressure is to ensure that you are equipped to counter it with strength and courage from the Lord. What are you doing to build up your spiritual core? What are you doing to build up your spiritual endurance?

5. A warrior after God's heart is a student of the Word ...



Dr. GW Bourgond

Heart of a Warrior

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2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

One way to increase your spiritual strength and endurance is to absorb the truth of God's word through disciplined study. Getting a grip on the Bible requires not only hearing and reading the word. Study, memorization, and meditation will be necessary.

6. A warrior after God's heart guards his heart. ...

The Bible refers to the 'heart' over 800 times. Closer scrutiny of this metaphor reveals that the 'heart' is comprised of one's beliefs, values, attitudes, and motives. In essence, the 'heart' is the inner being of a man. The Bible describes the heart as "the seat of desire, inclination, will, emotion, knowledge, wisdom, conscience, and moral character.

Our **central beliefs** (what we truly believe which may be different than what we say we believe) establish our **core values** (the hills we are prepared to die on, the principals we intend to live by, the filter through which we process every decision of consequence we make), our core values inform our **perceptual attitudes** about life (our worldview; how we connect the dots of our observations and make sense of them), our perceptual attitudes condition our **motives** (the energy that compels us to act; that moves us from thought to action), and our motives produce **behavior**. Our behavior will reflect the health of our heart and will either bring glory and honor to God or dishonor and shame.

1 Samuel 16:7 The LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look

at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, **but the LORD looks at the heart.**"

Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

7. A warrior after God's heart embraces God's purposes for a man...

Jesus Christ modeled authentic manhood. He had a **cause** to die for—the redemption of mankind. He had a **challenge** to embrace—death on a cross. An He had **loved ones to protect**—you and me.

Similarly, we are designed for three purpose; a cause to die for, a challenge to embrace, and loved ones to protect.

Every man I know wants to be a part of something larger than himself, to know that his life matters, to find significance and meaning in his life.

Every man I know needs to be challenged regularly, to go the second mile, to raise the bar, to live above mediocrity. Men are not interested in low bars.

Every man I know has loved ones to protect. It is in our spiritual DNA. For those of us who are married it begins with our wives and extends to our children if we have them. For those unmarried, it includes the marginalized, the unwanted, the unloved, the helpless, the forgotten ones.

Richard Foster defined authentic manhood this way. "An authentic man rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously, and expects God's reward."

Ignore these purposes at your peril. Remove any one of these purposes from a man and he becomes emasculated.

Are you such a man? Are you such a warrior?

To be continued...

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.

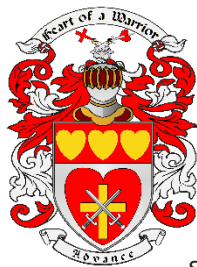
The Guide (Phase III) develops the spiritual discipline of being mentored and mentoring others.

Go to our website for more details.
www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/

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

Speaking Engagements

- **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. 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

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/>