

Learning what it means to be a...

# Man of God

*Rediscovering the true meaning of the term Man of God.*



By Kevin Johns & Anthony Lee

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# Dedication

This book is dedicated to the churches of Soldiers For God Ministries and gypsy churches everywhere.

Our prayer is that it would be a true blessing to many churches and families, and that it would be used as a tool for the glory of God, and that it may produce lasting fruit.

May the Holy Spirit lead and guide you as you study, and may He teach you more than we ever could in this book. In Jesus' name, amen.

May God bless you for taking your time to learn *what it means to be a man of God.*

# Foreword:

**By Pastor Mark Marco SFGM Fort Lauderdale:**

Being a man of God sounds simple and easy—but to be a *true* man of God, you have to walk every day according to the Word of God, the will of God, and the call of God.

This book is years of teaching condensed into an amazing, step-by-step journey toward truly becoming who God has called you to be. There are parts that will push you, challenge you, and most importantly, inspire you to follow the upward call and serve God in every area of your life—because if He’s not God *of all*, then He’s not God *at all!*

The four G’s elaborated on in this book will change the way you manage your life, your house, and your ministry—to bring glory to God and never hinder the anointing.

I strongly encourage you, as you read this book carefully and prayerfully, **don’t rush**. Let the Holy Spirit speak to your heart. If you apply the Word of God and the teachings within these pages, your life will never be the same, and you will begin a legacy that carries from generation to generation—a legacy of true men of God.

The man of God I am today is because of the inspiring men in my life. Our Bishop Pastor Anthony has been a major influence, a man of the Word who has inspired many to go deeper into study, schooling, and to reach their full potential. Pastor Kevin has shown me that when you fully submit to the call and the anointing, God will elevate you and use you in ways you could never imagine—turning

your life around and allowing you to serve at your fullest potential.

And my father, David, inspired me to be a true servant of God with integrity. I saw him serve both behind the pulpit and in our home. He showed me that a real servant—a real man of God—puts God first in every area of life, submits to the Holy Spirit, and serves in both the good seasons and the hard seasons. Because when you are a man of God, the seasons don't change you—your roots are in the Word!

I don't know where God has called you to serve or in what area of ministry, but I know this: if you are willing to go deeper, let the Holy Spirit lead you, and walk in the truths taught in this book, **you will be blessed, effective, and equipped to serve as a soldier of God.**

#### **Jeremiah 17:7–8 (NKJV)**

**“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,  
And whose hope is in the Lord.  
For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters,  
Which spreads out its roots by the river,  
And will not fear when heat comes;  
But its leaf will be green,  
And will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor  
will it cease from yielding fruit.”**

# Introduction: Problems & Progress



From the beginning of time, God has called man to serve Him.

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible is filled with stories of ordinary men who did extraordinary things by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours [with the same physical, mental, and spiritual limitations and shortcomings], and he prayed intensely for it not to rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its crops [as usual].” James 5:17-18 AMP**

Even though Elijah was an ordinary man, that did not stop God from using him to do extraordinary things, and yet even though he was greatly used, we also see that he was greatly flawed.

The Scriptures are not shy when it comes to the weaknesses and failures of men while at the same time overlooking their flaws because of their faith.

Elijah was not the only one with this dilemma, but every man besides Jesus, whom God has ever used in the scriptures, had his flaws, each with his own story,

background, and unique circumstances, all of which played a role in the calling he received.

An interesting fact is that with many men of God, we find that there was some sort of problem they encountered, whether it was national apostasy, natural disasters, or ruthless enemies coming against them.

We always see problems that eventually led to amazing stories of faith, sacrifice, and obedience. Even when their own failures may have brought on these problems, we see through forgiveness, mercy, and grace that all of it was used for their good and for the glory of God.

Hebrews chapter 11 tells us about faith's Hall of Fame. The chapter is filled with stories of faith and courage. It is a list of the heroes of faith who defied all the odds that stood against them.

**“By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. Women received their loved ones back again from death.” Hebrews 11:33-35 NLT**

And yet Scripture tells us about the faults, mistakes, errors, and failures of these same exact men. And yet they are still included in the Faith Hall of Fame.

This shows one very important thing, and it is that faith can overlook flaws. Great men of God, by their faith, overlooked their fears, and in turn, God used their faith to overlook their flaws.

All of this serves as an example for us to answer the call of God for our lives, no matter our flaws. Because even now God is calling for men to rise up!

## **The Need for Men of God Today**

Jesus said:

**“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” Matthew 9:37 NKJV**

There is a need for men of God today, just as there always has been.

One reason why men of God, are needed today and the very reason this book exists is because there is a problem in the church: people are losing trust in men of God.

This is a major problem because we are called to be witnesses of the truth, and witnesses should be worthy of trust. There are several parts to this problem.

For one, the many moral failures of ministers, whether in personal life, family life, ministry, business, or some other area in which they compromise their witness.

Another part of the problem is that instead of coming up with solutions, most people, including so-called men of

God, just talk about the problem or “post” about the problem.

Still another part of the problem, and probably the biggest, for the gypsy church at least—is that we have not properly educated men of God about challenges and temptations they would face. This is something we can no longer do.

The Man of God course will address a range of topics that deal with what it means to be a man of God. You will learn what men of God do and what they don't do. We will go over issues like moral purity and dealing with pride and the love of money, to stewardship—managing the blessings and gifts of God.

There will be an abundance of practical aspects of what men of God are called to do, not just in the church and ministry but in business and family life as well.

The course is divided into two parts to sum it up: the first half focuses on the practical aspects of what a man of God does in his own house, and the second half focuses on what a man of God does in God's House by telling him exactly what he must not do there.

We do this by looking at the four G's which men of God don't mess with: God's Glory, God's Girls, God's Gold, and God's Gifts.

Our prayer is that men of God everywhere would be educated and warned in these areas so that there will be a brighter future for the church and for the world. Jesus said,

**“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.” Matthew 5:14-15 (ESV.)**

Men of God are called to shine; that means it's time for men of God to take a stand!

A fascinating truth is that the word problem originated in the Greek language and it meant something thrown ahead, meaning an obstacle or challenge thrown right in front of a person which stops them in their tracks, but we believe that God flips the script on the meaning of the word and uses problems thrown right in front of people to be the very element of progress in their lives, meaning every problem has the potential for progress to throw a person forward! Something which is proven in the lives of the people of God from every generation.

Genesis chapter 3 is the introduction to problems in the world. The word of God plainly tells us that through Adam and Eve's disobedience, problems entered the world. From marriage problems to family problems to financial issues, as well as pain, sickness, and death. All of these problems have their root in the fall of man.

It was told to Adam:

**“In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.” Genesis 3:19 NKJV**

Because of their sin, problems entered into the world. Even these problems were a work of the grace of God.

Had it not been for the side effects of sin, mankind would be all the more hardened in their sins, but because God allowed a problem, mankind has a reason to seek out someone who can solve their problem.

There is a purpose to problems, and every problem has its purpose. When we stop circling the problem and find the root of the problem, there we find the solution, and that launches us forward into the progress that God has for us despite the current problem.

And so, regardless of the issues and challenges, the church faces one very important decision that remains: **will you be part of the problem or part of the solution?**

Even now, God is calling just as He always has for men to rise up and become the men of God He has called them to be. By the grace of God, we pray that this course will help you to do it.

There is a purpose to problems, and who knows? Maybe you were called for such a time as this...



# **Soldiers For God Ministries**

## **The Man of God Course**

### **Introduction Quiz (Week Zero)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**(1.) According to the introduction,** which of the following is listed as part of the problem within the church?

- (A) Moral failures of ministers
- (B) Talking about problems instead of solving them
- (C) Failure to prepare men for temptation
- (D) All of the above

**(2.) The introduction states** that one major issue in the church today is:

- A) Lack of worship music
- B) Lack of education
- C) Loss of trust in men of God
- D) Cultural persecution

**(3.) According to the introduction,** the course is divided into two main parts. What is the primary difference between them?

- A) The first half focuses on theology, the second half focuses on history

B) The first half focuses on a man's responsibilities at home, the second half focuses on conduct in God's House

C) The first half is for new believers, the second half is for leaders only

D) The first half teaches what men should avoid, the second half teaches what they should pursue

**(4.) According to the introduction,** even the problems that came as a result of sin can serve what greater purpose?

A) To harden mankind permanently

B) To demonstrate human failure only

C) To push people toward seeking God

D) To eliminate responsibility

**(5.) According to Romans 8:28,** how does God use difficult situations in the lives of those who love Him?

A) He removes every problem immediately

B) He ignores suffering

C) He works all things together for good

D) He rewards only strong believers

**(6.) According to the Introduction video lesson,** Pastor Kevin said:

“Your falsehood is not better than God's \_\_\_\_\_.”

A) Justice

- B) Faithfulness
- C) Sovereignty
- D) Righteousness

**(7.) In the Introduction video lesson,** Pastor Kevin quoted the verse where God says,

“It is I who gives you the power to \_\_\_\_\_.”

- A) Get wealth
- B) Glorify Me
- C) Prosper in all things
- D) Establish your ministry

**(8.) In the video lesson,** Pastor Kevin said that for us, becoming a man means “stepping up.”

In a short answer, explain how this is different from what Jesus did for us.

Write your answer(s):

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**(9.) According to Hebrews 11:3,** how do we understand that the universe was created by the word of God?

- A) Through scientific discovery
- B) Through historical records

C) By faith

D) Through human reasoning

**(10.) Fill in the blank:**

“Now faith is the \_\_\_\_\_ of things hoped for, the \_\_\_\_\_ of things not seen.” — Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

**Bonus Question:**

(1.) The introduction teaches that faith turns problems into progress.

Describe one opportunity God may be giving the church in this generation, and explain how a man of God should rise up to meet it.

Write your answer(s):

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# Chapter One: A Mature Man



SFGM Man Of God 1

Today, in every house, in every family, in every city, and every town, there is a need for men of God. Men who know the way and who can show the way for the people of God.

Men who call upon the name of God, men who take a stand for God—like a city on a hill and like a lamp on a stand, men who shine the light of God to the world in the midst of darkness.

But sadly, there seems to be a shortage, a drought, a famine of men of God. This hurts the world more than we can fully understand. We can, however, estimate the impacts men of God make in the lives of the people closest to them. It is said that if a father turns to Christ, he is more likely to lead his family to Christ.

We know that God is able to use anyone, but we can never neglect the importance of a man of God in the family. The truth is we believe that if God raises up men, He will raise up women, He will raise up families of God, for the glory of God.

So what does it mean to be a man of God? It means to put away immature and childish things and live for what really matters. Being a man of God means to be serious about life, about business, about family, and about the work of the Lord.

The work of the Lord comes after those things in a man's life because if he never learned those things... the basics of what manhood is all about, managing his own life and household, he will never be able to manage the household of God. (1 Timothy 3:4-5.)

There is more than one type of maturity. There is physical maturity, which happens with age, emotional maturity, which is not even guaranteed for the strongest man.

Spiritual maturity, which doesn't depend on age. And even mental, social, and psychological maturity, which all blend together in what we understand a person should be in life.

It seems that not all maturity comes with age, since there are clearly people who get older and older without ever maturing.

This is seen when men still want to have fun and party into their old age. This is seen when people are not able to maintain control of their behavior and act out on emotions and mood swings, resulting in outbursts of anger or other emotions.

It's also seen when men are perfectly fine not living up to the expectations for men which exist in society around them. You may ask what does the world's opinion have to do with a man of God? Yet scripture says it's important for a man to have a good reputation with those not in the faith.

**“Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not be disgraced and fall into the devil's trap.” 1 Timothy 3:7 (NLT)**

Immaturity is also clearly seen in people who have been Christians for years upon years and never show any significant spiritual development but are in the same old sins and slumps.

It's easy to see that each type of maturity is super important. Emotional maturity empowers and enables a person to be at the helm of their emotions, to manage and control them instead of following the mood swings and outbursts. Imagine if everyone in the church was emotionally mature, now imagine if everyone in your household was as well!

Social maturity is when a person grows in taking personal responsibility in life and lives up to the expectations which exist for a person of a particular age, which includes supporting themselves financially and not burdening others.

The world would be a better place if everyone had this type of maturity.

Real spiritual maturity, the greatest of all, is a person growing in the Holy Spirit, and in their relationship with God and in their calling.

The truth about spiritual maturity is that it will be a powerful force in gaining and developing maturity at every level. This comes from the fruit of the Holy Spirit, which is called "self-control".

So it's safe to say that not all maturity comes with age; being a man of God, however, is not about age; it's about maturity. The truth is there are boys who are men of God, and there are believers who are grown men who are not real men at all, since they fail to do what men are called to do.

Some men need to man up in life; this is true because in life there are some basic duties every man has or will have, which are these: (1) to lead, (2) to protect, (3) to provide, and (4) to teach; a more preferred word though is to disciple.

Men are called to disciple others who are influenced by them. And when men are not walking in these traits, duties, and characteristics, they are not walking in their God-given rights and responsibilities.

This must be repented of, and this study will call out those areas in the life of so-called men of God so that they can become true men of God, who step up to the plate of life and ministry.

On the other hand, many of us have manned up in life at some point or another for different reasons, sometimes out of necessity, other times because of peer pressure or pride, and yet we find that some of us are satisfied and content with being men in life but immature in the things of God.

Men who never fell behind any man when it came to the “normal things” of life, but when it comes to the things of God, suddenly becoming like young boys again, not knowing what to do, needing to be coached, getting nervous, and even afraid.

We believe that in the same way we manned up for the world around us, it's also time to man up for the God who has called us.

# Character Focus

## Moses

“The Man of God”



Moses was the first person to ever be called a man of God, which is very impressive since there were great men who served God before him.

Moses is a great example of what it means to grow mature in life and in the Spirit, because it took him over 80 years to become the man that God called him to be! He was 40 years old when he left Egypt after having been trained and educated in all the wisdom of Egypt. He became mighty in words and in deeds. He knew letters, numbers, and writing skills.

And then he left and spent another 40 years in the wilderness, taking care of his father-in-law's sheep. So he learned what it meant to care for the flock, which was his father-in-law's business. It is safe to say he was a man in the sight of the world.

But when Moses was 80 years old, God used what seemed like random events to bring him closer to Himself. And at the burning bush when God began to reveal His plan to Him, Moses showed a big lack of spiritual maturity.

Several times he tried to get out of being the man God was calling him to be. He made excuse after excuse of why he was not fit to do this, and every time God affirmed to Him that He would be with Him and help Him.

Excuse 1: "Who am I?" (I'm not good enough.)

God's response: "But I will be with you."

Excuse 2: "If I go and they ask who sent me, what will I even say?" (I don't even know your name.)

God's response: "I AM WHO I AM." "Tell them I AM has sent me to you."

Excuse 3: "They won't believe or listen to me!" (Why should they?)

God's response: "The staff in your hand will be a sign to them. If they don't believe that, I will perform more signs so that they will believe you."

Excuse 4: "Oh Lord, I'm not eloquent." (I'm not a good talker!)

God's response: "I will be with your mouth and shall teach you what to speak."

Excuse 5: "Please send another." (There must be someone else who can do this!)

God's response: "Aaron your brother will help you."

Through the whole conversation, Moses was focused only on himself, but God at every turn was redirecting Moses focus to Himself!

In the end, Moses begged God to send someone else until God, in His great kindness, offered Moses someone to help him in the mission. God allowed Aaron, Moses's brother, to be His mouthpiece to speak for him. Aaron would be a kind of second staff for Moses to lean on to go to Pharaoh and to assist in all the work that God called Moses to do.

And as the story of Moses progresses, we see Him growing more and more mature in the Spirit. And in the end, He grew to be a man of God who did not need the help of another man to do what God called Him to do.

Moses outgrew needing Aaron to help Him, it was time for him to be the leader and for Aaron to be the priest. Moses became the man of God who led the Israelites out of Egypt and took care of them for forty years in the wilderness.

These were the last 40 years of Moses's life, finally he had grown in every area to be the man of God he was called to be.

Only when looking back can we see the handiwork of God all over his life. Each stage was used to prepare him for the next.

40 years in Egypt taught him the wisdom he needed to write and to record events.

40 years in the wilderness taught him to be a patient shepherd taking care of stubborn and downright silly animals.

And in the last 40 years of his life, God combined these things so that He could take care of the flock of God and be the one to write the history of the world which is the book of Genesis, and the giving of the law for all of Israel, the very first five books of the Bible, this gives us great hope, that with God there is never any wasted time.

If you've made it this far in the study, know and understand it's time to put the childish things aside, physically, spiritually, emotionally, and socially.

Paul the apostle captures the thought perfectly when he writes to the church at Corinth —

**“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” 1 Corinthians 13:11 (NKJV)**

For us, becoming a man means stepping up, but for Jesus, becoming a man meant stepping down.

**“Who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by**

**becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Philippians 2:6-8 ESV...**

Therefore, the question is this: Since He stepped down for us, isn't it time we stepped up for Him?

The very last verse from Luke chapter 2 says something that is very encouraging—

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” Luke 2:52 NIV

Jesus in His human nature grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. If He could do it, so could we!

***Men of God, put away childish things!***



# **Soldiers For God Ministries**

## **The Man of God Course Week 1**

### **Quiz**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**(1.) In exodus 3 and 4,** How many times did Moses try to get out of being the Man God called him to be?

(A) 2

(B) 5

(C) 4

(D) 3

**(2.) In the Week 1 video,** what example showed that getting older doesn't always mean being mature?

A) Older people avoid confrontation

B) Someone can be older but still live for partying and fun

C) Church attendance makes a person mature

D) Maturity comes automatically with age

**(3.) According to the chapter,** what are the four core responsibilities of a man emphasized early in his development?

(A) Lead, Protect, Provide, Disciple

(B) Pray, Fast, Study, Evangelize

(C) Preach, Teach, Heal, Cast out demons

(D) Work, Rest, Save, Retire

**(4.) According to the chapter,** why did God allow Moses to have 40 years in the wilderness before using him publicly?

A) To punish him for leaving Egypt

B) To prepare his character

C) To remove his calling

D) To distance him from leadership opportunities

**(5.) Circle your answer:** Peer pressure is a factor every man has dealt with... The same way we felt pressure to become men in the sight of the world, shouldn't we also have a sense of urgency to become Men in the sight of God?

YES NO

**(6.) What do Moses' excuses primarily reveal about spiritual maturity?**

(A) God only calls confident leaders.

(B) Spiritual maturity eliminates fear.

(C) Obedience, despite insecurity, fosters maturity.

(D) Leadership demands natural ability

**(7.) According to Luke 2:52** what did Jesus grow in?

(A) Wisdom, Stature, Favor

(B) Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding

(C) The Holy Spirit, Knowledge, Truth

**(8.) In the Week 1 video,** what was the meaning behind the quote about a man wearing similar attire on his wedding day and at a funeral?

(A) Weddings and funerals are both formal occasions

(B) Marriage represents the death of a single person and the birth of a man

(C) Both events symbolize celebration

(D) Tradition requires similar clothing for both events

**(9.) According to the chapter,** what is one key difference between spiritual maturity and simply growing older?

A) Spiritual maturity comes automatically with time

B) Age guarantees wisdom and stability

C) Spiritual maturity develops through obedience and growth, not just time

D) Older believers are always more mature

**(10.) Fill in the blank:** According to first Corinthians 2:14 “the things of the spirit are \_\_\_\_\_ to a natural man.”

### Bonus question

The life of Moses can be divided into three periods of 40 years: 40 years in Egypt, 40 years in Midian, and 40 years in the wilderness. We understand that each period was used to prepare him for what God was calling him to do.

Can you remember different times in your life that God has used to shape you into who He is calling you to be?

Feel free to just answer yes or no, but if you would like to share more on this please do!

Write your answer(s):

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## Chapter Two

# A Business Man

**“Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” Luke 2:49 NKJV**



SFGM Man Of God 2

What does business or money have to do with a man of God? A lot!

The first way Jesus describes the work He came to do was by Him being about the Father’s business! But that is not the only business God cares about.

The Bible is the Word of God, and God’s Word speaks to us on every level of life, so it should not surprise us that it says a lot about business!

The second chapter of our study focuses primarily on the importance of the man of God being a man who works hard. The wisdom books of the Bible, like Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes, condemn laziness.

**“Poor is one who works with a lazy hand, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.” Proverbs 10:4 (NASB20)**

Through these books, we understand that it is God’s will for men to work and provide for their families. From creation, we see the God-given mandate for man to work.

**“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” Genesis 2:15 (ESV)**

God, in His wisdom, created man with a purpose to work. It was man who caused this to become tedious and difficult because of disobedience. But even in the difficulties of work, there are blessings to receive and lessons to be learned.

Scripture shows that God didn't call lazy people. He gave the land of Canaan as a gift to the people of Israel, but they had to go fight for it to claim it.

He saved Noah and his family from the flood, but they had to build the ark for many years for themselves. The Garden of Eden was paradise on earth but still needed to be maintained.

Some immature men think God will just allow money to fall from the sky or bless them so much that they hardly have to work at all. Unfortunately, it doesn't always work like that.

In the New Testament, we discover that there was some sort of problem in the church of Thessalonica.

Men were not minding business, and because of that, they became a burden on the church. At the bare minimum, they were a burden on the people closest to them, either family or friends.

So Paul wrote a letter to the church to correct this, because Christian men should be men who don't depend on other people to provide for them. But men who work to earn their own living. Look what Paul writes to the Thessalonian church:

**“Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people’s business. We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down**

**and work to earn their own living.” 2**  
**Thessalonians 3:11-12 NLT**

It’s interesting that when they didn’t mind their own business, they began to mind other people’s business!

The biblical principle is that men of God be diligent. Being diligent means a lot of things. It means being a go-getter, one who wakes up early, one who plans ahead, and one who makes more and more progress until the work is done.

Whether in ministry or in business, men of God who work hard are like ornaments of jewelry on the gospel message, making it more attractive to the watching world, and this is respected and appreciated in the eyes of God and man.

This was one of Paul’s main points to the Thessalonians: it would be a bad witness on the church if there were men who were idlers.

What was happening in the Thessalonian church was probably the same thing that happens in many churches today.

Whether for spiritual reasons or just out of laziness, there were men in the Thessalonian church who were falling behind in working and not minding any business.

Maybe they figured Jesus is coming back so there’s no need to work or maybe they were so concerned with spiritual work they neglected their families (this probably wasn’t the case since the church took care of those who labored in the gospel). Maybe they figured other Christians should just take care of them.

Regardless of why they were doing this, the command of the apostles in response to what was happening is clear.

**“If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.” 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 ESV**

God’s will is for men to wake up early and do what needs to be done.

**“How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep— So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.” Proverbs 6:9-11 NKJV**

In a person’s life, the word of God should be a combination of spiritual truth and practical application. God’s will is for us to live out spiritual truth in everyday life.

The book of Romans, for example, begins with all kinds of spiritual truth, which Paul uses to get to his main point that begins in chapter 12:1, beginning with the word “Therefore” in verse one.

**“Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.” – Romans 12:1**

The therefore meant all the spiritual truth that came before chapter 12— because of all those things, offer your bodies as living sacrifices. The entire point of all the doctrine and

theology was so that people would apply practical, everyday application to their lives.

This shows us that our beliefs are not just meant to stay in a book or just live in our heads or hearts for that matter! But we should live out the spiritual, theological, and doctrinal truths which we believe in our day-to-day lives.

This is why we take what the Bible says about minding business seriously. Jesus began minding the Father's business at a young age, and before He began His earthly ministry, He worked as a carpenter.

Taking care of earthly business will give you valuable tools and experiences you can use for when you begin to be about the Father's business in the specific area He's called you to be in.

It is safe to say that it is in the will of God for men of God to work to earn their own living. Some men do this in regular work, some men work hard in ministry and are provided for by and through it, and some men do both.

None better or worse and none more or less important, but each man following God's specific plan and will for his life.

We believe that every man should be a businessman.

Much of this chapter has covered the business of lay workers in the church, like congregation members or even unpaid staff, but now we will shift gears to discuss the business of ministers in and for the church.

Character Focus  
**Peter & Paul**  
“Apostles of Jesus Christ”



Both Peter and Paul are giants in the faith and pillars of the church, and they are very helpful to us when discussing ministers making their living by the gospel.

Paul, in his letter to the young pastor named Timothy, wrote:

**“Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain.” And in another place, “Those who work deserve their pay!” 1 Timothy 5:17-18 NLT**

It's interesting that Paul said the Scripture says, and he listed two passages. The interesting part is that one passage is from Deuteronomy 25:4 in the Old Testament, and one is from the words of Jesus in the New Testament. Thus, showing Paul considered New Testament writings scripture.

Again, Paul brings up the topic of ministers being paid by the gospel in another letter. This time, it was addressed to the Corinthians. He wrote:

**“What soldier has to pay his own expenses? What farmer plants a vineyard and doesn't have the right to eat some of its fruit? What shepherd cares for a flock of sheep and isn't allowed to drink some of the milk? Am I expressing merely a human opinion, or does the law say the same thing?**

**For the law of Moses says, “You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain.” Was God thinking only about oxen when he said this? Wasn't he actually speaking to us?**

**Yes, it was written for us, so that the one who plows and the one who threshes the grain might both expect a share of the harvest.” 1 Corinthians 9:7-10 NLT**

Paul lists several spheres of service in which people are paid to do and work that they benefit financially from. His argument is: shouldn't this also apply to the men who work for the gospel?

He strengthens his argument by quoting from Deuteronomy 25:5, which speaks about not denying a service animal part of the food in which it is working.

If an animal is cared for because of the work in which it does, surely a minister of the glorious gospel should also be provided for. In fact, Paul says the very reason this scripture was written was for ministers of the gospel!

Paul goes on to spell it out in plain language when he says:

**“Don’t you realize that those who work in the temple get their meals from the offerings brought to the temple? And those who serve at the altar get a share of the sacrificial offerings. In the same way, the Lord ordered that those who preach the Good News should be supported by those who benefit from it.” 1 Corinthians 9:13-14 NLT**

He said the Lord has commanded that ministers be paid by the gospel, but then in the next verse he says this:

**“Yet I have never used any of these rights. And I am not writing this to suggest that I want to start now. In fact, I would rather die than lose my right to boast about preaching without charge.” 1 Corinthians 9:15 NLT**

Paul says, even though he could have, he did not receive financial help from the people he ministered to.

Now it’s important to understand that this was not always the case for Paul, but at times he was helped by the churches, and other times he worked as a tent maker to keep up with his own needs so that he would not be a burden on the people he preached the gospel to.

It may have been that when he was ministering to new Christians in new cities and churches, he did not take this

right so that people would never confuse him with someone who is just money-hungry.

Paul even says that he worked as an example to new Christians to learn that they also should work hard, and that is something that would be a good example to this every day.

Now on the other hand, we have the apostle Peter. We know that Peter was definitely a businessman before he began to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus; he had a fishing business along with his partners, his brother Andrew, and his other partners, James and John the Sons of Zebedee.

But one day, Jesus passed by, and everything changed.

**“And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”**

**Mark 1:16-17 NKJV**

Peter immediately left his net behind and began to follow Jesus. Later, in the book of Acts chapter 6, we hear of an incident of certain widows being neglected in the church.

And the people of the church came to the apostles with this complaint, and Peter and the rest of the apostles said:

**“Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over**

**this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” Acts 6:2-4 NKJV**

Peter’s business was not to serve tables, but his business was to devote himself to prayer and the ministry of the word of God.

He would not let himself be distracted from the work of ministry, not even for a good cause, for the more important need was for prayer to be made for God to make a way for the word of God to reach more people.

And this is another great example for all of us today for ministers to give up being busy with other things and devote themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

These examples of Peter and Paul show us that even though ministers have the right to make their living by the gospel, and even though it is the command of the Lord for ministers to make their living of the gospel, we see that there are times where it is appropriate for ministers to work to earn their own living, and we also see the value in ministers who devote themselves to the ministry.

One thing is for sure, though: Paul, along with Peter, did what was best for the gospel. In plain words, the benefit of the gospel was at the heart of the decision, not the benefit of the minister.

There will be many factors to consider in this decision, and each church context will play a great role in what the minister does.

It may seem more noble to receive no pay for the gospel, but that could take away from the gospel because there can

be many distractions for the minister, and he will need to divide up his time between secular work and spiritual work.

It may also be the right move to make for the church at that time.

Today, each minister needs the guidance of the Holy Spirit to show them which ministry style or pattern is best for the gospel in their lives and in the season that they are in.

Ministers need to be prepared to teach biblical truths about finances to the church. They need to do this without fear and without intimidating people into giving.

They must set forth the biblical principles and examples while teaching people to give out of the cheerfulness of their hearts.

So at the end of the day, whether we work hard spiritually or regularly, God is pleased. He may not regard works for men to get to heaven, but He is well pleased when men of God work hard on earth!



### **Balancing Truth**

One very important thing to keep in mind when it comes to minding business is that although men of God work hard, they also take time for family and rest.

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus said, "**Give us day by day our daily bread.**" What could have been in Jesus' mind was the way God took care of the Israelites day by day in the

wilderness. One place the story is found is in Exodus 16:11-36. It explains that God provided manna every day for the Israelites to eat while they were in the wilderness.

When the people first started getting the manna, they would not trust that it would show up again the next day, so they would gather as much as they could so that they would have food for the next day.

But when it was stored overnight, worms would appear in the manna. It was meant to be a day-by-day supply of food.

On Fridays, the people were commanded to collect two days' worth of manna, and on Saturday, which is the Sabbath day, the manna was still good, with no worms. And if any were stubborn enough to go out looking for manna on the Sabbath day, there would be none given.

This story about the daily provision of God day by day, and even the double provision of God on days of rest, is placed here in the study for a very important reason.

God, in his infinite wisdom, laid out a structured work week and time for rest. Men of God learn this principle of faith that God will still take care of you, even if you take a day off of work to rest with your family.

***Men of God Work!***



# **Soldiers For God Ministries**

## **The Man of God Course Week 2**

### **Quiz**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**(1.) According to the chapter,** what does business or money have to do with a man of God?

- A. Spiritual life is separate from work
- B. Nothing — money distracts from faith
- C. A lot — God cares about how men work and handle responsibility
- D. The church doesn't need to think about business

**(2.) From chapter 2,** What example from creation shows that work was part of God's design for man?

- A. Adam naming the animals
- B. Adam being placed in Eden to work and keep it
- C. Noah gathering animals into the ark
- D. Abraham traveling to Canaan

**(3.) True or false: According to the chapter,** work became part of man's life only after the fall?

Circle your answer: TRUE FALSE

**(4.) What is the main reason men of God should work hard according to this teaching?**

- (A) To never need help from anyone
- (B) To show godly character and not hurt the church's witness
- (C) To earn the right to lead spiritually
- (D) To become financially successful as proof of blessing

**(5) According to the chapter,** The extra manna before the Sabbath showed that God cares about both our work and our rest.

Circle your answer: TRUE FALSE

**(6.) In your own words,** please write how you can learn to trust God more when it comes to resting from work.  
Write your answer(s):

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**(7.) Peter and Paul, both apostles with significant ministries, had different approaches. While Paul occasionally continued working to support himself, Peter appears to have been a full-time minister. Considering these differences, which ministry style would you prefer: Peter's or Paul's, and why?**

Write your answer(s):

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**(8.) What does it mean to adorn the gospel?**

- A) To live in a way that makes the gospel look good to others
- B) To only talk about the gospel often
- C) To memorize many Bible verses
- D) To go to church every week

**(9.) From the video lesson,** which book did Pastor Kevin use to show spiritual truth and practical truth so men can live well-lived lives?

- A) Galatians
- B) Romans
- C) Hebrews
- D) James

**(10.) True or false: From the video lesson,** Pastor Kevin made the point that even if the church cannot give financial help, it should always give food to anyone who asks.

Circle your answer:    TRUE    FALSE

# Chapter 3

## A Leading Man



SFGM Man Of God 3

The Bible shows us the God-given creation order of the family in Genesis chapter 2 verses 18 and 24.

***“Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Genesis 2:18, 24 (KJV)...***

This shows us two important truths about leadership in the Christian household. (1) that the woman was made to help the man in his work, not the other way around.

And (2) that the man’s father and mother would have no more control over the man but that he would leave his father’s household and be joined to his wife and begin to walk in the leadership God has called him to walk in.

This is not to say that a wife or godly parents can never give wise counsel but simply to shine light on the truth that it is the God-given duty for a man to be the leader of his own family, which was established at the very beginning.

And yet some wives want to lead their husbands and some mothers and fathers want to lead their sons’ families. Many times the man finds himself in the middle of this power struggle, when the man does not fill the role it creates a void that either the parents or wife will try to fill.

Now the leadership of mom and dad may be the way it's supposed to go in our culture but there is little to no room for that in real Christianity since every man is called to be the leader of his own family.

If the leadership of the family isn't the man of God, then the family leadership is not matching the biblical order.

This teaching offends those who are not truly committed Christians.

Sometimes people who want to make a real commitment to following Christ are met with opposition from their wives or families.

This can be for many reasons according to a worldly perspective, because of business or other issues.

But it was not for nothing that Jesus said:

**“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”**  
**Matthew 10:34-39 NKJV**

This describes what can happen when someone in the family converts to Christ. When someone gives their life to the Lord, it changes that person's life and affects the lives of those closest to them.

This can cause backlash from some of the closest family members.

Those who are not willing to pick up their cross because of what might happen if they did were clearly told that they are unworthy of Jesus.

It is a sad truth that there have been many men who fell from God because of their families. How many wives have ruined what seemed to be great men of God? How many parents or children have hindered what God offered to do in the lives of men? Probably more than most people understand.

The problem lies in the unwillingness of men to pick up their cross, no matter the cost.

A man of God should never be controlled; he must be Spirit-led.

It's very much a manly thing to do when a man stops being led by his father or mother. The truth is, we are under obligation to honor our fathers and mothers but not be led and controlled by them.

We are commanded in scripture to honor our parents, submit to our leaders, and keep the laws of the land, as long as all of what is asked or demanded of us is in keeping with the law or will of God.

The moment anyone — or anything — attempts to cause us to break God's law and sin against Him, that is the

moment we are no longer under obligation to submit to those things.

Our devotion to God runs deeper than our devotion to our marriages, our parents, our children, or our land.

The 12 Apostles ran into this situation when the laws of the land and the leaders of the people demanded that they stop their ministry of sharing the name of Jesus.

Their answer is the same answer we need to have today, and it was this:

**“But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:29 ESV**

It is a difficult situation when a man’s wife isn’t willing to follow him into the things of God.

The leadership of the family hangs in the balance here, and it is extremely important for the man of God to be strong and courageous to lead his family into the things of God.

The bad example of Ahab shows us just how much evil can happen if an ungodly woman has too much worldly influence over her husband.

**“No one else so completely sold himself to what was evil in the LORD’s sight as Ahab did under the influence of his wife Jezebel,” 1 Kings 21:25 (NLT)**

The underlying disease of the Jezebel spirit is controlling leaders by manipulation.

These bad examples show us that men of God need to be able to make their own decisions based on the leading of the Spirit, not to be controlled by others.

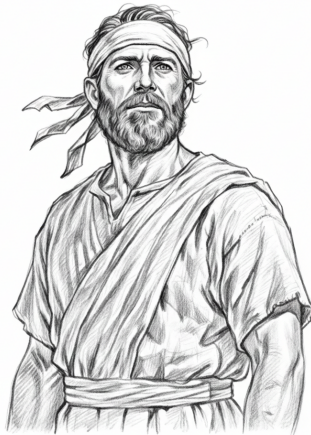
If this order isn't right, it's hard to say if anything else will be right. All this isn't to say men of God don't have leaders; they do. But there are areas in every man's life that he must be the leader of.

Sometimes it may be tempting to let someone else bear the burden of responsibilities and decisions, but this is not an option for the man of God.

## Character Focus

### **Joshua**

“The Servant of The Lord”



Joshua, the attendant of Moses, gives us a great example of what it means for a Man to become a leader.

The task Joshua faced was very terrifying, trying to fill the shoes of a great man of God, and to lead millions of people into war to claim the land God had promised to their ancestors.

Taking over for such a great leader is a huge amount of pressure to live up to on its own. Nevertheless, Joshua receives a command—

**“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9**

In the end, Joshua rose up and became the man God was calling him to be, and he led the people into the promised land, fulfilling his calling and commissioning for the glory of God. Today we need exactly this: men who, by the Spirit of God, become strong and courageous to live out their God-given commission in the God-given order shown all the way back at the creation account.

We can learn from Moses and Joshua that sometimes men of God do deal with fear and doubt, but we can overcome it all with faith, be strong and courageous!



### **Balancing Truth**

Men of God are absolutely called to lead their families, but the greatest way to lead is by example. Not by force. Joshua led the people of Israel by example when he said...

**“And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15 (ESV)**

When teaching or learning that a man has authority over the wife and the family, it's very important to keep in mind that Christian leadership is a position of service.

Even Jesus didn't come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.

We serve our families by leading and disciplining them, not by being overlords of them. When attempting to lead your family to Christ, be patient, make allowances, and use wisdom when teaching or instructing, and pray!

Asking the Lord for wisdom in communicating the word to your wife or children, since often times there can be offenses.

If the wife or family seem not to be following, don't force anything, just continue to be a good example, shining God's light and showing the love of Christ, remembering these scriptures often.

**“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4 NLT**

**“For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her**

**to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.**

**He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies.**

**For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. And we are members of his body. As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." Ephesians 5:25-31 NLT**

**"Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly." Colossians 3:19 (NLT)**

One last point from the life of Pontius Pilate: he shows us that when a leader is led by others, Christ is mishandled. But if he had listened to his wife, he would never have had any guilt from ordering Christ to be put to death. A husband would be foolish not to take wise counsel from a woman of God.

***Men of God Lead!***



# **Soldiers For God Ministries**

## **The Man of God Course Week 3**

### **Quiz**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**(1.) According to the chapter,** what two truths about leadership are shown in Genesis 2:18 and 2:24?

- A) The wife leads the home and parents guide the marriage
- B) The woman helps the man and the man leaves his parents to lead his own family
- C) Marriage removes family responsibility
- D) Leadership in the home is shared equally with parents

**(2.) According to the chapter,** what principle is taught in Acts 5:29 when the apostles said, “We must obey God rather than men”?

- A) Leaders should avoid conflict
- B) Family authority is always final
- C) Obedience to God comes before obedience to people
- D) Government rules should be obeyed

**(3.) According to the chapter,** what quality did Joshua show when he stepped into leadership after Moses?

- (A) Wealth and influence

(B) Strength and courage in trusting God

(C) Political skill

(D) Military experience alone

**(4.) Fill in the blank:** According to the chapter, a man of God should be Spirit-\_\_\_\_\_, not controlled by others.

**(5.) In the video lesson,** Pastor Kevin taught that leaders need encouragement. Who were the three sources of encouragement Joshua received?

(A) The elders, priests, and judges

(B) His family, friends, and military leaders

(C) The prophets, kings, and priests

(D) God, Moses, and the people of Israel

**(6.) In Joshua chapter 1,** how many times was Joshua told to be strong and courageous ?

(A) 5

(B) 3

(C) 4

(D) 7

**(7.) According to the chapter,** being ready to step into new territory and keep learning is part of what it means to “man up” for God. What does this require from a man of God?

- (A) Staying where he is comfortable and experienced
- (B) A willingness to grow, trust God, and embrace new responsibilities
- (C) Waiting until others push him forward
- (D) Avoiding unfamiliar challenges

**(8.) Fill in the blank:** From the video lesson, Pastor Kevin said knowledge is to know and wisdom is to apply. This shows that the Man of God course is not just for information but for \_\_\_\_\_

**(9.) From the video lesson, Pastor Kevin taught that a man of God would sell himself short if he never took advice from his \_\_\_\_\_.**

- (A) respected spiritual leaders
- (B) godly parents and a godly wife
- (C) trusted friends and coworkers
- (D) his own thoughts and experiences

**(10.) According to the chapter,** following God and leading biblically can sometimes create tension within the family. What should a man of God should do in this situation?

Write your answer(s):

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# Chapter 4

## A New Man



SFGM Man Of God 4

In the previous weeks of our study, we covered the need for men of God to rise up, being more faithful to God than to man.

We highlighted the basic duties of a man, someone who isn't lazy but provides for those under his wings, someone who has courage and bravery in the face of fear and doubt, someone who isn't controlled by others, and someone who protects those under his care.

Admittedly, we may not always walk perfectly in these things, but a man who doesn't walk at all in these things is not being the complete Man of God he is called to be. To spell it out in plain words—there is room for allowance and improvement but not for complacency and ignorance.

All these things are good and part of God's original plan for man, and these duties, traits, characteristics, and skills all have their role in a man fulfilling his calling and ministry. But in this fourth week of our study, we will focus on the truth that the natural man is not enough.

We can excel in all the duties and qualities a man can have. We can be men who teach the ways of the world to our families all while making them none the wiser to the things of the Spirit.

We can be men who gain the whole world but lose our souls. We can be men who lead others right into the same ditch we will fall into.

We can be men who protect our family from those who kill the body but put them in danger of Him who, after He has killed, has the power to cast them into Hell.

We can have all the worldly wisdom and still be fools in the sight of God. We can be free from the control of any man or woman and yet still be controlled by the sinful nature and the devil.

It is not enough to be a natural man in the world for the world is passing away and so are its men. But the Man of God, who does the will of God, will last forever!

The following passage is from the end of John chapter two and the beginning of chapter three, which in its original form was the same passage not divided by chapters and verses... follow along—

**“But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man. There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no man can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and [of] the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound**

**thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, “How can these things be?” John 2:24-25 - 3:1-9**

Regardless of your view of biblical numerology, it is fascinating that in the very passage of scripture which speaks of the necessity of the new birth, the word “Man” is used 8 times in the original Greek text, which in biblical numerology represents a new beginning.

Truly, a natural man is not enough; we must be born again by the Spirit.

## Character Focus

### **Nicodemus**

“The Pharisee”



Jesus could look in the face of such a man as Nicodemus, who was a picture of a man that had it all, he was a leader in Jerusalem. Jesus called him the teacher of Israel.

He had success, position, influence, and respect. As a Pharisee, he kept the law meticulously.

He was everything a great man could be, and yet even this man fell very short of God's glorious standard. Jesus could look him in the eye and tell him that he was in desperate need of being born again, born anew, born from above.

And right here we too are stared in the face as well that no matter what we have accomplished or ever will accomplish in the eyes of Jesus, it means nothing.

**“For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.” Luke 16:15 NKJV**

And yet again we are shocked to learn that the LORD does not see as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks upon the heart.

But would Nicodemus receive this? Would he forget what he thought he knew? He had lived his whole life to become what he thought being a man of God was all about...

Countless hours of study to memorize and quote the law, countless battles with sin, endless struggles to become self-controlled, countless days attending religious events, extraordinary dedication to the way of life of the Jewish code of living, a life full of accomplishments.

Not to mention a part of the elite class among a chosen nation, an elder among elders, a teacher of teachers, truly a

master of Israel, a life spent living up to what he thought it was all about...

The only way to get a glimpse of what was rushing through this man's mind is to hear the thoughts of the only other man in scripture who comes close to this man... enter the mind of Paul the apostle —

**“though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one!**

**I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.**

**Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ”**

**Philippians 3:4-8 NLT**

Saul the Pharisee also came face to face with the Lord Jesus, and he too found that nothing what he thought was important amounted to anything in the eyes of the Lord of glory. That was the day Saul the Pharisee died, and Paul the apostle was born.

But would he come to the same conclusion? Nicodemus left from his conversation with Jesus that night, and we do not read that he followed Christ as a disciple... but when the leaders of Jerusalem were taking steps towards arresting Jesus, we see some hope for Nicodemus...

**“Then Nicodemus, the leader who had met with Jesus earlier, spoke up. “Is it legal to convict a man before he is given a hearing?” he asked. They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Search the Scriptures and see for yourself—no prophet ever comes from Galilee!”**

**John 7:50-52 NLT**

Unfortunately, that was about the closest Nicodemus came to speaking up for Jesus. When they had him arrested, gave Him a mock trial, and brought Him before governors and demanded that He be crucified, all we hear is silence from Nicodemus.

And after the crucifixion and death of Jesus, we hear for the first time about a man named Joseph of Arimathea, who was a secret disciple of Jesus. He asked for Jesus’ body from Pilate so that he could give Him a proper burial.

Right then, we read that Nicodemus went with this disciple of Jesus and brought many spices to give Jesus a proper burial.

He assisted Joseph in taking his body and showed his deep respect for the teacher that he visited on that night, when he told him everything he ever needed to hear.

**We read that he helped bury Jesus that day. I read once that “though Nicodemus may have failed Jesus in life, yet he did not fail him in His death”.**

**He buried Jesus that day, and we do not hear about him again.**

Maybe through his failure, he realized he was not all that he thought he was. We are left to wonder whatever happened to the great Nicodemus, and what did he do when he heard the man he had buried was risen again?

What a reality check it is to us that no matter who we are or where we're from or what we've accomplished, all of us without Christ are in desperate need of the new birth. What an example this man is to us to forget what we think we know and be willing to be humble and learn what exactly it is that God wants us to learn.

“How can these things be?” Nicodemus asked. The answer is found not in a special formula or process, but the answer to his question was found in the very person who was standing right in front of him.

**“He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”**

**John 1:10-13 NKJV**

All did not know Him, and not all received Him, but to all who believed in Him, to them He gave the right or the power to be children of God. Born from above, born anew, born again.

Becoming a man of God has everything to do with coming to the end of yourself. It's not until you die to yourself that

you will ever become the man of God that God has called you to be.

**“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if one died for all, then all died; and he died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” II Corinthians 5:14-17 NKJV**

***Men of God are born again!***



# **Soldiers For God Ministries**

## **The Man of God Course Week 4**

### **Quiz**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**(1.) What does the chapter teach about worldly success and spiritual life through Nicodemus?**

- (A) Success proves spiritual maturity
- (B) Influence replaces the need for faith
- (C) A man can have everything outwardly and still lack new birth
- (D) Religious effort guarantees salvation

**(2.) According to the gospel of John chapter 1, how is someone born of God?**

Write your answer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**(3.) From John 2:24-25 leading into John 3, what important truth sets up Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus?**

- (A) Jesus was impressed with religious leaders

(B) Jesus entrusted Himself to those who believed because of miracles

(C) Jesus knew what was in man and therefore addressed Nicodemus' true need

(D) Nicodemus already understood the kingdom of God

**(4.) Fill in the blank:**

According to the chapter, becoming a man of God has everything to do with coming to the end of

\_\_\_\_\_.

**(5.) True or False:**

According to the chapter, a man can fulfill worldly duties well yet still be spiritually lost without the new birth.

Circle your answer: TRUE    FALSE

**(6.) From the video lesson,** Pastor Kevin taught that Week Four is the hinge of the course because everything else in the course can be learned by discipline, but without the new birth it all becomes:

(A) successful

(B) impressive

(C) meaningless

(D) difficult

**(7.) True or False:** Being born again is instantaneous and gives us a new nature, though there are instant changes, walking in the newness of life which flows from our new nature is progressive.

Circle your answer: TRUE FALSE

**(8.) Fill in the blank:** From the video lesson, Pastor Kevin said many people are on a \_\_\_\_\_ in life.

**(9.) True or False: In the Week 4 video lesson,** Pastor Kevin referenced a story explaining why Nicodemus visited Jesus at night.

Circle your answer: TRUE FALSE

**(10.) When we are born again,** we have a new nature, but we still struggle with the habits of our old nature. In light of this, what does Hebrews chapter 2:17-18 show us about Jesus?

Write your answer(s):

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### Bonus Questions

**(1.) According to the encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3,** what truth exposes the limitation of being only a “natural man”?

(A) Religious knowledge guarantees entrance into the kingdom

(B) Good works and discipline are enough to please God

(C) Without the new birth, a man cannot see or enter the kingdom of God

(D) Spiritual growth comes primarily through moral improvement

**(2.) In John 1:14** What does the word “dwelt” mean?

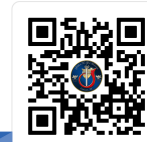
Write your answer(s):

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# Chapter 5

## A Humble Man



SFGM Man Of God 5

When we're born again, we're born with a purpose: to serve the Lord. We do this in any and every level of service which He allows us to serve Him in. This next section is about what a man of God does not do in God's house... There are four things men of God don't mess with.

They don't mess with God's glory, they don't mess with God's girls, they don't mess with God's gold, and they don't mess with God's gifts, meaning they properly manage the blessings and gifting of God in their lives.

Beginning with the importance of the man of God staying away from God's glory, meaning walking in humility before God. There is a real need for humility in the church and in the life of a man of God.

Humble at heart was a description Jesus gave of Himself. Next to love, humility is one of the most noticeable characteristics we see and understand in the life of Christ.

Every Christian is called to grow in humility. People usually think of growing as growing upward, but when it comes to growing in humility, it is growing downward. Growing down is to make ourselves lower. We see this in Jesus, lowering Himself more and more before being exalted to the highest place of honor at the right hand of the throne of God.

Take a lesson from great trees of the forest; while they grow upward, they also grow downward simultaneously.

The end result is that the tree can support its own height and weight without falling. If a man grows up in position without growing down into humility, it's only a matter of time before he falls. The life of humble people is safer because glory belongs only to God.

Let's go over the lives of three kings who messed with God's glory. In Acts chapter 12, we read about Herod Agrippa 1.

After he had James, the brother of John, put to death and after he tried to do the same to Peter but was prevented from doing so by an angel of God, after these things, we read there was a group of people trying to get in favor with him... let's read from Acts 12 —

**“Now Herod had been very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; but they came to him with one accord, and having made Blastus the king's personal aide their friend, they asked for peace, because their country was supplied with food by the king's country. So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. And the people kept shouting, “The voice of a god and not of a man!” Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.” Acts 12:20-23 NKJV**

Luke explains that since he did not give the glory to God, God struck him down with an illness.

It's fascinating to know Luke was not the only one who recorded this event, but Josephus, the Jewish historian, also tells of the same event, and it is remarkably similar to the

account from the book of Acts... take a look at what he wrote...

***“He put on a garment made wholly of silver, and of a contexture truly wonderful, and came into the theatre early in the morning; at which time the silver of his garment, being illuminated by the fresh reflection of the sun’s rays upon it, shone out after a surprising manner, and was so resplendent as to spread a horror over those that looked intently upon him; and presently his flatterers cried out, one from one place, and another from another (though not for his good), that he was a god...A severe pain also arose in his belly, and began in a most violent manner... when he had been quite worn out by the pain in his belly for five days, he departed this life.” (Antiquities, XIX.8.2)***

Herod grasped at the glory that is due to God alone, and it led to his untimely death.

Another king who made this deadly mistake was Saul, the first king of Israel. His pride led to many mistakes in his life. He tried to exalt himself in the eyes of man, and it led to the anointing of God, departing from his life.

Instead of fulfilling his God-given assignment of annihilating the Amalekites, in his pride, he kept the Amalekite king alive and brought him and much of the spoil back to the land of Israel to show the people and to celebrate.

When Samuel, the prophet who anointed him as king, saw all that Saul had done, he said to him —

**“When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel?” I Samuel 15:17 NKJV**

**“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.” I Samuel 15:23 NKJV**

He also told him that the kingdom was torn from him and given to his neighbor, who was better than him.

And in the course of time, God began to exalt David, the son of Jesse, in the eyes of the people, which was the very thing Saul was desperate for.

Saul's pride led to envy and suspicion of David, and he tried to kill him many times. His pride had blinded him and eventually led to his insanity.

In the end, he found himself intent on going to war with the philistines which he could never have won. And on a mount called Gilboa, the battle would spell disaster for Saul and his family. Saul's sons were killed, and he committed suicide.

The Philistines took his and his sons' bodies and hung them on the walls, a true disgrace. But perhaps even more disgraceful were the rumors that floated around that he died at the hands of an Amalekite, the very people he spared so that he could satisfy his own pride.

Another king who took a fall because of pride was King Uzziah.

**“Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years. His mother was Jecoliah from Jerusalem. He did what was pleasing in the Lord’s sight, just as his father, Amaziah, had done.” 2 Chronicles 26:3-4 NLT**

Uzziah had one of the longest reigns in all of Israel’s history. It started off great: the kingdom was prosperous, the people were safe, the army was strong, and they won many important battles.

He became very powerful and very famous all over that region of the world. He was enjoying much success. Unfortunately, the success led to his downfall.

Pastor Anthony shared about when successes led to humbling times in his life. Early in the ministry, God was using him in mighty ways.

He was a new minister; he was young, and yet he was authoring books, making TV appearances, being asked to share at mega churches, and associating with very well-known ministers and ministries.

And in the atmosphere of success, pride crept in, and then came the humbling times. And instantly, he was reminded of the humble beginnings of the ministry. The truth is, God sends humbling times because of His great love that He has for us.

It’s sobering that success can be one of the main threats to ministry, but through the examples of others, we can learn not to repeat the same histories. That is why this course was created so that the future of ministers and ministries would be brighter and able to avoid the same pitfalls.

**“Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but a person is tested by being praised.”**  
**Proverbs 27:21 NLT**

Success can be the stepping stone on which men of God either stand or fall. Some fall for pride and then fall from success and never recover. Some learn from their mistakes and rise again, stronger and more humble than ever. If we can be trusted with success, God will entrust us with more; each level of success will require greater levels of humility.

Uzziah had great success and great political power, but that was not enough for him. He also wanted spiritual power over the people, so he went into the temple of God and attempted to do what was unlawful for a king to do—offer incense in the temple of God.

The priests were horrified and withstood him with great confidence and force. The chief priest ordered him to leave, giving him a last chance to repent.

It didn't work, and the king became furious. And while he became enraged in the temple, immediately God struck him with leprosy on his forehead.

**“When Azariah the high priest and all the other priests saw the leprosy, they rushed him out. And the king himself was eager to get out because the Lord had struck him. So King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in isolation in a separate house, for he was excluded from the Temple of the Lord.**  
**2 Chronicles 26:20-21 NLT**

His success became his downfall, and after these things, he lived alone in isolation for the rest of his life. When he died, he was not even buried where kings are buried because he was unclean.

The prophet Isaiah tells us something very significant happened in the year of his death. Take a look —

**“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!” And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.”**  
**Isaiah 6:1-4 NKJV**

When pride died, the glory of God was seen.  
John tells us something very significant in his gospel.

**“These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.” John 12:41 NKJV**

John applies this very passage to Jesus. In the year the prideful king died, Isaiah saw the true king! He said, “I saw the Lord!” He was seated on the throne high and lifted up, and the train of His robe, which represents endless victory, filled the temple!

Uzziah tried to fill the temple with smoke from incense, but Isaiah saw that the manifest presence of the glory of God, which is called the Shekinah glory, filled the temple with the

cloud of His presence, and the pillars of the temple (the strongest structures of the building) were shaking.

The mighty angels declared, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of heaven’s armies!” “The earth is filled with His glory!”

He alone is the true King. He alone is High and lifted up!  
He alone is worthy of the glory!

## Character Focus

### **Jesus Christ**

“King of kings”



Though He is worthy, Jesus is the only King in this story  
who did not grasp at the glory of God!

**“who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,”  
Philippians 2:6 ESV**

The Greek word for the English word “form” is *morphē*, and it means the very nature of the individual... the phrase form of God or as it is in Greek, *morphē Theos*.

In a very basic sense, it means all that it means to have the nature of God; in other words, it means all that it means to be God. Jesus was in the *morphe theos* but did not consider the divine privileges something to grasp at.

**“but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:” Philippians 2:7 KJV**

Again, we find the word “form,” which in the Greek is “*morphē*.” This time, though, not in reference to the Greek word “*theos*” but to the Greek word “*doulos*,” which in English is translated... “Servant.” He was in the form of God but humbled Himself and was found in the form of a servant. Becoming everything that it meant to serve.

He humbled Himself by coming —

**“not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45 NKJV**

He humbled Himself again by —

**“being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death,”  
Philippians 2:8 KJV**

And going even further, He humbled Himself yet again to the lowest degree imaginable: He humbled Himself even to

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**“the death of the cross.” Philippians 2:8 KJV**

Roman crucifixion was reserved only for the lowest class of people and the worst kind of criminal. There was not a more shameful death possible in the Roman world, which was the world empire at the time.

There was not a more shameful and despicable way of execution. Not just in the eyes of gentiles but also in the eyes of the Jews, for it was written in their law.

**“Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:”  
Galatians 3:13 KJV**

Jesus was considered cursed at His death. He humbled Himself to the lowest point possible, and when He died, His charges hung above His head.

**“It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the  
Jews.””  
John 19:19 ESV**

but that is not where the story ends for Jesus; the text goes on to say —

**“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:9-11 KJV**

A very key word is the word “Wherefore,” meaning—because of everything he said prior— or simply “Therefore.” God has highly exalted Him and has given Him the name above every name.

God reserved the greatest exaltation for the one who endured the greatest humiliation. Herod, Saul, and Uzziah all grasped at the glory of God, but Jesus did not count it something to be grasped, but he let go and humbled Himself.

Those kings died because they were prideful. This King died because he was humble.

Sometimes in the church, we adopt a turf protection mentality and we attempt to hang on to our positions and grasp at what was given to us or grasp at what we can attain.

But the Holy Spirit gave us this information so that we would follow the example of Christ Jesus and not grasp at position but humble ourselves more and more and never fall for the self-delusion of pride.

We are sure of this because the passage begins with an encouragement to adopt His way of thinking.

**“You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and**

**gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5-11  
NLT**

Without a shadow of a doubt, Jesus has always belonged in the place of highest honor and glory, but the way for Him to be in His rightful place was through humility. This shows us that whoever will be greatest must become the lowest; this is true even for us men of God.

And if we grow down into humility, He will lift us to the proper place we belong, and we will be able to bear the weight of it without falling.

Only God deserves the glory!

When pride dies in our lives, the manifest glory of God will fill our lives, houses, and churches.

***Men of God stay away from God's glory!***



# **Soldiers For God Ministries**

## **The Man of God Course Week 5**

### **Quiz**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**(1.) Fill in the blank:**

From the chapter, if a man grows up in position without growing \_\_\_\_\_ into humility it is only a matter of time before he falls.

**(2.) According to the chapter** What warning does the life of King Uzziah give about success?

- (A) Success removes temptation
- (B) Success can lead to pride and downfall
- (C) Success guarantees spiritual maturity
- (D) Success prevents failure

**(3.) according to the chapter** What contrast is made by using the Greek word *morphē* for both God and servant?

- (A) Jesus lost His divinity
- (B) Jesus changed identities
- (C) Jesus, though fully God, truly humbled Himself to serve
- (D) Jesus became less important than others

**(4.) True or False:**

According to the chapter, the historian Josephus recorded an account of Herod Agrippa's death that closely matches the biblical account in Acts.

Circle your answer: TRUE FALSE

**(5.) According to the chapter,** What does Proverbs 27:21 illustrate?

- (A) Wealth tests character
- (B) Praise tests a person's heart
- (C) Trials reveal faith
- (D) Leadership requires endurance

**(6.) From the video lesson,** Pastor Anthony taught that pride was the sin in the garden. How did Satan know how to tempt Adam and Eve out of the blessing?

- (A) Because he understood human weakness better than God
- (B) Because he knew what led to his own fall from heaven
- (C) Because Adam and Eve were already rebellious
- (D) Because the garden lacked spiritual protection

**(7.) According to Philippians 1:15–18**, can God use someone who has prideful motives?

Circle your answer: YES NO

**(8) Fill in the blank: From the video lesson**, Pastor Anthony said, “Forgive us for trying to use Your name to exalt our name. We should use \_\_\_\_\_ to exalt Your name.”

**(9.) Romans** chapter 12:16 says “associate with the humble.” What does this mean?

Write your

answer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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**(10.) According to the video**, if the man of God would put pride to death in his life, what then would be seen in his life?

Write your

answer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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### Bonus question

**(1.) What common mistake did Herod, Saul, and Uzziah make according to the chapter?**

- (A) They feared their enemies
- (B) They rejected wise counsel
- (C) They grasped at glory that belongs to God
- (D) They avoided responsibility

# Chapter 6

## A Faithful Man



Pastor Anthony once said “It’s not love, it’s LUST!” and it caused me to understand that lust pretends to be love, and many people are tricked and deceived into thinking that it actually is love, but there is a BIG giveaway... Lust is focused on self while love is focused on others. In regards to adultery, lust says, “I need that person.” But love says, “My family needs me.” Lust says, “I have to.” Love says, “I can’t.”

The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life are three major categories of sin. However, among sins, the Bible says the sin of immorality is unique in that it is more harmful and destructive to the person who commits this type of sin.

**“Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.” 1 Corinthians 6:18 (NLT)**

The major emphasis of the above-mentioned text is that the believer’s body is the temple of the Lord; therefore, it belongs to Him.

**“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ESV**

Believers must understand the destructive effects of adultery and sexual immorality. These sins bring destruction to a body that is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, a body that belongs to Jesus Christ.

Even worse is that the destruction of immorality isn't limited to the people who commit these sins, but this sin has the potential to destroy everyone around it. How many marriages have been broken?

How many families have been shattered? How many churches have closed their doors because of the lust of the flesh and eyes? Too many.

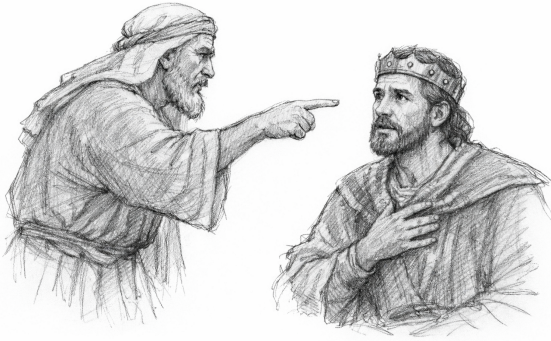
And how many marriages are destroyed even though they still exist? How many families are hanging on by a thread because of the sins of the past? How many pastors and ministries are dead even while they seem to be alive because of the fall in which they fell?

Are we any better than they? Will the result of our sin be anything other than the destruction of everything we hold dear? A thousand good men have fallen. Are we better than a thousand men? Are we better than a hundred? Are we better than one?

## Character Focus

### **King David**

“The Son of Jesse”



King David was a man after God’s own heart, and even he fell... are we better than him?

**“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” I Corinthians 10:12 NKJV**

Don’t set yourself up to fail. Avoid the temptation of adultery and immorality at every cost. It’s better to lose family and friends without ruining them than losing them after destroying them.

So how did King David fall? Let’s take a close look.

**“It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. Then it happened one evening that David arose from his**

**bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."” II Samuel 11:1-5 NKJV**

Second Samuel chapter eleven opens up one of the worst chapters of David's life. First of all, verse one tells us that David was in the wrong place at the wrong time. In the spring of the year, a time when kings should be out at war, David decided to hang out at home and take it easy for a little while.

After all, he already fought the good fight, he already ran for his life, he'd already been in the caves, he already slayed the giant named Goliath with a single shot of a smooth rock to the forehead.

More importantly, he even escaped the hand of the other giant in his life, the bigger giant that is, the one who stood right behind him and watched as he slayed Goliath, the one who was head and shoulders taller than the rest of the people.

And after all that, he was about to fight the biggest giant he'd ever faced. Not a descendant of Anak, not a man 9 feet tall, not a man with 6 fingers and 6 toes, no, not a man at all. But the giant of a pretty face that would be the one to make the giant slayer fall.

The news of the woman being with child led to David trying to cover up his sin in a very evil and crafty way. He called the woman's husband back from the war so that he could spend time at home, and the adulterous affair would never come to light.

But David's wretched plan failed, and when it did, David made an even eviler plan. He sent Uriah, whose name meant "The fire of God," back to the battle with a letter in his hand for the commander of the army. Uriah never read the letter; we know that because within the letter were the instructions on how to make "the problem" of Uriah disappear.

The letter from the king told the commander of the army to set Uriah in the most dangerous part of the battle so that he would die, and that's exactly what happened. After all of David's schemes, it looked as though he covered his tracks and got away with it all.

The truth is that before all this happened, David had been on a long-running winning streak, literally. Second Samuel begins with 10 straight chapters of victory for David. It was success after success, and the text is very careful to show that it was all because of the favor of God.

This chapter, though, doesn't even mention God, not until the very verse that is.

**“When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.”**

**II Samuel 11:26-27 NKJV**

The secret may not have gotten out, but the Lord knew about it, and He was displeased.

Before all this happened, it could easily have been said that David was the man; he had it all. But the next chapter of Second Samuel shows us just how much David really was “the man.”

Being “the man” is a great compliment to any man; it usually means he’s doing something very well.

Immediately after all these things, Chapter 12 tells us that a man of God came to visit David and actually told David those very same words he said: “You are the man!” It all started off with a little story about a man and a little lamb. He told him:

**“There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children.**

**It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”**

David flared up in anger at this story and said that the man who did these things deserved to die and would most definitely pay for his sins. The only problem was the next

words that would come from the mouth of the man of God...

**“Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man!”**

**“Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more!**

**Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.**

**Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’**

**Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.’ ” So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” II Samuel 12:1-13 NKJV**

What David did in the dark, God brought to the light. God had given him so much and done so many great things in his life, and somewhere along the way, he drifted from the path of righteousness.

Joseph was another man of God that was tempted by a woman, yet even though this was before the law, he recognized that this sinful act was against the will and character of the God whom he served and fled away from that temptation.

This gives us a great example that we also should show the same kind of faithfulness to God and our friends. Keeping the Word close to our hearts.

The different circumstances of David and Joseph are very much worth comparing in some detail. In the story with David, he was the initiator; what a shame it is for a man of God to be the one who causes someone to sin.

From Bathsheba's point of view, it would have been better if she had resisted the king's demand as difficult as that may have been; we are not told that she attempted to not commit adultery.

She was lured into sin, and her husband died on account of it, and her home was broken. This type of situation happens to this day with some women; there are some who take advantage of their weaknesses.

These are little lambs who need help to grow in their relationship with the Lord Jesus. The wolf feeds on the young of the flock, but the man of God must care for the little lambs of Christ.

Now in Joseph's story, the woman was the one attempting to lure the man of God into sin. And on this subject, the word of God is not silent.

**“For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey,  
And her mouth is smoother than oil; But in the end  
she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged  
sword. Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay  
hold of hell.” Proverbs 5:3-5 NKJV**

**“Remove your way far from her, And do not go  
near the door of her house,” Proverbs 5:8 NKJV**

The only choice for a man of God is to avoid such a woman, not even attempting to go down the street she lives on for fear. Joseph did the right thing when this woman tried to lure him away from God; he ran! Even without the law, he knew the truth of the law.

**“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue  
righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who  
call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” II Timothy  
2:22 NKJV**

When Joseph did what was right in the sight of God, on the surface, it didn't seem like it went very well for him, but in reality, it placed him exactly where he needed to be at exactly the right time.

A moment of pleasure is not worth a lifetime of destiny. Taking this teaching to heart can save your family, your ministry, and your very life.

So the choice remains: which man will we choose to be?

**“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under  
trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive  
the crown of life, which God has promised to those  
who love him.”  
James 1:12 ESV**

The adulterous woman may be sharp as a double-edged sword, but the man of God is well warned to resist her.

**“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV**

The world is in desperate need of men of God who keep standing even when tempted. To the world, a man of God’s message and testimony is only as good as his witness.

The man of God is called to care for the flock and the lost; some women are lost in the world, and they need to be gathered, not scattered even further. Many wicked men scatter the flock of Christ.

Remember that Jesus laid down His life for the sheep, and we are called to watch over and protect the flock, not mistreat them.

Never let this description be true of you.

**“They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that! They are the kind who work their way into people’s homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by various desires. ” 2 Timothy 3:5-6 NLT**

What will happen to a woman who commits adultery with a man of God? The man of God needs to be responsible because we're called to bring people closer to God, not be the very thing that leads them further away from Christ.

So far, this chapter has gone over the destructive effects of physical adultery, but there is another destructive force threatening men everywhere, and that is adultery of the heart.

**“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:27-28 NKJV**

Adultery of the heart has always been a thing. In fact, it is where adultery truly begins. Before David ever committed adultery with Bathsheba, it first happened in his heart. In other words, when his thoughts ran wildly, he then acted on those thoughts. This is why the scripture cries out:

**“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” Proverbs 4:23 NIV**

Adultery in the heart may have always been around, but today it is at an all-time high. And this has everything to do with sinful online content having become widespread.

This is a sin that must be repented of in the life of a would-be man of God.

Today, men of God must deal with many unasked-for temptations. King David may not have asked to be tempted with Bathsheba on the balcony that night but today, it is as if that balcony is on every smartphone.

Often enough, a man of God sees what he did not ask for while he is scrolling on social media or checking through his emails. There are many individuals and even major corporations who specifically aim to lure men into viewing sinful content.

Therefore a man of God must be on guard:

**“Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.”  
Ephesians 6:11 NLT**

This can be very difficult sin to overcome since it can be done so secretly, not to mention the addiction it causes in the brain.

Thankfully, though, the word of God gives the solution here.

**“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”  
Romans 12:2A NIV**

And here:

**“that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”  
Ephesians 4:22-24 NKJV**

And here:

**“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.” Psalms 119:9, 11 NKJV**

Read carefully what the Bible says here:

**“This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don’t participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don’t let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.” Romans 13:11-14 NLT**

If you have failed or keep failing to win this battle, know this word from the Lord Jesus:

**“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” II Corinthians 12:9 NKJV**

It profoundly yet simply means His grace is enough for you.

Remember:

**“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”**

**Romans 12:21 NKJV**

In this battle, you must NOT be overcome (dominated) by evil, but you must overcome evil with good. In other words, don't let the evil you do stop you from the good you do, but let the good eventually stop the evil.

As for David, when he realized his sin, his heart was broken because of what he had done.

He then prayed a prayer that every man who has fallen short of the glory of God should keep close to his heart. In his prayer, he said...

***“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy***

*Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.”*

**Psalms 51:1-13, 15-17 NIV**

***Men of God stay away from God's girls!***



# **Soldiers For God Ministries**

## **The Man of God Course Week 6**

### **Quiz**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**(1.) From the week six video lesson,** Hosea 4:6 says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. What point did Pastor Anthony make using the scripture in the video?”

Write your answer(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**(2.) According to the chapter,** Lust is focused on \_\_\_\_\_, while love is focused on others.

**(3.) True or False:** Sexual immorality harms the person committing the sin and does not affect others.

Circle your answer: YES NO

**(4.) What Scripture was it when David prayed**

“Create in me a Clean/Pure heart of God”?

(A) Psalm 51 (B) 1 Kings 9 (C) 1 Samuel 16 (D) Psalms 119

**(5.) According to the chapter,** after Nathan told David the story of the rich man and the lamb, what direct statement exposed David’s sin?

(A) Repent before the Lord

(B) You will lose the kingdom

(C) You are the man

(D) God will show mercy

**(6.) According to the video lesson,** Dark corners would appear in the temple if the priests did not properly

(A) Open the curtain

(B) clean the candle wick

(C) Burn the sacrifices

(D) all the above

**(7.) From the Week 6 video lesson,** Pastor Anthony described a minister may receive many compliments from a female admirer while his wife may not compliment him as much. Why did he say the wife often doesn't compliment as much, and what point was he making?

(A) the wife doesn't notice his effort, and female admirer is harmless

(B) the wife is the most honest, and the example warns men of God to recognize temptation disguised as admiration

(C) She doesn't like his preaching style, and ministers should look elsewhere for encouragement

(D) She is too familiar with him, and admiration from others is more meaningful

**(8.) According to the video,** The adulterous woman is like a double-edged sword... what is sharper than a double-edged sword?

Write your answer(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**(9.) From the Week 6 video lesson,** when King David fell into adultery, what statement did Pastor Anthony highlight as the one that hurt David the most?

- (A) After David fasted, the child still died
- (B) Uriah never opened the letter that was his own death sentence
- (C) If everything God did for David wasn't enough, all he had to do was ask for more
- (D) David was the apple of God's eye, and he still did this

**(10.) From Chapter 6 and 2 Timothy 2:22,** what is the biblical response to youthful lust?

- (A) Manage it carefully
- (B) Ignore it
- (C) Flee from it
- (D) Pray but stay near it

Bonus question

**True or False?** According to 1 Corinthians 6:15-17, a man of God's body is joined in the body of Christ, and committing adultery or another form of that sort of sin is a sin against Christ's body and the temple of the Holy Spirit?  
Circle your answer: TRUE FALSE

# Chapter 7

## A Content Man



**“Don’t love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, “I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.” Hebrews 13:5 NLT**

Turning our attention from standing firm against the love of women, let’s look at the importance of the Man of God keeping free from another dangerous love, the love of money.

**“For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.”  
1 Timothy 6:10 NLT**

We have already established that a man of God is a man who works hard, but it is ultra important for the man of God to keep business and finances in their proper place in his heart.

We should never be ignorant of the attacks of the devil; they are very many. Some come from without, some from within. Jesus describes the sinfulness of the last days and warns us that love would grow cold.

**“And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” Matthew 24:10-12 KJV**

Paul continues the description of the last days for us when he writes:

**“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”**

**II Timothy 3:1-5 NKJV**

Through these descriptions, we see that godly love will grow cold, but love for other things will increase: lovers of self, lovers of pleasure, and lovers of money.

The love for money and materialism is one of the main causes for unfruitfulness in the kingdom’s growth in the world.

**“Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.” Matthew 13:22 NKJV**

When we allow the seed of God’s word to be among thorns in our hearts, it represents competing loves in our lives. The love of the world is competing with the love of God in our hearts. The only problem is that if we stay in love with the world, it only reveals the lack of love we have for the Father.

**“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”**

**1 John 2:15-17 KJV**

**The love of God is the only love worth having, because it's the only love that will actually last. The world is passing away and so are the ones who love it.**

The Importance of not setting yourself up to fail has already been mentioned. Many people believe they can handle the love they have for money and materialism, so they indulge themselves. Not realizing they're playing with fire. The New Testament cautions the man of God against indulging himself in these things.

## Character Focus

### **Achan**

“The Covetous Soldier”



The greedy Achan from the time of Joshua thought he could handle a little of the world’s goods, and it ruined him.

When God finally brought the people of Israel into the Promised Land, their first battle was at the city of Jericho, and a great miracle took place:

the walls of Jericho fell to the ground, and the Israelites captured Jericho and completely destroyed it. It was a great victory, and God commanded that the Israelites take none of the spoil but devote it all to destruction.

But instead of being obedient and dedicating everything to God, Achan, one of the Israelite soldiers, kept some of the spoil for himself.

You could imagine the joy and excitement in all the camp of Israel; they were in the Promised Land, and God began to subdue their enemies before them. But at their very next battle, the excitement would turn to devastation because the Israelites were badly defeated, and they couldn't understand why.

Soon it was revealed to them that it was because of what the greedy soldier had done. When the truth was revealed, Achan and his household were put to death for his sin.

Then when the Israelites went out to battle again against the same city, they were completely victorious, and God gave them all the spoil to keep for themselves and their families. This only adds to the terrible outcome for Achan; if only he had waited!

The examples of men of God who fell for the love of money are abundant: Balaam, the world-famous prophet for hire; Eli's wicked sons; Elisha's greedy attendant Gehazi; Demas, the fallen-away co-worker of Paul the apostle; Ananias and Sapphira, the couple with an ungodly unity; and Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of Christ.

The single thread that tied all these people together was one and the same... The love of money.

They all had the appearance of godliness but denied the life-changing power of it. They are a serious warning and example to us.

We must not fall into the same trap that they fell into, which was settling for the here and now of money and materialism and selling out the true blessing of gaining Christ.

Judas was mentioned at the end of the list as a double meaning to show that when followers of Christ allow the love of money to dominate their lives, they end up betraying Christ and destroying themselves, as Judas did.

**“But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction.**

**But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.” 1 Timothy 6:9, 11 NLT**

The man of God flees from these things as he flees from other things. Why? Because:

**“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” Matthew 6:24 NKJV**

Here, mammon is the love of money and materialism personified as a master of a slave. I once heard, “Money is a great servant but a terrible master.”

The man who prays, “Lead us not into temptation,” but indulges in the love of money and materialism doesn’t understand what he’s doing.

Jesus, in his introduction to the greatest sermon of all time, the Sermon on the Mount, mentions what type of people are truly blessed. He said:

**“Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.”**

**Matthew 5:5 KJV**

Paul the apostle, also mentions the word meekness in Galatians chapter 5 in his discussion of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

The greatest description of the word meekness I have ever come across is the phrase “Power under control.” A power that never lashes out, that never freaks out, and that never loses self-control. This is why meekness is sometimes translated as “gentleness.”

Superman is a beautiful picture of meekness, since he is the strongest superhero, but he never uses his full strength because if he did, he would kill, so he pulls his punches. His power is under control. Some say he is overpowered, but his power does not overpower him!

Sometimes meekness is confused with weakness. The reality is that any man can throw a punch when he’s angry, but can he hold back his fist? Any man can shout, but which one can keep shut his mouth? True power is power under control. That is inner strength, and that is meekness.

How does this apply to indulging in materialism? To sum it up in a single sentence, it means: Just because you can, doesn’t mean you have to.

You may be able to have it all, you may be able to show them all, you may be able to outdo them all, but just because you can doesn’t mean you have to! Indulgence is the opposite of meekness.

The truth is our culture is bent on money, possessions, and materialism. And they're willing to do whatever they have to in order to achieve these things.

Should the man of God be more of the same, or should he show the world something else? I believe the world would be better off seeing such a thing as meekness.

It has been said it's okay to have nice things as long as the nice things don't have you. We would caution those who think the nice things don't have them to make sure they don't actually have them, for Jesus said these things can be "deceitful."

The elderly apostle Paul goes to great lengths warning Timothy, the young man of God, not to fall into the trap of the love of these things. He tells him that there are some people who have become clouded in their thinking, causing them to believe that showing a godly life is an easy way to make money.

**“These people always cause trouble. Their minds are corrupt, and they have turned their backs on the truth. To them, a show of godliness is just a way to become wealthy.” 1 Timothy 6:5 (NLT)**

Unfortunately, we have seen ministers who have had this way of thinking. Thankfully though, this is something that can be repented from, and a life-changing discovery can be made, which is this:

**“But godliness with contentment is great gain.”  
1 Timothy 6:6 KJV**

This means that a godly life plus not being hungry for more and more without fulfillment but content and happy with what one has, that calculates to great gain, which is great wealth. Happier is the poor man who is content than the rich man who never has enough.

Contentment was the secret of life Paul found while in prison, realizing that in any circumstance, whether having little or having much, he is able to handle it all by the power of Christ that rests upon him. He said:

**“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:12-13 NIV**

But if not:

**“Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.” Jude 1:11 (NKJV)**



### **Balancing Truth**

To those who had this world's goods, and there are many men of God who do, Paul encourages the young pastor to tell them not to set their hearts on the world's treasures.

**“Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so**

**unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.” 1 Timothy 6:17-19 NLT**

The counterweight to the love of money and materialism is generosity.

Jesus said, “It’s **more blessed to give than to receive.**”

Giving little things here in this life stores up treasures in the next life, treasures that never fade away, where no moth and no rust can ever destroy, and where no thief will ever be able to break in and steal. What a trade!

This comes as great news since there is increased risk for rich people:

**“And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.” Matthew 19:24 KJV**

God has given the rich man a layer of defense against the love of money, a firewall, a way of escape from the deceitfulness of it all. And that is generosity.

**“As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.””**

**II Corinthians 9:9 NKJV**

This scripture is talking about the man of God. It also says

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**“for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,” II Corinthians 9:7-8, 10 NKJV**

Contentment and generosity are not exclusive to the rich or poor. There are rich men who are stingy and poor men who are generous, and there are poor men who are more in love with the things of the world than some rich men are. This means that whether we have plenty or little, we need to be content and generous.

Simply put, it's good to give. Not just for others but also for us. Why is giving good for us? Because giving makes us a little less selfish and a little less greedy and a lot more blessed every time we give.

We chip away at the love of money and materialism when we freely give it away! This is why tithing is an extremely healthy practice. It's important, though, to mention grace-giving.

Under the Old Testament law, tithing was enforced by the threat of the curse of God coming upon the people. This most definitely is not the case under the New Covenant.

**“You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure.”  
2 Corinthians 9:7 NLT**

Unfortunately, though, sometimes the truth about giving is abused. Sometimes they say if we don't give, we're under a curse, which is simply not true.

Other times, though, and maybe a view gaining in popularity is the false notion that “Since we’re in the new covenant, we don’t have to give.” This is a cloak some greedy people hide their sin under.

One sad predicament to be in is to always receive a gift from someone and never think I’m giving a gift to that person.

We can never give anything in comparison to what God has given us, for the gift of God to us is indescribable.  
(II Corinthians 9:15)

But it is a shame to repeatedly enter His presence empty-handed. Today, church has become a place to go and get, but it began as a place to go and give.

The servant mindset of the early church has disappeared from the scene. The early church stood in awe of the service Christ rendered for them, and they in turn dedicated their lives to humble service to one another.

We were told to remember these things, but somehow we have forgotten. It is said we are in the age of church consumerism, like a lifetime free subscription. People go to receive a word, they go to receive encouragement, they go for the event, they go for the hangout, they go for the food.

They get a laugh with their friends. Maybe they’ll even get a prayer that someone will pray for them. Sometimes they may even get a little financial help. Ultimately, they go to get, not to give. But church is not a place to go only to get. But it’s also a place to go and give.

Whether it be in time, talent, or treasure. If one goes to church without any sort of contribution, they have missed the point of it all.

People should find ways to give to the body of Christ, and churches should find avenues people can serve in or give to. Imagine the environment when all are looking to give and not to take.

Paul, the apostle, founded the church of Ephesus, and on his very last visit to them. They were at the seashore where he was about to sail away. He told them they would never see his face again.

When they heard this, they wept bitterly because of that word that he told them. And one of the very last words he said to them, something he thought they should remember, were these peculiar words of Christ that were only preserved here by Paul:

**“Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”**  
**Acts 20:35 NKJV**

The answer to covetousness is graciousness.

**Men of God stay away from God’s gold!**



# **Soldiers For God Ministries**

## **The Man of God Course Week 7**

### **Quiz**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**(1.) According to the video,** To avoid being labeled as a false teacher, we sometimes hold back from teaching the truths that false teachers often misuse. This is necessary to maintain a good witness and serve as a beacon of light to the world.

Circle your answer: TRUE FALSE

**(2.) According to the Chapter,** godliness with \_\_\_\_\_ is described as great gain.

**(3.) According to the Chapter ,** what is described as the counterweight to the love of money and materialism?

(A) Hard work

(B) Simplicity

(C) Generosity

**(D) Poverty**

**(4.) In Philippians 4:11-13,** what is it that Paul learned to become in all circumstances?

(A) Confident

(B) Faithful

(C) Content

(D) Thankful

**(5.) From Chapter 7 and Philippians 4:13,** Paul learned that he could be content through \_\_\_\_\_ who gives him strength.

**(6.) From Chapter 7,** what should Achan have done when he saw the spoil at Jericho?

(A) Take a small portion for himself

(B) Hide it and hope no one noticed

(C) He should have waited

(D) Trade it with another soldier

**(7.) What is the Greek meaning** of the word “content” and what does it mean in English? (**two-part question**)

Write your answer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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**(8.) From the Week 7 video lesson,** how long did Pastor Anthony say it would take for someone to eventually reveal what their treasure is, whatever it may be?

(A) A few minutes

(B) One conversation

(C) A day

(D) A week

**(9.) True or False:** Jesus approved of the Pharisees' tithing but rebuked them for neglecting the more important matters of the law?

Circle your answer: TRUE FALSE

**(10.)** From Chapter 7 and Acts 20:35, Jesus said it is more blessed to \_\_\_\_\_ than to \_\_\_\_\_.

Bonus questions

**From Chapter 7,** what is one practical way to fight the love of money in your life?

- (A) Saving everything you earn
- (B) Giving generously
- (C) Comparing yourself to others
- (D) Avoiding church giving

**According to Chapter 7,** why is giving good not only for others but also for us?

- (A) It makes us more popular
- (B) It increases our reputation
- (C) It makes us less selfish and greedy
- (D) It guarantees financial success

# Chapter 8

## A Gifted Man



God is the great giver of gifts! The last of the four G's is all about the proper stewardship of the gifts of God in our lives.

One important truth about spiritual gifts that people often do not realize is that the gifts of grace are not given for the sake of the person who receives them, but for the benefit of the rest of the church.

**“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:” I Corinthians 12:7 NKJV**

The gifts of God are irrevocable, but can be wasted...

**“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.”  
Matthew 25:14-15 NKJV**

The parable of the talents is a teaching on how God wants us to use what He gives us, and how it is wrong for us to bury them away. The two servants who put their talents to good use were rewarded with more.

**His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a**

**little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’**

**Matthew 25:21 (ESV)**

This shows that God will entrust us with a measure of faith, or with certain gifts or talents to begin with, and when we faithfully steward these things, He will entrust us with more. This is the idea of being faithful with little and becoming faithful with much.

But the servant who was not faithful in little would not be entrusted with more. As a matter of fact, even the little he had was taken away from him, and he was cast out from his master’s presence.

**“and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. Luke 16:10 (ESV)**

A truly sobering principle which should wake us up to the seriousness of properly managing the gifts and talents the master has entrusted us with.

Therefore, we must be sure to be faithful stewards with the gifts of God, so that we will not be ashamed when He asks what we’ve done with what we were given.

Being faithful in our gifts means using them with integrity, understanding that the gifts of God are not for profit but for service. With them, we seek not our own benefit but the benefit of others, not losing sight of why we have received them in the first place, which was not for our glory but for the glory of God and for the good of His people.

We are being faithful stewards of our gifts when we are not only walking in the power of the Holy Spirit but also

walking in the fruit of the same Holy Spirit. Ultimately, this means using them with love.

We are advised by scripture not to make the same mistakes as those mentioned in these parables and even in the stories and outcomes of great men who failed in their stewardship of the gifts of God.

We must be careful so that the gifts would not be buried because of fear or neglected because of laziness. We must be good and faithful managers of our gifts and talents. One very important thing to remember is that how you start is not as important as how you finish.

Finishing well is the ultimate test of stewardship. The Bible tells us about a certain man who was very gifted by God, much more than any other actually.

This man started off very well with his gifts, but eventually failed in his stewardship of them, and the end of his story is very blurry.

## Character Focus

### **Solomon**

“King of Israel”



The story of King Solomon is very helpful for our discussion here. At the beginning of his reign, he made a great sacrifice for the Lord, and that very night something extraordinary happened.

**“At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask! What shall I give you?””**

**I Kings 3:5 NKJV**

Solomon was given the unique opportunity to ask God for anything he desired. And in a surprising and very beautiful

way, Solomon would ask for something not just for his own good but for the good of everyone. This was his response:

**““Now, O Lord my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn’t know his way around. And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?”” 1 Kings 3:7-9 NLT**

God was pleased with Solomon’s request and said to him:

**“Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words;**

**see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.” I Kings 3:11-13 NKJV**

Solomon went on to become very great. He was wiser than any other king Israel ever had. He was also wealthier than any other.

His fame reached the furthest countries, and kings and queens with all their pomp would come from great distances to hear the wisdom of Solomon. In one year alone, he received 49,950 pounds of gold.

Tragically, the days came when Solomon stopped using his gifts for others and started using them to fulfill his own desires.

**“For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David.” I Kings 11:4 NKJV**

The truth is his gifts brought him great success, and even though he had the wisdom to properly balance the success, he continued using his gift to accumulate more and more for selfish gain.

He misused the gifts, and it led him to eventually stray into every area of which men of God stay away. He seized at God’s glory, compromised his relationship with God because of women, and fell for the love of money and materialism.

**“Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.”  
I Kings 11:11 NKJV**

A significant detail is that even though Solomon failed in the area of obedience to God and stewardship of his gifts, God did not remove him completely from his position, but he would later take away his influence.

**“And even so, I will not take away the entire kingdom; I will let him be king of one tribe, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, my chosen city.” 1 Kings 11:13 NLT**

A very important lesson to be remembered is that gifts don't guarantee a person is doing right and God sight.

Just because someone is in a position and gifted. It does not mean that they are in right standing with God or that they are using their gift for the right purposes. They may be in a position, but eventually God will take away their influence so that they will not use their gift to its full potential.

The gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and the riches which God had given Solomon were used to satisfy his flesh, and it led to the division of the nation of Israel, which set them on a very bitter path. The book of 1 Kings never tells us that Solomon ever repented, but some of the last words he wrote do offer a glimpse of hope.

**“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.”  
Ecclesiastes 12:13 NKJV**

Scholars remain divided on whether or not Solomon ever returned to God with all his heart.

Don't make small compromises and keep the word close to your heart.

Learning from all of this, the man of God must remain laser-focused to use the gifts God gives to him for the good of others, not himself! Also, learning that finishing well is

of utmost importance and will ultimately determine whether our stewardship was done well or not.

It is possible for the man of God today to misuse the gifts of God. Whether he is a great preacher or teacher, or a great singer or musician, these gifts can be used with wrong motives and selfish desires.

There are also many who have hidden and tucked away God's gift for whatever reason, so much so that they don't see any trace of it, and in this case, the Bible says—

**Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you... 2 Timothy 1:6 (NKJV)**

Another translation says fan into flame the gift of God, like a dying fire that can be fanned back into full strength.

Another misuse is when what seems like natural skills or talents are only used for personal gain and enjoyment. This shows up when someone is exceptionally gifted with leadership or encouragement, or whether he is a skilled talker, a financially blessed person, or someone who simply gets things done. These qualities are talents from God and should be used for His purposes and not just our own.

All of these gifts can be selfishly used and abused. They can also be used for evil instead of good.

The fundamental truth about gifts from God is this:

**“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.” 1 Corinthians 12:7 NLT**

Spiritual gifts are for service.

By the grace of God and through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the church is empowered to help and serve one another.

This then becomes one of the most beautiful truths about the gifts of God: it is that instead of a person just receiving a gift for themselves in the church, the people who are given these gifts actually become a gift to the church.

**“Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.” And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”**

**Ephesians 4:8, 11-12 NKJV**

This passage is often referred to as the fivefold ministry. Each of these offices of ministry is described as spiritual gifts to the church so that the church could grow to maturity, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, meaning for the church to grow to its full potential until it reaches the very image of Christ.

Obviously, this work is still in the making, and this is exactly why we believe that all the gifts of the Holy Spirit are still active in the church today.

There are many other gifts that are given to other individuals in the church and not just those in formal positions, but also to lay people and lay ministers. In other words, people in the pews are just as called and just as gifted, even though it may be in different areas and in different gifts. Each and every gift is for the good of all the church.

Prophecy and the interpretation of tongues are highest on the list because they offer encouragement to all of the church. While the gift of tongues is last on the list because it offers encouragement and edification only for the one who speaks.

The Bible does say there are some gifts that are greater and some gifts that are lesser. It also says to earnestly desire the best gifts. The greatest gifts are the ones that do the greatest good for the church.

While it is good to desire the best gifts, each of us should accept what the Lord gives us because it is God who decides who gets which gift.

Therefore, let us humbly use what God gives us to serve the body of Christ in the area that he has called us to, and let us do it faithfully, with integrity along with pure motives for the glory of God.



### **Balancing Truth**

In the New Testament, gifts from God are always talked about in relation to the body of Christ.

This gives purpose to the individual Christian in the church, and it gives balance to the body. Since there are different gifts given to different people, we are forced to depend on the gifts of other members of the church to help us in the work instead of relying solely upon ourselves.

This was purposefully designed by God so that we would all have something to offer, something to add, something to give.

Often times, since there are some gifts that seem more spiritual or more supernatural, some people feel that since they don't have those gifts, they are unneeded and unimportant in the church. What a lie!

**“If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, “I don’t need you.” The head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.”” 1 Corinthians 12:14-15, 18-21  
NLT**

The local church is the local body of Christ. No member of the church should ever believe that they are unneeded or unimportant because God has called each person in the church according to His perfect will.

God has designed the church to be interdependent upon its members. Each part has its strength and each its weakness; where one part is weak, the other fills in the gap so that everyone in the church would be helped by one another.

Scripture beautifully reveals this same exact pattern of interdependence in the human body.

**“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are**

**Your works, and that my soul knows very well.”  
Psalms 139:13-14 NKJV**

The psalmist stood in awe of the way God created the human body. He says we are fearfully (reverentially) and wonderfully made, with each part inward and outward working together in perfect harmony.

The apostle Paul explained how God was pleased to make the church just as interdependent as the human body.

He illustrates this beautifully by explaining that the church also works together as the very body of Christ. The hands and feet of Jesus in the world. It is significant that this truth is revealed in the very context of the gifts of the Holy Spirit! This is truly a fearful and wonderful thing.

**“If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.”**

**1 Corinthians 12:26-27 NLT**

If one part suffers, all the body suffers. If one part leaves, the whole body suffers. A body can live without a hand, but a hand cannot live without the body. Yet, a body without a hand is not a whole body.

As it is, we need all the body functioning together to accomplish the purpose of God. When Solomon was selfish, it led to division. The man of God must be careful not to make the same mistakes.

There is a great respect in our world for people who are independent, people who don’t need anything from anyone

at any time. This is looked up to and respected at pretty much every level.

But as healthy as that may sound to our ears, it's definitely not how God called the church to operate. While much of the world prizes independence, the church is called to be interdependent.

God even shows the wisdom of interdependence in creation itself. An atom is literally the building block of God's visible creation, and for a while it was thought to be the smallest thing known to man, but it was discovered that within the atom were several smaller things which come together to make the atom.

This shows that even at the tiniest level, God has ordained creation to be interdependent upon different elements joining together to bring life as we know it.

When we can understand that the smallest things known to man are foundational to reality as we know it, we can never say small roles don't matter.

As a matter of fact, what we call "matter" (anything that is seen or felt) is brought forth by these little tiny particles, so we can literally say even the smallest roles and positions matter!

## Love is at the center of the gifts.

In the book of First Corinthians, Paul deals with a list of problems and issues the church was experiencing. One of the main issues in the church was the misuse of spiritual gifts.

Paul's teaching on spiritual gifts runs from chapter 12 to chapter 14 in the book of First Corinthians.

Chapters 12 and 14 are dedicated to what the spiritual gifts are, which were best, and how one should use them, but sandwiched in between chapters 12 and 14 is chapter 13, a famous scripture about love.

We can have the greatest gifts, and be the center of attention and the most important one in the church, and we can do the most spectacular things, but if we don't have the purpose, then we have missed the mark completely.

And at that point, having gifts would mean nothing. Thankfully, though, there is a better way...

**“And yet I show you a more excellent way.”**

**I Corinthians 12:31 NKJV**

**“If I could speak all the languages of the earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing.**

**If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record**

**of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!” 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 NLT**

Love is at the center of spiritual gifts. Love is the reason God gave the indescribable gift of Christ Jesus to the world. Love is why we use our gifts to be a blessing and a benefit to the church. Because we were loved by God, we also love God and one another.

Love is the spiritual force that holds us all together. Love is the driving force behind everything that it means to be a man of God.

And you, O Man of God, are a gift to the world, to your family, and a gift to your church.

Love them all by being what you are called to be and doing what you are called to do. Be sure to use what He has given you faithfully, with integrity, and in loving service, whether it seems to be small or big. Each man of God humbly doing his part.

**Men of God stay faithful with God’s gifts!**



# Soldiers For God Ministries

## The Man of God Course Week 8

### Quiz

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**(1.) 1 Corinthians 12:7** (ESV) “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” What does this mean?

Write your answer(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**(2.) What is the difference** between the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit?

Write your answer(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**(3.) FILL IN THE BLANKS:**

“If you are \_\_\_\_\_ in little, you will be \_\_\_\_\_ in much.”

**(4.) From Chapter 8 and 2 Timothy 1:6,** believers are told to \_\_\_\_\_ up the gift of God within them.

**(5.) FILL IN THE BLANKS:** From the video lesson, A certain minister once said... “instead of \_\_\_\_\_ the sheep, they \_\_\_\_\_ on the sheep.”

**(6.) From Chapter 8,** what principle is emphasized about stewardship and spiritual gifts?

- (A) How you start matters most
- (B) Finishing well is the true test of stewardship
- (C) Gifts determine your success
- (D) Influence is more important than faithfulness

**(7.) What important lesson** does Solomon's story teach about spiritual gifts?

- (A) Gifts guarantee faithfulness
- (B) Wisdom prevents compromise
- (C) Gifts do not guarantee right standing with God
- (D) Success proves obedience

**(8.) From Chapter 8,** which situation best reflects faithful stewardship of God-given gifts?

- (A) A gifted teacher builds a large following but rarely serves others personally
- (B) A talented leader hides his gift out of fear of criticism
- (C) A gifted minister uses his influence mainly for personal success and recognition
- (D) A gifted believer uses his ability to serve others, finishing faithfully even without recognition

**(9.) Does the Bible say** the gifts of God are revocable? In other words that they can be removed.

Circle your answer: YES or NO

**(10.) From the video lesson,** What type of people did Pastor Anthony mention that know when you're being genuine or not?

Write your answer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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### Bonus questions

**Fill in the blanks:** What are the 4 G's to stay away from/ not to mess with?

God's \_\_\_\_\_, God's \_\_\_\_\_, God's \_\_\_\_\_, God's \_\_\_\_\_.

# Chapter 9: Conclusion

## A Real Man



SFGM Man Of God 9

**“In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only  
begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”  
John 1:1, 14 NKJV**

Throughout history, the question has been asked: what is a real man? Ancient civilizations had different views on what it meant to be a real man. The Egyptians thought being a real man was being an upstanding citizen, honoring the gods, and managing one’s household well. In ancient Sparta, the thought of being a real man was being a warrior. Some civilizations thought it was more about the intellect and about self-mastery. There are a few recurring qualities across history, qualities like strength, wisdom, honor, and love. Even in modern times the question is still asked.

So what does it mean to be a real man? And what does a real man do? God created man to live in perfect fellowship and harmony with Himself, but man quickly failed in this and ushered in God’s divine wrath.

Since Adam is the father of mankind, all men naturally bear his image, which means that all men inherit his fallen nature and are also prone to fail to be the men they were created by God to be.

This is proved by the way all men fall in disobedience as Adam fell. The result of Adam's failure was separation from the presence of God, which apart from Christ was a destiny of destruction for him and all who would come from him.

But God did not leave His beloved creation without hope, even in the midst of their sin, a promise was made.

**“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”**

**Genesis 3:15 NKJV**

This was the first ever announcement of the Gospel, the promise of a Son who would be a deliverer. A man who would not fail like the old man and who would be the one to destroy the work of the devil.

This began the wait for the deliverer who was to come, a deliverer who would be bruised, but whose bruise would be healed.

**“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”**

**Galatians 4:4-5 NKJV**

When the right time came for God to send His Son, Jesus the Son of God took upon Him a human nature by being born of a woman and becoming human, so that He could live for us as one of us, in order that He might represent us to the Father.

**“Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood.” Hebrews 2:14A NLT**

This means that Jesus is a real man, with flesh and blood. He gained a real human nature, a nature that needed to eat, sleep, grow, and learn, and that would experience life as a human so that He would be able to sympathize with human weakness.

Jesus answers history’s age-old question of what it means to be a real man. He shows us what being a real man is all about.

He displayed real love when he cared for the poor, for the sick, and for those who could not stand up for themselves. Real strength by loving and forgiving those who hated and hurt him. Real wisdom by teaching and applying God’s word to his life. Real honor by taking care of his family and stepping into the family business in place of his father, and even at his death, ensuring his mother would have a place to be looked after.

And even as great as all those things were, there’s still a greater point to be made about how Jesus answers the question of what a real man is, and that is this:

Not only was Jesus a real man, but He was and is the realest man to have ever lived. Why?

Because He is the only man on record to have ever lived in the God-ordained, God-desired, and God-designed order for human life, by living a sinless life.

Jesus is a real man because He did what man was created to do: live in perfect harmony with the Creator. He lived in perfect obedience and therefore in perfect fellowship with God, and fulfills the original purpose of man at the beginning, which was to bear the image of God and represent Him to the rest of creation: a man in the image of God. Jesus could boldly say:

**“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!”**  
**John 14:9 NLT**

This was necessary because for our salvation, we needed a true God and a true man, and that is exactly what we have in Jesus Christ.

This all means that Jesus exists in two natures: His human nature and His divine nature, which is the nature of God. By this, Jesus could do what only God could do and what only man could do.

Only man could represent man to God, and only the Son of God could ever endure the full fury of the wrath of God against sin and absorb it all on the cross until there was no more left.

No other created being or thing could truly satisfy God's anger against the rebellion of human sin. But Jesus could, and Jesus did. He received the full fury of the wrath of God and satisfied it, taking it all away.

God's favor became available again for humans through Christ, and to forever prove to all that Jesus' death was a sacrifice for sin and that He was in full favor with the Father, God raised Him from the dead.

This opened a new and living way to the Father, that way is Jesus. With this comes the promise for all who receive Christ to be made alive from their sins while they live, and even after they die, the promise of life stands since Christ undid what Adam did.

**“For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.” 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 ESV**

Through Jesus, fellowship between man and God was restored as God promised in the garden.

Those who do not yet know Christ or have rejected Him are still located in the old man, which is Adam, and he is their representative.

Those who have believed in Christ and received Him are located in the new man, which is Christ, the man who lived a flawless life, and He is their representative to the Father.

And so the Son of God became a man so that sons of men could become sons of God.

This means that not only do we have a new representative, but also a new nature that is patterned after the new man. We are called to walk in this new nature and not continue in the habits and behaviors of the old nature.

**“Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.” Ephesians 4:22-24 NLT**

So what does it mean for us to be a real man? It is to be a man of God. What does it mean to be a man of God? It means living our lives in and by and through the true man of God—Jesus Christ. It means to be a man who wants to live like Jesus lived.

This is possible only by and through the Spirit of Jesus, which is at work in our hearts and minds. We must resist the old nature since we are dead to it and are raised again with Christ.

**“For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.” Romans 6:4 NLT**

# The Flawed & The Flawless.

For now, the work of God in our lives does not mean that a man of God will never experience weakness, failure, or doubt.

He certainly will, but in all these things, he is more than a conqueror through Christ, who loved him and gave Himself for him.

Character Focus

**Elijah**

“The Prophet”



Elijah was a man of God who was greatly used by God in spectacular ways, and even he showed moments of weakness, fear, and doubt.

There came a time in his life when, literally right after an amazing demonstration of the power of God happened through his ministry, when the fire of God fell from heaven and false prophets were put to death—immediately after this, he received a death threat from Queen Jezebel and began to be on the run.

In this time, he was discouraged and depressed, totally lacking trust in God, and staying in a cave. In the cave, he developed a cave-like mentality, believing he was the only man of God left. He was looking at all the negatives and became hopeless.

But God showed him he was mistaken, because God was still whispering in the ears of men. He reserved 7000 men who did not bow their knees to false gods. These men stayed faithful to God in the midst of national compromise.

Today, in the midst of the compromises, failures, and rebellion of our time, we know God is still whispering to men not to bow their knees to the pressures of this world but to make a stand for God in the midst of a perverse generation.

The story of Elijah on the run and in the cave shows us, like many men of God in the scriptures, he too was a flawed man, and we are very thankful that the scriptures are honest and real about the flaws of men of God, so that in our flaws, we will not become discouraged.

The truth is being a man of God doesn't mean we won't have flaws in life; it just means we are determined to follow the Man who lived a flawless life.

One of the last stories from the life of Elijah before he was taken up to heaven is found in 2 Kings chapter one. The story records Elijah intercepting a few messengers sent from King Ahaziah.

They were on their way to ask the people of another god to inquire of their god whether or not King Ahaziah would recover from an injury he received when he fell from the balcony railing on the rooftop of his house. He was badly injured and bed-bound, hoping to recover. While the messengers were on their way, God spoke to Elijah, and Elijah told the king's messengers...

**“Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?” Now therefore, thus says the Lord: ‘You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’ II Kings 1:3-4 NKJV**

When the messengers returned quicker than King Ahaziah expected, he asked them why they returned, and they explained to him that a man met them on the road, and that he told them to tell the king that he would not recover.

When the king heard this, he had just one question...

**“What kind of man was it who came up to meet you and told you these words?” II Kings 1:7 NKJV**

And they said:

**“A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist.” And he said, “It is Elijah the Tishbite.” II Kings 1:8 NKJV**

Immediately, the king sent a group of soldiers to arrest Elijah and bring him back to the king, and this led to one of the last mighty demonstrations of the power of God in Elijah.

**“Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men. So he went up to him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: ‘Man of God, the king has said, ‘Come down!’ ”**

**So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, “If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.” And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.**

**Then he sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty men. And he answered and said to him: “Man of God, thus has the king said, ‘Come down quickly!’ ”**

**So Elijah answered and said to them, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.” And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.**

**Again, he sent a third captain of fifty with his fifty men.**

**And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and pleaded with him, and said to him:**

**“Man of God, please let my life and the life of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight. Look, fire has come down from heaven and burned up the first two captains of fifties with their fifties. But let my life now be precious in your sight.”**

**And the angel of the Lord said to Elijah, “Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.” So he arose and went down with him to the king.” II Kings 1:9-15 NKJV**

The king asked the messengers, “What kind of man was he?” The soldiers called him “Man of God,” and Elijah said, “If I am a Man of God, then let the fire of God fall...”  
Now I want to ask you a question: what kind of man are you?

And if you are a man of God, then let the fire of God be seen in your life, let the zeal for God be evident, let the consuming fire burn up every impurity, let the sanctifying work of the Spirit of God be clearly seen in your life.

Let the word of God be like a lamp for your feet and a light for your path, and let His word be hidden in your heart, and let a sword of the Spirit be in your hand, and may you preach the word of God like a man of God doing the will of God for the glory of God.

May the fire, the love, the grace, and the shining light of the glory of God be upon your face that you may be like a city on a hill and like a lamp on a stand giving light to every man, every woman, and every child in every place that you go, shining in the midst of darkness, bringing hope to the hopeless, bringing faith to the faithless, healing to the hurting, and comfort to the broken.

Our prayer is that you would be a man of God just like that so that when they ask what kind of man you are, it will be clear that a man of God is the kind of man you are, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV**

Our prayer is that this book would give you some of the guidelines as to what it is to be a man of God in your household and in the service of the household of God. Furthermore, we encourage you to go and learn all that it means to be the man that God has called you to be.

A few words of advice: Always stand up for what's right, and speak out against compromise. Don't live in the mold, but raise your voice because men of God have always taken a stand. They have always stood up for what was right, and they are the ones who change the narrative of the times they live in.

***Men of God Keep manning up for God!***



# **Soldiers For God Ministries**

## **The Man of God Course Week 9**

### **Quiz**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**(1.) According to the chapter,** Jesus has two natures, but how can Jesus be God and still grow in wisdom, stature, and favor?

- (A) He grew in His human nature
- (B) He grew in the Spirit
- (C) He seemed to grow in these things
- (D) Both natures grew together

**(2.) FILL IN THE BLANK:** According to Chapter 9, since Adam is the father of mankind, all men naturally bear his \_\_\_\_\_ nature.

**(3.) In the chapter** Genesis 3:15 is described as:

- (A) The law given to Israel
- (B) The first announcement of the Gospel
- (C) The fall of mankind
- (D) The promise of the covenant with Abraham

**(4.) According to the Chapter,** Why is Jesus called the “realest man” ?

- (A) Because He lived longer than others
- (B) Because He was a great teacher
- (C) Because He lived a sinless life in perfect harmony with God
- (D) Because He led many followers

**(5.) TRUE OR FALSE: Elijah's** calling down fire from heaven confirmed his identity as a man of God.

Circle your answer: TRUE      FALSE

**(6.) The chapter ends with the question:** “What kind of man are you?” Write one practical way a man of God can demonstrate the “fire of God” in his life.

Write your

answer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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**(7.) According to Chapter 9,** when King Ahaziah's messengers described the prophet, the king immediately knew it was Elijah based on what detail?

- (A) His bold message about the king's death
- (B) His miracles and reputation
- (C) His appearance — a hairy man with a leather belt
- (D) His claim to be a prophet of God

**(8.) True or false:** Jesus is God and man mixed together?

Circling answer: TRUE      FALSE

**(9.) From the Week 9 video lesson,** Pastor Kevin stated that when Jesus became a man, He lost nothing but gained something. What did He gain?

Write your answer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**(10.) From the Week 9 video lesson,** Pastor Kevin stated that the natural man is not \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) spiritual
- (B) righteous
- (C) enough
- (D) complete

In a time when the truth about what it means  
to be a man of God has become blurred,  
the Word of God still reveals the truth.

*“Let your light so shine before men...”*

— Matthew 5:16

In *Learning What It Means to Be a Man of God*, Kevin Johns  
and Anthony Lee call men to **pursue true godliness** in a time  
that desperately needs men of unwavering faith.

Drawing from Scripture and practical teaching, this book  
challenges men to **rediscover God’s design**  
for maturity, leadership, humility, and  
faithfulness.

**God is still calling men to take a stand  
and let their light shine in the midst of darkness!**

## About the Authors

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Kevin Johns is a pastor and teacher with Soldiers For God Ministries. Through preaching, teaching, and discipleship, he is committed to helping men grow in biblical maturity and walk faithfully in their calling.

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Anthony Lee serves as the overseer of Soldiers For God Ministries. He is committed to strengthening believers through the truth of Scripture and calling men to lives marked by faith, integrity, and obedience to God’s Word.



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