

What is our Story?

Fathers, Let's Clarify the Mission



April 2018

Where Are We?

We live in a _____. God is on His throne and Satan has been condemned to hell, mankind lives on earth where both good and evil exist. Mankind is born in sin, in bondage, separated from God, children of wrath, and are inclined toward death and hell. However, embracing the truth will set us free to live life to the full and spend eternity with God in heaven. God loves us, has endowed us with free choice, is sovereign, and has made a way for us to walk in truth, freedom and life everlasting. Satan hates us, is the prince of the air, and works to deceive, steal, kill and destroy us. Which makes earth a battlefield. (Gen. 3, John 10:11-15, Eph. 2:1-5, 6:10-18)

The battle is far more _____ than we can imagine. (Dan. 10:4-14, Matt.13:42, Rev.20:10)

Who are we?

1. Fearfully and wonderfully created in the image of God with dominion over the earth. (Gen. 1:26; Ps.8,139)
2. Christian? A Christian is someone who repents, turns from worldly ways, places their trust in Jesus for their salvation and submits entirely to the _____ of Christ. The normal Christian life is one of complete submission to God, discipleship, and living for the glory of God. (Jn.3, Rom. 1:17, Eph. 4:4-6)
3. Sons of God in which God is actually our functional Abba Father. (Rom. 8:14-15)
4. The Image and Glory of God. (1 Cor. 11:2)
5. Warriors for the Kingdom of God in this epic battle that rages for the souls of man. (2 Tim. 2:1-4, Eph. 6:10-18)

What are we to do?

1. In _____ of all creation. (Ps.8:4-9)
2. God's leading _____ in this world to accomplish His purposes in a Biblical way. Not living for self, but rather Christ Himself lives in and through us. WWJD? (Gal. 2:20; Acts 1:8)
3. _____ for God's Kingdom purposes, battling the enemy in your own heart and in the lives of those around you. Be like Jesus and actually lay your life down for the mission. (2 Tim. 2:1-4, 2 Cor. 10:3-6)
4. A warrior's primary mission is his own family, protecting, leading, and discipling. (Gen. 18:19, Eph. 6:4,10-18)
5. Despite the pressure, fully engage in the spiritual battle. Remember God knows our motivations and judges us accordingly, passivity will reap consequences. (Prov. 24:10-12)
6. Meditate daily on the warrior's field manual, use your SWORD skilfully, and courageously step out in faith to obey it. (Josh. 1:8-9,
7. Be alert and very savvy about leading and protecting the sheep God has placed under our spiritual care. There are fierce wolves prowling about, seeking to destroy them. (Acts 20:26-31)
8. Have no fear, but exercise authority over the enemy in Christ. (Luke 10:18-20)

What hinders us?

Satan hinders, but in Christ we will overcome and Satan will flee from you. (James 4:7)

Our own sin hinders: complacency, comfort, compromise, losing heart, blaming, lust, selfishness, leisure, laziness, pride, fear, etc. Therefore, the more we _____ righteousness, the greater the victories and eternal rewards. There is no time to waste! (Heb. 12:1-3)

Other than that, _____ hinders! We are never victims of someone else's choices.

"...turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers..." Malachi 4:6

How Will the Story End?

The Christian warrior who depends on God and perseveres in battle will:

- More than _____. We have what it takes because the Spirit of God, who can even raise the dead, lives in us to accomplish His great purposes! (Rom. 8:11,37; Jn. 14:12-13)
- Experience deepening relationship with God! (James 4:8-9) Glorify God and get to share in that glory! (Rom. 8:17) Live life to the full! (John 10:10) Filled with inexpressible and glorious joy! (1 Peter 1:8) Our children and others will be far more inclined to follow Christ and become disciples who make disciples! (Deut. 6:4-9)
- Welcomed with affirmation into _____! (Luke 19:17)

What story do you want to live?

Q. Lukewarm church goer or victorious warrior in God's epic battle? The choice is yours; one leads to death, the other to life! Whatever you choose, be _____ about it because kids are all equipped with highly tuned hypocrisy detectors and nothing destroys faith faster than hypocrisy. If you say you believe, but your kids don't see an authentic, practical, consistent approach, our words will ring hollow and your kids won't believe it. Better to express your own doubts than pretend they don't exist. Remember, it's not direction but perfection; God never expects us to be perfect, just that we depend on Him and wholeheartedly try. We'll always fall short, but God is on our side if our hearts are true.

Who Will Be Your Guide?

Three influences will be your helpers:

1. The Holy Spirit is our most indispensable guide. Cultivate this relationship. (Jn. 3:5-6)
2. The Bible is our indispensable sword and compass. Meditate on it daily and grow in love for His Word. (Ps.1)
3. God works through discipleship. Seek out a godly man, whom you can see fruit in those he has disciplined, ask him to disciple you and as he does, be quick to verify his ideas with scripture. The Bible is the authority in all things. Maybe talk to your pastor, or feel free to give me a call if you think I can be of some help. (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 7:35)

Recommended Resources

Malachi Man Module (DVD series) www.malachiman.com

Evans, Tony. *Kingdom Man: Every Man's Destiny, Every Woman's Dream*. Tyndale House Publishers, 2012.

Hughes, R. Kent. *Disciplines of a Godly Man*. Crossway Books, 2006.

Köstenberger Andreas J., and David Wayne Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family, Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. Crossway, 2010.

Weber, Stu. *Spirit Warriors*. Multnomah Books, 2003.