

"Mighty Men of Valor"



“Developing Godly men within our
Families and Churches”

By:

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Christian Life Center, West Chester, Ohio

Dedicated to:

This book is dedicated to some very special friends and their churches: Pastor Randy Rice and the Men of Christian Life Center, & to Pastor Les Sanders and Men of Milford Assemblies of God (both suburbs of Cincinnati, Ohio) who for over the past nine years have encouraged me to be faithful to my wife, my family, my calling, and most importantly to my Lord.

Personal Thank you from the Author:

I would like to thank my son Ethan for his wisdom and insight in helping with the writing of this workbook. At the age of thirteen, he is a Godly young man with a Heart for the Lord.

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(If you would like to make a donation to Righteous Men Ministries please make your check or money order payable to: Christian Life Center)

- Rev. Don Allen also is founder/director of Through HIM Ministries, a Substance Abuse Counselor at a local Mental Health Agency in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the author of the workbook *“Christians Coping With Grief: A Workbook for Finding God’s Truth in a Time of Sorrow!”*

Foreword

God could not have given to the Righteous Men (Honor Bound) Ministries a more beloved and effective “man in the men’s ministry” than Don Allen. I have known Don for many years and he has a driven compassion to help men be all that they can be for the Lord Jesus Christ.

This book explains the convictions, principles and practices that can be mightily used by God to build mighty men of God. I heard a fellow say once, “Minds are like parachutes; they work best when they are open.” That is the way to read this book!

May God bless you in whatever ministry assignment the He has for your life.

Pastor Gary Bayes
Administrative Pastor
Christian Life Center Assembly of God
West Chester, Ohio
Regional Director Light for the Lost
Sectional Men’s Director.

Introduction to Bible Study:

The purpose of this Study is simple: Help men to become Mighty Men of Valor (or using a term widely used today “Men of Integrity”) within both their family and church. I personally believe that if men are Mighty Men of Valor within these two areas it will transcend all other areas of their lives.

Throughout this study you are going to be asked to use your Bible to search out scripture and find for yourself the truth of being a Mighty Man of Valor. All scripture quoted is from the King James Version (KJV) unless otherwise noted.

What in your opinion will make us Mighty Men of Valor?

To help answer the question "Who are the Mighty Men of Valor?" ... we can look into our modern dictionary to get the following definition of these words.

- ***Mighty*** ... Having or showing great power, skill, strength, or force: a mighty orator; a mighty blow
- ***Men*** ... A male human endowed with qualities, such as strength, considered characteristic of manhood
- ***Valor*** ... Courage and boldness, as in battle; bravery ...

Identifying a Man of Valor:

As I look throughout history there appears to be some key things that stand out in being able to identify a Man of Valor or Integrity.

My thirteen year old son (Ethan) shared with me the three words that he believes define a good father, husband, and friend. They are simply: ***Honest, Compassionate? and Loyal.***

The dictionary defines these words as:

- ***Honest...***
 - Marked by or displaying integrity; upright: an honest lawyer.
 - Not deceptive or fraudulent; genuine: honest weight.
 - Equitable; fair: honest wages for an honest day's work.
 - Characterized by truth; not false: honest reporting.
 - Sincere; frank: an honest critique.
 - Of good repute; respectable.
 - Without affectation; plain: honest folk.

- ***Compassion ...***
 - Deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it. Synonymous with pity.

- ***Loyal...***
 - Steadfast in allegiance to one's homeland, government, or sovereign.
 - Faithful to a person, ideal, custom, cause, or duty

What are something you personally would you add to this list?

Defining a Mighty Man of Valor from scripture:

In *II Samuel 23:8-39*, this great passage of scripture gives us an excellent example of who King David chooses to be his personal Mighty Men of Valor. They included only thirty-seven men that would stand in battle and defend the King until the very end - including: "unto death." Were these men perfect? We know the answer to that question is NO; however, they did have a sense of loyalty that transcended other commitments.

An example of this loyalty is found within the events happening between King David and Bathsheba. Bathsheba's husband Uriah the Hittite was of one King David's elite Mighty Men of Valor. When David attempted to cover up his sin by bringing Uriah home from battle and sending him home for the night, Uriah slept at the door of the King. He felt it was not right to go home to his wife while others were fighting the battle.

It is interesting to note that God knows our abilities and talents to be Mighty Men of Valor prior to us identifying them. Notice here in the case of Gideon, he was hiding and struggling to find his place in God's plan when the Angel of the Lord came and called him to be a Mighty Man of Valor.

In *Judges 6:11-12*, we find the scripture clearly telling Gideon that he is a Mighty Man of Valor, 11 *"The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. 12 When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." (NIV)*

I'm not sure Gideon felt like a Mighty Man of Valor when the angel of the Lord told him this. I'm not sure he understood what it meant to be a Mighty Man of Valor, or as the New International Version says: Mighty Warrior.

What is your personal opinion of what it means for God to call someone a "Mighty Man of Valor?"

Being a Mighty Man of Valor does not make you exempt from God's Perfect will and plan for your life. A great example of this is in the story of Naaman. Naaman was a great military leader and loyal to the king of Syria, yet he was a leper.

Notice that even as a man, a great leader, and being famous, he had to seek God's help.

The story is told in 2 *Kings* 5:1-8. "Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy. 2 Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. 3 She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." 4 Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. 5 "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. 6 The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy." 7 As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!" 8 When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel. 9 So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. 10 Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed." 11 But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage. 13 Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" 14 So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. (NIV)

I personally would hope that you notice three very important truths from this story:

- He first listens to a little girl.
- He sought wise counsel from a Godly man.
- He did what was expected (even though he did not like it).

The BASICS of being a Mighty Man of Valor:

Mighty Men of Valor need to first establish a love and understanding of the basics of the Christian Faith ... Godly Men of Valor need to be grounded in their faith, grounded in the word of God, and hold strongly to the foundation of that faith. They need to be willing to stand on the conviction that these truths are what we believe, and then be willing to teach their own children and others these fundamentals. I believe that without these very fundamental truths, we and our children will miss the blessing of sitting in the presence of God for eternity.

As you review and complete this section of the workbook, I encourage you to use a good Study Bible and to develop the ability and desire to DIG INTO THE KING'S BOOK.

➡ Would you agree that the Bible is the Word of God, without errors?

II Timothy 3:16 ... 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness (NIV)

II Peter 1: 21 ... 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit

- Can you find any additional verses that support the belief that the Bible is without error.

✦ Would you agree that Jesus was born of a Virgin?

Luke 1: 26 – 34 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" (NIV)

Luke 2:4-7 ... 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (NIV)

- Can you find any additional verses that support your belief in the Virgin birth of Christ?

✚ Would you agree Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

Mark 1:11... 11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (NIV)

- Can you find any additional verses that support your belief in the Deity of Jesus?

✚ Would you agree that Jesus Christ died on the Cross?

Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." (NIV)

Romans 5: 8 – 9 ...8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

- Can you find any additional verses that support your belief in that Jesus died on the cross for your sins?

✚ Would you agree that Jesus Christ arose from the dead?

Romans 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (NIV)

II Corinthians 15: 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.

- Can you find any additional verses that support your belief that Jesus Christ arose from the grave?

✚ Would you agree that Christ provides Salvation by HIS Grace?

Eph. 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- **9** not by works, so that no one can boast. (NIV)

- Can you find any additional verses that support your belief that Salvation is a free gift for anyone who believes?

- ✚ Would you agree that Jesus Christ is coming back for those that believe in HIM?

Acts 1:11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

- Can you find any additional verses that support your belief that Jesus is going to return for those that believe in him?

Do feel that you are Mighty Man of Valor or Mighty Warrior within your own family and church?

Give your reasoning for why or why not?

According to the National Coalition of Men's Ministries the following information was given on their website:¹

For every 10 men in the average church...

- 9 will have kids who leave the church
- 8 will not find their jobs satisfying
- 6 will pay monthly minimum on credit cards
- 5 have a major problem with pornography
- 4 will get divorced - affecting 1,000,000 children each year
- Only 1 will have a biblical worldview
- All 10 will struggle to balance family & work

The numbers are not pretty...

- 108,000,000 men 15 or older (est. 2003).
- 66,000,000 men don't know Christ.
- Only 6,000,000 men in discipleship.
- 72,000,000 children under 18. Tonight, 33% of them will go to bed in a home without a biological father.
- 40% of first marriages end in divorce affecting 1,000,000 children each year.
- 33% of all children are born out of wedlock.

If we are truly Mighty Men of Valor within our families we will have several goals, especially when it comes to our children. This can also transcend into the church because clearly we are to teach all children, not just our own.

Walt Whitman ²writes “*Produce great men, the rest follows*”³.

As a teenager I worked for a J.C. Penney⁴ store in Flint, Michigan and remember reading quotes by James Cash Penney on the walls. I recently came across this quote that I thought gave a clear picture of what being a Mighty Man of Valor is about: “*A man is successful in proportion to the extent to which he encourages men to develop themselves. It really takes a big man to believe in other men, to entrust one's affairs to them, and having done so to discharge anxiety from the mind.*”⁵

¹ The National Coalition of Men's Ministries, Copyright 2000-2006 - <http://www.ncmm.org>

² Walt Whitman (1819- 1892) was a one of America most famous poets.

³ Whitman, Walt <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/w/waltwhitma146882.html>

⁴ James Cash Penney was born on September 16, 1875 in Hamilton, Missouri – died on February 12, 1971 in New York City he was a businessman and entrepreneur. In 1902, he founded the JC Penney stores. (The author heard a story that while J.C. Penney was alive he would tithe 90% of his income living on only 10%. He attributed this to the success of J.C. Penny Company.)

⁵ James Cash Penney, <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/j/jamescashp226534.html>

What does it mean to you personally to be a teacher?

Can you name five men or boys that you are personally helping to develop their personal relationship with God? Also, describe how you are helping them in their relationship with God.

The FIVE needs of every child

There are five (5) BASIC needs of children around the world, and the two best individuals to meet these needs are the parents, a father and mother. The father (dad) plays a very important role in this process, and most often is the one that misses the greatest opportunity to teach and train up a child. The needs are as follows:

- ▶ Guidance
- ▶ Encouragement
- ▶ Comfort
- ▶ Vision
- ▶ Protection

Proverbs 22: 6

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (KJV)

(The New Living Translation gives the same verse this way)

“Teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it”

(Another translation the Bible in Basic English⁶ put the same verse this way)

“If a child is trained up in the right way, even when he is old he will not be turned away from it”

How would you write this verse?

⁶ Bible in Basic English, Basic English, produced by Mr. C. K. Ogden of the Orthological Institute

- How to be self-sufficient if God would lead them to never marry (What are three things you can teach them?)

The following illustration from Mark Dunagan shows us in ... “Staying Power” what we need to do to teach our boys.

"Many men in our culture lack one of the marks of a man, that is, patience, steadfastness, endurance, and forbearance. Have you noticed how badly men run in our culture? One-third of American children are not living with their natural fathers. Over fifteen million kids are growing up in homes without any father. Seventy percent of men in prison grew up without a father. It used to be, “women and children first”, but now it has become “me first”⁷.

In contrast, godly men stand by their promises.

- ✚ When marriage isn't fun—stay in it
- ✚ When parenting is over your head—stay at it
- ✚ When work is crushing your spirit—don't let it beat you
- ✚ When the local church is overwhelmed with pettiness—stay by it
- ✚ When your children let you down—pick them up
- ✚ When you wife goes through a six-month mood swing—live with it
- ✚ When its fourth and fourteen with no time on the clock—throw another pass.”

Former President John F. Kennedy stated what we as men should hold to in our own personal lives,

“Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men”⁸.

⁷ Mark Dunagan ... Beaverton Church of Christ,
http://www.christ.beaverton.or.us/Mighty_Men_of_Vvalor.htm

⁸John F. Kennedy, <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/j/johnfkenn139147.html>

Teaching our Daughters:

In teaching our daughters, how they can be Great Women of God?

Can you list three things that you think are important to teach your daughter?

As a father of a teenage daughter, my role is very simple: ***Teach her to be the young lady God would have her to be.*** Teach her how to be a loving caring young lady and eventually a loving wife (if that is what the Lord has for her). The main way that I teach my daughter, and other young ladies I come in contact with, is by remaining a Mighty Man of Valor and integrity at all times. I try to show her through my love for her mother how she should be treated in a relationship.

- Teach girls to be women integrity ... (What are three things you can teach them?)

- How to reach their goals... (What are three things you can teach them?)

- How to stand up for what is right... (What are three things you can teach them?)

- How to treat a man... (What are three things you can teach them?)

- How to be self-sufficient if God would lead them to never marry (What are three things you can teach them?)

There is also a Need for Godly men in the Church:

Hebrews 10:25 ...

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (KJV)

The New Living Translation puts the same verse in modern simple English,

“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near” (NLT)

Today most men have become busy; they are struggling to find time for family, work, rest, and the dozen other things that they feel they must complete within a 24 hour day. When asked about God and Church, they state they just don't have time. Many of you have heard the old quote:

***“A WEEK WITH OUT JESUS
MAKES ONE WEAK”***

I personally have no clue who said it, but in my personal life I have found it to be so true.

As men we have needs and they include things that can only be met within the fellowship of a group of friends at church.

Men need to give and receive strength from friends in Christ:

✚ Can you list three things in the form of wisdom that you receive from the church?

✚ Can you list three things in the form of wisdom that you can give the church?

✚ Why do you feel men need to give leadership in the church?

✚ Why do you feel it is important for men to receive guidance from the leadership of the church?

✚ Why is it important for a man to be active in the church and give and receive leadership?

✚ Do you feel personally that it is important for men to spend time with other Christian men in order to develop in your personal walk with Christ?

As you conclude this look at being a Mighty Man of Valor in your family, church, and community. I hope and pray that you have been able to see the importance of a personal relationship with Christ, and your family.

Appendix A

This workbook would not be complete if I did not ask you the most important question of ALL, “Are you personally 100% sure you are going to heaven?” If you can not answer the question YES, please look at the following verses.

- ***God loves you and offer a wonderful plan for your life
(John 3:16, John 10:10)***
- ***Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God’s love and plan for his life.
(Romans 2:23, Romans 4:23)***
- ***Jesus Christ is God’s only provision for man’s sin. Through HIM you can know and experience God’s love and plan for your life.
(Romans 5:8; I Corinthians 15:3-6; John 14:6)***
- ***We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God’s love and plan for our lives.
(John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 3:1-8; Revelation 3:20)***

Then simply pray and ask Jesus Christ to forgive you of your sins and be your savior,

Adapted from the Four Spiritual Laws written by
Dr. Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ

Appendix B:

The Seven C's of a Christian Man⁹:

- ✚ The courage to face my own weakness.
 - ◆ “A coward is incapable of love. Only the courageous can give himself to another person.” ... Gary R. Sweeten.
- ✚ The commitment to God to be a responsible steward for my family
 - ◆ “The family you came from is not nearly as important as the family you produce” ... Gary R. Sweeten
- ✚ The certainty of God’s gracious presence to help me through the dark valleys of life.
 - ◆ “The Lord is my Shepherd” ... King David
- ✚ The capabilities, gifts and talents I need to provide for my family’s welfare.
 - ◆ “Give us this day our daily bread” ... Jesus
- ✚ The caring heart of love that will enable me to nurture the soul of my children.
 - ◆ “Father, do not exasperate your children lest they develop a wounded spirit and become discouraged” ... Paul
- ✚ The eternal companionship of love for my wife.
 - ◆ “The most important thing a Father can do for his children is love their mother” ... Father Theodore M. Hesburg
- ✚ The character of Christ to be a model for my children.
 - ◆ “If there is any one thing better than being loved, it is this: to be able to love another.” ... Gary Sweeten
- ✚ The character of a man is the destiny of his life and legacy.

⁹ Sweeten, Gary R. LifeWay Counseling Center, Cincinnati, Ohio copyright 1995 (Used by permission)

Appendix C:

- ✚ Over the past fifteen years I have been actively involved with the Assemblies of God, and most of that time has been involved in some part with a local men's ministry. (Don Allen, Jr.)

The Assemblies of God program is called:

"<http://honorbound.ag.org>

HonorBound Mission

Growing Godly Men

The HonorBound Vision

*To Reach Every Family in America,
One Man at a Time*

*See men as—Men of Honor in Christ Baptized in the Holy Spirit
Engaged in evangelism and discipleship
Supporting their local church*

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