

8CA 02 EMAW 02 WHY MEN FAIL

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FOSTER: “How did this happen?” we want to scream. Maybe we’re sitting silently as our weeping wife tells our pastor about our affair. Or we’re frustrated that we exploded in anger at our kids...again. Or we wonder why we told our boss we misplaced a report that we actually forgot to do. “How does this happen?” Why do men fail?

Welcome to Champions Arise! I’m Foster Braun and I’m here with Kent Darcie. We’re so glad you tuned in! Today we are going to look at three reasons why Christian men fail. This is a tough topic, but Champions Arise is here to encourage and equip men to be all God wants them to be. Proverbs 24, verse 16 says, “A righteous man falls seven times and gets up again.” We believe this man gets up with the help of other godly men. So stay with us as we learn how men can encourage each other not to fail. We’ll be right back with Champions Arise.

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FOSTER: Kent, many men struggle with sin and we’ve all seen examples of godly men who fell into disgrace.

KENT: Yes, it just breaks your heart. Research shows that 50% of American men (who say they are Christians) look at pornography on a regular basis.

But usually, where there are ongoing problems with sin, there’s a cause. And Steve Farrar, who is a Christian author and conference speaker, found an important one. He interviewed over 200 pastors who were caught having affairs with women in their church. These are men who not only know the Bible, they teach it. But in those interviews, Mr. Farrar discovered three deadly mistakes that these Christian men made...

Each of these men admitted that in the 12 months, before the affair started, they had:

- stopped having their Quiet Time;
- stopped being accountable to other men for their Quiet Time;
- and counseled women behind closed doors.

FOSTER: Wait a minute. I want to make sure I heard you correctly. 12 months before the affair started, they quit having regular quiet times with God?

KENT: That’s right. Obviously there is a very important connection between a man’s Quiet Time with God and his ability to handle stress, face a crisis, or make right decisions when relationship issues come up. And these are the things that make us weak when temptations arise.

FOSTER: We spoke about the importance of quiet time in our last program, and if you missed that program, you can hear it at Championsarise.org. The show was called “Finding the One thing.” But right now Kent, let’s give our listeners a brief overview of the quiet time concept?

KENT: Sure. In his book “*Every Man a Warrior*,” Lonnie Berger stresses the importance of having a daily quiet time with God.

He breaks the process down into three simple steps that only take 15 minutes to do. He calls it ***The ABCs of Having Quiet Time.***

A - is As you read some verses (or a chapter) in the Bible, **ask questions** and **write down** your thoughts.

B stands for – Find the **best verse and best thought** in that section that you're reading.

Choose the verse that really stands out, **write the verse down**, and why it stood out to you.

C is – **Communicate back** to the Lord in prayer, Speak to him about how this portion of scripture impacted you.

All you need is a Bible, a journal or paper to write on, a place with no distractions or interruptions, and a consistent time every day when you can take 15 minutes to be with God.

FOSTER: And if you missed that program, I strongly encourage you to listen to it, because our next few programs are built on the foundation of daily quiet time with God. And again you can hear that program at championsarise.org.

If you just joined us, this is Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and I'm with Kent Darcie. We're discussing why Christian men have moral failures and how skipping our daily quiet time with God can make us vulnerable to falling into sin.

You know Kent, I think the fear of failing drives me to have that daily time with the Lord, but I still struggle to do it regularly, and to get the most out of it. Is that common? And if so, why?

KENT: I think it's very common. I know for me, I'll do really well for a while and then things come up, schedules change, and my quiet time schedule can fall apart. But Lonnie Berger addresses this problem in his book. He lists three key reasons why men fail to have a regular and quality quiet time.

The first reason is, no one ever taught them how to have a quiet time. We don't hear it talked about much, and when we try, we just kind of wander through it. It's like going to a gym or fitness center to work out, but we don't learn what the various exercise machines do. As a result, we can't use them properly. So we go to the gym a few times, but we haven't learned the skills to use the equipment so our incentive drops, because we aren't getting more physically fit, and we quit.

And I think a lot of men treat quiet time the same way. However, if we are taught the skills of how to have a solid daily quiet time, develop those skills, and have the discipline to maintain those skills, we will be rewarded with a wonderful love relationship with God... and a lot less desire for sin.

FOSTER: So the first reason we don't have quality quiet time is we don't have the skills. What is the second reason?

KENT: Satan doesn't want us to have a successful quiet time with God. The Bible says "Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." [1 Peter 5:8. ESV] And Christians are those "someones".

The Phillips translation of the Bible describes the spiritual war we are in like this. *“For our fight is not against any physical enemy: it is against organizations and powers that are spiritual. We are up against the unseen power that controls this dark world, and spiritual agents from the very headquarters of evil.”* That’s from verse 12 in Ephesians 6. Too many Christian men are oblivious to the spiritual battle they’re in. As a result, they fall to Satan’s tricks and distractions. The Apostle Paul writes about this to the followers of Christ in Corinth:

“But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ (2 Co 11:3).” That is what we have all seen---men led astray. Satan is deliberate and intentional in trying to keep us from time with God.

FOSTER: I see that. I can’t speak for you Kent, but I find myself so easily distracted from my quiet time. My phone rings...I suddenly remember something important that I forgot to do... the kids start hollering for attention...you name it, there are all sorts of distracting things that pop up.

KENT: I think you are speaking for most of us. But, that is not a coincidence. Satan always tries to destroy our love relationship with God. And interfering with our quiet time is a great way to do that. This is why a well-planned place and time for our quiet time is so important. And this leads us to the last reason we fail to have quality quiet times.

The third reason is that men have no one to hold them accountable for their Quiet Times. It is very important to have someone who comes along side us and helps. And this idea is not new. When Jesus sent the disciples out in Mark chapter 6, He sent them out “two by two,” in pairs. [Mark 6:7] Later, Paul and Barnabas took their missionary journeys together.

Even today, Olympians have their coaches. Athletes have their physical trainers. Golf pros have their caddies. If you’re trying to lose weight, it helps to have an accountability partner. Jesus summed up why when He said, “The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” [Matthew 26:41, NKJV]

That’s why men need a partner to help them maintain the discipline of daily quiet time.

I recommend that men commit to getting together every week with other men to share what they’re learning in their Quiet Times.

They should also hold each other accountable to keep their walk with God strong. And they need to pray together.

You know Foster, men all over the world use these principles to climb mountains, win sporting events, to make it through rehabilitation after an injury. And it’s necessary for us too. When Christians come together to care for each other, and encourage each other in their walk with God, real accountability happens and strongholds of sin fall.

FOSTER: When you break it down like this, it makes perfect sense. If you don’t know how to have effective quiet times, you won’t. Satan doesn’t want you to have quality quiet times with God, and without an individual man or group of men to help, the discipline of maintaining a daily quiet time is tough.

KENT: Yes. Not impossible, but very difficult. But we also need to remember that the focus of Quiet time is to develop our love relationship with God, by seeking to know Him and His Word. Jesus said quite simply, *“Without Me, you can do nothing.”* [John 15:5]

We want to be godly men and godly husbands and godly fathers and godly employees and friends, but we can’t do it without Jesus Christ. Jesus taught about this in a parable found in

John 15:4-8. In this teaching He calls Himself the Vine and His followers, the branches. Jesus says,

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.”

That intimate relationship won't happen without regular quiet times.

FOSTER: And we've also learned that without regular quiet times, our love relationship with God gets weak and we are more vulnerable to failing.

KENT: That's right. This is why we have to make a commitment to honor our quiet times with God.

I heard a story about a man who did just that. There was a minister under the Prussian King, Frederick the Great. He took his Quiet Time with God so seriously that his servant was instructed never to allow anybody to disturb him while he was in his quiet time. Well one day the King himself arrived at his house and wanted to see the minister. But, his servant asked the king to wait until the minister had finished his Quiet Time with God. When he met with the King later, he apologized by saying, “Excuse me your majesty, but I had a meeting with the King of kings.” That is the depth of commitment we all need to have.

FOSTER: May God strengthen us all to have that type of commitment. But before we finish today's program, let's review where we've been.

KENT: Ok. We've learned that though quiet time with God should be the cornerstone of ever man's walk with God, three things often get in our way.

First; We don't know how to have a daily quiet time. Second, Satan works to keep us from our daily quiet time,

and third, we don't have other men holding us accountable to have our daily quiet time. But these obstacles can be overcome with God's help.

FOSTER: Thanks Kent. I hope we've all been inspired to make daily quiet time with God our highest priority.

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CLOSING

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FOSTER: Thank you for listening to *Champions Arise* where men are equipped and encouraged to meet their God-given potential. Today we discussed Why Men Fail. The material for this program came from Lesson #3 in the book, "Every Man a Warrior," by Lonnie Berger. His book can be used by individuals, small groups, or in classes at church. For more information, visit Champions Arise at our website www.championsarise.org.

In our next program, we'll look at the importance of using the Sword of the Spirit as we continue in our "Every Man a Warrior" series.

On behalf of Kent Darcie, this is Foster Braun. Thank you for listening to Champions Arise. May God mold you into the man He knows you can be.