

CA 03 EMAW 03 BEING A MAN OF THE WORD

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FOSTER: Take a moment and think about something you do well. Are you good at your job? Playing a musical instrument? Maybe you are good at playing video games, or sports. But were you always good at it, or did those skills come over time—with repetition—maybe you studied or attended workshops or seminars. The point is, excelling at any skill takes intentional effort. So would excelling at being a man of God, require any less?

Welcome to Champions Arise; a program from men to men. If you are serious about taking on the challenge of being a godly man, husband, father, friend, and worker, you're in the right place. I'm Foster Braun and I'm with Kent Darcie. Over the last two weeks we've looked at how to develop a deeper love relationship with God by having a daily quiet time with Him. We also discussed how Satan is at war with us and wants to keep a wedge between ~~us and God~~ God and us. Today we will tackle the second building block for godly living: "Being a Man of the Word." We'll be right back with Champions Arise.

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FOSTER: Welcome back to Champions Arise. Kent, being a man of the Word takes work. Would it be fair to say that many of us want the blessings of knowing God's word without the work of learning it?

KENT: Yes, But I think that applies to our society in general. We want everything quick and without having to make any effort. But this was true even before microwaves and electronic gadgets.

When I was a boy I had model kits. It might be a model of a plane or car, and the outside of the box had a beautiful picture of the finished product. But when you opened the box, there were layers of all these pieces. And there was a sheet of instructions that told you how – step by step – you had to put the pieces together to get that picture on the outside of the box.

FOSTER: I remember those kits! You couldn't take any shortcuts, because the model wouldn't go together properly.

KENT: But I was always tempted to skip some steps. I was a kid and I didn't have the patience for it. You had to glue all these little pieces together. And I would start to think, "Would anyone notice if the rear view mirror wasn't in there?" [laughter].

But in all seriousness, many men approach the Word of God (the Bible) the same way.

We want to be godly men and husbands and fathers, but we don't want to do the step-by-step work when it comes to learning what the Bible says about being a godly man. But when we try to take shortcuts, we do that do our hurt and the hurt of our families.

FOSTER: What do you mean, to our own hurt?

KENT: God gave us the Bible to speak to us, to show us how to live life successfully...to give us answers to life's questions. When we don't know biblical truth, we can make poor decisions and mess up our own lives and hurt the ones around us. The Bible is designed to give us wisdom in the issues of life, and to help us make better decisions. But, as a group, we men aren't digging deeper into the Bible.

Lonnie Berger, the author of Every Man a Warrior gives an example of this.

He was with a group of men in a Discipleship Bible Study and asked the men: "How many of you have children and want them to grow up to seek after God?" Everybody raised their hands in agreement. Then Lonnie asked a second question: "How many of you are willing to make sacrifices for your children and do the work necessary to build godly character into their lives?" Again every man raised his hand enthusiastically. Then he asked the last question: "How many of you know three verses from the Bible on raising children?" There was silence in the room, and not one hand went up.

Let me ask you listening today, would your hand have gone up to that last question? Do you know three verses from the Bible on raising children? If your answer is no, you're not alone.

But today we are inviting you to make a change.

The Bible says in 2 Timothy 3, verses 16 and 17: '*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*' The answers to the issues we face as men are in the Bible, we just need to take the effort to find them.

FOSTER: If you just joined us, you're listening to Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and Kent Darcie is with me. Kent, we've covered the sad fact that many of us aren't men of the Word right now. How can that change?

KENT: First we need to stop believing the myth that we can learn all we need about the Bible in a church service.

It is very important to go to church. We need the fellowship. We need the accountability. The Bible also says [Romans 12:15] we need to "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." All this takes place when a body of believers gets together. But when it comes to learning the Word of God, the research shows that we only remember about 5% of what we hear and 10% of what we read.

FOSTER: Hold on a minute. If I'm hearing you correctly, we're forgetting 95% of what we hear during the sermon and in any Bible classes?

KENT: Basically, but there are some simple ways you can increase what you remember. You can increase your retention by also reading the scriptures and seeing visuals—When you read along with the teacher, you'll remember more.

Small groups are also a big help in this area. One of the reasons small groups are so powerful is we remember 50% of what we discuss with people. So guess what? If you're with a group of men who are discussing Ephesians 5:25 "Love your wife as Christ love the church and gave Himself for her." you are going to remember Ephesians 5:25 "Love your wife as Christ love the church and gave Himself for her" much longer. And if you apply that verse in your home, (if you act on what that verse says) you increase your ability to remember, Ephesians 5:25, "Love your wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her" to 75%!

FOSTER: You're saying I can increase the amount of scripture I remember by taking certain steps.

KENT: Yes. We can greatly increase our retention of what we learn by not only hearing God's word, ~~but~~ but also by reading it, seeing it, and discussing it. But Lonnie Berger, in his book "Every Man a Warrior" says we can increase the amount of God's word we remember to almost 100% by memorizing scripture as well. And when we remember God's word, we can act on God's word.

FOSTER: Ok Kent, last week we talked about journaling and now we're talking about memorization. For a many men, memorization is an intimidating word.

KENT: It's true that memorization can be a little intimidating, but not if we keep three things in mind. First, as men, we memorize things all the time. //Foster, if you combine work and home, how many passwords do you know?

FOSTER: Home and work? Oh my goodness. There's...countless.

KENT: And what happens if you forget a password?

FOSTER: I can't get into my computer, or access a report at work. It causes delays. It might stop me from doing something important. It's a big inconvenience.

KENT: that's right. ~~So we memorize them. So we have to remember that we. And there are lots of other things we have to memorize all the time...like our anniversaries! (laugh)-memorize things all the time.~~ This is not something new. Second, if we don't memorize them there's a cost. And when we don't really know God's word, there's a cost. Psalm 119 verse 133 says: Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me." The New Living Translation says it this way, "Guide my steps by your word, so I will not be overcome by evil." We saw the fruit of this scripture in our program last week when we talked about a group of pastors who had been unfaithful to their wives. They had stopped letting God's word guide their steps and this resulted in affairs and disgrace. But God's word doesn't just help us to avoid sin, it guides us in our daily lives. Psalm 119 verse 147 says (and I'm reading from the New Living Translation) "I rise early, before the sun is up; I cry out for help and put my hope in your words." I like that. I cry out for help and put my hope in Your word. What this is saying is I ask God for wisdom at work, or how to love my wife better, or how to be a good father to my kids, and I find the answer in His word—the Bible. We'll take the steps to memorize God's word when we realize it is much more important than everything else we memorize. And the third thing to keep in mind, if we get apprehensive about our ability to memorize God's word, is it's not hard if you break it down into doable steps.

FOSTER: And what are those steps?

KENT: There are four simple things you need to do to help you memorize and meditate on the Scripture.

Number 1 is: each week take a key verse from your quiet time Bible reading—one that really impacted you—write it on a small card and begin to memorize it. To memorize a new verse, you read the verse several times. Keep the card with the verse on it in your pocket and take it out during a break, on your lunch hour, when you're waiting for something. To start, you may want

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to put an alarm in your phone or other electronic device that goes off every three or 4 hours during the day. Just so you are reminded to look at your scripture card.

FOSTER: I like your suggestion of using a reminder to help us remember to look at our scripture memory card. I know that I get busy and forget.

KENT: We all do, but memorizing that scripture is very important so we don't want to miss doing it.

~~The second~~ **Number 2** key step to memorize scripture is to read and quote the verse out loud to yourself. Also, always say the Bible reference before and after quoting the verse. For example, Ephesians 5:25 "Love your wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her." Ephesians 5:25. The reference is the hardest part to remember. Saying it twice helps it to stay connected to the verse in our memory.

~~The third thing~~ **Number 3 step** to help us memorize is ~~first to~~ practice saying the reference and the first few words of the verse together. For example, Ephesians 5:25 "Love your wife. Ephesians 5:25. This will help in getting the verse started. Then add the next key phrase. Ephesians 5:25 "Love your wife as Christ loved the church." Ephesians 5:25. Keep adding phrases till you have the whole verse. And ~~this it~~ is important to say the verse exactly as it's written.

~~The last memorization helper is~~ **Finally Number 4 step**, after you have learned the verse, try to review it a couple of times each day. ~~We do this because if you review a verse you've memorized every day for seven weeks, it will stay with you for life. Its~~ it's important to keep reviewing the scripture cards you've already memorized, and add your next memory verse card to it. ~~And here is a bonus: We do this because if you review a verse you've memorized every day for seven weeks, it will stay with you for life.~~

FOSTER: That seems very doable when it's broken down that way. It also takes away the excuses we use to avoid memorizing scriptures.

KENT: Yes it does. We must remember that we can greatly increase remembering what we learn by hearing God's word, reading it, seeing it, discussing it, and ~~then~~ memorizing it using the four steps I just mentioned. You can find more about this process in Lonnie Berger's book in Chapter _____

As Christian men, we must be serious about having God's Word in our minds.

FOSTER: Thanks Kent for challenging us to be men of the Word.

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FOSTER: Thank you for listening to Champions Arise where men are equipped and strengthened to meet their God-given potential. Today we discussed how to be a godly man you must be a man of the Word. The material for this program came from lesson #4 in the book Every Man a Warrior, by Lonnie Berger. His book is usable by individuals, small groups,

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or in classes at church. For more information on this book or this program visit the website www.championsarise.org. You can also contact us at that website. We would love to hear from you.

Let us know how we can help you, and even pray for you as strive to become a man of the Word.

We invite you to join us next time as we continue in our "Every man a warrior series." We'll be looking at how to move God's scripture from our minds to our hearts. Until then this is Foster Braun with Kent Darcie. Thank you for listening to Champions Arise. May God mold you into the man He knows you can be.