

ST. PAUL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

LIFE IN THE WORD

SPECIAL EDITION 10 4 VOL XI GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD

WHAT KIND OF MAN ARE YOU? PART I

What God has joined, let no man put asunder...this means you too.

**No more games
No more excuses
No more lies**

**Let God continue to be the bond
that ties you both and you will be
unbreakable.**



WHY DO MEN CHEAT?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

ARE YOU THE HEAD OF YOUR HOUSE

Visit us 24/7 @ www.stpaulmbchurch.org

1404 Briggs Street, Joliet, IL 60636 * Phone: 815.723.5396 / Fax: 815.723.5520

Before you put this down...

Know that no thing or no one other than our Lord can cause and equip you to be the best man you can be. Your manhood cannot be defined by money, women, what you have or how strong you are. You are greater and more important than the sum of these things and what the Lord has planned for you has far greater value than anything you can buy or possess. The only thing you will be giving up by following the Lord is failure.

Know this...

I am not here to sell or ask you for a thing. These words are for you. The Lord has a plan for your life. In this plan you will discover the man you are suppose to be. I can only speak to what the Lord gives me. In these pages are the answers from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and God's Word. You will not find solutions based on worldly perspectives, material needs, emotional desires or man's way of thinking.

Haven't you tried all of these? How have they served you thus far? Now, try Jesus.

Who am I?

You may already know who you are in this world, but do you know who you are in Christ? The difference in knowing is life and death. For Christ gives life, but the world takes it. If you let it, this world will tell you what kind of man to be. It will tell you what kind of car to drive, clothes you should wear, even what to say or do to impress others and how to treat them when you get close to them. God made you. There is no one else who knows you better than our Lord...not your friends, the people you work with or the people you try to be like. God knows why you are here, what your gift is and what you are suppose to do with it. The problem is we become something that we are not and we end up doing things we were never meant to do.

I know, I know...you still say you know who you are. Did you know who were when you lost your temper? Did you know who you were when you lost sight of what you were suppose to be doing? Did you know who you were when you were in the wrong place doing the wrong thing? Did you know who you were when you had to ask yourself what in the world were you thinking of when you did what you did?

Yes, we all make mistakes and we all have sinned, I am no better than you...no one is. But the answer to these questions cannot be found in the streets, in your head or from what you feel. No man, in and of himself, can know and tell you who you are and what you are suppose to do. Only our Lord knows.

If you are not following our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, then you are not the man you are suppose to be and you are not the best you can be. The enemy is after you, he would have you to believe that who you are comes from what you can do and what you have. This way when he robs of the thing you worked so hard for, you will begin to question who you are.

God created you in His own image. Jesus died for you. Do you know the victory and the blessings that await you? Stop letting other things define you. Stop letting what you want get in the way of what the Lord wants for you. Stop thinking you know what is best for your life when are not the one who created it. The Lord cannot lead you into greatness if you are going to keep following your own goals.

You are a man of God. The Lord has a calling on your life. Whether you never knew it or you thought you knew better. The Lord knows best. So the next time you find yourself about to say or do something not of the Lord's Word or Will, ask yourself who you are, remember, pray and know the Lord has a better way with better results and though he made you to be a man, you are still His child.

What is my role?

A man of God is not only who you are it is what you do. It will make it possible for you to succeed in all other roles the Lord gives you. I know you have your own roles. I know you have worked hard to achieve and maintain them. I am not telling you that you must give them up or that you should keep them. I am telling that whoever you think you are and whatever role you think you must do in your life, bring it before the Lord and let the Lord define and guide you. It does not matter how much money you have made. It does not matter what you have gained for if you are not doing what the Lord says, those things will be your undoing.

Matthew 16:²⁴Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Whatever gain you think you are making without the Lord will not save you nor protect you from the enemy. The enemy will use them to keep you away from our Lord. The enemy will use the comfort of what you have and what you want to manipulate you into a state of complacency and settling for worldly gratification when you could have eternal life and happiness.

Being a man of God is the hardest thing you will ever do.

You are probably sitting there thinking that the Bible does not apply to the world today, you know...the real world. It's okay that your mom went to church, your wife goes and you go once in a while to do the church thing. But you got to go out into the world and do what you have to do to make it. Because you are the man and you have to be strong for your family. This is just one of the many ways, outside of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the enemy has used to destroy families.

You are not strong enough to defeat the enemy. You are not smart enough to outthink the enemy. And you are definitely not fast enough to outrun the enemy, especially if you allow him to dwell within you. Make no mistake; the enemy is not poverty, your bills, having to ride the bus or not being able to buy brand name clothes / shoes. The enemy is Satan and he is after your life, to destroy your family and will use your own desires and ways of thinking to do it.

Ephesians 6: ¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

M A N O F G O D

Putting on the Whole Armour of God is not just going to church and praying. You must align your heart, mind and body to the ways of our Lord to not only be able to call upon the full protection of the Lord, but also to receive the full blessings Our Lord has for you. The reason why we fail is not because of the Lord for it is impossible for the Lord to fail. We fail because we do not align our whole being to do the Will of God. We are living in contradistinction to the Will of our Lord Jesus.

This is going to sting a little...

In other words, do not come to church and say one thing then go home and be another. Who do you think you are fooling? You are not fooling God and God should be the reason why you come to church. Yes, you may be able to fool me and yes, you are able to fool yourself, but at what cost, so you can look good while losing your soul? Going to church, listening and accepting our Lord speaking through the Pastor will give you the ways of our Lord in which you should live by. These are the ways that will save you. But it does not end there. You need to live by these ways in all areas of your life. At work, at the gym, at social gatherings, at home...anywhere and everywhere. This will enable you to receive the full protection of the Lord. For the weakness comes not in the Word, but in how we apply it to our lives.

Being a Man of God means letting go of being a man of the world

The enemy is waiting for you in the world. He is waiting for you at the club. He's waiting for you in the bottle. He's waiting for you in those swaying hips and cute lips you can't turn your eyes away from. He's there in that house and car you are trying to get for the wrong reasons and know you can't afford and should not be buying. The enemy knows the Lord has a plan of greatness for you. The enemy knows that if you accept the Lord into your life and dedicate your life to His Will, he cannot stop you. So the enemy will use your friends, money, worldly comforts, women and your desires for them to infect your life.

Every thing you do should be pleasing in the sight of our Lord. The Lord does not want you cursing out your wife. The Lord does not want you talking about your wife behind her back. The Lord does not want you treating your family or anyone badly, from anger or frustration. The Lord does not want you entertaining your lust. The Lord does not want you compromising what you should be doing to earn that extra dollar. With doing all of these things, then you go to church and pray for the Lord's blessings? The Lord has a better way of bringing you through and accomplishing goals. Where is the power of your prayer? Again the enemy is seeking to infect your life in any area he can get in. Because we are not perfect, we all have our limits therefore there are places we shouldn't go, people we should not associate with and definitely things we shouldn't do that bring us closer to our limits. Wherever / whenever possible avoid the temptations of the enemy. Yes, the Lord has the power to deliver us from any situation. However, the Lord gave us the power of choice and with that we also have to accept the consequences of our choices. There are certain situations we should choose not to put ourselves in. There are certain problems, though the Lord delivered us from, we were never meant to go through. If we had been listening to the Lord, we would have never had to encounter that setback.

Your life has a purpose that is greater than you

You see it's not about just receiving God's Blessing or the protection of the Lord. You are a man of God. Your life will mean something to others. Through you the Lord will work great works. You are to be a blessing to those who come into your presence. Some by only what they see and others by what the Lord leads you to do for them. When your children see you, they should see our Lord at work. When your wife sees you she should see a man of God of whom she can submit to. Because of your faithfulness, the Lord will continue to bless your family and the generations that come after you. The Lord has a plan for your life and you need to develop your relationship with the Lord that He may reveal it to you. Any distractions you allow in your life can steer you from the path. Fulfilling the Lord's purpose for your life will set you in a high place with the Lord where no worldly success can reach. You must be careful in what you do for the very actions you think will help you and your family may be a distraction from what the Lord would have you to do and ultimately cost you your family.

The Lord knows what job you should be working. The Lord knows how you can overcome your troubles and be stronger for it. The Lord knows the heart of the people you keep company with and can tell you who you should be associating with. The Lord knows exactly what you should be doing in any situation. All you have to do is commit to being a man of God. Yes, you will still make mistakes, but the Lord will guide you to making them right. What you must do is bring it to the Lord.

Proverbs 3:⁵Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

This battle is going on right now on the inside of you

I know you know the enemy exist, but do you know where he is? Do you know how he is manifesting himself and influencing your life? Short answer: Anything not of God is the enemy's playground. If you are not of God in what you say and in what you do, then your life will be the playground the enemy will use to do his work. I am telling you this because you must free yourself from the things in your life that are not of God and fill yourself with the Lord's Word, Will, and Spirit in order for Our Lord to work within you. Don't think for one minute you can add to the power of the Lord with what you learned in the World and make it work. Again you must free yourself. Call upon the Lord to help you put away anything that hinders you from being a man of God. This includes your pride, attitude and your worldly way of thinking. It also may include friends, family members, things you say and do. Basically, whatever the Lord says do, you should do.

Matthew 7:24-27 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

A
C
T
I
V
A
T
E
Y
O
U
R

Again, the true enemy is Satan. In the scripture you just read, the foolish man who built his house upon the sand was fine until the flood came. There enemy will attack every vulnerability of your life like a flood. In order to be ready, in order to stand we must build our life on the rock of God's Word with faith and love. You were made to be a man of God, so be the man of God.

You may feel you are in too deep to change now

I am not going to lie to you. The deeper you are in, the more you may have to go through to be free. But the final destination of the road you are on, no matter how good it may feel now, is hardship, heartache and death. You have to put the things not of God away from you. There are some things you don't even have to bring it to the Lord. You already know it's wrong. It's been wrong , on so many levels, far too long. I know it's not easy. Pray and ask the Lord for guidance on how to get out of your situation and talk to the Pastor. There is a way out and the Lord knows what that way is and He will protect you. The Lord will never desert you. When you choose to follow him and let go of those old ways, He will see you through beyond what you can see.

F
A
I
T
H

Ephesians 6:16 -In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

Like I said being a Man of God will be the hardest thing you ever do, but it will also be the most rewarding. I know some of you may feel you will go through some changes. Some of them will not be pleasant. But the Lord will make you better for following Him through it.

When I became a police officer, I was faced with the harsh realities of what this really meant. For some reason, the guys who became my friends in the police academy turned out to be the very people I should have been locking up. What was it? We all swore to uphold the law. We made an oath and gave our word. How in the world did it end up with them threatening my life for exposing them for breaking the very laws they were suppose to uphold? We all received the same special training. We forever changed our lives to take this job and vowed to watch out for each other. Then why was I getting death threats on my answering machine and notes put in my locker at the police station?

Of course, I knew the unwritten law and the number #1 rule. "You do not turn on your fellow officer...no matter what." Now I'm out gunned and out numbered, but thanks only to the Lord I was never outdone. My walk with our Lord, as a man, became serious at this job. As a result, I started changing. I could no longer just look away or leave the area when I saw fellow police officers doing wrong especially when they were hurting others. I had to take a stand and they had every right to be mad at me for I was no longer the same person they knew who would keep his mouth shut. I was trying to become a man, a man of God. Our Lord had to come first and only because of the Lord am I still here. Even if meant me losing my life, as long as I was right with our Lord, it is more than worth it. The Lord has my back.

And if this were not bad enough. There was a case when I witnessed fellow officers locking up a community leader because she questioned their activities. They false charged her with assaulting an officer. Sergeants were on the scene and allowed her to be arrested. Of course, I felt that there was nothing I could do. Weeks later it just so happens that I was in the station when she came in. She asked if I remembered her and I said yes. She asked if I knew what they did and again I said yes and apologized for it. She said the judge found her guilty for assaulting an officer and she had to go back to court for sentencing. She said she knew me to be a good cop and was always trying to do the right thing. She asked me if I would go to court with her. Without thinking, I said yes. I really mean I don't know what in the world I was thinking when yes just tripped out of mouth. But I know now it was the Lord and this is what the Lord wanted me to do.

When the day came, I was working. After roll-call, I asked my sergeant could I go to court? He said yes, that's part of my job. I know he was thinking I was going on one of my own cases and definitely that I would be on the side of the state, not the defendant. If he would have checked the court log, he would have known I didn't have any court cases on that day. But I did not go into further detail. When they called her case at 9 am, I stood with her. The judge looked up and said officer, I think you are standing on the wrong side and I informed the judge I was standing on the right side. He paused and then postponed the case until 11 am. During this time, I was approached by personnel as to what was I doing. I was also given the opportunity to leave. When 11 am came, I was standing with her again. The judge looked at me and said I am sure there is a reason for you being here in full uniform and gave her 6 months probation and she was free to leave. By the end of the day everyone at that station knew what I had done.

Ultimately, I filed multiple lawsuits, highlighting corruption, against the police department. Yes, something did happen... I was injured on the job when an operation went wrong...several surgeries later I have less pain, but the Lord saved my life. No, I am not a police officer anymore. In addition, I was warned that I could never be one again in the US. But the Lord lead me to a better job. Yes, as soon as I stopped being a police officer, I became more of a target by other police officers who blamed me for almost losing their job. Thanks to the Lord, I am still here.

I am still here is because of Our Lord. I am not stronger, not braver or smarter than you. The only reason I made it through and came out of it better than when it all began, is because the Lord had a plan for my life and I chose to follow Him. When I did, it didn't matter how many guns they had, but I thought it did. It didn't matter I no longer had a job or that I spent 10 years getting an education in a field I could no longer practice, but again I thought it did. It did not matter that I felt like a failure as a man and ashamed to show my face to my children. You see, I lost what I thought defined me and without it, I was nothing.

But what really mattered was that Lord told me in His Word He would never forsake me and I was not my accomplishments, not my possessions, not even my failures. But if I followed Him He restore unto a new life. My journey for the Lord continues. Yes I continue to struggle. I continue to fight, but now I use faith and I trust in the Lord to fight my battles.

Now I didn't fully understand why had to go through what I went through, but I know the Lord made me a better man for it. Remember what I said about bringing it before the Lord because He knows what you should do? Well, to be honest, the main reason I became a police officer was because it paid more than the job I had at the time. I did think I would be able to do some good, but my main reason was money. I didn't bring it before the Lord if I should be a police officer or not. With less than a year on the department, I was angry all the time, I was having nightmares, and I knew I was becoming someone I was never meant to be.

I never knew what it meant to see my momma, a woman of God, worship the Lord. But whatever she did no matter how much I tried not to pay attention, something was on me to get my butt in church. The Lord was waiting for me. He had a seat with my name on it. I felt His hand on my heart and I knew He was the same God that my momma prayed to. I knew He was the same God in His Word.

Yes, I am still a flawed, imperfect man who makes mistakes and sometimes stumbles off the path. I continue to pray and refocus my thoughts and ways to what the Lord would have me to do. It is not easy by any means, the hardest thing I have ever done. But I know I can never afford to be without the Lord. With Jesus I will continue to be a blessing to everyone as the Lord see fits and to be the best man I can be for my wife, children and all of God's Children. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

No, it does matter what you have done or who you are, the Lord still loves you

Whether you are a cheater, liar, drug dealer, murderer or a lawyer, doctor or pastor, Jesus is our Lord, Savior and our Salvation. He is the light through any darkness of your life. He is the way when you have lost your way and His Love is the Love that will never fail you. We all have to pay cost for what we do. There is a cost for doing wrong just like there is a cost for doing right. As much as I can and with all my heart, please Lord let me pay the cost for doing right by You.

It was not my purpose to just make it through and to be a better man for it. It is my purpose to tell you the same Jesus who saved me, saved you. The same Jesus that freed me can free you. The same Jesus who gave me the way when I couldn't even think of a way is the way. He will deliver you. Again, I am no smarter, no stronger and no braver than anyone. I trusted in Jesus Christ who died for us all. He saved me. He brought me through. He gave me mercy instead of giving me what I deserve. Jesus loves you and there is no stronger love. Turn to Him, Trust in Him, Follow Him and you will be the best man you can be and no weapon formed against you shall prosper.

Are you ready???

Now is the time. Now is always the time to get right with the Lord. I know you want to be the best man you can be. You may have done things you thought you needed to do to get what you thought you needed or wanted but the ends never justifies the means. However, the means will always decide your end.

Are you ready to let go of your friends that are not doing what the Lord would have them do, you know the ones who encourage you to do wrong. Are you ready to let go of chasing one women after the next for that quick fix of sin that could give you years of pain. Are ready to stop thinking about what other people think of you when it only matters what the Lord thinks of you and what you are doing. Are ready to stop chasing the almighty dollar and start diligently seeking our Almighty God? If your answer is no then go back to page 1 and start reading again, otherwise...

Please make sure you pick up Part II