

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known  
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## **Rise Up O Men of God**

*1 Timothy 6:11-12*

**Keywords:** Leadership, Elders, Shepherding, Fighters, Men of God

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** NONE

**SermonAudio Blurb:** This is the introductory sermon to a short series focused on men setting before themselves a goal to be men of God. Not just men. Not just good money managers or fun fathers or great business men. But men of God. To set in their hearts the desire to grow into a leader in the church. It is a call to cast off lesser things. To consider their paths and to be wise in their decisions.

### **I. Introduction.**

A.1 Rise up, O men of God!  
Have done with lesser things;  
Give heart and soul and mind and strength  
To serve the King of kings.

2 Rise up, O men of God!  
His kingdom tarries long;  
Bring in the day of brotherhood,  
And end the night of wrong.

3 Rise up, O men of God!  
The Church for you doth wait,  
Her strength unequal to her task;  
Rise up and make her great.

4 Lift high the cross of Christ;  
Tread where His feet have trod;  
As brothers of the Son of man,  
Rise up, O men of God!

- B. Today I want to lay out for each of you what it means to be a man of God.
1. Not just a man. Not just a good man. Not a good father or a good husband. But a man of God.
  2. As we continue to grow and mature as a church this is an ever-increasing need that each of us must set our hearts and lives to move toward. And in the biblical model this is to be led by men.

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3. In chapters 1-3 of Genesis we saw the glorious picture to which we too often yawn.
  - a. We are image bearers.
  - b. We are to be in dominion, not retreat.
  - c. We are to be laboring and striving and not retreating or retiring into comfort.
  - d. Our Lord said it simply, powerfully and bluntly, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” (Matthew 16:24)
    - (1) To embrace the shame of the cross in the eyes of our friends and family.
    - (2) To deny our dreams and our goals and instead lay them at the foot of the cross and follow His example.
    - (3) To be men who model to our wives and sisters and children what it looks like to be Christ-followers.
4. This is our call.
  - a. To be sure it is the call of every Christian.
  - b. But it is the job of the men to lead the way.
  - c. To rise up and act like men. To be done with lesser things. To love the gospel to the point that we are compelled to speak it and no longer merely hope something happens.
- C. Over the next few weeks I want us to think about this. Chew on it. Fight with it. Argue about it. And, Lord willing, embrace it.
- D. I did a series back in 2011 on boys becoming men.
  1. There was a reason for this. And perhaps I will do that series yet again.
  2. It is the idea that it is not good to be boys and remain like that. That we must train your young men to be men. But true men. Men of God.
  3. Paul talks about this in passing in 1 Corinthians 13. Speaking to a church filled with men and women who acted more like children he makes this statement, “When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.” (1 Corinthians 13:11)

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- a. It is fitting for a child to act like a child.
  - b. It is never fitting for a man or a woman to act that way. It is to be abandoned, not managed.
4. Later in that same letter he says this, “Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.” (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)
- a. Five quick, powerful commands to close out this strongly worded letter of instruction and correction.
  - b. Be alert speaks of a watchman. One who is looking for attackers and intruders. Men, are you alert to the influences in your life? Home? Children? What is speaking into their hearts? Do you know?
  - c. Stand firm. Not in some vague way, but “in the faith.” The body of truth in the Bible. Sound doctrine. Sound theology. Do you know it? Have you settled in it? Do you claim to believe one thing but you live in contradiction?
  - d. Act like men. What needs to be said here? What do you not understand? What does a true man do? I hope to unpack it in a moment.
  - e. Be strong. The life of a man is not ease. It is not safety. It is not abandoning your wife to do the dirty work. It is not leaving the care and instruction of your children to others. It is making hard decisions borne out of a strength of conviction of what is true.
  - f. And all done in love. Which means that being loving is not in contradiction to these other commands. To stand strong is loving. To be firm in the faith is loving. To watch over the souls of your life and those under your care is loving. The greatest example of love in our Lord and we would never call him a coward. The need of the hour has always been for the men of the church to be men of God.
5. Read 1 Timothy 6:11-12
6. Timothy has been given a tough assignment, he is to go to the church at Ephesus and fix it.
- a. False teaching had arisen.
  - b. Divisions were occurring.

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- c. Men and women were not fulfilling their God-given roles.
- d. Worst of all, ungodly leadership had arisen.
- 7. And now, in the midst of this letter, Paul calls him “man of God.” It is a reminder that Timothy was to be faithful and fulfil his ministry.
- 8. What does it mean?
  - a. This person was a unique possession of God’s. He was God’s man, God’s man for the time, God used him to proclaim His message to the people.
  - b. Bottom line, it is a man who speaks for God.
- E. Our passage gives four activities of a man of God.
  - 1. What he runs from.
  - 2. What he runs toward.
  - 3. What he fights for.
  - 4. What he holds onto.

## **II. Men of God.**

- A. What he runs from (11a).
  - 1. “Flee” is a command that means to be continuously fleeing.
    - a. This is not a casual trot.
    - b. It is a full tilt dash and the direction is “away from.”
  - 2. This tells us that the true man of God is known by the fact that he has made it his life habit to run away with all his might from specific things.
    - a. 1 Cor 6:18, “flee fornication.”
    - b. 1 Cor. 10:14, “flee idolatry.”
  - 3. What is it that so bothers this man of God that he is compelled to run away from them? Paul give two categories that he is to be fleeing from.
    - a. False teachers (3-4).

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- (1) Paul condemns the person who seeks to teach anything that is contrary to sound doctrine (we would call this biblical doctrine).
- (2) This person is given to worthless arguments, always wanting to ask questions for argument's sake.
- b. Lovers of money (5-10).
  - (1) They are lovers of this present world. They carefully guard their money, count their money and smile with happiness when they consider it. It is their joy and having it is their comfort.
  - (2) They are never content, they are always looking for more.
  - (3) The result is that they are given over to evil. Often not the evil that is easy to see but evil nonetheless.
  - (4) "If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself." (James 2:15-17)
  - (5) "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth." (1 John 3:16-18)
4. But he is not merely running away from things, there is a positive element to his life, something he is pursuing.
- B. What he runs toward (11b).
  1. You can't flee without running toward something else.
    - a. The life of the man of God is one of chasing after certain things.
    - b. Paul gives us six specific things that are goals for the man of God to pursue.
  2. "Righteousness and godliness"

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- a. This is the preeminent one.
  - b. This is the call for practical righteousness.
  - c. What do you pursue? What are the things that take up your energies and money? Ten years from now what are you hoping to be? What are you challenging your sons and daughters to be?
  - d. Simply put it is doing the right thing is what it looks like to pursue righteousness.
    - (1) Yes that is the lifestyle of the true man of God, seeking to always do what is right.
    - (2) What brings God the glory? What does it look like to lay my life down? What does it mean to be poor in this age but rich before God?
    - (3) What biblical command are you trying to avoid obeying? Or, what biblical command are you currently making a habit in your life?
  - e. It is a man who does not pick and choose what he will obey, rather, it is a man who desires to do all that God would have him do.
3. “Faith.”
- a. This is a unswerving confidence in God.
  - b. This is a man who loves his Lord, more importantly he is a man who knows his Lord.
4. “Love.”
- a. This is not the weak love of the world, that is swayed by emotions and self-centeredness; this is the love of the Bible.
  - b. This is a love of the will, where you choose to love, not for how it feels, or what you get, but because it is right. It is self-sacrificing.
5. “Perseverance.”
- a. This is not a passive resignation to the events of life; it is an active endurance, knowing that the hand of God is in the events.

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- b. It is a person who remains faithful, even during the difficult times.
  - (1) The man of God is not quick to break down under pressure.
  - (2) A man of God cannot be gripped by indecision and fear.
- 6. “Gentleness.”
  - a. This means a meekness of heart.
  - b. He will rebuke, he will call people to holiness, he will point the way of salvation. But he will not do it in a mean-spirited fashion.
- 7. So, the man of God is known by what he runs away from and what he runs after. But he is also known by.....
- C. What he fights for (12a).
  - 1. Beloved, the true man of God recognizes one thing. That the Christian life is a battleground. You are at war. Every day and every minute of every day.
    - a. The war is not against man. It is against Satan, it is against the kingdom of darkness, it is against the sinful hearts of man.
    - b. We must have the understanding of 2 Timothy 3:12, “And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”
    - c. Acts 14:22, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”
  - 2. Once again, the word “fight” means to be in the habit of continuously fighting. Not a slap fight, it speaks of agony.
  - 3. But the man of God understands that though the fight can be intense, in fact it may even cost him his life, in reality it is a “good” fight.
    - a. Why, because it is the fight for the faith. You are fighting to preserve the truth of the gospel.
    - b. All around us Satan is throwing out lies and deceptions about God, man, salvation, and the Bible.
    - c. As parents you are speaking against the massive swarm of lies washing over and in the lives of your children.

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- d. Whether you are married or single truth is what you fight for. It is your non-negotiable. You push one another toward a life of love and faithful, good deeds.
  - e. The true man of God is not busy fighting things of no eternal value; he is fighting for truth.
4. And in the midst of this battle his success will be often based upon the thing he has grabbed hold of as his anchor.
- D. What he holds onto (12b).
1. This means to grab, to seize.
  2. When it says that they are to seize eternal life it is not referring to becoming saved, for they already are that.
    - a. It speaks of living in light of eternity.
    - b. It is like in Colossians 3, where Paul commands us to be seeking the things above, where Christ is.
    - c. It is the mind set of Philippians 4:8, where we are commanded to let our mind dwell on “. . . whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise.”
    - d. The man of God knows that his citizenship is not here in America, but in heaven.
  3. He is saying that as they run from sin, as they run toward godliness, as they are fighting, they are to be holding onto the truth of heaven. This is so critical.
    - a. They are fighting a worthy battle.
    - b. They are fighting for a worthy king.
    - c. Therefore, the man of God is to not hide his faith, he is not to be weak and shifting; rather, he is firmly grasping the truth of his eternal life and with that firm foundation he is running away sin, running toward godliness, and fighting for the faith.

### **III. Conclusion.**

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- A. As MDF continues into the future we do not know what awaits us. But we can see the storm clouds upon the very close horizon.
- B. The battle lines are very clearly drawn for you.
- C. My question is now for the older men of MDF. Men who have walked in Christ for years and even decades.
  - 1. Where are your disciples? What young men are you bringing alongside you to teach, to admonish, and to encourage?
  - 2. Have you risen up and entered into the fray?
  - 3. Do you have the reputation of wisdom and humility and a knowledge of the Word of God?
- D. My question to the men who are in their 30'-40's. Those who are walking with Christ in the midst of the very busy years.
  - 1. Are you ready to enter into your latter years with hope and wisdom?
  - 2. Are you giving away your faith and speaking the gospel? Is it seen in your family? Is it seen in your spouse?
  - 3. Does your household and lives reflect a man who long since left behind the things and thinking of this age or are you pursuing a dream that the bible says is but dust?
  - 4. Are you in the fight? Have you long since abandoned and fled from lesser things?
- E. To the younger men in their late teens to 30's, do you have a clear battle plan? Have you set yourself before someone older and wiser to instruct and help you grow into a mighty man?
  - 1. Are you single? Then are you doing that which is necessary to be able to love and provide and to nourish a wife? Are you fighting against this age's lies about your role?
  - 2. Are you married? What changes are part of your home as your care for the little ones who are so small and know nothing? When do you put down your controller and read or pray with your children? Are you leading your house?

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- F.      Fathers, your job is to raise up your children in the Lord. It means you must die to things that you don't want to die to. It means you have to make decisions regarding your life and your spouse's life that will not be easy. But it is your task.
- G.      But you must keep Jesus as your model. As Hebrews 12:2 says, the Jesus "for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising shame, and sat down at the right hand of the Father."
1.      Men, are you men who are daily taking up the cross, embracing the shame it brings, and setting your eyes upon the promise of eternal life?
  2.      If not, may today be the day of repentance.

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## Community Group Questions

- **What challenges were found in this sermon for you? Why? How can the CG help you to put away certain things and become others?**
- **Have two or three people talk about when they were disciplined by someone older and wiser. What impact? What was hard about it?**
- **What prevents you from meeting with someone outside of your home for either the gospel or for discipleship? Have the group come up with a list of hindrances through brainstorming. Then work out solutions. Do not stop this until your group has identified someone that each of them might be able to meet with or approach for discipleship.**
- **Why does it seem to be hard to raise up men who lead and are truly men of God? Explore this and try to probe it. This is not an exercise that just disperses information. It is an exercise of self-examination.**