

I AM A MAN OF GOD

30 DAY DEVOTIONAL

-INTRODUCTION-

Forging..... Dallyon..... Many years ago when I was studying a Korean martial art I learned about Dallyon. Dallyon means forging. In the natural it's a process of forging metal, making it into a shape that is useful and strong enough to fulfill the task that it's created for. Forging is done under intense heat and entails hammering and pounding, striking metal to metal, alternately heating and cooling in the hands of a master and finally refining, honing and polishing the instrument until it is bent, molded and shaped into a tool that is useful to the master.

Men, real men, are created the same way. Not by watching TV, not by allowing their wives to carry the burden of the family and certainly not by looking for the easy way out. If that is the way you want to live, this book is NOT for you!

Real men are forged. Forged by the Master they are refined by fire. Some men run from the process, and others embrace it.

Whether you are young in the Lord or seasoned, this book itself is a tool, a sledge hammer, by which the Lord can hammer you and refine you to make you stronger and more powerful. If this is the hammer, then the Bible, the written word of God, is the immovable anvil. This anvil is hard, solid, unchanging and immovable. As men are forged, we must always use the Word of God as our standard. If not, there is nothing solid to strike against and therefore no real change.

Beyond this 30-day study, continue to hone and refine yourself, always testing your refining with the Word of God, for therein lies truth. How can I make such a bold statement? Because the Word of God testifies of Jesus, and Jesus my fellow men, is Truth. (John 14:6)

Why forging? Why the creed?

The simplest answer is this. There are many other great sledgehammers that strike the anvil. There are great teachings on salvation, grace, mercy, repentance, morality, tithing, discipleship and on, and on, and on.

However, there is a truth found in the Word that has not been embraced in recent generations. It's rooted in masculinity. The very essence of the Father and Son is masculine; however, with the exception of a few champions such as John Eldridge, Steve Farrar and a few others, **the modern American Christian male has lost his EDGE!** Many men have lost their ability to be world changers.

We try to be nice when we see injustice. We try to be politically correct. We operate more times out of weakness instead of strength.

Allow me to pause and clarify something. Kindness and compassion are attributes of our Master, Jesus, and are actually signs of maturity and strength. Therefore, these characteristics are to be embraced. **But the same Jesus DROVE out the money changers from the temple with a whip while flipping their tables over.**

We've got the kindness part down, but the balance of that is knowing when to be bold as a lion. The preponderance of churches today have Pastors that can't or won't even stand up to wolves in their congregations, even though God has given them charge over the flock. We have wives that aren't protected by their husbands and children who are fatherless.

The enemy has attacked in the form of apathy, addiction, divorce, the liberal media and by removing God from schools and government. We've sat by and watched. We've watched for way too long. We've watched as TV has seduced our children by portraying teenagers pursuing one another recklessly and adults cheating on their spouses. Sexual exploits are applauded, while holiness, true courage and honor are mocked. Fathers are portrayed, more often than not, as the dolt of the family, without enough backbone to stand up to the children and much less the mother. This ought naught be so. But we've laughed along with certain prime time shows. We've seen gender roles reversed as we watch the mother dominate, the husband cower and the children have no discipline. Their parents are the object of disdain and mockery, but the Word of God instructs us to honor our parents. I've rarely seen honoring from child to parent in recent years on television. (That's one reason we've dramatically reduced what we watch, often fasting the TV for months on end.)

Men, we've been given much. We have great responsibilities. Let us not let our wives, children and parents down under the weight of these attacks. We must become the light of the world, being kind and peaceful when appropriate, but when the enemy comes in we must also be prepared to protect, cover and empower those in our charge.

WE MUST DISCOVER OUR MASCULINTY IN CHRIST.

As we seek out who we are in Christ, by prayer, fasting, reading the word and serving the Lord, we'll become more and more refined into the man that God wants us to be. Only when we're hammered against the anvil of God can we be shaped and strengthen into a tool that's useful to the Master for every good work.

Men, the stakes are too high!

Be strong and do not fear!

For the Lord will give us the battle!