

# THE *Pursuit*

# PREPARING FOR YOUR PURPOSE

*Jeremiah 29:11* tells us that God has plans for us. Like a master architect, he has envisioned, created and designed you for a divine purpose. You may be a "bridge," commissioned and strategically placed, to connect thousands of people back to Christ. You may be a skyscraper, bringing together resources or championing causes for Christ, or you may be a well, a source of refreshment and **RESTORATION**—for the lost and broken. No matter what kind of future God has planned for you, you have two responsibilities after you answer that call: to prepare for your purpose in every possible way, and to continue to build your life on a firm foundation, so that you can stand firm against every challenge that lies ahead.

## A FIRM FOUNDATION

Every great building begins with a great foundation.

Jesus tells the story of two builders; one foolish, one very wise. They both began to build their buildings. The first builder began his building right there on the sand. The sand was smooth and easy to make level. He cleared the ground and began to build. One wall, then two, pretty soon it was built. Last of all he placed the roof and there it stood, a thing of beauty! And then the second builder began

building his building. He dug away the sand and found the solid bedrock beneath. On this bedrock he began to build a solid foundation; with concrete, brick, mortar, until finally the foundation was complete. The first builder laughed to himself as he figured the time it took. "I built my house in half the time and he's not even begun the walls!" he exclaimed with great smugness. Then the second builder began to build the walls and the roof and finally he was finished. The house looked identical to the first house, but it took much longer to build.

That night, the clouds became thick and dark and the winds began to blow. The first builder's house began to sway back and forth with the winds as the sand shifted, but the second house never moved. And then the rains came. They poured on both houses with great force, the ground became wet and the streams began to flow. With a great snap, wood began to break as the first house's foundation began to wash away. But the second house was unmoved. It stood the test of wind and rain, flood and storm.

Jesus said that we are builders and our buildings are our life—our character.

**MATTHEW 7:24-27 (KJV)**

*"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man*

*who built his house on a rock.*

*And the rain came down, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house. And it did not fall, for it was founded on a rock.*

*And everyone who hears these sayings of Mine and does not do them shall be compared to a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain came down, and the floods came, and the wind blew and beat on that house. And it fell, and great was its fall."*

The more our life is built on God's word, the more we are able to weather the storms of life and be strong men.

If you spend time every morning being intimate with God, you will never be intimidated by men. You will carry God's strength into every situation.

At Men of Honor Camp, you will find, every morning, young men, by themselves, underneath trees, behind rocks and all over the camp seeking God during their quiet time. They have found the secret to powerful manhood, linking up with the creator of all men.

Start each day in God's word. Spend the first of every day in prayer, downloading God's blessing for your life, His strength to face the giants.

Your foundation is built every morning when you give God the

first part of every day.

There is a principle in the Bible that is very important to understand. I believe it is the most important principle in the Bible. It is called the tithe. I know, you might be thinking that I'm talking about money, but it is so much more than that. The tithe means giving God what is His, the first part, the best part of everything.

There was once a young man in our church youth group named J.T. He was a special young man. Everyone liked him and he was a natural leader. One year after a youth conference, J.T. made an amazing vow to God. J.T. vowed to tithe or give the first part of his teen years to God. He vowed not to date girls for one year! For some guys this would be easy, but J.T. had girls calling him all the time.

When you give God the first of anything, he will bless the rest and make it greater than it would have been otherwise.

After J. T's year was up God had blessed his life in an unbelievable way; His musical talents were exploding. He was writing and recording songs, performing in many new venues and would soon become a talented and rising star.

Tithing can include giving God

the first of your money, the first of your day, the first few weeks of every year, or the first of your teen years. Either way, God will honor those who Honor Him. The first and the best belong to God; He will not take second place in your life. He is either Lord of all, or not Lord at all.

Now maybe you have neglected to place God in first place in your life. If so, it's not too late to begin. Ask God to forgive you, look for opportunities to put God first in EVERY thing and get ready for your life to be blessed!

What sort of a man will you be?

2Ti 2:20 (KJV) But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor.

2Timothy 2:21 (KJV) Therefore if anyone purges himself from these, he shall be a vessel to honor, sanctified and useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

You can choose to be an ordinary man or an extraordinary man. You can be one who gives God much to be proud of or one of his many disappointments.

My dad taught me when I was a boy, "Son, if you're going

to be a bear, be a Grizzly bear!" What this meant is that I needed to be all that I could be.

Push the envelope

In order to become a Man of Honor, you will need to exceed the crowd in your pursuits of righteousness. What I mean is, you will have to make a deliberate decision to make choices that honor God and look for ways to Honor God in every decision. What may seem like work in the beginning will become a habit that will launch your life into a pattern of blessing and success. Jesus said,

*"Even so,*  
**LET YOUR  
LIGHT SHINE**

*before men; that they may see*

**YOUR GOOD WORKS,  
& GLORIFY *your***

**FATHER**

**WHO IS IN HEAVEN.**

*(Matthew 5:17)*



# GROWING IN FAITH

<sup>3</sup>By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

<sup>4</sup>And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

<sup>5</sup>In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, <sup>6</sup>and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, <sup>7</sup>and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.

<sup>8</sup>The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.

<sup>10</sup>So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. <sup>11</sup>Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

As you follow Christ from year to year, you must also be constantly growing. If you're not growing--that is, maturing spiritually, getting closer to God, taking on and conquering bigger and bigger challenges--then your relationship with God will grow stale, weak and maybe even non-existent.

How can you ensure that you're growing in faith? You can put it to the test in a few ways.

- ✦ Are you reading the Bible more than you did six months ago?
- ✦ Are you spending more time in prayer than you did?
- ✦ Are you finding that more opportunities present themselves for you to share Jesus than you used to find?
- ✦ Are you fighting more battles, spiritually, than you used to do?

READ MORE | PRAY MORE | PUSH HARDER

*"The* **WISE ARE MIGHTIER THAN THE STRONG, AND THOSE WITH KNOWLEDGE GROW STRONGER AND STRONGER."**

*-Proverbs 24:5*

*"Vision* GETS THE DREAMS STARTED.

*Dreaming* EMPLOYS YOUR GOD-GIVEN IMAGINATION TO REINFORCE THE VISION.

BOTH ARE PART OF SOMETHING I BELIEVE IS **ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY** TO BUILDING THE LIFE OF A CHAMPION, A WINNER, A PERSON OF HIGH CHARACTER WHO IS **CONSISTENTLY AT THE TOP OF WHATEVER GAME HE OR SHE IS IN."**

*-Emmitt Smith*



A full-page background image of a man surfing on a wave. The surfer is shirtless, wearing dark shorts, and is captured in a dynamic pose as he rides the crest of a green wave. His surfboard is white with a red border and a black graphic. The sky is a clear, bright blue. Overlaid on the left side of the image is a quote in white text. The quote is: "DON'T SHINE so others can SEE YOU. SHINE SO THAT THROUGH you OTHERS CAN SEE HIM." The words "DON'T SHINE", "SEE YOU.", "SHINE", "SO THAT", "THROUGH", "OTHERS CAN", and "SEE HIM." are in a bold, white, serif font. The words "so others can", "you", and "OTHERS CAN" are in a smaller, white, cursive font. At the bottom left, the attribution "- C. S. Lewis" is written in a white, cursive font.

"DON'T SHINE  
*so others can*  
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OTHERS CAN  
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- C. S. Lewis

- C. S. Lewis

# PREPARING... CONTINUED

*Carefully* consider your abilities, your personality, what you enjoy doing...God has designed you in a very deliberate way for a specific mission and purpose. That purpose may not be the same as your family's or friends' -- even your best friend!

Begin to prepare for that purpose TODAY by taking a serious look at yourself to determine your natural abilities and strengths. You may need to try to some new challenges in order to find them. You may need to ask your mentor, pastor or coach what he thinks, too. Seek wise counsel, seek God earnestly, and start developing those talents and strengths to the fullest capacity.

## HERE ARE SOME TOOLS TO HELP YOU:

**[HTTPS://SPIRITUALGIFTSTEST.COM](https://spiritualgiftstest.com)**. Take this free on-line assessment to get a clearer idea of what your spiritual gifts may be. Discuss the results with your mentor or pastor. Remember to feed your "spirit man" with good things every day to strengthen these gifts, and to consider your spiritual gifts as first and foremost in the direction of your life.

**ALIGN** your education, your activities and your student life choices with your spiritual gifts, so that you can use them fully for God's glory. For instance, if you seem to be destined for ministry, you might join the debate team to build your public speaking skills. If your calling points to some kind of leadership, get involved with student council. If you have a gift for recognizing and pushing for positive changes, find a community service organization to join. In all of these, you will build networks with older leaders who will pour into you and assist you with reaching your goals.

**RESEARCH.** What are the best colleges or trade schools to equip you for your purpose? Is there a mentorship organization of some kind that might help connect you with the right scholarship resources to get there? Read about the requirements for that kind of career, and ask those who have lived it, what is it like?

**JOURNAL.** Faithfully record the details of your explorations, thoughts, setbacks, achievements... all of it! Take time to review, reflect and pray over your progress as you ask God for further direction. Share your writings with your mentor and ask for honest feedback and advice.

**KEEP IT REAL.** Remember what a wise man once said: "Sometimes your talents will take you to places your character cannot sustain you." As you discover and develop your gifts and talents, keep your ego in check. Don't get "full of yourself" and forget that you're good at it (whatever it is) not only because you have practiced and pursued it with excellence, but because, after all, it was a GIFT - given to you by God, to be used for his purpose and his glory, not your own. Be humble. Don't let it go to your head. Always point the applause back to God, and praise him for the opportunity to do something for him.

*What career* do you think you are destined for, and why? How can you use that career to bring glory to God?

[illegible]





# 10 THINGS A MAN SHOULD KNOW HOW TO DO

- ❑ 1. GIVE A STRONG HANDSHAKE
- ❑ 2. CHANGE A FLAT TIRE
- ❑ 3. TIE A NECKTIE
- ❑ 4. WASH YOUR CLOTHES
- ❑ 5. MAKE YOUR BED
- ❑ 6. COOK A ON CHARCOAL GRILL
- ❑ 7. CATCH A FISH
- ❑ 8. MANAGE A BANK ACCOUNT
- ❑ 9. BUILD A FIRE
- ❑ 10. IRON YOUR SHIRT & PANTS
- ❑ 11. CHECK THE OIL IN A CAR
- ❑ 12. COOK SOME BASIC THINGS  
LIKE BACON & EGGS
- ❑ 13. MAKE A POT OF COFFEE
- ❑ 14. WRITE A GOOD LETTER

## LIFE SKILLS

A man is never truly a man until he is self-sufficient. This does not mean that he does not need family or friends to rely upon in difficult times, but that, on a day-to-day basis, he knows how to take care of himself--to be respectable and responsible.

For instance, a young man who relies on his parents to cook all his meals, do his laundry and make his bed, is not a man; he's still a boy. A young man who has not learned how to be financially responsible, who does not know how to make and save money, take care of his expenses, or have resources to pay for his fast food splurges, his date money, or other such splurges, is still a boy.

This is perfectly fine if you're 13, but if you're 20, and still lacking in all these areas of knowledge and maturity, you're not "grown up," not ready for adult responsibilities or privileges, and has no right to be in charge of his own life yet.

A boy wastes hours on gaming and social media.

A man keeps time-wasting activities in check by taking care of his responsibilities first, and devoting extra time to things that will help him develop into a Man of Honor.

A boy expects everyone else to clean up his messes -- from his room to his financial issues.

A man manages his time, his space and his money in a way that's an example to others.

A boy defies authority and refuses to meet society's standards (either at school, work or home) for keeping things decent and in order.

A man takes charge of his realm, and leaves it better than he found it.

A friend of mine (let's call him Jeff) decided when he turned 17 that he was suddenly a man, and that his mother shouldn't demand that he clean his room, make his bed, or do his homework. Defiantly towering over her, he

challenged her to try and make him. She left his room in tears.

When his father got home, he didn't say a word to Jeff. He took his suitcase from the closet and dropped it open on my friend's messy bed.

"Pack," his dad said.

"What?" Jeff answered, shocked.

"Pack your bag and go. If you're a man, go get a job, your own car, and an apartment. Go pay for your own food and movie tickets, and buy your own jeans and shoes from now on."

Jeff was silenced. Then he was ashamed of himself. He had to really humble himself and beg his dad not to throw him out, then tearfully apologize to his mom--he had hurt her feelings pretty badly.

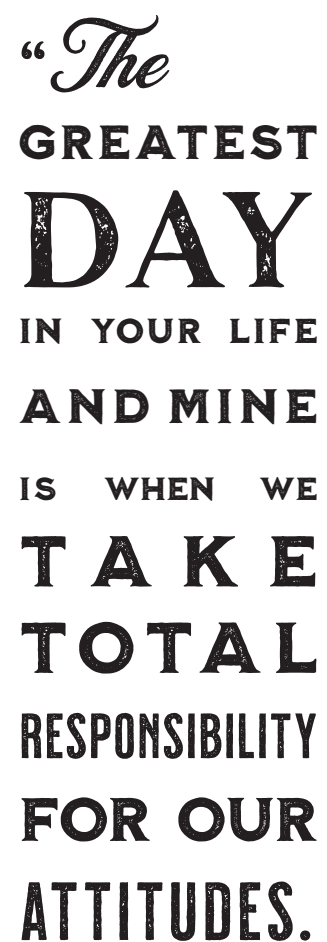
Now, we don't condone the drastic measures Jeff's dad was about to take, but he had a good point. Jeff was certainly still a boy, unable to do any of those things on his own yet. And talking to his mother that was certainly the mark of immaturity.

Jeff joined the U.S. Army not long after that. How shocked he was to find himself being forced to do all those things he had resisted as a teenage boy. He found out the hard way in boot camp, with a drill sergeant yelling in his face, that a real man picks up after himself, and takes good care of his things. His mom wasn't going to be there to do it for him, that's for sure.

"That was the best thing that ever happened to me," he later recalled about all the reality checks he got in boot camp. "They made a real man out of me, by making all those things a part of my routine."

That's how a young man who always thought cleaning, making beds and cooking, were "women's work," or, at best, unnecessary. It's all a part of being self-sufficient or self-reliant -- knowing how to take care of yourself and your things is how you prove that you're a real man -- a Man of Honor!





*That's the day*  
**WE TRULY  
GROW  
UP."**

- John C. Maxwell

"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man,

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



“THE MOST  
DIFFICULT  
THING IN LIFE  
IS TO KNOW  
YOURSELF.”

-Thales of Miletus,  
ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHER

On the opposite page is a quote from an ancient Greek scholar, Miletus. He was a mathematician, astronomer and philosopher who was known as one of the Seven Sages of Greece.

“Knowing yourself” requires time alone for reflection, self-examination and prayer. It requires opening yourself to constructive criticism from people you respect, and opening your heart to God for correction.

Learn to make time for this necessary part of personal growth. Think about what will make you a better man -- better aligned with God’s word and the mindset of Christ. Then pray about it, read about it, and set goals to achieve those results.

What are some things you can do to, today, to begin this process?

How do you see yourself, your habits and your behavior in one year, as a result of these changes? Be specific.

**“The  
GREATEST  
DAY  
IN YOUR LIFE  
AND MINE  
IS WHEN WE  
TAKE  
TOTAL  
RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR OUR  
ATTITUDES.**



*That's the day*  
**WE TRULY  
GROW  
UP.”**

-John C. Maxwell





THE LEADER SIGNED BELOW CERTIFIES THAT THIS MAN OF  
HONOR HAS ALSO COMPLETED MODULE ONE AND TWO,  
HAS MET ALL THE REQUIREMENTS AND FULFILLED ALL  
THE TASKS FOR ALL THREE MODULES, AND IS THEREFORE  
ELIGIBLE AND HEREBY APPOINTED TO PURSUE THE PATH  
TO BECOMING AN HONOR GUARD.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
MEN OF HONOR LEADER

This is just the beginning, Man of Honor! Your next step is to keep growing, and keep equipping yourself to become fully commissioned to earn your official Commissioned Man Sword! Write how you are feeling today about your achievement so far. How has completing these Modules helped you to grow and change to become a better, more Christlike man? Keep the fire burning in your heart with a note to your future self, urging you to complete all the requirements, no matter what challenges may come in the next few months. Picture what it will be like, standing on the stage with your sword raised (what is it like?), and work to make it happen!

[illegible]

- 1 Derek Beres, SEPT 11, 2017 Article on Big Think. Derek Beres is the author of *Whole Motion: Training Your Brain and Body for Optimal Health*.
- 2 Sendjaya, Sen; Sarros, James C. (2002-09-01). "Servant Leadership: Its Origin, Development, and Application in Organizations". *Journal of Leadership & Organizational Studies*. 9 (2): 57–64
- 3 "The servant as leader: EBSCOhost". [web.b.ebscohost.com](http://web.b.ebscohost.com).
4. 6/14/2013 blog post, "Abraham Lincon's Leadership Styles" on [leadinspire-change.wordpress.com](http://leadinspire-change.wordpress.com)
5. *Lincoln as a Servant Leader*, published 5/31/2011, quoting Executive Director Dr. Charles M. Hubbard, Lincoln Institute Wordpress
6. "Heroic Leadership: An Influence Taxonomy of 100 Exceptional Individuals," by Scott T. Allison, George R. Goethals
7. Photo attribution, US Library of Congress, photographer: Frances Benjamin Johnston, ca. 1902
8. "14 Bold Facts About Bald Eagles," by Rosemary Mosco, 1/10/2019, published on [Mentalfloss.com](http://Mentalfloss.com)

**USE THIS SPACE FOR  
CONGRATULATORY NOTES  
FROM YOUR FRIENDS,  
FAMILY AND LEADERS TO  
COMMEMORATE THIS DAY.**

## ATTRIBUTES OF A TRUE CHRISTLIKE LEADER:

### COMPASSION

EPHESIANS 4:32 "BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER, FORGIVING EACH OTHER, JUST AS IN CHRIST GOD FORGAVE YOU.."

### LOYALTY: KEEPING GOD FIRST


MATTHEW 16:24-25 "THEN JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, 'WHOEVER WANTS TO BE MY DISCIPLE MUST DENY THEMSELVES AND TAKE UP THEIR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME. FOR WHOEVER WANTS TO SAVE THEIR LIFE WILL LOSE IT, BUT WHOEVER LOSES THEIR LIFE FOR ME WILL FIND IT."

### KNOWING & EXEMPLIFYING GOD'S WORD

JOHN 14:15 "IF YOU LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS."

1 TIMOTHY 4:2 "PREACH THE WORD; BE PREPARED IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON; CORRECT, REBUKE AND ENCOURAGE—WITH GREAT PATIENCE AND CAREFUL INSTRUCTION."

### HONESTY & SINCERITY

PROVERBS 11:1-3 "THE LORD DETESTS DISHONEST SCALES, BUT ACCURATE WEIGHTS FIND FAVOR WITH HIM. WHEN PRIDE COMES, THEN COMES DISGRACE, BUT WITH HUMILITY COMES WISDOM. THE INTEGRITY OF THE UPRIGHT GUIDES THEM, BUT THE UNFAITHFUL ARE DESTROYED BY THEIR  **DUPLICITY**."

### PLACING OTHERS BEFORE SELF

ROMANS 12:10 "BE DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE. HONOR ONE ANOTHER ABOVE YOURSELVES."

## PERSEVERANCE & HONOR

2 CORINTHIANS 6:3-8 "WE PUT NO STUMBLING BLOCK IN ANYONE'S PATH, SO THAT OUR MINISTRY WILL NOT BE DISCREDITED. RATHER, AS SERVANTS OF GOD WE COMMEND OURSELVES IN EVERY WAY: IN GREAT ENDURANCE; IN TROUBLES, HARDSHIPS AND DISTRESSES...IN HARD WORK, SLEEPLESS NIGHTS AND HUNGER; IN PURITY, UNDERSTANDING, PATIENCE AND KINDNESS; IN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND IN SINCERE LOVE; IN TRUTHFUL SPEECH AND IN THE POWER OF GOD; WITH WEAPONS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN THE RIGHT HAND AND IN THE LEFT..."

### LOVE FIRST

MARK 12:28-31 "ONE OF THE TEACHERS OF THE LAW CAME AND HEARD THEM DEBATING. NOTICING THAT JESUS HAD GIVEN THEM A GOOD ANSWER, HE ASKED HIM, 'OF ALL THE COMMANDMENTS, WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT?'"

"THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE," ANSWERED JESUS, "IS THIS: 'HEAR, O ISRAEL: THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE."

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' THE SECOND IS THIS: 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' THERE IS NO COMMANDMENT GREATER THAN THESE.""

