



INFLUENCERS

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One man from Branson, Missouri, said, "It was actually life changing for me."

A leader with Firefighters for Christ had a similar response. "I will wear the Man of God band Pete placed on my wrist the rest of my life and then pass it on to my son. When fellow firefighters ask me if I'm a Man of God, I will say, "Absolutely!" I know that wearing this band comes with a price, but thanks be to God, Jesus has already paid the ultimate price for me."

Another man from Bakersfield who has been a Christian for many years commented, "Something happened to me today. After all these years of feeling like an unworthy Christian I finally believe that God loves me and that I'm worthy. I am a Man of God!"

I shared about this ministry of anointing men as Men of God in our last newsletter. As I continue to share this ministry with men, it just gets better and better as we go along.

Is it important that a Christian man knows that he is a Man of God? I believe it's imperative. If a man doesn't find his primary identity as a man of God, can he ever truly become one? I've found that an overwhelming majority of men feel unworthy when it comes to wearing the mantle, "Man of God". It's because we carry around a solid dose of guilt and shame and sense of failure at trying to be God's man. We're basically on a performance track with God and we can never perform good enough, long enough to make the grade. We get discouraged, frustrated, confused and angry.

At the same time, I believe that most Christian men love Jesus Christ and are foundationally loyal to Him. We may not be the most committed, mature and godly men around, but we do love Christ and want to walk closer with Him. We want to put a Man of God helmet on a man like this and give him time and grace to grow into it.

What does he need to know to be able to confidently wear the Man of God helmet?

Here's A Few Things That Will Be Helpful For Him:

- He needs to know that he doesn't have to perform to get God to love him. He can't earn something he already has...God's love.
- He needs to know there's nothing he can do so good or bad to change God's love for him.
- He needs to know that he cannot work on his sin and get more love or approval from God. God totally loves him no matter how good or bad he may be.
- He doesn't have to work, earn, or prove anything to God. God's grace and unconditional love will see him through.

In his excellent book, True Faced, John Lynch pointed these things out

DO WE REALLY THINK GOD WOULD MAKE IT SO HARD TO LIVE A LIFE THAT PLEASES HIM?

- What if he didn't have to work so hard?
- What if his sin didn't affect how close he is to God?

- What if he could stand with God, with God's arm around him, with his sin before him, and work it out together?
- What if he truly believed that there was no condemnation from God because of his sin?
- What if GRACE was that strong?

In Essence, God Says To That Man

What if I tell him I don't keep a log of past offences, or how little he prays, how often he's let me down, or made promises he doesn't keep?

What if I tell him that when I look at him I don't see his sin, but the righteousness of my Son who lives in him?

What if I tell him that he can stop beating himself up? That he can stop being so formal, stiff and nervous around me?

What if I tell him he doesn't have to wear a mask? That it is OK for him to be who he is at this moment, with all his junk? That I accept him as he is?

What if I tell him I like Eric Clapton's music too?

Jesus came full of grace and truth. Men are well acquainted with performance-based truth, but grace is hard for us to get a grip on. This is the freeing message God gives men that begins to help them believe that He does love them and that maybe they really can be a Man of God. It's the message that helps them understand what to do about their sin and where to go with it. It's the message for men in a culture that has devalued and confused them and that has removed them from their rightful, God-given roles in the family, church and culture. It's the message that frees them from the burden of feeling like a failure, of being inadequate, insecure and constantly living with fear.

It has been said that the hardest thing to do with a man is to give him back his heart. I personally believe that there is nothing I could give my life to that has the potential to make a bigger impact on the body of Christ and the world today...helping men find their true hearts in Christ.

Thanks so much for your interest and support of The Influencers ministry. Your financial gifts and encouragement in prayer are allowing us to reach more and more men in these life-changing ways. It is a great privilege to be able to see God make such powerful impacts in men's lives.

Give 'em Heaven!

Pete