



Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper
than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing
asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow,
and is a discerner of the thoughts of the intentions
of the heart.

BORN TO BE A MAN

Men's Leadership Conference Notes

Conference Session One

WAKE UP

Discovering God's Design for Biblical Manhood

Keith R. Reinhardt

Author

Property of Spirit Alive Ministries

Copyright © July 2026

Born to Be a Man

Table of Contents

Conference Session One – Wake Up	3
Teaching Section 1 – Who Taught You What It Means to Be a Man?	3
Teaching Section 2 – God's Original Design for Man.....	6
Teaching Section 3 – Adam's First Failure — The Sin of Passive Leadership ..	11
Teaching Section 4 – Responsibility or Blame?.....	15
Conference Session Two – Clean Up: The Hidden Battle	18
Teaching Section 1 – The Battle Within.....	19
Teaching Section 2 – Understanding Temptation.....	24
Teaching Section 3 – Walking in the Light	29
Teaching Section 4 – Living in Freedom.....	34
Conference Session Three – Stand Up: Becoming the Man God Created You to Be	39
Teaching Section 1 – Called to Lead	40
Teaching Section 2 – A Man of Integrity	44
Teaching Section 3 – Leaving a Legacy That Lasts	49
Teaching Section 4 – Stand Firm: The Man God Is Calling You to Become	54

Conference Covenant

Before we begin, I want us to make a covenant together.

Throughout this conference, God's Word will challenge us personally. There will be moments when the Holy Spirit may bring conviction, expose an area of weakness, or call us to take responsibility.

When that happens, we will resist the temptation to look at someone else.

We will not defend ourselves.

We will not compare ourselves.

We will not think about another man.

Instead, each of us will stand honestly before God and ask one question:

“Lord, what are You saying to me?”

We are not here to evaluate another man's failures. We are here to allow God's Word to examine our own hearts.

So throughout this conference, whenever we return to this covenant, remember:

Don't defend yourself.

Don't compare yourself.

Don't think about another man.

Ask only: “Lord, what are You saying to me?”

Conference Session One – Wake Up

Teaching Section 1: Who Taught You What It Means to Be a Man?

Speaker Notes

- Read 1 Corinthians 16:13–14 slowly.
- Let the passage settle before teaching.
- Maintain eye contact during the reflection questions.
- Pause after asking who taught them manhood.
- Keep the tone pastoral.

Read

1 Corinthians 16:13–14

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

Big Idea

Every man is becoming like someone. The question is whether the pattern shaping your life comes from culture or from Christ.

Teach

Gentlemen, before we talk about becoming better men, we have to answer a more basic question.

Where did our definition of manhood come from?

Most of us never intentionally decided what a man should be. We simply absorbed it. We watched our fathers. We listened to coaches. We admired celebrities. We learned from television, movies, music, social media, and the men around us.

Many of those voices have been discipling us into something very different from biblical manhood.

Some men were taught never to show weakness.

Some measure success by money or status.

Some think leadership means controlling people.

Others withdraw and avoid responsibility.

Still others have learned relationships from pornography rather than Scripture.

Only the One who created man has the authority to define manhood.

Paul writes:

'Be watchful. Stand firm in the faith. **Act like men.** Be strong. Let everything you do be done in love.'

Paul defines manhood by spiritual character.

A biblical man is spiritually awake.

A biblical man stands firmly on God's truth.

A biblical man demonstrates courage when obedience is difficult.

A biblical man develops strength of character.

All of it is governed by love.

Strength without love becomes domination.

Love without strength becomes passivity.

Jesus was both strong and loving.

That is the model every Christian man is called to follow.

Ask

Now answer honestly before God.

Who taught you what it means to be a man?

Was it your father?

Your grandfather?

Your friends?

Hollywood?

Social media?

Pornography?

Disappointment?

Pain?

Or has Jesus Christ become the One shaping your understanding of manhood?

Remember our covenant.

Don't defend yourself.

Don't compare yourself.

Don't think about another man.

Ask only:

'Lord, what are You saying to me?'

(Pause.)

Illustration

Imagine a builder using a tape measure with every inch marked incorrectly. He may work hard and sincerely, but every measurement will be wrong because the standard is wrong. God has given us His Word as the only trustworthy standard for life and manhood.

Uganda Application

Whether in Uganda, America, or anywhere else, every culture has strengths and traditions that must bow before Scripture. Our goal is not to become better African or American men. Our goal is to become biblical men.

Key Statements

- Every man is becoming like someone. Make sure that Someone is Jesus Christ.
- Culture may influence us, but only Scripture has the authority to define us.
- God did not create you to imitate the world. He created you to reflect His Son.

Transition:

'If we are going to become the men God created us to be, we first have to examine the pattern we've been following. In our next section, we'll go back to the beginning—to God's original design in Genesis.'

Conference Session One – Wake Up

Teaching Section 2: God's Original Design for Man

Speaker Notes

- Slow down when reading Genesis. Help the men picture the perfection of creation before sin entered the world.
- Emphasize that work was part of God's good design before the Fall. Work is not a curse; painful toil is a consequence of the Fall.
- Make eye contact when asking, "What has God entrusted to your care?" Let that question linger.
- Use examples that resonate with the audience—families, churches, businesses, farms, and communities.
- End with anticipation: "God gave Adam a clear responsibility. So what went wrong? In our next section, we'll look at the first failure of a man—not merely eating the fruit, but failing to stand where God had called him to stand."

Read

Genesis 1:26–28

"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...'"

Also read:

Genesis 2:15

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it."

Big Idea

You cannot understand what a man is by looking at a broken world. You must go back to the God who created him.

Teach

Whenever something breaks, **we don't determine its purpose by looking at the broken pieces.**

If you found a watch lying on the ground in a hundred pieces, you wouldn't study the broken gears to discover what the watch was designed to do. You would ask the manufacturer.

The same is true of manhood.

Our world is filled with broken examples of men.

Some men abuse their strength.

Some abandon their families.

Some refuse responsibility.

Some live for themselves.

Some are passive.

Some are angry.

Some are controlled by lust.

If we look to broken men to define manhood, we'll arrive at a broken definition.

So we must go back to the Creator.

Genesis opens with something remarkable.

Before there was sin...

Before there was shame...

Before there was conflict...

Before there was fear...

There was God's design.

Scripture tells us that man was **created in the image of God**.

That means every man possesses inherent dignity because he bears the image of his Creator.

But being made in God's image also **carries great responsibility**.

God never intended men simply to exist.

He created them with purpose.

Genesis 2:15 gives us the first assignment ever given to a man.

God placed Adam in the garden to **work it and to keep it**.

Those two words are significant.

To **work means to cultivate**, develop, and bring fruitfulness.

To keep **means to guard, protect, and watch over**.

Before Adam was a husband... Before he was a father...

Before there was a nation...

God called him to faithful stewardship.

That tells us something profound.

A biblical man **accepts responsibility** for what God entrusts to him.

Whether that stewardship is a family...A church...A business...A ministry...

A farm...Or simply his own walk with Christ...

God calls men to cultivate what is good and protect what is valuable.

Notice what is **absent**.

God never tells Adam to dominate.

He never tells him **to control**.

He never tells him to **rule through fear**.

Leadership in Scripture is **never rooted in selfish power**.

It is rooted in faithful stewardship.

That is exactly what we see fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Jesus never used His authority to serve Himself.

He used it to serve others.

Biblical leadership is never asking, "How many people serve me?"

It is asking, "How faithfully am I serving those God has entrusted to me?"

That changes everything.

Ask

Think carefully about these questions.

What has God entrusted to your care?

Who has He asked you to cultivate?

Who has He called you to protect?

Where have you invested yourself?

Where have you neglected your responsibilities?

If God evaluated your stewardship today...

What would He say?

(Pause.)

Don't answer those questions quickly.

Ask the Lord to reveal the truth.

Illustration

Imagine someone giving you fertile land.

The soil is rich. The rain is plentiful. The potential is enormous.

Five years later the owner returns. Instead of a flourishing harvest...

The fields are overgrown. The fences are broken.

The crops have died. The owner asks only one question:

"What happened?"

The tragedy wasn't that the land lacked potential.

The tragedy was that it was neglected.

Many men have been entrusted with marriages...

Children...

Ministries... Businesses... Friendships... And even their own spiritual lives.

Not everything is destroyed through rebellion.

Many things are lost through neglect.

Uganda Application

Whether a man farms one acre or one thousand...

Whether he pastors a village church or leads a large congregation...

Whether he owns a business or works for someone else...

God measures faithfulness before He measures success.

The question is not, "How much has God given you?"

The question is,

"What are you doing with what He has already placed in your hands?"

A faithful man is valuable in every culture because faithfulness reflects the character of God Himself.

Key Statements

God created men **for stewardship, not self-centeredness.**

Leadership begins with responsibility, not authority.

Many things die, not because they are attacked, but because they are neglected.

Before God asks what you've accomplished, He asks how you've cared for what He entrusted to you.

Conference Session One – Wake Up

Teaching Section 3:

Adam's First Failure — The Sin of Passive Leadership

Speaker Notes

- Slow down when reading Genesis 3:6 and emphasize 'who was with her.'
- Show Adam's silence as a failure of stewardship.
- Lead the men toward conviction, repentance, and hope.
- Let the Gospel be the climax: men need a Savior who empowers them.
- Close: 'If God has spoken to you today, don't defend yourself. Don't make excuses. Own it before Him. That's where restoration begins.'

Read

Genesis 2:15–17

Read first to remind the men of God's clear command to Adam.

Then read:

Genesis 3:1–7

Read it slowly. Don't rush through the account. Allow the men to notice something they may have overlooked for years.

Big Idea

Adam's first failure was not simply eating the fruit. His first failure was remaining silent while the serpent deceived the woman God had entrusted to his care.

Teach

Most of us have heard the story of Adam and Eve since we were children.

Usually, the lesson is simple: "Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit."

True!

But if we slow down and read carefully, another tragedy begins to unfold.

Before Adam ever reached for the fruit, he failed to fulfill the responsibility God had already given him.

Genesis tells us that **God gave Adam the command** concerning the tree **before Eve was created**.

Adam knew God's Word. Adam knew the boundary. Adam knew the consequence.

He had everything he needed to lead faithfully.

Then Genesis 3 begins. The serpent questions God's Word.

Conference Session One – Wake Up

The serpent twists God's Word. The serpent contradicts God's Word.

And where is Adam?

Genesis 3:6 says: "...she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate."

Who was with her?

Adam was there. **He was present. But he was passive.**

He watched the conversation unfold.

He listened as God's truth was distorted.

He allowed the serpent to lead while he remained silent.

That silence became one of the **most expensive** moments in human history.

Gentlemen, evil often advances because good men say nothing.

Homes suffer. Churches weaken. Children wander. Marriages fracture.

Not only because of wicked men, **but because godly men sometimes become passive.**

Passivity is not peace. Passivity is not humility.

Passivity is not patience.

Passivity is the refusal to accept the responsibility God has already given us.

Biblical leadership is not loud, controlling, harsh, or selfish.

Biblical leadership lovingly steps forward when God says, "**This is your responsibility.**"

Jesus gives us the perfect picture.

When the Father entrusted Him with the mission of redemption, **He stepped forward.**

In Gethsemane He prayed, "Not My will, but Yours, be done."

On the cross He fulfilled His calling.

Adam stepped back.

Christ stepped forward.

The first Adam brought death through disobedience.

The last Adam, Jesus Christ, brought life through perfect obedience.

That is biblical manhood.

Ask

Let the Holy Spirit search your heart.

- Where have you become passive?
- What conversation have you avoided because it felt uncomfortable?
- Where should you have spoken but remained silent?
- What responsibility has God already placed in your hands?
- Is your family spiritually stronger because you lead it?
- Would your wife say you lovingly lead, or simply occupy the house?
- Would your children say your faith is visible throughout the week?
- **If everyone in your church led like you, what kind of church would it become?**

Remember our covenant.

Don't defend yourself.

Don't compare yourself.

Don't think about another man.

Ask only:

'Lord, what are You saying to me?'

(Pause. Let the silence do its work.)

Illustration

Imagine a watchman standing on the city wall. His assignment is simple: stay awake, watch, and warn the people if danger approaches. One night he sees the enemy coming but says nothing. The enemy enters the city and lives are lost. The tragedy wasn't that the watchman attacked the city; the tragedy was that he failed to warn it. Leadership often fails through silence long before it fails through action.

Uganda Application

Every culture wrestles with passivity. Some men become passive because they are discouraged, consumed by work, trapped by addiction, or believe leadership belongs only to pastors. **But God has called every husband, father, elder, employer, ministry leader, and Christian man** to accept responsibility for those entrusted to him. Biblical leadership is about faithful stewardship.

Key Statements

- Passivity is a decision.
- Silence can be just as destructive as rebellion.
- **Leadership begins the moment a man accepts responsibility for what God has entrusted to him.**
- Adam stepped back. Jesus stepped forward. Every man must decide which **example he will follow.**

Conference Session One – Wake Up

Teaching Section 4: Responsibility or Blame?

Speaker Notes

- Speak with compassion, not condemnation.
- Help the men recognize themselves in Adam.
- Slow down when contrasting Saul and David.
- Maintain eye contact after the reflection questions.
- End with hope through Christ.

Read

Genesis 3:8–13

Read the account slowly, placing special emphasis on verses 11–13.

"...The man said, 'The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?'..."

Big Idea

The turning point in a man's life is the moment he stops making excuses and begins taking responsibility before God.

Teach

Every one of us has failed. Every one of us has sinned.

Every one of us has made decisions we wish we could take back.

The issue is not whether we have failed. The issue is **what we do after we fail**.

Genesis 3 reveals one of the saddest conversations in all of Scripture.

God comes looking for Adam—not because He doesn't know where Adam is, but because **He is giving**

Adam an opportunity to confess and take responsibility.

Instead, Adam says, "The woman whom You gave to be with me..."

Adam blamed Eve. Then he blamed God!

He never simply said, "Lord, I sinned."

That pattern has followed mankind ever since.

We blame our parents, **upbringing**, culture, **government**, spouse, **employer**, circumstances, and sometimes **even God**.

A biblical man refuses to live that way.

Conference Session One – Wake Up

He understands that **while he cannot control everything that happens to him**, he is responsible for how he responds.

Repentance starts with ownership.

Revival starts with honesty.

Freedom begins when excuses end.

Saul tried to protect his reputation.

David confessed, "I have sinned against the LORD."

No excuses. No blame. No justification. **Just confession.**

God is not asking us to pretend we have never failed.

He is asking us to **be honest enough to admit** when we have.

That is courage.

Real courage is standing before a holy God and saying, "**Lord, I was wrong.**"

That kind of man can be restored, grow, and lead.

Ask

Take a moment before the Lord.

- Where have you been making excuses?
- What responsibility have you avoided?
- Is there someone you've blamed for your own choices?
- Is there a conversation you've been avoiding because it requires humility?
- What would change if today you simply said, 'Lord, I take responsibility?'

Remember our covenant.

Don't defend yourself. Don't compare yourself.

Don't think about another man. Ask only: 'Lord, what are You saying to me?'

(Pause.)

Illustration

Imagine a man driving a vehicle that continually pulls to one side. Instead of fixing the steering, he blames the road, the weather, the tires, and everyone else. Many men try to change everything around them while refusing to address what **is happening inside them**. The breakthrough comes when a man says, 'The first person God wants to change is me.'

Uganda Application

This truth applies everywhere. Circumstances may influence our lives, but they do not remove our personal responsibility before God. The Gospel gives us something greater than an excuse—it gives us a new beginning. God's grace never **eliminates** responsibility; it **empowers** us to live responsibly.

Key Statements

- A biblical man is not measured by how few mistakes he makes, but by how quickly he takes ownership of them.
- Excuses keep us where we are. Repentance moves us toward the man God created us to become.
- **You cannot change what you refuse to own.**
- The first step toward restoration is not defending yourself—**it is surrendering yourself.**

Transition

Genesis has shown us what went wrong. Adam abandoned his responsibility and defended himself instead of confessing. But God did not abandon mankind. God is not looking for perfect men. He is looking for honest men who will take responsibility, repent, and allow Him to shape them into the image of Christ. That is where biblical manhood begins.



Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts of the intentions of the heart.

BORN TO BE A MAN

Men's Leadership Conference Notes

Conference Session Two

CLEAN UP

The Hidden Battle

Keith R. Reinhardt

Author

Property of Spirit Alive Ministries

Copyright © July 2026

Conference Session Two

Clean Up – The Hidden Battle

Teaching Section 1: The Battle Within

Speaker Notes

- Begin by connecting this teaching to the conclusion of Conference Session One: "Now that we've accepted responsibility, let's identify what we're responsible for."
- Keep your tone pastoral rather than confrontational. This section should invite honesty, not shame.
- Pause after reading James 1:13–15. Let the progression from desire to sin to death settle in before explaining it.
- During the illustration, emphasize that the goal is not simply "trying harder." The gospel changes the root of the problem.
- End with hope. Every hidden battle can be brought into the light of Christ.

Read

James 1:13–15

"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death." (ESV)

You may also reference:

- Proverbs 4:23
- Romans 7:21–25
- Galatians 5:16–17

Big Idea

The greatest battle a man will ever fight is not around him—it is within him. Victory begins when a man recognizes that the battlefield is his own heart.

Teach

In our first conference session, we stood before God and answered a difficult question:

Will I take responsibility for my life?

Now we take the next step.

If I accept responsibility, what am I responsible for?

Scripture gives a clear answer.

I am responsible for the condition of my own heart.

Many men spend their lives fighting the wrong enemy.

Conference Session One – Wake Up

They fight their boss. They fight culture. They fight politics. They fight financial pressures.

They fight difficult relationships.

Some of those battles are real.

But according to James, the first battle is not outside of us.

It is inside us.

James tells us that temptation begins when we are "**drawn away by our own desires.**"

Notice that James refuses to let us blame God, Satan, or other people for the choices we make.

He is not denying that Satan tempts or that the world influences us.

He is teaching that **temptation finds a foothold because something inside us responds to it.**

That truth is difficult to hear because we naturally look for **external explanations.**

Yet it is also incredibly hopeful.

If the greatest battle is within us, then through the power of Christ, God can transform us from the inside out.

Jesus never came merely to improve our behavior.

He came to change our hearts.

Proverbs says,

"Above all else, **guard your heart**, for everything you do flows from it."

Notice the language.

Everything flows from the heart.

Our words. Our attitudes. Our marriages. Our parenting. Our leadership. **Our integrity.**

The heart is the wellspring of life.

When the spring is clean, the water becomes clean.

When the spring is polluted, eventually everything downstream is affected.

This is why biblical manhood is never about image management.

It is about heart transformation.

Many men become experts at appearing strong **while privately fighting fear.**

They appear confident while secretly **battling insecurity.**

They appear faithful while entertaining compromise in their minds.

God is not impressed by appearances.

He looks at the heart. The hidden life eventually becomes the visible life.

Every action begins as a thought. Every habit begins as a choice.

Every pattern begins with a desire that has either been surrendered to Christ **or allowed to grow unchecked.**

The goal of this session is not to produce guilt.

The goal is to produce honesty through humility.

A man who is honest before God is a man God can shape.

Ask

Take a few moments of quiet reflection.

Ask yourself:

- What battle am I pretending doesn't exist?
- Where do I struggle when no one else is watching?
- What desires have I allowed to grow instead of surrendering to Christ?
- Am I spending more energy protecting my image than guarding my heart?
- What would change if I invited God into the places I have kept hidden?

Remember the covenant we made at the beginning of this conference.

Don't defend yourself.

Don't compare yourself.

Don't think about another man.

Ask only:

"Lord, what are You saying to me?"

(Pause for silent reflection.)

Illustration

Imagine a farmer who notices weeds appearing throughout his field.

Every week he cuts them off at ground level.

For a few days the field looks clean.

Then the weeds return.

He becomes frustrated because he is treating the symptom instead of the root.

Finally, an experienced farmer tells him,

"You'll never change the field until you deal with what is beneath the surface."

Our lives work the same way.

Many men spend years cutting off visible behaviors while ignoring the deeper issues that continue feeding them.

Christ wants to transform the roots, **not merely trim the weeds.**

Uganda Application

Whether a man lives in a village in eastern Uganda or a city in the United States, the human heart is the same.

One man may struggle with pride because of wealth.

Another may struggle with discouragement because of poverty.

One may battle pornography through a smartphone.

Another may battle bitterness, anger, or jealousy.

The outward circumstances differ.

The need for a transformed heart does not.

The gospel crosses every culture because it addresses the deepest need common to every man—a new heart that is surrendered to Christ.

Key Statements

The greatest battlefield is not around you—it is within you.

What is hidden in the heart will eventually be revealed in life.

Behavior changes temporarily. Heart transformation changes a man.

Christ did not come merely to improve your habits; He came to transform your heart.

Transition

"Every battle has a strategy.

If we're going to walk in freedom, we must first understand how the enemy works and how temptation gains influence in our lives.

In our next Teaching Section, we'll examine the progression of temptation and learn how to recognize it before it becomes sin."

Conference Session Two

Clean Up – The Hidden Battle

Teaching Section 2: Understanding Temptation

Speaker Notes

- Emphasize **that temptation itself is not sin**; this often brings relief and clarity to men who confuse the two.
- Contrast Peter's self-confidence before his denial with Joseph's humility and decisive action. Both are familiar biblical examples that reinforce the teaching.
- Keep the focus on God's faithfulness rather than human effort. Avoid making the message sound like self-improvement.
- Encourage practical obedience. Men should leave with at least one concrete step they can take immediately.
- End with confidence in Christ's victory rather than fear of failure.

Read

1 Corinthians 10:12–13

"Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." (ESV)

Additional Scriptures:

James 1:14–15 gives the progression:

Desire → enticement → sin → death.

Jesus also identifies the **heart/mind as the place where sinful intentions arise** (Matthew 15:19), and Paul emphasizes taking thoughts captive (2 Corinthians 10:5).

- Genesis 39:6–12 (Joseph and Potiphar's wife)
- Matthew 4:1–11 (The temptation of Jesus)
- Hebrews 4:15–16

Big Idea

Temptation is not sin. It is an opportunity to choose whether we will trust God or ourselves. Victory begins long before the moment of decision.

Teach

Every man in this room will and has face temptation.

That is not a sign of weakness.

It is part of living in a fallen world.

Even Jesus was tempted.

If temptation itself were sin, then Christ could not have lived a sinless life.

The question is not whether you will be tempted.

The question is how you will respond when temptation comes.

Paul begins with a warning:

"Let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall."

One of the greatest dangers for any man is believing he is beyond failure.

Pride whispers, "That could never happen to me."

Scripture answers,

"Be careful." Humility is one of God's greatest safeguards.

The man who understands his own weakness is more likely to depend upon God's strength.

Paul then gives tremendous encouragement.

"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to man."

In other words, you are not fighting a unique battle.

The enemy often convinces men that they are alone.

He says,

"No one else struggles like you." "No one would understand." "If people knew, they would reject you."

Those are lies.

The struggles may differ in appearance, but every man battles temptation in one form or another.

God's Word reminds us that we are not isolated.

Then comes one of the greatest promises in Scripture.

"God is faithful."

Notice where the emphasis falls.

Not on our strength. Not on our discipline. Not on our willpower.

But God's faithfulness.

Our confidence is never rooted in our ability to resist.

Conference Session One – Wake Up

It is rooted in **His promise to provide** what we need.

Paul says God provides "the way of escape."

Many people misunderstand that phrase.

The escape is not always leaving the room.

Sometimes it is choosing truth over deception.

Sometimes it is making the phone call to an accountability partner.

Sometimes it is turning off the device.

Sometimes it is walking away from the conversation.

Sometimes it is praying before acting.

The escape is whatever path God provides that leads us toward obedience.

Joseph gives us one of Scripture's clearest examples.

When Potiphar's wife repeatedly tempted him, Joseph did not stay to negotiate.

He fled.

He understood that wisdom sometimes runs. His goal was not proving his strength.

His goal was protecting his integrity.

Gentlemen, many men fail because they wait until temptation is at full strength before deciding what they believe.

Victory begins much earlier.

It begins with daily habits. **It begins with prayer before the crisis.** It begins with Scripture before the temptation. **It begins with accountability before the failure.**

A man who prepares his heart before the battle is better equipped when the battle arrives.

Ask

Quietly ask the Lord:

- Where have I become overconfident?
- What situations consistently weaken my resolve?
- Have I mistaken confidence in myself for dependence on God?
- What "way of escape" has God already provided that I have been ignoring?
- What practical step can I take today to prepare for tomorrow's temptation?

Remain silent before the Lord.

Ask only:

"Lord, what are You saying to me?"

(Pause.)

Illustration

A firefighter does not wait until a building is engulfed in flames to learn how to use the equipment.

He trains before the emergency. He studies. He practices.

He develops habits that become second nature.

When the fire comes, he relies on what has already been developed.

The Christian life is much the same.

Men who wait until temptation arrives to decide how they will respond are already at a disadvantage.

Spiritual preparation is not fear. It is wisdom.

Uganda Application

Whether a man is farming in Uganda, operating a business, serving in ministry, or working in an office in America, temptation adapts to his circumstances.

For one man it may be dishonesty in business. For another it may be **sexual temptation**.

For another it may be anger, greed, pride, or the misuse of authority.

The outward form changes. The spiritual battle remains the same.

God's promise also remains the same.

He is faithful. He has not abandoned His **sons** to fight alone.

Key Statements

Temptation is inevitable; **surrender is optional**.

Confidence in yourself leads to pride. **Confidence in God leads to perseverance.**

The strongest men are those who know they need God's strength every day.

Preparation for tomorrow's battle **begins with today's obedience.**

Transition

"Understanding temptation is only part of the journey.

The next question is just as important:

How do we stop fighting hidden battles alone?

God never intended men to pursue holiness in isolation.

In our next Teaching Section, we'll discover the strength that comes through confession, accountability, and walking in the light."

Conference Session Two

Clean Up – The Hidden Battle

Teaching Section 3: Walking in the Light

Speaker Notes

Keep the tone compassionate. Some men will immediately think of long-hidden struggles.

Make it clear that confession is not public exposure; it is wise, biblical honesty with God and trusted believers.

Distinguish carefully between forgiveness through Christ and accountability within the body of Christ.

Leave time after the reflection questions. Don't rush this moment.

Continually point to the grace of God. The goal is restoration, never shame.

Read

1 John 1:5–9

"This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin... If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (ESV)

Additional Scriptures:

James 5:16

Proverbs 28:13

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12

Big Idea

Hidden sin grows stronger in darkness. Freedom begins when we walk honestly before God and with trusted brothers in Christ.

Teach

One of Satan's oldest strategies is not simply to tempt men.

It is to isolate them.

If he can convince a man to fight alone, he has already gained an advantage.

Isolation creates secrecy.

Secrecy breeds shame.

Shame convinces a man that he cannot be honest.

Conference Session One – Wake Up

And dishonesty keeps him trapped.

John writes,

"God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all."

Light reveals.

Darkness conceals.

God does not expose us to humiliate us.

He brings things into the light so He can heal them.

Many men misunderstand confession.

They think confession is informing God of something He does not know.

But God already knows.

Confession is agreeing with God about the truth.

It is laying down our excuses.

It is abandoning our self-defense.

Remember where we ended Conference Session One.

A biblical man takes responsibility.

Now we discover what responsibility looks like.

Responsibility says,

"I will not hide."

"I will not pretend."

"I will not protect an image at the expense of my soul."

John gives us a remarkable promise.

"If we walk in the light... the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Notice that forgiveness is connected with walking in the light, not with pretending we have no struggles.

Then James adds another dimension.

"Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed."

James is not saying another man forgives our sins.

Only Christ forgives sin.

James is teaching that God often uses the body of Christ as a means of healing, encouragement, and restoration.

Every man needs at least one mature, trustworthy brother who can ask difficult questions and expect honest answers.

Not to condemn.

Not to control.

To help him remain faithful.

We admire men who appear independent.

Scripture honors men who are accountable.

The strongest men are not those who never need help.

They are those humble enough to seek it.

Walking in the light requires courage.

But living in darkness costs far more.

Ask

Take a moment before the Lord.

Ask yourself:

Is there an area of my life I have deliberately kept hidden?

Have I confused privacy with secrecy?

Is there a trusted, godly man who truly knows my spiritual struggles?

Am I more afraid of being exposed than I am committed to being transformed?

What would walking in the light look like this week?

Return again to our covenant.

Don't defend yourself.

Don't compare yourself.

Don't think about another man.

Ask only:

"Lord, what are You saying to me?"

(Pause for silent reflection.)

Illustration

Imagine a wound that has been tightly covered for months.

No air reaches it.

No cleaning takes place.

From the outside, everything appears fine.

Underneath, infection spreads.

Healing doesn't begin by pretending the wound isn't there.

Healing begins when the covering is removed, the wound is cleaned, and treatment begins.

The process may be uncomfortable.

But it leads to restoration.

Hidden sin works the same way.

God's light may expose what we've covered, but He exposes it so He can heal it.

Uganda Application

Whether in Uganda or the United States, men often feel they must carry every burden alone.

A pastor may fear losing respect.

A businessman may fear losing credibility.

A husband may fear disappointing his family.

A young man may fear being seen as weak.

The gospel speaks into every culture with the same invitation:

Bring your life into the light.

The church should be a place where truth and grace meet—where repentance is welcomed, forgiveness is proclaimed, and men help one another remain faithful to Christ.

Key Statements

Secrets give sin room to grow. Truth gives grace room to work.

Confession is not the end of your testimony; it may be the beginning of your freedom.

A biblical man values integrity more than image.

God exposes what He intends to heal.

Transition

"Walking in the light changes the way we fight.

As men grow in honesty, accountability, and dependence on Christ, they begin to discover that freedom is not just possible—it is God's desire for His children.

In our final Teaching Section of this Conference Session, we'll look at how biblical disciplines help us remain faithful and walk in lasting freedom."

Conference Session Two

Clean Up – The Hidden Battle

Teaching Section 4: Living in Freedom

Speaker Notes

- This section should end the conference session with hope rather than heaviness.
- Keep bringing the focus back to relationship with Christ instead of performance.
- Slow down when discussing the fruit of the Spirit. Emphasize that fruit develops over time.
- Encourage practical spiritual disciplines without turning them into a checklist for earning God's favor.
- Finish with confidence that the Holy Spirit is actively transforming every surrendered believer.

Read

Galatians 5:16–25

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh... But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." (ESV)

Additional Scriptures:

- John 15:1–8
- Colossians 3:1–17
- Philippians 4:8–9

Big Idea

Freedom is not merely the absence of sin. Freedom is the daily choice to walk with Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to shape every area of life.

Teach

When many people hear the word freedom, they think of what they are no longer doing.

"I don't drink anymore."

"I don't look at pornography anymore."

"I don't lose my temper like I used to."

Those are wonderful testimonies of God's grace.

But biblical freedom is much greater than simply stopping sinful behavior.

Jesus did not die merely to remove something from your life.

He died to place something within your life.

The Holy Spirit.

Conference Session One – Wake Up

Paul says,

"Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."

Notice the order.

He does not say,

"Defeat the flesh, and then you'll be able to walk with the Spirit."

He says,

"Walk by the Spirit."

Our focus is not on sin.

Our focus is on Christ.

As we walk with Him, the Spirit produces a new way of living.

Notice another important word.

Walk.

Walking is not a single event.

It is a daily pattern.

One step.

Then another.

Then another.

Biblical manhood is not built in one emotional moment at a conference.

It is built through thousands of ordinary decisions made in obedience to Christ.

Every day a man decides:

Will I spend time in God's Word?

Will I pray?

Will I love my wife sacrificially?

Will I lead my family?

Will I conduct my business with integrity?

Will I forgive those who have wronged me?

Will I serve instead of demanding to be served?

These decisions may seem ordinary.

But over time they shape extraordinary character.

Paul also contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit.

Notice that fruit grows.

It cannot be manufactured overnight.

A tree bears fruit because it remains healthy and connected to its source of life.

Jesus used the same picture.

"Abide in Me."

Branches do not strain to produce fruit.

They remain connected to the vine.

In the same way, biblical men do not become godly through sheer determination.

They become godly by remaining close to Christ.

This is encouraging.

God is not asking you to transform yourself.

He is inviting you to remain faithful while His Spirit transforms you.

That does not remove personal responsibility.

It places our responsibility where Scripture places it:

Stay close to Jesus.

Walk in obedience.

Trust the Holy Spirit to do what only He can do.

Ask

Take a moment before the Lord.

Ask yourself:

- What daily habit is helping me remain close to Christ?
- What habit is quietly pulling me away from Him?
- Am I trying to become a better man through willpower instead of dependence upon the Holy Spirit?
- Which fruit of the Spirit do I most need God to cultivate in my life today?
- What one act of obedience is God asking of me this week?

Once again, return to our covenant.

Don't defend yourself.

Don't compare yourself.

Don't think about another man.

Ask only:

"Lord, what are You saying to me?"

(Pause for silent reflection.)

Illustration

Think about a branch growing on a healthy apple tree.

The branch does not wake up every morning determined to produce apples.

It simply remains connected to the tree.

Life flows through it.

Season after season, fruit appears.

If the branch is cut off, no amount of effort can produce fruit.

The issue is not effort.

The issue is connection.

The same is true in the Christian life.

The strongest men are not those who strive the hardest.

They are the men who remain closest to Christ.

Uganda Application

Whether a man is a pastor in Mbale, a farmer in a rural village, a businessman in Kampala, or a father in Michigan, the call is the same.

Faithfulness is built in everyday obedience.

A man honors Christ by speaking truth when dishonesty would be easier.

He honors Christ by loving his family when he is tired.

He honors Christ by serving others when no one is watching.

The Holy Spirit forms Christlike character through ordinary acts of faithful obedience.

God is not looking only for dramatic moments.

He is shaping faithful men one day at a time.

Key Statements

Freedom is not simply leaving sin behind; it is learning to walk with Christ every day.

Lasting victory grows from daily communion with Jesus.

Character is formed through ordinary acts of faithful obedience.

The Holy Spirit produces what human determination never can.

Transition

"As we conclude this session, remember what we've discovered together.

The battle begins in the heart.

God has provided strength in temptation.

Freedom grows as we walk in the light.

And lasting transformation comes as we walk daily with the Holy Spirit.

In our next Conference Session, we will move beyond the hidden battle and discover what it means to stand as the man God created you to be—not merely free from sin, but equipped to lead, serve, protect, and influence others for the glory of God."



Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts of the intentions of the heart.

BORN TO BE A MAN

Men's Leadership Conference Notes

Conference Session Three

STAND UP

Becoming the Man God Created You to Be

Keith R. Reinhardt

Author

Property of Spirit Alive Ministries

Copyright © July 2026

Conference Session Three

Stand Up – Becoming the Man God Created You to Be

Teaching Section 1: Called to Lead

Speaker Notes

- This is the first section of the final conference session. The tone should shift from restoration to commissioning.
- Make it clear that leadership is not reserved for pastors or public figures. Every man has a sphere of influence.
- Keep returning to Joshua's confidence in God's presence rather than in his own abilities.
- Connect leadership with Christlike service, avoiding worldly definitions centered on status or control.
- End with anticipation that the remaining teaching sections will explore how to lead with courage, integrity, and purpose.

Read

Joshua 1:1–9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (ESV)

Additional Scriptures:

- Genesis 1:26–28
- Ephesians 5:23–33
- 1 Corinthians 16:13–14

Big Idea

Biblical leadership is not about power, position, or control. It is about accepting God-given responsibility and serving others with courage, humility, and love.

Teach

Throughout this conference, we have been asking one question after another.

Who taught you what it means to be a man?

What was God's original design?

What happened when Adam failed?

Will you take responsibility?

Where is the real battle?

How do you overcome temptation?

How do you walk in the light?

How do you live in freedom?

Now we arrive at the next question.

What is God calling me to do with the life He has entrusted to me?

God never transforms a man simply so he can feel better about himself.

He transforms him so he can faithfully serve others.

When Moses died, Joshua faced an overwhelming responsibility.

He was not called because he was perfect.

He was called because God had prepared him and promised to be with him.

Notice God's repeated command:

"Be strong and courageous."

God did not tell Joshua to be self-confident.

He told him to be courageous because God Himself would be present.

Biblical courage is not the absence of fear.

It is obedience in the presence of fear because we trust the Lord.

Many men misunderstand leadership.

Our culture often defines leadership by authority, influence, or success.

Jesus defined leadership differently.

He washed His disciples' feet.

He welcomed children.

He touched lepers.

He laid down His life.

Leadership in the Kingdom of God is measured by service.

Leadership begins at home.

If God has given you a wife, you are called to love her as Christ loved the Church.

If God has given you children, you are called to raise them in the instruction of the Lord.

If you are single, leadership begins with leading yourself in holiness, integrity, and faithfulness.

Leadership is not determined by marital status.

It is determined by submission to Christ.

Some men are waiting for a title before they begin leading.

Scripture teaches us to begin where we are.

Lead with your words.

Lead with your example.

Lead by keeping your promises.

Lead by serving.

Lead by praying.

Lead by telling the truth even when it costs you.

Lead by treating every person as someone created in the image of God.

Leadership is influence that reflects the character of Christ.

Every man in this room is influencing someone.

The only question is whether that influence is leading people toward Christ or away from Him.

Ask

Ask the Lord these questions:

- Who has God entrusted to my influence?
- Am I leading by serving or by controlling?
- Where have I been waiting for a title instead of accepting responsibility?
- What area of my life needs to better reflect the character of Christ?
- What one step of courageous obedience is God asking me to take this week?

Remember our covenant.

Don't defend yourself.

Don't compare yourself.

Don't think about another man.

Ask only:

"Lord, what are You saying to me?"

(Pause for silent reflection.)

Illustration

Imagine a shepherd walking ahead of his flock.

He does not drive the sheep by standing behind them with fear.

Conference Session One – Wake Up

He leads them because they recognize his voice and trust his care.

Biblical leadership is much the same.

People may follow authority for a season.

They willingly follow integrity for a lifetime.

God calls men to become shepherds who lead by example, not by intimidation.

Uganda Application

Whether a man lives in a village in Uganda or a neighborhood in America, leadership begins with faithfulness where God has placed him.

A father leads by loving and discipling his children.

A husband leads by honoring and serving his wife.

A pastor leads by shepherding God's people with humility.

A businessman leads by conducting his work honestly.

A young man leads by becoming an example to his peers.

God does not ask every man to lead thousands.

He asks every man to be faithful with the people entrusted to him.

Key Statements

Leadership begins with responsibility, not position.

The greatest leaders are first faithful servants.

Courage is obedience that trusts God's presence.

Every man is influencing someone; the question is what direction that influence is taking them.

Transition

"God has not called us merely to become better men for our own benefit.

He has called us to become men whose lives strengthen families, churches, workplaces, and communities.

In our next Teaching Section, we'll discover that leadership is sustained not simply by courage, but by unwavering integrity."

Conference Session Three

Stand Up – Becoming the Man God Created You to Be

Teaching Section 2: A Man of Integrity

Speaker Notes

- Connect this teaching to the previous section by reminding the audience that leadership and integrity cannot be separated.
- Use Daniel's example to inspire rather than intimidate. Emphasize faithfulness over flawlessness.
- Speak deliberately through the phrase, "truth in his heart." Allow the men to consider whether they are honest with themselves before God.
- Encourage the men to think about everyday decisions. Integrity is usually formed in ordinary moments rather than dramatic ones.
- End with hope. Integrity is developed through a lifetime of faithful obedience empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Read

Psalm 15:1–5

" LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?

² The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart;..." (NIV)

Additional Scriptures:

- Proverbs 10:9
- Daniel 6:1–5
- Titus 2:7–8

Big Idea

Integrity is who you are when no one else is watching. A biblical man does what is right because it honors God, not because someone is watching him.

Teach

As we continue this final conference session, we move from leadership to the foundation that sustains it.

Leadership without integrity eventually collapses.

A man may have talent.

He may have influence.

He may have education.

He may even have success.

But if he lacks integrity, none of those things can support him for long.

David begins Psalm 15 by asking a profound question:

"Lord, who may dwell in Your presence?"

The answer is not a list of accomplishments.

It is a description of character.

"He who walks blamelessly."

"He who does what is right."

"He who speaks truth in his heart."

Notice where integrity begins.

Not with our actions.

With truth in the heart.

Throughout this conference we have returned again and again to the condition of the heart.

Because every outward decision begins as an inward conviction.

Integrity is not perfection.

If integrity meant never failing, none of us could possess it.

Integrity means our public life and our private life are moving in the same direction.

It means we are the same man on Monday that people saw in church on Sunday.

It means our family knows the same man that our congregation knows.

It means our business practices reflect the same faith we profess with our mouths.

Daniel is one of Scripture's greatest examples.

His enemies searched for corruption.

They examined his work.

They watched his decisions.

They investigated his character.

They wanted to destroy him.

Yet they finally concluded,

"We cannot find any ground for complaint... unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

What an incredible testimony.

Daniel was not flawless.

But he was trustworthy.

His enemies could attack his faith.

They could not attack his integrity.

Gentlemen, imagine if people said that about YOU!

Imagine if our employers...

our wives...

our children...

our friends...

our church...

all reached the same conclusion:

"He is a man whose word can be trusted."

Integrity is built one decision at a time.

No one suddenly becomes a man of integrity.

He becomes that man every time he chooses truth over convenience.

Every time he keeps his promise when it is costly.

Every time he refuses to compromise for personal gain.

Every time he honors Christ when no applause follows.

The world often asks,

"What can I get away with?"

A biblical man asks,

"What honors God?"

That question changes everything.

Ask

Stand honestly before the Lord.

Ask yourself:

Conference Session One – Wake Up

- Does my private life match my public testimony?
- Is there an area where I have quietly compromised my integrity?
- Do people trust my word?
- Have I kept promises that became inconvenient?
- What decision is God asking me to make today that reflects integrity rather than comfort?

Remember our covenant.

Don't defend yourself.

Don't compare yourself.

Don't think about another man.

Ask only:

"Lord, what are You saying to me?"

(Pause for silent reflection.)

Illustration

A bridge is tested long before thousands of vehicles travel across it.

Engineers examine its foundation because they know that what cannot be seen determines whether everything above it will stand.

Character works the same way.

Most people admire the visible parts of a man's life.

God examines the foundation.

When storms come—and they always do—it is integrity that keeps a man standing.

Uganda Application

Whether a man is negotiating the price of crops in Uganda, managing a business in America, serving in church leadership, or providing for his family, integrity is demonstrated in ordinary decisions.

It is refusing dishonest scales.

It is keeping financial records honestly.

It is honoring commitments even when they become difficult.

It is speaking truth when a lie would be profitable.

Cultures may differ.

Opportunities and pressures may differ.

But God never changes His standard.

He delights in men whose character reflects His own.

Key Statements

Integrity is not what people think about you; it is who you are before God.

Character is built long before it is revealed. Character is built on Integrity

A man who keeps his word honors the God whose Word never fails.

The foundation of lasting leadership is unwavering integrity.

Transition

"Leadership built on integrity earns trust.

But God has called us to do more than influence through our character.

He has called us to leave a legacy that points others to Christ.

In our next Teaching Section, we'll discover that a biblical man measures his life not merely by what he achieves, but by what he passes on."

Conference Session Three

Stand Up – Becoming the Man God Created You to Be

Teaching Section 3: Leaving a Legacy That Lasts

Speaker Notes

- This section should inspire rather than pressure. Help the men see that legacy is built through ordinary, faithful living.
- Use Paul and Timothy as a model of intentional discipleship rather than simply a teacher-student relationship.
- Encourage men of every age. Young men can begin building a legacy today, and older men still have tremendous influence to offer.
- Emphasize that legacy is measured by faithfulness to Christ, not by public recognition.
- End with anticipation that the final teaching section will bring the entire conference to a clear challenge and commissioning.

Read

2 Timothy 2:1–2

"You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others also."

Additional Scriptures:

- Psalm 78:4–7
- Deuteronomy 6:4–9
- Matthew 28:18–20
- Titus 2:1–8

Big Idea

A biblical man does not measure his life by what he accumulates, but by what he faithfully passes on. His greatest legacy is a life that points others to Jesus Christ.

Teach

As we come to this point in our conference, we have seen that God calls men to lead and that leadership must be anchored in integrity.

Now we ask another important question:

What will remain after my life is over?

Every man leaves something behind.

Some leave wealth.

Some leave possessions.

Conference Session One – Wake Up

Some leave accomplishments.

But Scripture continually reminds us that the greatest inheritance a man can leave is a legacy of faith.

When Paul wrote to Timothy, he understood that his earthly ministry was nearing its end.

Instead of focusing on **preserving** his reputation, he focused on preparing the next generation.

He instructed Timothy to take what had been entrusted to him and entrust it to faithful people who would, in turn, teach others.

Notice the progression.

Paul invested in Timothy.

Timothy would invest in faithful believers.

Those believers would invest in others.

The gospel was never intended to stop with one generation.

Neither is biblical manhood.

God never calls a man to grow for himself alone.

He calls him to become a disciple who makes disciples.

That principle applies whether you are raising children, mentoring younger believers, serving in your church, or simply living a faithful Christian life before those around you.

Legacy is not reserved for famous men.

It belongs to faithful men.

Many men worry that they have no platform.

But your greatest platform may be your dining room table.

It may be the conversations you have with your children before bed.

It may be the younger man you encourage after church.

It may be the coworker who watches how you respond under pressure.

Influence is rarely built in spectacular moments.

It is built through consistent faithfulness.

The world often celebrates success.

God celebrates faithfulness.

Conference Session One – Wake Up

One day our titles will disappear.

Our careers will end.

Our possessions will belong to someone else.

But every person we have pointed toward Christ becomes part of a legacy that eternity will never erase.

Psalm 78 urges God's people not to hide God's works from the next generation but to tell them of His mighty deeds so that future generations will place their hope in Him.

That is more than good parenting.

It is the calling of every believer.

Gentlemen, ask yourself:

If the next generation followed Christ the way I follow Christ, what kind of church would they become?

If they loved their families the way I love mine, what kind of homes would they build?

If they handled money, conflict, temptation, and success the way I do, what kind of men would they become?

Legacy begins today.

It is built one faithful decision at a time.

Ask

Spend a few moments in prayer and reflection.

Ask the Lord:

- Who has God placed in my life to encourage, teach, or mentor?
- Am I intentionally investing in the next generation?
- What values am I passing on through my daily example?
- If my family described my spiritual legacy, what would they say?
- What is one step I can take this week to intentionally disciple someone else?

Return to our conference covenant.

Don't defend yourself.

Don't compare yourself.

Don't think about another man.

Ask only:

"Lord, what are You saying to me?"

(Pause for silent reflection.)

Illustration

Imagine a farmer planting an orchard.

He knows he may never sit beneath the full shade of those trees.

He may never enjoy every harvest they produce.

Yet he plants them anyway.

Why?

Because he understands that some of the greatest work we do is not for ourselves but for those who come after us.

A godly legacy is much like that orchard.

Every prayer offered for your children...

Every lesson from Scripture...

Every act of integrity...

Every moment of forgiveness...

Every example of faithful obedience...

Those are seeds.

You may not see all the fruit in your lifetime.

But God can use those seeds for generations.

Uganda Application

Whether in Uganda or the United States, every community needs men who intentionally invest in others.

An older pastor can train younger pastors.

A father can teach his children to love Christ.

A businessman can model honesty for his employees.

A farmer can demonstrate integrity to those who work alongside him.

A mature believer can walk with a new Christian through the early years of faith.

The opportunities may look different, but the calling remains the same:

Faithfully pass on what God has entrusted to you.

Key Statements

A man's greatest legacy is not what he leaves to people, but what he leaves in people.

Faithfulness today shapes generations tomorrow.

Every believer is called to make disciples, not merely gain knowledge.

The greatest investment you can make is in someone's walk with Christ.

Transition

"God has called us to lead.

He has called us to live with integrity.

He has called us to leave a legacy that points others to Christ.

Now there is one final question.

Will we answer His call?

In our final Teaching Section, we will conclude this conference with a challenge to rise, stand firm, and live as the men God has created us to be."

Conference Session Three

Stand Up – Becoming the Man God Created You to Be

Teaching Section 4:

Stand Firm: The Man God Is Calling You to Become

Speaker Notes

- This is the culmination of the conference. Speak with both conviction and hope.
- As you review the journey of the three conference sessions, pause briefly after each major theme to let the men remember what God has been teaching them.
- Slow down as you walk through the five commands in 1 Corinthians 16:13–14. Allow each one to stand on its own before moving to the next.
- After the reflection questions, give an extended period of silence. Resist the urge to fill every moment with words.
- When you conclude, invite the men to respond in prayer and renewed commitment, not from guilt, but from gratitude for what Christ has done and is continuing to do in their lives.

Read

1 Corinthians 16:13–14

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." (ESV)

Additional Scriptures:

- Romans 12:1–2
- Joshua 24:14–15
- Ephesians 6:10–18

Big Idea

Biblical manhood is not achieved in a moment of emotion. It is lived one day at a time by men who stand firmly in Christ, faithfully obey His Word, and lovingly serve others.

Teach

As we come to the end of this conference, I want us to remember where we began.

We began by asking,

"Who taught you what it means to be a man?"

From there we returned to God's original design.

We stood with Adam in the garden and saw what happened when responsibility was abandoned.

Then we stood before God ourselves and answered a difficult question.

Will I take responsibility for the man I am becoming?

From there we entered the hidden battle.

We learned that the greatest struggle is not around us but within us.

We discovered that temptation is real, but so is God's faithfulness.

We learned to walk in the light instead of hiding in the darkness.

We discovered that true freedom is found by walking daily with the Holy Spirit.

Finally, we stood up.

We accepted God's call to lead.

We saw that leadership must be built upon integrity.

We were reminded that our lives should leave a legacy that points others to Christ.

Now Paul gives us five commands that summarize the life of a biblical man.

Be watchful.

A biblical man stays spiritually awake.

He knows there is a real enemy.

He guards his heart.

He guards his home.

He guards his mind.

He guards his witness.

He refuses to drift through life spiritually asleep.

Stand firm in the faith.

Truth does not change because culture changes.

A biblical man anchors his life in God's Word.

He does not compromise biblical truth to gain acceptance.

He stands with humility.

He stands with conviction.

He stands because Christ is worthy.

Act like men.

Paul is not calling men to follow cultural stereotypes.

He is calling them to mature, biblical manhood.

A man accepts responsibility.

A man keeps his word.

A man serves rather than demands to be served.

A man protects rather than exploits.

A man leads people toward Christ.

Be strong.

This strength is not physical strength.

It is spiritual strength.

It is the courage to obey **when obedience is costly.**

It is perseverance when life is difficult.

It is remaining faithful when no one is applauding.

The strongest men are not those who never struggle.

They are those who continually return to Christ for strength.

Let everything you do be done in love.

This is the command that defines all the others.

Without love, courage becomes harshness.

Without love, **leadership becomes control.**

Without love, **conviction becomes pride.**

Without love, **strength becomes intimidation.**

Jesus demonstrated perfect manhood because everything He did flowed from perfect love for His

Father and for those He came to save.

Gentlemen, this conference was never about creating tougher men.

It was about forming Christlike men.

The world has enough angry men.

Enough **selfish men.**

Enough **passive men.**

Conference Session One – Wake Up

Enough men chasing success while neglecting their souls.

God is raising up men who reflect His Son.

That is the calling before us.

Ask

Before we close, answer these questions before the Lord.

- What has God been saying to me throughout this conference?
- What is the one area where I know He is calling me to obey?
- What excuse am I ready to lay down today?
- Who needs to see Christ more clearly because of the way I live?
- What kind of legacy do I want to leave when my life is finished?

Return one final time to the covenant we made at the beginning.

Don't defend yourself.

Don't **compare yourself**.

Don't think about another man.

Ask only:

"Lord, what are You saying to me?"

(Pause for an extended time of silence.)

Illustration

A blacksmith heats steel in the fire, shapes it with repeated blows, and then tempers it until it is ready for its purpose.

None of those steps are pleasant for the steel.

Yet each step is necessary.

The goal is not to destroy it.

The goal is to strengthen it.

God works in much the same way.

He uses His Word to expose.

He uses His Spirit to transform.

He uses life's trials to mature us.

He uses His grace to restore us.

Every step has been preparing us to become the men He created us to be.

Uganda Application

Whether you return to a village in Uganda, a city in America, your church, your workplace, or your home, **the mission remains the same.**

Stand firm in Christ.

Love your family faithfully.

Serve your community with integrity.

Disciple those God places in your path.

Be known as a man whose life reflects the character of Jesus.

The places where God has planted you is your mission field.

Live there faithfully.

Key Statements

A biblical man is not defined by culture; he is defined by Christ.

God is not looking for perfect men. He is looking for surrendered men.

Stand firm in your faith, walk humbly with your God, and love others as Christ has loved you.

The greatest measure of a man's life is not what he gained, but whether his life pointed others to Jesus Christ.

Transition

"As we leave this place, the conference is ending—but your calling is not.

You are returning to your family.

Your church.

Your workplace.

Your community.

Do not simply remember what you have heard.

Live it.

Stand watchfully.

Stand firmly.

Stand courageously.

Stand in the strength of Christ.

And let everything you do be done in love.

May future generations know there was a man who walked with God, loved people well, and faithfully finished the race set before him.

Go and become the man God created you to be."