

Overcoming the Spiritual Castration of Men...

...through the healing hope in Christ Jesus

“A spiritual triage for men who call themselves followers of Jesus Christ”*

Jim and Merry Corbett

Rev. 3:15-18 NIV “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

16) So, because you are lukewarm - neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

17) You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

18) I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.”

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The Importance of This Book

In the Garden of Eden, when God commanded His new creation to go forth and multiply, He initiated the institution that to this day remains closest to His heart - the nuclear family. Just as He had made man in His image and likeness, He was calling His creation to continue that process in every generation that was to follow. He is to be our God and we are to be His people.

God has placed man in the most important position He has ever created - head of the nuclear family. His design for the family is to develop offspring who learn His ways through a father who learns from God through an intimate relationship and mirrors the life of Christ, thereby creating significant legacies and overcoming lives that honor Him. From the beginning, the enemy of everything God desires has masterfully deceived men to the point where they desire almost anything over the intimacy won for them through Jesus.

Overcoming the Spiritual Castration of Men is a positive and refreshingly candid look at the peril in which the body of Christ finds itself because of the spiritual impotence of its men, which has come about mainly through the lies and deception of the enemy. It is a step-by-step guide for men to use in reclaiming their offices of husband and father and restoring their spiritual significance before God by submitting completely to Him. It is the call of God for true heart revival and valiant leadership that is needed in overcoming all of the challenges in life and the perilous times in which we live.

[When men get in line with God's Word, their wives become free, their children prosper, families become Christ-like, churches impact neighborhoods, society is revived, governments become God conscious, nations change.]

Jim's Comments

How prepared are you as a husband and father to lead your family through the coming perilous times? What is life really all about? What is your place in your marriage, your family, your workplace, and your immediate circle of influence?

Let's start over and rephrase the same questions from God's point of view. How prepared are you to lead your family with spiritual wholeness, powerfully glorifying God through the coming times? What is your life really all about in the eyes of the Lord? Why has He placed you in your marriage, your family, your place of business, and your circle of influence for this generation? Have you fulfilled His plans in those areas? When you stand before your Father in heaven, these are some of the questions you really should be prepared to answer without stammering.

As you look around, you're no doubt seeing how fast things can change. You've begun to fully understand that the things that were at one time secure, even your own personal security, can disappear in a matter of moments. If you have any spiritual discernment, you know that something very important is on the horizon, something far greater than you read about in the daily news, something for which you have little experience and little power on tap to overcome in your present spiritual state.

Overcoming the Spiritual Castration of Men is the roadmap to a full and thrilling life amidst confusing, unstable times, even in the darkest of times. It is a spiritual journey to all of the answers you never thought you'd need, but may be faced with at this very moment as the world reels in confusion. Furthermore, if you are like most of today's Christian men, you have focused on things other than God to make yourself successful throughout your life. Now that things are changing so rapidly, you have few tools to help yourself through the times ahead and even less ability to fulfill God's purpose for your life; namely, to lead others in your circle of influence to a full and complete life in Jesus - which is His priority. Maybe you've never even entertained the thought until now that by becoming all that you can be in Him, you've had the key all along to a prosperous, significant, overcoming life for yourself and those you love.

Only astute spiritual wisdom and intimate communion with God will give you the tools to prosper in the soon-coming, very difficult times. Only steps led by the Holy Spirit will be the safe places to put your feet, avoiding the hazards that are all around you and your family. Without knowing what to do and specifically where to go, your leadership will be that of a blind guide, leading those you love and those to whom God has called you into the hopeless mire of confusion and despair.

Ah, but God has a plan and He has a plan for you! Now that He has your attention, you may be able to see how important your life really is to Him. You might be able to understand a little more clearly how eternally important your offices of husband and father are. He may also show you how significant the lives of your wife and children are as either your honorable or dishonorable heritage - honorable if they are thriving representatives of

Jesus because of the fertile atmosphere you provided for them in which to grow spiritually, dishonorable if the life of Christ has not been developed in them.

I am convinced that the information in these pages is important to God in this season and far more important to men than I can possibly convey. I present these pages to you with much fear and trembling, knowing that this topic is one that is not popular (to say the least,) knowing that what I've been shown to relate to you is presented in a very direct way; and recognizing that I'm still dealing with areas of spiritual impotence in my own life. This presentation is a shake up and wake up call to those who can hear what I believe is an end-time message to men.

I am not claiming to be an expert nor am I in any way asking you to agree with me, unless what you read is confirmed in the Word of God and in your heart. My prayer on your behalf is that you will be so moved and challenged by the Holy Spirit through what you read that you will be compelled to seek the Lord for truth in your life just as I continually need to do. I pray that you will fully submit yourself to the Lord and stay with these pages long enough to recognize that this call of the Holy Spirit to men in this crucial generation is a call coming directly to you, for the Lord gives equal opportunity to each of us. As men of God who claim to follow the ways of Jesus, may we become all that He intends us to be as we continually draw close to Him through the power of the Holy Spirit.

What Is Important to God's Heart?

I believe that the spiritual castration of a man along with its impact on his marriage, his family, the work of God, and the restoration of that man is of paramount importance in the heart of God. It is one of the key factors in being able to overcome in the coming perilous times. I am also convinced that most Christian men sincerely believe that they are living significant lives in God's eyes, while He actually sees them wasting their days in living a life that does not mirror the life that Jesus exhibited to the world. Many of us say that we follow Him and His ways, but look and act almost nothing like Him.

However, God will always have a people. Throughout the Word, God is shown in a relentless pursuit of men who will set aside their ways and choose His ways, men through whom He can show Himself strong. In every generation since the cross and in every spiritual season, He searches out those who will exhibit a powerful presentation of His Word and a proper representation of Jesus to a world that is dying and out of answers. He asks them to live in His Kingdom with Him while they breathe the air of this earth, just like Jesus did.

In this day, out of the ashes of this season's refiner's fires, I am convinced that God is calling His men to address their lives from an eternal perspective, being sensitive to His desires in creating them. He is calling men to realistically face their spiritual impotence and inability to even desire to live as Jesus did in front of those who need Him.

In His mercy, God is asking men, who can hear this end-time heralding, to reclaim their offices of husband, father, and community leader. If they respond, He is removing the spiritual impotence that has held His men captive. He is in the process of restoring an eternal significance to the lives of those who choose to shake off their spiritual bondage. In truth, God is rebuilding His men to make their lives significant in His eyes, one day presenting a proper heritage to Him.

An Astounding Adventure – a Wondrous Privilege

Overcoming the Spiritual Castration of Men is far more than an exposé of the spiritual impotence of the men who call themselves followers of Jesus. It is a step by step blueprint for men to become valiant leaders, who live fearless lives that truly testify of the power of the cross and represent the character of Jesus in their circles of influence, no matter what peril they may face.

Although the title of this book is quite blatant and may cause you to cringe, you will find the contents to be most enlightening and very encouraging if you truly love God and desire His plans for you. You will find this book to be a spiritual triage* in your Christian walk. It will take you on a journey in assessing your spiritual needs as a Christian man from God's perspective and lead you to definitive answers for your life in Christ. If you call yourself a follower of the ways of Jesus, if you desire to present a significant, world overcoming, life to the Lord on the day you stand before Him, if you need to understand what following Jesus really means to God, your marriage, your family, and your circle of influence, this may be the most challenging and important modern day book you will ever read! ...

Find the very center of the will of God and flow in it with all of His available power.

Section I

An Anointed Invitation

Open My Eyes to See as You See, Lord



God is in the process of calling His men to an intimate relationship with Himself. This invitation is from the Holy Spirit directly to the hearts of those He desires to restore and use in implementing the plan He has for these end days of His calendar. If you are beginning to hear that “just maybe” you might be one of those who are being called, do not push aside this invitation. With it comes an anointing to accomplish all that needs to be done in you, your marriage, and your family.

From Our Father's Heart

*Unfolding your life for you is a joy every heavenly moment.
I relish the idea that you will eventually be the person
that I have planned for you to be.
I see how you stumble and wander and wonder.
I love how you are seeking for truth.
It pleases Me that you are coming to Me more often
for that truth.
You need to know that I am pleased with you.
I understand how far you have to go.
I appreciate the struggles that you are going through.
I knew how many times you would fail
long before you were born,
and still I gladly invited you to be with Me for eternity.
If you have any doubt that I would ever leave you or forsake you,
eliminate that doubt forever in your mind.
It is all a lie of the enemy.
I have created you.
I have called you.
Now I am forming you.
I will invest My time in you because I believe in who you are.
You are valuable to Me.
It delights Me to know that I am becoming more valuable to you
each and every day.
This is only the beginning.
You should see what I have in store for you.
Run your race hard.
Focus on your calling.
Prepare as a bride in waiting with every fiber of your being.
It will all be worth it.*

Chapter 1

The Litmus Test

Finding the wisdom and courage to follow hard after God

Nick closed his cell phone with disgust, placing it back in his carryall. "I'm gonna kill that kid," he spat angrily.

"What's wrong?" Barry queried as they walked toward the racquetball court.

"It's my boy," Nick began. "He's in trouble again."

Dropping his head and slowing his pace a bit, Nick began thinking about what he could do to discipline Tony this time. Nothing seemed to work. No matter what Nick did, his son continually got into trouble. This time it was pretty serious.

"I don't think I want to play today," he began, looking at his co-worker. "That was Judy. She said that Tony and some of his friends were picked up by the police in a stolen car. They were drunk and had some minor girls with them."

Nick stopped and looked at Barry, tears welling up in his eyes. The two moved to some bleachers in the gym near the courts. Barry climbed about four rows up and sat down. Nick followed, but sat on the third row.

"Maybe it's time we talked." Barry looked intently into the face of the distraught man in front of him and continued. "Maybe it's time I told you about my daughter and our family."

Nick really didn't want to hear about someone else's troubles and started to protest with his eyes. Before he could say anything, Barry proceeded past his expression. "You knew that my family and I moved into this area about two years ago, didn't you?"

"I guess so," Nick responded. "I heard that you had some kind of trouble with your daughter and decided to pack up and move here. I guess I never asked what happened and you never volunteered any information, so I just left well enough alone."

"Sarah, that's my daughter," Barry responded. "Well, Sarah was on a road to some pretty dark places. Somehow she had changed. When she was young, she was an incredibly bright, beautiful girl, full of smiles, love, laughter, just a good kid."

Barry shifted his position and leaned back on the bleacher above the one on which he was sitting.

"But then things went bad. When she started seventh grade, she went behind some kind of cloud. She isolated herself, kept secrets from us, and hung around with some unsavory friends. They weren't real bottom dwellers, but they just had a bad influence on her. We even found small items missing from our house after they came over and money began to disappear from Connie's purse." Barry sat up, tracing his index finger over his racket strings as he chose his next words.

"Over a period of time, things kept getting worse. I'll spare you the details, but she started lying to us about everything and would get angry whenever we asked any kind of question regarding her life. Connie and I knew we were losing her. There was no talking to her about her friends. She wouldn't hear it. All she wanted to do was listen to her music - man, I hated those headsets - and be on the phone with her friends. There was so much more. Making a long story short, she was in deep trouble and something had to be done."

"What did you do?" Nick asked, sitting up straight as he looked piercingly at Barry.

"Well, we prayed long and hard, asking the Lord how we could get Sarah to change." A small chuckle escaped his lips. "We were pretty surprised at the answer He gave us."

Nick couldn't wait for the next words to come out of Barry's mouth.

"The Lord showed me that one day I would answer to Him for her life, because He placed Sarah under my care. I would be asked if I had done all that I could to provide a fertile place for Sarah to grow in Him." Barry looked down and twirled his racket a few times.

"That shook me up pretty good," he recalled. "I mean, I knew that God had given Sarah to Connie and me, but I guess I never thought that God was actually holding me accountable for her." Barry looked purposefully into Nick's eyes. The two men briefly stared at each other before Barry continued.

"I thought that my job was to provide a good home, keep food on the table, and give my kids what they needed to stay on top of everything. I thought that by having a big house in a great neighborhood I was doing my

job. Connie was working. I had a thriving business. We had everything we needed. I thought we had made it, ya know? The Lord showed me that while I was busy working and playing so hard, I lost my daughter in the process.”

Nick waited for a few seconds before he asked the question that burned in his heart.

“What did you do?”

“Well, that’s why we’re here,” Barry answered. “God showed me that Connie and I were the ones who needed to make some changes so we could rescue Sarah. He showed me that she wasn’t capable of making proper decisions at that time, that we needed to help her. It was really important to Him that we did what was necessary to bring her around, so that she could grow up strong and straight, spiritually sound in Him.”

Nick became really interested now, and moved onto the bench, seating himself next to Barry.

Barry continued. “Connie and I prayed together quite a bit, but I knew that because I functioned in the offices of husband and father – something very important God gives to men - I was responsible to Him. I would answer to Him for Sarah’s life. He showed me that I was incapable of helping Him to reproduce the life of Jesus in Sarah, because I had been distracted by my own needs and wants. I wanted the successful business. I wanted the big house, the new car, money. I never even gave much thought to the fact that Sarah was on her way to throwing her life away and then burning in hell for eternity because I was too busy with my own life to stop her. That really scared me. It scared Connie, too, when I told her.”

“So, what did God tell you to do?” Nick asked with great anticipation.

“Well, things became pretty clear after awhile. The stuff that we treasured for so long became pretty useless to us once we surrendered everything to Him, especially in light of Sarah’s need. We looked around, and then looked at Sarah and her pain, and the path was pretty well laid out for us since we were going to answer to God for her life.”

Barry got up to stretch, then sat down again. Nick didn’t move. He couldn’t wait to hear what steps Barry and Connie took.

“Within a matter of a few months, I sold my business, Connie quit her job, we sold our house, and moved here. I took a job which allowed me to spend time with my family. We bought a much smaller house, traded in our cars for really good used ones; and now Connie home schools Sarah.”

Nick was dumbfounded. His mouth dropped open and he just stared at Barry. “You must be kidding,” was all he could muster as his mind reeled.

“No, we got Sarah back,” Barry said with a smile. “She hated us for a little while. We had to build some pretty strong “love fences” around her in the beginning - move her away from bad influences, take away her headset so she’d start to communicate, monitor her computer and phone time, you know, stuff like that, all the time praying real hard for her. It was pretty much touch and go at first, but we got her back. Now we laugh, love, communicate, and have a great relationship. She’s in tune with the Lord and wants to reach out to kids her own age. She’s really happy again and our times together as a family are special no matter what we do.” Barry stopped for a brief moment to reflect on some of the wonderful things God had done. It brought a big grin to his face and gave Nick a little time to think.

“What is so amazing, Nick, is that even though we have far less of the things we used to feel were so important, Connie and I have never been happier. *Our* relationship has changed. Something happened inside of us, too. We wouldn’t trade our lives for anything.”

Slowing his next words almost as if commenting to himself, he looked at Nick with a brightness Nick had never seen in any of his other friends. “It’s almost like the Lord threw that in as a bonus for us just because He could.”

Barry quietly got up from the bleachers and started to walk back to the locker room. Nick sat on the bench a little longer, pretty much absorbed in what Barry had shared. Catching Barry about midway to the lockers, he asked one final question.

“What if it hadn’t worked? What if she hadn’t come around even after all you did?”

Barry looked at the floor for a moment and then up at Nick.

“God showed me that it was my job as a father to do whatever it took to save Sarah. She was more important to Him than anything else I would do. No matter what I might do to try to please Him after that, it would be second best if I stopped short. He showed me that Jesus never got off that cross until the work was done. I promised Him that I would do the same for Sarah, no matter what price I had to pay. He liked that.”

Barry reassuringly laid his hand on Nick’s shoulder and then resumed his walk toward the locker room. Nick made his way back to the bleachers and sat there until the sun went down.

[Children understand who God is by the example of their fathers.]

Before Barry detailed the way in which he'd won his daughter back, Nick didn't have any idea how to rescue his son Tony from the grip of the enemy. He was absolutely impotent to solve the challenge before him. All he could do was react, get angry, and build some kind of fence around Tony to somehow contain him, one that would be tall enough to hold him - at least until Tony became stronger than that fence or learned how to climb over it. Then, another fence would have to be built, followed by others, until Tony was old enough to bear the consequences of his actions and be on his own, eventually reproducing offspring who would only know how to build fences of their own around their children.

And so the Christian community goes. Men, (who are leading spiritually insignificant lives and attempting to fill their offices of husband and father while absolutely impotent in reproducing spiritual offspring who attain significant lives in the eyes of the Lord,) reproduce themselves in their children, who are then as impotent as their fathers, and reproduce more of the same.

Nick had no ability to understand, nor could he even care about, the eternal impact of Tony's actions. They were not in the realm of his thinking. He also had no idea how to rescue Tony from himself, nor was he capable of deciding to pay whatever price it would take to do so.

All Nick could see, up until this very moment, was the social impact his son's actions had on society and on his success as a father. The idea that Tony's actions were indicative of his son's horrible spiritual condition never crossed his mind. The idea that Tony was in grave eternal danger, should anything catastrophic happen to him, was impossible for Nick to comprehend because he was blind himself to his own impotence and incapable of thinking beyond the immediate need for some kind of solution - a temporary solution at best and at the very worst, a solution useless to God and his plan for Tony's life.

Nick was blind to the fact that he was unable to love Tony, or anyone for that matter, the way that Jesus loved, although Nick considered himself His follower. He called himself a Christian, but actually living the life that Jesus lived - obedient to His Father's will, passionately and compassionately relating to His Father and those around him - was a nebulous concept to him. It had never occurred to Nick that as a steward of his son, God expected him to see Tony with spiritual eyes and act toward him with the heart of Jesus.

Even though Nick somewhat understood that Tony was given to him by God, he just didn't spend time with the idea that God had a very specific plan and purpose for Tony's life and that it was his job to help Tony find that plan and purpose. The accountability of stewardship, the fact that he would answer to God for the way he either did or didn't nurture and guide his family, loomed large in his mind for the first time.

Up to that moment, he had been a blind guide, incapable of playing his part in the reproduction of the character of Christ in Tony because that character had eluded him also. He was a spiritually impotent man, unable to understand the plans and desires God had for his son (in fact, for any member of his family including himself) and too overburdened with his own life - the things that he owned and that owned him - to even be concerned with what God had for Tony...

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