

FOREWORD

I was standing on the stage of my home church in Birmingham, Alabama, minutes after burying my youngest son's body at a graveside service. I wasn't even sure I was going to be able to speak at all for this memorial service for a little boy who had only lived two and a half years on earth, but I was already being used by God to impact many for His Kingdom. I had nothing planned to say; I just knew God was going to say something. As my eyes scanned the audience, I looked at my beautiful, Godly wife so powerful as she sat there praising God and obedient to His will over her will. Then, I looked at my four children, and these words came out of my mouth as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit: "We will no longer judge whether we are successful by the world's standards. I just want you all to be warriors for Christ. That's it. If you will commit to being warriors for Christ, then your life will be successful regardless of how the world may judge your success. That's the goal of this family as we go forward – to just be warriors for Christ."

I think if you have taken the time to pick up this book, then you have taken the first step. You desire to be a warrior for Christ. The good news is this book has been inspired by the Holy Spirit, and it will give you the instructions on how this looks in your everyday life. Survey after survey has been done by all sorts of resources, and the conclusion has been the same every time. God designed men and women equally, but not the same. As my wife would say looking back on that horrible night in the Children's Hospital emergency room when everyone was trying to comfort her, our family, our friends, and even members of the church staff including our pastor, "They all knew that they could not be my husband. They all knew that they could not be our children's father. We waited on Rick to arrive because no one could replace him."

I think one of the lies that the adversary has perpetuated throughout this fallen creation is that someone else can do the job of spiritual leadership in the church, the home, and society – the lie that men are disposable and are no more important than any other force. The only problem with this logic is that it's a lie. All research points to the man as being the most influential force in all three of these areas, and he cannot be replaced. I began to share this truth

every time I was honored to speak at a church, and I would ask the pastor about the health of the men's ministry of their church. Almost every time their countenance would change, their eyes would go downcast, and they would shake their heads. Why?

I asked many of them if they were taught that as men you cater to women and children, and then you plan on just being part of the family that joins? Unofficially, they all felt they had been taught that strategy. The only problem with this approach is that it isn't Biblical! If you want a man to solidify himself in the church, you speak to a man in his language. You intentionally plan on discipling him, and then he will bring his family in solidifying the family and himself in the church.

Lance Ingram has taken the time and effort to seek God's voice for the men of our society, and to speak to men in our language. He has, in great detail, mapped out a game plan to be a warrior for Christ. And not just in some areas of your life, but in all areas of your life. I challenge you to dive in seeking God's will for your life. God has always and will always call on the men He created to become the men He says you should be. He has never been silent on this topic. Let's get started.

Rick Burgess

Co-Host of the Rick and Bubba Show