

FOREWORD

Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10).

Is this still true nearly 2000 years later? In my thousands of conversations with Christian men these last thirty-five years, it certainly seems that few men are living life to the full. There is a myriad of reasons for this including living life in a culture that has lost its compass and a church that has lost its passion to reach and build men.

Jesus is very clear that someone is intentionally looking to bring us down and bring harm to those we cherish. Look at the terms he chose to use: Steal. Kill. Destroy. Those are fighting words for any man, yet so many men who profess faith in Jesus Christ seem disengaged and distracted. In the 21st Century Christian Church, we seem more interested in developing men who are lovers and not fighters. This starts in early Sunday school and continues through adulthood. There are elements of this love-training that men do need to embrace because Jesus Himself exhorted those who followed him with these words: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35). However, it seems that the love we point men to is more of a quiet and soft kind of love with Jesus our model as he holds a little lamb in his arms. I believe that men need a model of what it looks like to be a warrior:

- A man who fights battles because there is an enemy who is alive and well.
- A man who operates under authority and follows orders without questions.
- A man who understands his role in the battle and takes responsibility to get the training he needs to execute his role.
- A man who replaces fear with faith and trusts fully in the One who promises life.
- A man who locks arms with other men and pushes back against isolation.

These are just a few of the characteristics of men who we could refer to as kingdom warriors.

In this book you will be challenged to live life as God intended, and you will be given examples and pathways of what this looks like in our present time.

I thank God for Brad Stewart and for his ongoing fruitful ministry of Kingdom Warrior. This book is just one of many resources flowing out of Brad's life and labor. May God use it in your life, and may you live life as Jesus intended by living it to the full!

—*Brian Doyle*

Founder and President of Iron Sharpens Iron