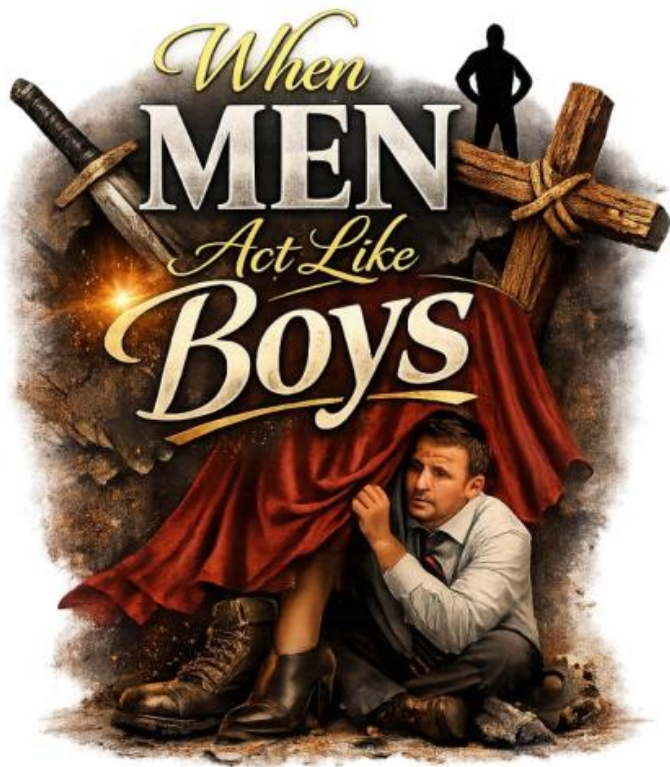


When Men
Act Like
Boys

Trapped by the Skirt

DR. STEPHEN PHINNEY



TRAPPED BY THE SKIRT

THE HOLY WORD OF GOD

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When Men Act Like Boys | Trapped by the Skirt
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Publisher: X-CHANGED LIFE PUBLISHING
978-1-105-25778-0
Imprint: Lulu.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Phinney, Stephen Ray Phinney
When Men Act Like Boys | Trapped by the Skirt

2026 X-Changed Life Publishing® | Copyright Content
Cover Design: Inphinnity Designs
Editing: IOM America | X-CHANGED LIFE PUBLISHING
Grammarly Editorial Team
San Francisco, CA 94104

When Men Act Like Boys: Trapped by the Skirt confronts one of the most overlooked crises of modern masculinity — men surrendering spiritual maturity for emotional dependency. In this bold and insightful work, Dr. Stephen Phinney exposes the cultural and spiritual traps that keep men bound to boyish behavior and challenges readers to reclaim authentic leadership rooted in truth, courage, and responsibility.

This book isn't just a critique — it's a call to transformation. With clarity and conviction, Dr. Phinney guides men toward freedom from the illusions of comfort and control, urging them to rise as empowered, Christ-centered leaders who no longer hide behind the skirt but stand firm in faith and purpose.

DR. STEPHEN R. PHINNEY



DEDICATION

Charles Laurin Phinney

My father carried the invisible wounds of PTSD, but I never saw that as weakness — I saw it as proof of the battles he continued to fight long after the shooting stopped. The very struggles that tried to break him only deepened my respect for the man he was. While others saw the symptoms, I saw the courage it took to keep living with memories he was never allowed to speak. That is why, in my eyes, he will always be my hero.

BOOK OVERVIEW

When Men Act Like Boys: Trapped by the Skirt confronts one of the most overlooked crises of modern masculinity — men surrendering spiritual maturity for emotional dependency. In this bold and insightful work, I expose the cultural and spiritual traps that keep men bound to boyish behavior and challenge readers to reclaim authentic leadership rooted in truth, courage, and responsibility.

This book isn't just a critique — it's a call to transformation.

With clarity and conviction, I will guide the reader toward freedom from the illusions of comfort and control, urging men to rise as empowered, Christ-centered leaders who no longer hide behind the skirt but stand firm in faith and purpose.

Stephen

ENDORSEMENT

Mark Osborn | *The Valiant Forge*



In a culture that rewards immaturity and excuses passivity, Dr. Stephen Phinney's book, *When Men Act Like Boys*, stands as a vital, urgent intervention. Drawing from decades of discipleship experience, he shines a light on a catastrophic spiritual vacuum: the modern collapse of godly masculinity. Dr. Phinney brilliantly unmasks the "skirt" mindset—the false comforts and dependencies that keep men functioning as boys—while confronting the stark reality that most men today run from the very discipline and wise counsel that would restore their strength.

What makes this book so essential is its refusal to leave men in a state of condemnation. Instead, it serves as a firm catalyst for transformation, pointing men directly back to the identity and covenant strength embodied by Christ. This is a roadmap for the remnant—the men who refuse to merely "z-read" and move on, but who are ready to stand firm under the weight of true accountability. For any man willing to confront his excuses, stop cowering, and follow the voice of solid biblical mentors, this book is an absolute must-read. Step out from behind the illusions, reclaim your God-given role, and brace your backbone for the journey ahead.

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Introduction

There comes a point in every generation when the crisis before us can no longer be excused, ignored, or softened with polite language. We are living in such a moment. The modern man—once called to courage, conviction, and Christ-centered leadership—has been quietly conditioned into emotional dependency, spiritual passivity, and a boyish retreat from responsibility. Instead of standing firm in the identity God designed, many men have slipped behind the nearest symbol of comfort and control: *the skirt*. Whether it is the mother who never released him, the woman he expects to rescue him, or the culture that rewards immaturity, the result is the same. *Men are acting like boys*, and the consequences are devastating.

This book is not written to shame men but to awaken them. It is a call to step out from behind the illusions that keep them trapped and to confront the subtle forces that have shaped their character, their relationships, and their spiritual authority. The “*skirt*” is not merely a metaphor—it is a mindset, a dependency, a false refuge that keeps men from becoming who God empowered them to be. My aim is to expose the roots of this crisis with honesty, to challenge the excuses that have become culturally acceptable, and to guide men toward the maturity, strength, and identity found only in Christ. If you are ready to trade boyhood patterns for biblical manhood, then turn the page. The journey begins here.

Since the lion’s share of men tend to Z-read, I have written this book in short form to capture the attention of male readers.

Chapter One

WHERE HAVE THE MEN GONE?

MEN WITHOUT A BACKBONE

The Disappearance of Godly Masculinity.

The question “*Where have the men gone?*” is not a modern complaint but an ancient cry that recurs throughout Scripture. It is not a question about the absence of males, but the disappearance of biblical men—men who embody covenant strength, spiritual clarity, sacrificial love, and steadfast obedience.

When such men vanish, the vacuum they leave behind becomes catastrophic. Isaiah warned of a day when judgment would fall because men had abandoned their God-given roles: “*And I will make boys their princes, and infants shall rule over them*” (Isaiah 3:4, ESV). Immaturity rises wherever masculinity collapses. Confusion becomes the culture when fathers disappear, and darkness advances when spiritual leaders fall asleep.

Why do men tend to run at the first sign of correction?

Proven throughout Scripture, when accountability presses in, most men tend to retreat from responsibility rather than embrace it—mirroring Adam, who hid when confronted by the Lord in the garden.

For nearly fifty years, I have been discipling men, and over that span, I have intentionally tracked how many remain engaged once genuine accountability, difficult mandates, and growth-oriented homework are introduced. In the early years, only about 20% would step back when the real work began. Fifteen years ago, that number had risen to 50%. Today, it is over 90%. The moment correction becomes personal, and responsibility becomes costly, most men quietly retreat. This trend is not merely statistical—it is spiritual. It reveals a generation increasingly unwilling to endure the refining process required to become the men God designed them to be.

This pattern is becoming more oppressive by the day: instead of allowing correction to refine them, many men flee from the very discipline that would restore their strength and calling. By contrast, women—who are often more relationally attuned and spiritually responsive—frequently receive correction with humility, allowing it to shape their character and deepen their walk with God.

Could this be the "why" Satan went after Eve first, because she was more responsive?

Over the years, I have found myself growing in respect for women more than men—not because of superiority, but because of responsiveness. As I watch women diligently study the Word, seek the voice of God, pursue counsel, and lean into the refining process, I cannot ignore the contrast.

While many women embrace correction as a pathway to growth, most men I counsel tend to retreat the moment accountability becomes personal and responsibility becomes costly.

This widening gap makes it increasingly difficult to respect modern men as I once did. The issue is not capability but

willingness: men often resist the refining fire, while women often allow it to purify. And until men learn to stand still under the weight of correction and accountability, they cannot rise into the roles God designed them to carry.

From the beginning, Scripture reveals what a man is meant to be. In B'risheet, Adam is placed in the garden *"to work it and keep it"* (Genesis 2:15). Before sin entered the world, man was called to cultivate, guard, and obey. Yet when the serpent approached, Adam neither protected, spoke, nor led. *What is up with that?* His first failure was not heading to the counsel of God's mandates, but turning to obey his wife, which is what got him in trouble. The disappearance of men began in Eden, and every generation since has felt the consequences of that abdication.

Satan wasn't stupid; he appealed to the woman, fully knowing Adam would cower to Eve and thus defy the counsel of the Living God!

Throughout biblical history, the collapse of godly masculinity always precedes the collapse of a people.

In Noah's day, men were consumed with violence and corruption. In the era of the Judges, *"every man did what was right in his own eyes,"* and chaos reigned. Eli's sons defied the counsel of the men of the priesthood while their father refused to confront them. *How cowardly is that?* Even King David fell when he stayed home *"at the time when kings go out to battle."* For what reason? To harken to his lust for another woman.

When men step back, chaos steps forward. Scripture is painfully honest: the enemy occupies any ground that men refuse to guard that is based on the counsel of Godly men, or God Himself.

Our modern world mirrors this ancient pattern. Men today are physically present, or not, but spiritually absent, overstimulated by pride and lust, yet emotionally numb, pressured yet disengaged. They fear being told they are unnecessary, toxic, or replaceable. So, they resort to being entertained rather than being counseled by Scripture. The results are visible everywhere—fatherlessness, addiction, passivity, anger, confusion, and moral collapse. The world does not know what a man is, but the Word of God does.

If Adam represents fallen manhood, Yeshua represents restored manhood.

He is the Second Adam, the perfect image of what a man was created to be. Yeshua obeyed fully, loved sacrificially, protected fiercely, spoke truth boldly, served humbly, and carried responsibility willingly. His masculinity was not marked by domination or passivity but by self-giving love. The cross is the ultimate expression of true manhood. Yeshua did not come merely to save men—He came to restore men.

Fact: Scripture calls men to rise into this restored identity. Paul commands, *“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.”* Husbands are called to love their wives as the Messiah loved the church. Fathers are commanded to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. The righteous man walks in integrity, listens to their elders who have been appointed over them to lead them, not in self-interest. Biblical manhood is not about reclaiming power but reclaiming responsibility. It is not about demanding respect but living in a way that earns it. It is not about being served but serving. It is not about leading oneself but rather being led by the counsel of the wise. It is not about being the center but bearing the cross.

When men return to their God-given identity, everything changes. Families stabilize. Children flourish. Women are honored. Churches strengthen. Community heals. Darkness retreats.

The world does not need more aggressive men who resist authority or passive men—it needs holy men, shaped by Scripture, led by wise mentors, anchored in covenant, and empowered by the Spirit. Men who repent quickly, love deeply, stand firmly, pray boldly, protect faithfully, and finish well.

So where have the men gone?

Many have wandered. Many have been wounded. Many have been shamed into silence. Many have never been discipled. But the better question is: *Will the men return?* The Spirit of God is calling them to harken to the voices of strong Biblical mentors. The Scriptures are equipping them. The world is aching for them. And Yeshua is forming them. The disappearance of men is not the final chapter. The restoration of men can be.

Sadly, my statistics prove that mostly women will read this book, while men will tend to "z-read" and move on. In fact, my wife, Jane, said this to me as I was writing this chapter: *"Most men retreat to 'going fishing' while not bringing home any fish to feed the family."* Well said!

However, there is a remnant of men who will take what is said today and grow into stronger men who disciple other men to harken to the voice of wise mentors. To those men, I thank you for engaging in this corrective book.

Chapter Two

HIDING BEHIND THE SKIRT

Overprotective mothers, though often motivated by "love," can unintentionally or intentionally weaken their sons' masculine creational design.

When a mother shields her male child from every challenge, pain, and responsibility, she teaches him that safety is found not in courage but in dependency. The boy learns to retreat behind her protection rather than rise in strength, and his identity becomes trapped behind the very skirts meant to nurture him. This misplaced guardianship breeds timidity instead of resilience, emotional fragility instead of conviction. True masculinity is forged in the fires of risk, accountability, and spiritual maturity—but when those fires are smothered by excessive maternal control, the result is a generation of men who fear standing alone and are unable to bear the weight of leadership or the call of God upon their lives.

MY BACK STORY:

I know this story personally because I lived it. As a frail, sick boy, my mother's love turned into overdrive—her protection became my prison. Every cough, every fear, every weakness drew her closer, until her care wrapped around me like armor I could never remove. She meant well, but in shielding me from

the world, she also shielded me from manhood. I became the boy who hid behind her skirt instead of finding my masculinity in God's design, the one who learned safety instead of courage.

Growing up under that kind of overprotection didn't just shape my cowardly masculinity—it carved deep flesh-patterns into my soul. Two took root.

First, it awakened a distorted lust for women, not rooted in desire but in the craving for comfort, affirmation, and emotional rescue—the very things my mother had over-supplied. This was imagined and found in sexual contact with women. And in many men, obsessive masturbation. The gig? Sex equals comfort.

Second, it created a lifelong dependence on women, elevating them far above their God-given role and expecting them to provide identity, strength, and stability that only the Father Himself can give. Basically, it locks the sin of Adam, harkening to his wife, as an obsessive repetitive pattern, resulting in a female-led home.

This kind of sin doesn't just distort behavior—it forms a cowardly, fearful boy from the inside out. When a male child learns to rely on women for strength, comfort, and identity, he never develops the inner fortitude that comes from facing difficulty, taking responsibility, and standing alone before God. In fact, God becomes a male to be negatively feared instead of respected. Thus, a pattern of running from the Lord becomes compulsive.

Instead of courage, he learns avoidance; instead of conviction, he learns compliance; instead of spiritual authority, he learns emotional dependence.

The flesh becomes trained to retreat, to seek rescue, to hide behind the nearest "skirt" of comfort. Over time, this produces

a man who looks strong on the outside but collapses on the inside—because the muscles of courage, resilience, and spiritual leadership were never allowed to grow. It is a counterfeit security that leaves the male soul trembling when real life demands real strength—crying out for a 'mama' figure to save them.

When a boy is shaped in the shadow of excessive maternal control, he learns to look to women for what only the Spirit can supply. It took years—and the breaking of those fleshly habits—for me to see that this elevation was not honor but bondage, and that true freedom comes only when Yeshua becomes the source of Life, identity, and strength.

This pattern forms one of the most destructive traps for men because it wires the soul to seek from women what only the Father can give.

The “*mama’s boy syndrome*” becomes the soil where lust and pornography grow—not because men are driven by raw desire, but because they are conditioned to look to the feminine for comfort, validation, and emotional refuge. Lust becomes a counterfeit womb, a place to hide, a place to feel something when courage and identity are absent. And while I was never prone to the obsession of pornography itself, I was entrapped by immorality in the worst way, real-time immorality, because the root was the same: a misplaced dependence on women to soothe the ache that only the Spirit was meant to heal. This is why so many men fall—not from hunger for pleasure, but from a wounded boy’s longing for comfort. Only the Life of Yeshua can break that cycle and restore a man to true strength.

NOTE: *Most men who are trapped in pornography find it more comforting to "look" and "don't touch" because they have trained their flesh to demand comfort without the inward hate of being controlled by a female*

figure. This is why, in counseling, I teach men that pornography sets them up for stage one of homosexuality.

As an example, many men will do what is called "ghost reading," the same sin of pornography, they read without being known, they're reading in the fear of male accountability.

TRANSGENDER IDEOLOGIES

Many of the young men I see today who are swept into the cultural currents of gender confusion are, at the root, carrying the same wound I once carried—the wound of the over-mothered, under-fathered boy.

When a boy grows up without the stabilizing presence of a strong Biblical father, or the fear of an overt Biblical father, and becomes emotionally fused to an overprotective mother, which forms lust in a boy, he never learns where his creational male identity truly comes from. His sense of self remains fragile, undefined, and easily shaped by whatever voice offers comfort or a sense of belonging. That kind of internal instability makes him vulnerable to any ideology that promises relief from confusion or a new identity to replace the one he never fully formed. I believe this is why so many “*mama’s boys*” today feel pulled toward the transitioning narratives of our culture—not because they are seeking rebellion, but because they are seeking the identity, security, and belonging they found in their mothers, thus becoming a female mother figure—transitioning.

THIS IS AT THE ROOT OF ALL HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR!

Without the Father’s voice anchoring them, they reach for whatever depraved story that seems to offer a self they can finally live with.

Freedom isn't free!

Freedom is not free; it's a lot of work! It took years—and the refining fire of the Spirit—for me to be released from hyper dependence on a woman. The process was painful, like tearing away layers of comfort that had become chains. But through Yeshua's transforming power, I discovered that true love does not smother—it strengthens.

One of the leading marital troubles I suffered with is piling up male responsibilities upon Jane's shoulders. My counselor said many years ago, *if you don't begin shouldering the responsibilities of manhood, you will be responsible for destroying your marriage.* That day marked a major shift in me. I learned to be the man God called and created me to be. Yes, it took multiple years of discipleship by my male mentor. Keith, my counselor at the time, said I needed to *avoid leaning on women for mentorship/discipleship for the remainder of my life.* Further stating that *if I violate this Biblical principle, it will throw me back into my childhood pattern.* This was advice I have kept in play to this hour.

My life discovery? God is male, His Son is male, and if men do not walk in freedom of being delivered from their *mama's skirt*, intimacy with God the Father through His Son, likely will never happen!

The Father taught me that masculinity is not born from defiance, but from surrender to His maleness through the Spirit. Only then could I step out from behind the skirts of protection and stand as the man He intended me to be—whole, courageous, and filled with His Life.

Chapter Three

THE ABSENCE OF MASCULINITY

Fatherlessness Equals Corruption

There is a wound carried quietly by millions of men—a wound so common that it has become invisible, yet so deep that it shapes nearly every dimension of masculine identity. It is the wound of fatherlessness. Whether a man’s father was physically absent, emotionally distant, spiritually disengaged, or morally compromised, the result is the same: a boy grows up without the masculine formation required to become a man. Scripture, psychology, and lived experience all testify to this truth: *a man cannot become what he never saw.*

God designed fathers to be the first model of strength, responsibility, and sacrificial leadership a boy encounters.

A father’s presence anchors a son in identity; his words impart direction; his example forms character. When that presence is missing, a boy grows up unanchored—searching for a compass he never received. He enters adulthood with the body of a man but the internal map of a child, unsure of who he is or what he is meant to become. Fatherlessness does not simply leave a void; it creates a gravitational pull toward insecurity, confusion, and emotional instability.

One of the most devastating consequences of fatherlessness is insecurity in identity. A father is meant to speak Yeshua's masculine identity into his son—affirming his worth, naming his strengths, and calling him into maturity. Without that voice, a man spends years trying to prove himself, often through performance, relationships, or achievement. He becomes driven not by purpose but by the fear of inadequacy. He looks for validation from others because he never received it from the one man whose affirmation mattered most.

Fatherlessness also leaves a man unsure how to lead. Leadership is not learned from lectures—it is absorbed through presence.

Boys watch their fathers make decisions, handle conflict, work with integrity, love their wives, and shoulder responsibility. When that model is missing, leadership becomes guesswork. Many fatherless men either shrink back from responsibility or overcompensate with unhealthy control. Without a father's example, they lack the internal blueprint for steady, confident, and sacrificial leadership.

Another consequence is emotional dependency. When a boy is not strengthened, challenged, and affirmed by a father, he often turns to women for the emotional security he never received.

Instead of becoming a protector, he becomes a seeker of protection. Instead of offering strength, he looks for someone to supply it. This dependency sabotages relationships, fuels addiction, and keeps men trapped in cycles of immaturity. A man cannot lead a woman if he is still looking for one to mother him.

Finally, fatherlessness produces spiritual passivity.

Biblically, the father is the priest of the home—the one who models devotion, prayer, and obedience. When that spiritual leadership is absent, boys grow up without a framework for walking with God. They may believe in Him, but they do not know how to follow Him. They may attend church, but they do not know how to lead spiritually. Without a father’s example, a man’s spiritual life becomes sporadic, inconsistent, and easily derailed.

The Scriptures reveal a profound truth: a father imparts identity. When Yeshua was baptized, the Father declared, “*You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.*” Before Yeshua performed a miracle, preached a sermon, or called a disciple, the Father spoke identity over Him. This is the pattern for every man. Identity precedes responsibility. Sonship precedes leadership. Without the impartation of identity, masculinity becomes a lifelong attempt to earn what should have been freely given.

Chapter Four

RELEASING YESHUA'S MASCULINITY

Healing the Mother-Wound and Breaking Emotional Dependency

There is a crisis beneath the surface of modern manhood — a quiet fracture that weakens men long before they reach adulthood. It is the wound of emotional dependency, the result of boys being over-nurtured and under-challenged, comforted but never commissioned, protected but never prepared. This wound, often formed in childhood, becomes the invisible chain that keeps grown men acting like boys. Scripture speaks directly to this condition, because the gospel does not merely save a man's soul — it restores his masculine identity by releasing the Life of Yeshua from within.

Many men were raised in environments where the mother's voice was the dominant shaping force, not because mothers failed, but because fathers were absent, passive, or spiritually disengaged.

In that vacuum, boys received affection without direction, affirmation without expectation, and comfort without calling. They were soothed but not strengthened. They were loved but not launched. And without realizing it, they entered adulthood

with a subtle but destructive dependency: the need for a woman to supply what a father never imparted.

This emotional dependency becomes the root of many masculine struggles. Men who were never challenged to rise become men who avoid responsibility. Men who were never commissioned become men who wait for permission. Men who were never prepared become men who collapse under pressure. And men who were never taught to stand on their own two feet become men who lean on women for emotional rescue. This is why emotional dependency fuels pornography addiction, passivity in leadership, fear of responsibility, and relational immaturity. A man cannot lead if he is still looking for a mother.

But Scripture offers a radically different path — not through self-help, willpower, or masculine posturing, but through the indwelling Life of Yeshua. The gospel does not call men to imitate Christ from a distance; it calls them to release His Life from within. Yeshua is not merely the model of redeemed masculinity — He is the source of it. His courage, His purity, His strength, His authority, His self-sacrifice, His clarity of purpose — all of it now resides in the man who is born of the Spirit.

The healing of the mother-wound begins when a man stops seeking emotional rescue from women and starts drawing Life from the One who lives within him.

Yeshua does not comfort men into passivity; He forms them into warriors.

He does not soothe them into dependency; He strengthens them into maturity. He does not protect them from responsibility; He empowers them to carry it. The Spirit of Yeshua commissions men, challenges men, and calls men to rise

— something no earthly mother, no matter how loving, was ever designed to do.

Biblically, the shift from emotional dependency to masculine strength happens when a man embraces his identity as a son of the Father. Yeshua Himself modeled this. His entire ministry flowed from the words spoken over Him at His baptism: “*You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.*” Identity precedes responsibility. Sonship precedes leadership. When a man receives the Father’s affirmation, he no longer needs emotional validation from women. When he receives the Father’s commissioning, he no longer waits for others to tell him who he is. And when he receives the Father’s Spirit, he no longer lives as a boy seeking comfort — he lives as a man releasing Christ.

The masculinity of Yeshua is not external bravado; it is internal Life.

It is the courage to obey the Father, the strength to sacrifice, the clarity to lead, and the purity to stand firm. This masculinity does not come from culture, personality, or upbringing — it comes from union with the Messiah. When a man yields to the Spirit, the Life of Yeshua begins to rise within him, breaking emotional dependency and forming true masculine maturity.

The *mother-wound* may explain why men struggle, but it does not define their destiny. The indwelling Christ is the answer. He transforms boys into men, followers into leaders, dependents into warriors. The call is not to try harder, but to release the Life already within. When a man stops looking for a mother and starts living from the Messiah, he discovers the strength, identity, and authority he was created to carry.

This is the path to masculine renewal:

- Not comfort but calling.
- Not dependency, but identity.
- Not imitation, but incarnation.
- Not following, but releasing.

And when the masculinity of Yeshua is released from within, a man finally becomes what God designed him to be — a son who leads, a warrior who stands, and a man who reflects the strength of the One who lives in him.

Chapter Five

MASCULINITY WITHOUT THE SPIRIT

Why Men Fail Without the Indwelling Life of Christ

There is a crisis in modern manhood that no amount of discipline, self-help, or cultural messaging can fix. It is the crisis of masculinity without the Holy Spirit. Men today are told to be strong, sensitive, confident, and compassionate — yet without the indwelling Life of Christ, these traits collapse into their counterfeits. Strength becomes aggression. Sensitivity becomes weakness. Leadership becomes domination or avoidance. The flesh can imitate masculinity, but it cannot sustain it. Scripture is clear: no man can be truly masculine without the indwelling Life of Yeshua.

From the beginning, God designed man to live from divine empowerment. Adam's first breath was the breath of God. His strength, clarity, and authority flowed from union with the Spirit. When sin severed that union, man did not simply become sinful — he became powerless. Every generation since has inherited this deficit. Men try to be strong through willpower, moral effort, or emotional toughness, but without the Spirit, their strength fractures under pressure. Masculinity becomes a performance rather than a presence, an act rather than an identity.

This is why Pentecost stands as the turning point for redeemed manhood.

Before Pentecost, even the disciples — men who walked with Yeshua, heard His teaching, and witnessed His miracles — were inconsistent, fearful, and spiritually fragile. They followed Christ, but they followed from the outside. They admired Him, but they could not embody Him. But when the Spirit descended, everything changed. Men who once hid behind locked doors stood boldly before nations. Men who once argued over status became servants. Men who once fled in fear became unshakable witnesses. Pentecost is the moment men stopped following Christ from a distance and began releasing His Life from within.

Without that empowerment, men remain stuck in cycles that feel impossible to break. Self-effort becomes exhausting. Shame becomes paralyzing. Inconsistency becomes normal. Spiritual impotence becomes expected. A man may know what is right, desire what is right, and even attempt what is right — yet without the Spirit, he cannot sustain it. The flesh can imitate masculinity for a moment, but only the Spirit can produce it as a lifestyle. This is why so many men feel like failures: they are trying to live a supernatural calling with natural strength.

But the gospel offers a different way — not through striving, but through indwelling Life.

When a man is born of the Spirit, Yeshua does not merely inspire him; He inhabits him. The masculinity of Christ — His courage, purity, authority, self-control, and sacrificial strength — becomes the internal engine of the believer. Masculinity is no longer something a man tries to achieve; it is something he releases. The Spirit does not make a man less masculine; He

makes him fully masculine. He restores what sin distorted and empowers what the flesh could never produce.

Biblical masculinity is not aggression, nor is it softness. It is the strength of Christ expressed through a surrendered man. It is the courage to stand, the humility to serve, the purity to resist temptation, and the authority to lead with love. These qualities do not come from personality, upbringing, or natural gifting — they come from the Spirit who forms Christ within us. The man who walks in the Spirit does not dominate, nor does he retreat. He leads with clarity, loves with conviction, and stands with courage because the Life of Yeshua is flowing through him.

True masculinity is impossible without the Holy Spirit — and unstoppable with Him.

When the Spirit fills a man, he becomes what God designed him to be: a son who carries authority, a leader who walks in truth, and a warrior who stands firm in the face of darkness. Pentecost is not merely a historical event; it is the ongoing invitation for every man to stop living from the flesh and start living from the indwelling Christ. Masculinity is not achieved — it is released.

Prayer of Salvation and Indwelling Life

Yeshua, Son of the Living God, I come before You in humility, confessing that I am lost without Your Life. My own strength has failed me, my righteousness is as dust, and my heart is empty apart from You. I acknowledge my sin and my separation from the Father, and I turn to You — the One who gave His Life so that I might live.

Holy Spirit, breathe upon me now. Enter my mortal body with the Life of Christ. Cleanse me from all unrighteousness and fill me with the power of Your indwelling presence. I no longer want to follow You from a distance; I want to live from within You. Let Your Spirit replace my spirit with the risen Life of Yeshua, transforming me from death to Life, from self-effort to surrender, from shame to sonship.

Father, I receive Your gift of everlasting Life. I believe that Yeshua died for my sins, was raised from the dead, and now lives to dwell within me. I open every part of my being to Your Spirit — my mind, my emotions, my body, my will — that Your Life may flow through me without hindrance. Make me a living temple of Your presence, a vessel of Your power, and a witness of Your grace.

Yeshua, I receive You as my Lord, my Savior, and my indwelling Life. From this moment forward, I am Yours. Let Your Spirit empower me to walk in purity, courage, and truth. Teach me to release Your Life in every thought, word, and action. Thank You for saving me, filling me, and making me new. I am born again — not by effort, but by Your eternal Life within me.

Amen.

Chapter Six

THE UGLIEST MAN ON EARTH

THE UNDESIRED MESSIAH — GOD’S PURPOSE IN THE UNBEAUTIFUL FORM OF HIS SON

The Messiah Who Came Without Majesty

When the Father sent His Son into the world, He did not clothe Him in the beauty of kings, the charm of heroes, or the physical appeal that draws the eyes of the flesh. Instead, Scripture declares with striking clarity:

“He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him.” — Isaiah 53:2 (ESV)

This was not an accident of genetics. It was a **divine design**.

The Father intentionally formed His Son in a way that stripped away every earthly reason to follow Him. No charisma of appearance. No magnetism of physical beauty. No royal splendor. Yeshua came in a form that forced humanity to confront a single question:

Will you come to Him for who He is — or for what your flesh wants?

His unattractive form was a theological statement:

The Kingdom of God is not built on the seduction of the eyes, but on the revelation of the Spirit.

The Lowliness That Exposes the Heart

Throughout Scripture, God tests the heart by removing the props of the flesh. With Yeshua, this test reached its highest expression. The Father ensured that no one would be drawn to His Son by outward appeal. His appearance became a mirror, exposing the motives of every human heart.

Those who sought beauty, spectacle, or sensual attraction found nothing in Him. Those who sought truth, life, and the presence of God found everything.

Yeshua's unattractive form became a dividing line:

- **The proud** dismissed Him.
- **The fleshly** overlooked Him.
- **The spiritually hungry** recognized Him.

His very face became a filter separating those who walk by sight from those who walk by faith.

Why God Hid Glory Behind Unattractiveness

The incarnation was not God's attempt to beautify humanity — it was His plan to **redeem** it. To do so, He had to remove every flesh-based reason to follow His Son.

1. To prevent attraction based on the flesh

If Yeshua had been physically stunning, multitudes would have followed Him for the wrong reasons. His

mission required that people be drawn by **truth**, not **appearance**.

2. To reveal the beauty of holiness, not the beauty of form

The Father wanted the world to see that true beauty is **moral, spiritual, and eternal** — not sensual or external.

3. To ensure that redemption was rooted in the Spirit

Only those awakened by the Spirit could recognize the Messiah. His unattractive form protected the purity of His mission.

4. To model humility for redeemed manhood

Yeshua's form teaches men that godly masculinity is not built on physical dominance, charm, or outward appeal — but on **inner strength, sacrificial love, and Spirit-empowered authority**.

The Messiah and the Renewal of Manhood

So why do men and women obsess over beauty?

The short answer: They desire to be greater than the Man—Yeshua—whom God the Father sent to deliver humanity from the vanity of outward beauty.

Yeshua's unattractive form is not merely a historical detail — it is a blueprint for redeemed masculinity.

Modern culture trains men to chase:

- physical appeal
- charm
- image
- sensual validation
- admiration from women

But the Son of God — the perfect Man — possessed none of these. His masculinity was rooted in:

- obedience
- courage
- self-sacrifice
- truth
- purity
- spiritual authority

His unattractive form dismantles the lie that manhood is measured by outward appeal. It redirects men to the **inner life of Christ** as the source of masculine power.

The Unbeautiful Christ and the Purification of Desire

Yeshua's form also confronts the human tendency — in both men and women — to evaluate worth through the eyes. His unattractive appearance purifies desire by compelling the heart to seek the eternal.

For women, it redirects affection away from the seduction of appearance and toward the beauty of holiness. For men, it destroys the pressure to perform masculinity through image rather than character.

The Father hid glory behind unattractiveness so that humanity would learn to love what God loves.

The Final Revelation: Beauty Revealed Only to the Redeemed

Though Yeshua came in an unattractive form, Scripture promises that His true beauty will one day be revealed — but only to those who loved Him for who He is, not for what He looked like.

- The One who was “without beauty” will return in blazing glory.
- The One who was “despised” will be exalted above every name.
- The One who was “unwanted” will be the desire of all nations.

His unattractive form was temporary. His glory is eternal.

The Bottom Line is This: The Unattractive Christ and the Call to True Manhood

God formed His Son in lowliness to reveal a truth the world refuses to accept:

Real power is not in appearance — it is in the indwelling Life of God.

Yeshua’s unattractive form is a rebuke to superficial masculinity and a call to Spirit-empowered manhood. It teaches men to:

- reject the pressure to impress
- abandon the pursuit of image
- embrace humility
- walk in inner strength
- release the Life of Christ within

The Father hid beauty so that true beauty could be revealed. He hid glory so that glory could be received. He hid his attractiveness so that the heart could be purified. And in doing so, He gave the world the greatest gift: **A Messiah who saves not by appearance, but by indwelling Life.**

Chapter Seven

RELEASING MASCULINE POWER

The power of Pentecost is the moment heaven refused to let men remain weak, passive, or spiritually domesticated.

It is the day the breath of God filled frail followers with divine boldness, transforming hesitant men into courageous witnesses of Yeshua's Kingdom. Pentecost is not merely a theological event—it is the awakening of masculine strength, the restoration of men to the fearless, Spirit-empowered leadership God designed from the beginning.

At Pentecost, the Spirit did not simply visit—He indwelt, igniting ordinary men with supernatural clarity, conviction, and courage. This was the eruption of God's own Life into human vessels, the fulfillment of the prophets, and the birth of a Church carried not by male bravado or human strength, but by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the day God put steel in the spine of His sons.

FROM FOLLOWING TO RELEASING: THE RISE OF SPIRIT-EMPOWERED MANHOOD

Pentecost was the divine turning point when men stopped merely following Yeshua and began to release His Life. Before that day, the disciples walked beside Him—learning, observing, admiring. But admiration never made a man. At Pentecost, the Spirit made His home within them, shifting them from imitators to incarnates, from external obedience to internal transformation.

This is the essence of masculine renewal:

- Not men trying harder, but men releasing the Life of Christ within them.
- Not men imitating strength, but men embodying it.
- Not men following from afar, but men living from within.

Pentecost is God’s declaration that true manhood is impossible without the indwelling Spirit—and unstoppable with Him.

A LITTLE HISTORY—AND A BIGGER CALLING FOR MEN

Pentecost fulfills Yeshua’s promise that His followers would be clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:49). Fifty days after His resurrection, during Shavuot, the Spirit descended—not as a symbol, but as a takeover. The Law once written on stone was now written on hearts. Men who once trembled behind locked doors now stood unashamed before nations.

Pentecost is the moment men became living temples, carriers of divine authority.

- The timid became bold.
- The divided became unified.

- The powerless became conduits of heaven.

This is the masculine pattern: men transformed from the inside out, not by discipline alone, but by the continual flow of the Spirit's Life within.

OIL IN THE LAMPS—FUEL FOR MASCULINE COURAGE

Pentecost is the day the Father placed oil in the lamps of His sons—not symbolic oil but living oil. Before Pentecost, the disciples had devotion, desire, and duty, but no flame that could sustain the weight of their calling. When the Spirit descended, the Father filled their lamps with His own Life, giving them a flame no persecution, temptation, or weakness could extinguish.

- This is the masculine crisis today:
- Men are carrying lamps with no oil.
- They have desire but no power.
- Conviction but no courage.
- Identity but no fire.

Pentecost is God's answer.

It is the day men stop living on borrowed light and begin burning with the radiance of the indwelling Spirit.

STOP "FOLLOWING"—START RELEASING

If you are truly born-again and filled with the Holy Spirit, Pentecost calls you to retire the language of following and embrace the reality of releasing. Following implies distance. Releasing implies union. The Spirit did not descend to keep men trailing behind Yeshua—He came to express the Life of Messiah through them. A man who only follows Christ will always remain a boy. A man who releases Christ becomes unstoppable.

THE DEVIL’S PLAN: KEEP MEN, BOYS

The enemy’s strategy is simple:

Convince men that following Yeshua is enough. Why? Because following can be done at a distance—without power, without oil, without transformation.

He whispers:

- “Sincerity is enough.”
- “Activity is salvation.”
- “Proximity is union.”

But when the Bridegroom returns, it will not be the “followers” who enter—it will be the men whose lamps burn with the oil of His Life. The enemy wants men to admire Yeshua, agree with Him, even imitate Him—while never receiving the Spirit who makes them alive, bold, and dangerous to the kingdom of darkness.

Without the oil, men remain boys. With the oil, boys become men of God.

THE WITNESS OF A TRUE MAN OF GOD

Authentic manhood is not imitation—it is incarnation. Not striving—it is surrender. Not following—it is living from the One who lives within.

Pentecost is the restoration of masculine power.

It is the renewal of manhood. It is the day God turned followers into warriors, admirers into ambassadors, and boys into men. If His Spirit lives within you, then your calling is clear: Release His Life. Walk in His power. Burn with His fire.

This is manhood reborn.

Summary

ACTION IN CHRIST

Throughout these chapters, we have traced the deep fractures that weaken modern manhood and the divine remedy found only in the indwelling Life of Yeshua. Each chapter exposes a different wound, lie, or distortion that keeps men trapped in boyhood — and each one points to the same solution: *the Holy Spirit restoring the masculine Life of Christ within the believer.*

We began by confronting fatherlessness, the absence of masculine formation. A man cannot become what he never saw, and without a father's impartation of identity, men grow up insecure, unanchored, and unsure of how to lead. This wound leaves them searching for validation instead of walking in the authority of sons.

We then exposed the mother-wound, the emotional dependency that forms when boys are over-nurtured and under-challenged. Comfort without commissioning produces men who seek emotional rescue from women, approval from others, and comfort over calling. This dependency fuels pornography, passivity, fear of responsibility, and relational immaturity. A man cannot lead if he is still looking for a mother.

Next, we confronted the crisis of masculinity without the Holy Spirit. Strength without the Spirit becomes aggression. Sensitivity without the Spirit becomes weakness. Leadership

without the Spirit becomes domination or avoidance. Pentecost is the turning point — the moment men stop following Christ from a distance and begin releasing His Life from within. Without the Spirit, men remain stuck in cycles of self-effort, shame, inconsistency, and spiritual impotence. With the Spirit, masculinity becomes unstoppable.

Together, these chapters reveal a single truth: Manhood is not achieved — it is received. It is not performed — it is released. It is not built by the flesh — it is formed by the Spirit.

The masculine Yeshua does not call men to imitate Him from the outside; He calls them to release His Life from the inside. This is the restoration of manhood. This is the renewal of strength. This is the awakening of true masculine authority.

A Challenge to Every Man Who Reads This Book

If you have walked through these chapters, you now stand at a crossroads. You can either continue living from the wounds of your past, the expectations of culture, and the weakness of the flesh — or you can rise into the man God designed you to be by releasing the Life of Yeshua within you.

The Holy Spirit is not an accessory to masculinity — He is the source of it.

The world does not need more men trying harder. It needs men indwelt, empowered, and ignited by the Spirit of the Living God.

Pentecost is not a story to admire — it is a power to receive. The masculine Yeshua is not a model to copy — He is a Life to release.

Your calling is clear: *Stop following from a distance. Start releasing from within. Let the Spirit of Yeshua rise in you.*

ALWAYS REMEMBER | AVOID GHOSTING:

Men who hide behind the symbolic “skirt” of a woman—seeking emotional protection, validation, or escape—often develop a patterned response toward authority figures: they disappear. Ghosting is not random; it is the predictable behavior of a man who has never learned to stand on his own two feet. When a man relies on a woman to shield him from discomfort, he also learns to avoid any voice that challenges him to grow. Authority feels threatening because it exposes the immaturity he is trying to hide. Instead of facing correction, he retreats into silence, hoping distance will protect him from accountability.

This pattern emerges because the man has been shaped by comfort rather than challenge.

A woman’s nurturing presence—good in its proper place—becomes a substitute for masculine formation when it is not balanced by a father’s discipline and commissioning. Without that balance, the man learns to soothe his anxiety by escaping rather than confronting it with courage. When an authority figure steps in with truth, expectation, or correction, the man’s instinct is not engagement but withdrawal. Ghosting becomes his emotional survival strategy.

Ghosting also reveals a deeper spiritual fracture: the inability to receive masculine authority as a gift rather than a threat.

A man who hides behind the skirt has never internalized the blessing of fatherly affirmation, so he interprets every challenge as rejection. When a mentor, pastor, or leader calls him higher, he hears criticism. When someone sets boundaries, they feel abandoned. When someone speaks the truth, they feel attacked. Instead of leaning into the discomfort that produces growth, he disappears to preserve the fragile identity he has built on emotional dependency.

Ultimately, ghosting is a refusal to step into manhood. It is the behavior of someone who fears responsibility, avoids conflict, and resists transformation. But the good news is this: the pattern can be broken. When a man stops hiding behind feminine protection and begins receiving masculine correction, when he stops ghosting authority and starts embracing accountability, he positions himself for the Spirit of Yeshua to form true masculinity within him. Growth begins the moment he stops running and starts standing.

Action Steps: Pursuing Strong Male Discipleship

If you want to walk in Spirit-empowered masculinity, you cannot do it alone. Scripture is clear: men are formed by other men. Here is your next step:

1. Seek a mature, Spirit-filled male mentor

Find a man who:

- walks in biblical authority
- lives free from emotional dependency
- models sacrificial leadership
- understands the indwelling Life of Christ
- is unafraid to challenge you

2. Commit to consistent discipleship

Meet regularly. Submit to accountability. Invite correction. Ask hard questions. Let iron sharpen iron.

3. Reject emotional dependency

Stop seeking emotional rescue from women. Stop outsourcing your strength. Stop waiting for permission to rise.

4. Practice releasing the Life of Yeshua daily

Pray from union, not distance. Act from identity, not insecurity. Lead from the Spirit, not the flesh.

5. Step into masculine responsibility

Take ownership of your decisions. Lead with clarity. Serve with courage. Stand with conviction.

Final Word

The world has enough boys in men's bodies. It is time for the rise of Spirit-empowered men — men who carry the fire of Pentecost, the courage of Yeshua, and the strength of the indwelling Christ.

Your masculinity is not missing — it is waiting to be released.

The Study Guide

BIBLICAL MANHOOD

Study Guide: The Biblical Foundations of Manhood

1 Genesis 1:26–28 — Created for Dominion

Key Principle: Manhood begins with divine image-bearing. Authority is stewardship, not domination. **Reflection:**

- What does it mean to bear God’s image as a man?
- How does dominion differ from control? **Action Step:** Identify one area of life where you can lead through service rather than power.

2 Genesis 2:15–18 — Called to Cultivate and Protect

Key Principle: True masculinity works, guards, and nurtures. **Reflection:**

- How are you cultivating what God has entrusted to you?
- Where do you need to step up as a protector? **Action Step:** Take responsibility for one neglected area — spiritual, relational, or practical.

3 1 Corinthians 16:13–14 — Strength Governed by Love

Key Principle: Courage and compassion must coexist.

Reflection:

- Do you equate strength with harshness or with love?
 - How can love become your measure of strength?
- Action Step:** Practice one act of courageous love this week — something that costs you comfort.

4 Ephesians 5:25–28 — Sacrificial Leadership

Key Principle: Masculine leadership mirrors Yeshua’s

self-giving love. **Reflection:**

- How does Yeshua’s example redefine leadership?
 - Where do you need to lay down self-interest for others?
- Action Step:** Serve someone intentionally without expecting recognition.

5 Micah 6:8 — Walking in Humble Integrity

Key Principle: Manhood is moral integrity expressed through

humility and justice. **Reflection:**

- What does humility look like in your leadership?
- How can justice guide your decisions? **Action Step:** Make one choice this week that prioritizes righteousness over convenience.

6 Proverbs 27:17 — Brotherhood and Accountability

Key Principle: Men sharpen men through honest, Spirit-filled

relationships. **Reflection:**

- Who challenges you to grow spiritually?
- Are you open to correction from godly men? **Action Step:** Reach out to a mentor or brother for mutual accountability.

7 1 Timothy 6:11–12 — The Spiritual Fight

Key Principle: The Spirit empowers men to fight for holiness, not dominance. **Reflection:**

- What battles are you fighting in your own strength?
- How can you rely on the Spirit's power instead? **Action Step:** Commit one area of struggle to prayer and Spirit-led discipline.

8 Joshua 1:9 — Courage from God's Presence

Key Principle: Courage flows from the indwelling Spirit, not self-confidence. **Reflection:**

- Where do fear and TRUST collide in your life?
- How does God's presence change your perspective? **Action Step:** Step into one situation you've avoided, trusting God's presence to sustain you.

9 Titus 2:6–8 — Discipline and Dignity

Key Principle: Manhood is formed through self-control and integrity. **Reflection:**

- What habits undermine your spiritual discipline?
- How can dignity shape your speech and conduct? **Action Step:** Replace one undisciplined habit with a Spirit-led practice.

10 2 Samuel 23:8–12 — Standing for Righteousness

Key Principle: Masculine strength is spiritual warfare — standing firm for truth. **Reflection:**

- What does it mean to “stand your ground” spiritually?

- How can you defend righteousness without aggression?
Action Step: Take a public stand for truth in your sphere of influence.

The Manhood Challenge

Manhood is not performance — it is **participation in the Life of Yeshua**. Let the Holy Spirit form courage, humility, and sacrificial love within you until your strength reflects His character.

If men are ever going to reclaim Spirit-empowered masculinity, they must become students of the very words God uses to describe them.

A true awakening begins when a man humbles himself before Scripture and dives deeply into a word study on man, manhood, men, leader, leadership, and warrior.

These are not cultural labels — they are divine assignments. Each word carries layers of identity, responsibility, and spiritual authority that cannot be understood through opinion or tradition. When a man traces these terms through the Hebrew and Greek, through the stories of patriarchs and prophets, through the teachings of Yeshua and the apostles, he discovers that biblical masculinity is not something he performs — it is something the Spirit forms. This study becomes a mirror, a sword, and a commissioning all at once. It exposes the counterfeit, reveals the authentic, and calls men into the Life they were designed to release.

About The Author

DR. STEPHEN PHINNEY



Stephen R. Phinney – Founder & President of IOM America & Truthstream Media Group.

Stephen is a prophetic voice in a fractured age—an author, teacher, and eschatologist whose ministry blends biblical

scholarship with Spirit-led urgency. As founder and president of IOM America (Institute of Ministry), Dr. Phinney has devoted his life to declaring the indwelling life of Yeshua and equipping the Church to stand unshaken amid cultural collapse.

His writings—marked by theological depth and prophetic clarity—challenge believers to return to the Cross, embrace co-crucifixion, and walk in perfect union with Christ. From devotionals rooted in Hebrew word studies to systematic theology confronting liberal ideologies, Dr. Phinney wields truth as both sword and salve. His recent monograph, *Kingdoms at War*, ignited a global conversation around liberalism, cultural rebellion, and authentic Christianity.

With decades of ministry leadership, media production, and creative outreach, Dr. Phinney inspires a multigenerational audience—particularly Gen-Z—to rise in courage, clarity, and consecration. His voice carries the ache of the watchman and the fire of the reformer. Whether preaching, podcasting, writing, or mentoring, he lives to awaken the remnant and proclaim: Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Dr. Phinney and his wife, Jane, have built a legacy that stretches far beyond their years of ministry and service. Together, they have raised three grown daughters, two of whom, leading families of their own, and they have been blessed with eleven grandchildren whose lives reflect the values passed down to them. Their family line continues to flourish with two great-grandchildren, adding yet another generation touched by their faith, wisdom, and steadfast love.

OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

- Yeshua's Second Coming | Prophecies Made Simple
- The Other Side of Midnight | Steps of Grief
- Devotions with Yeshua | Hebrew Word Study
- Kingdoms at War | Liberalism vs. Conservative
- Essential Prophecies
- Terms & Definitions | Indwelling Life
- Nehemiah | The Man & the Legend
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- Servant Leadership
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- The Art of Spiritual Warfare
- This Preeminent Darkness | Cultural Movements
- The Father | The Downfall of Christianity
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the masculine Yeshua from within,
to walk in Spirit-empowered strength,
and to lead with courage roared in divine Life.

