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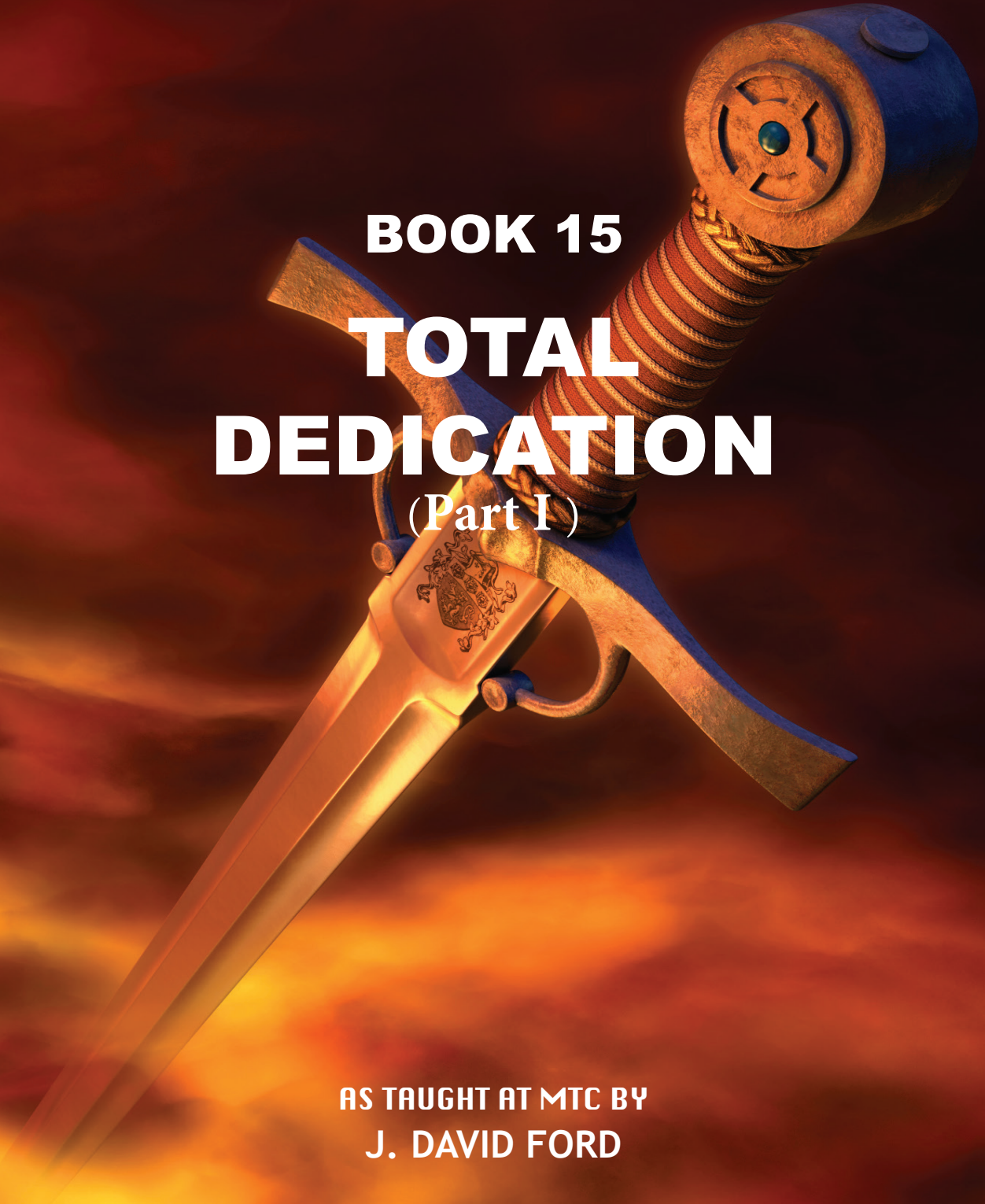
*Champions of the faith are not BORN...
they are MADE... by the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT.*

MIGHTY IN SPIRIT SERIES

BOOK 15

**TOTAL
DEDICATION**
(Part I)

AS TAUGHT AT MTC BY
J. DAVID FORD



MIGHTY IN SPIRIT SERIES

POWER BOOK 15 TOTAL DEDICATION (Part I)

Mighty In Spirit, is a compilation of the course
J. David Ford teaches at More Than Conquerors School of Theology.

INTRODUCING THE "PURE WORD NEW TESTAMENT"

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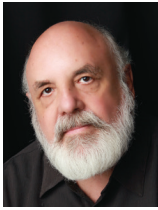
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**A Message from the President and Founder
of More Than Conquerors School of Theology**

J. David Ford
B.Th., M.Th., D.Th.

I pray that we as followers of Christ, will never forget where we came from. There was a time when we had no idea of our true origin. Our lives were empty, lonely, tormented, and without purpose or meaning. Then Jesus came and forgave us of all our sins. He gave us His love, joy, peace and a beautiful life. Yes, Jesus gave us purpose and meaning. May we never forget the miry pit out of which God dug us.

I am sure we all can remember how our thoughts and actions completely changed after we were born again. Old things passed away and all things truly became new. At last, we had found the fulfillment we had been searching for when Jesus came into our hearts.

Can you still remember the total change that came into your life when you surrendered your life to Christ and accepted Him as your Lord? Aren't you glad Jesus came into your life and forgave you of all your sins? If you have not fully surrendered your life to Christ... I want to encourage you to do so.

Jesus gave us love, joy, peace and a beautiful life. Yes, Jesus dug us out of a miry pit and gave our lives purpose and meaning. Isn't it wonderful? May we never forget it. His red blood washed away our black sins. The Master Surgeon in heaven gave us a spiritual heart transplant. He took out our old, black, sin stained hearts and gave us new spiritual hearts. Then He wrote our names in the Lamb's Book of Life.

As the Bible says in Corinthians,

So that if any man with Christ, a New of a Different Kind Creation, old things are Passed Away, Behold, All things are Now Occurring New of a Different Kind.

2 Corinthians 5:17

His presence became so very precious to us. When we were newly saved, we weren't always sure what was right and what was wrong. However, we soon began to notice that when we did or said certain things, we would cause His sweet presence to leave us. We lost our precious fellowship and close walk with Him. Then, when we would turn back to Him and stop doing or saying those things, His presence would return. It didn't mean we had lost our salvation or that God had left us, but His presence and fellowship were quenched. It was at those brief times that we lost the awareness of His presence. From these experiences we soon learned we couldn't compromise in certain areas and walk with God at the same time. We realized we could only have one or the other, but not both. It was then we chose to possess the most beautiful presence in the world, rather than the shallow empty pleasures of sin and compromise for even a brief season.

The psalmist David said in Psalm 73 that he became discouraged when he saw how the wicked seemed to prosper while he was having so many problems trying to live a life free of sin and offense toward God. Then David sought God and God showed him the terrible end of the wicked.

We know the wicked will suffer terribly in the next life, but what hurts most is what we see in the faces of those who turn away from God in this life. We see in their eyes and on their countenances, emptiness and sorrow. They have no purpose or excitement concerning their future. When we see death

in the eyes of those around us, it encourages us to continue giving ourselves fully to God.

There is something about the inner beauty that radiates from Godly ministers and saints of God. We have seen His beauty shining through their characters, attitudes and the words they have spoken in their messages. They felt the spiritual conditions they had to meet in order to live lives of total dedication were well worth the beauty God produced within them.

There are those attending services with us who, at one time, radiated the life and love of Jesus in their faces. But, for some reason, after a while, they turned back to the world. When we saw them again, they looked so empty and dead. All the life and light were gone from their eyes. Let the emptiness we saw in their eyes, cry out to us as a warning not to turn away from God. No matter what our future on this earth may hold, we must stay close to our Lord to remain full of His presence and mighty power.

We do not want to dwell upon or even think about the eternal torments of hell. But the most horrible thing about hell is that there is no hope of ever coming out of its burning torture. When we know the Lord, no matter how much we suffer on this earth, we know that someday it will end. However, those who die without Jesus will never know an end to their terrible torment.

Another sobering thought is that, when we live compromising lives by our actions and deeds, we may cause others who otherwise may have been saved to spend eternity in hell. Knowing this should motivate us to do our all for Jesus Christ.

In these last days, I believe we as totally dedicated Chris-

tians are feeling an urgency in our hearts to make our lives really count for our Lord. A deep feeling from within is telling us that time is running out, and we must do all we can to win as many souls to Christ as possible.

Jesus said in John 9:4, *I must Work the Works by God that Sent Me while it is Day. Night is Coming when no man can Work.*

All too soon the time will come when our lives will be over. All of our opportunities to win others to Jesus and to help the cause of the Gospel will be gone. We will no longer be able to witness to others, give financially to further the cause of the Gospel, pray for others, live by faith, or suffer in any way for Christ. Whatever we are going to do to win souls to Jesus, we must do now, and we must do it quickly before our time runs out.

In the business world there is a term which says, “Opportunity Costs.” It means that when we spend time on low priority items, it costs us results. These are results we could have had if we had spent our time on high priority items. We don’t want to come to the end of our lives and look back at what we could have done if we had given our lives fully to Jesus. Instead, we want to look back and be filled with awe and wonder at what God did through our lives of consecration to Him.

As we pursue the lofty precepts of *Mighty in Spirit* together we must do so fully persuaded of the infallibility of God’s Holy word. God has and will prove over and over again that His word is true and He will always do what He says He will do. This gives us confidence that we have a sure foundation on which to face the future. The truth of the Bible should fill all of us with joy about what God desires to do “in” and

“through” our lives.

We must believe that no matter what we face, God can solve every problem. He can provide every need, heal every hurt, break every bondage, overcome every sin and cause every vision He has given us to be fulfilled. At times, no doubt, those of us who are truly aspiring to live lives of total dedication, will feel as though we are complete failures. Notwithstanding, there will be times of discouragement, but even as imperfect as we are, if we hold fast to Him until the end, God will reward our efforts.

This world we live in is such a dark place, and with the dawn of each new day, it seems to be getting even darker. People all over the world are groping for some kind of hope or pleasure that will temporarily ease their pain. Too often, even many of the people in our churches seem to be desperately searching for satisfaction in the world.

We have a dream at MTC of a great host of men and women being raised up among all nations. A people who will show forth to those around them the radiant joy and incredible difference Jesus Christ is making in their lives when they are totally dedicated to Him.

As I have traveled to various nations of the world to teach God's Word, I have found those who were spiritually hungry and ready to walk in the truth of God's Word, if only they could somehow understand how to apply it to their lives.

I believe, deep in the hearts of multitudes of people all over the world, there is an intense longing to give themselves fully to God. They desire to experience His beautiful presence and miraculous power. But, too often, they have seen little evidence of Christ in those professing to be following Him.

Do you know there are so many around the world who want

to believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a reality? They desperately want to see some kind of evidence that Jesus is whom He claims to be and that He can make a difference in their lives if they will only forsake all and follow Him. This is what *Mighty in Spirit* is all about.

Are you ready for the greatest spiritual change of your life? If so, I believe, as you read the pages of this book, your life, your thinking, your actions, are going to be changed, page by page.

I believe the Lord has been waiting for many of us to completely open ourselves up to Him, so we can receive the plan He has for our lives. I believe God has a beautiful plan and a special mission for each of us to complete before we die. I am so sure of this, I want to challenge you, as you read these pages, to give the Lord Jesus Christ your all. If you haven't done this – then do it now.

I believe there is someone reading these lines, who has set your future goals and plans into concrete. You are so sure of what you are going to do with your future, that you have left no room for any kind of change. If this is the case in your life, I pray that you will become more pliable to the Holy Spirit so God will be given the liberty to rearrange your plans and future.

Someone has said, “Lord, I’ll do this, but don’t ask me to do that.” When we pray in this manner, what we are really saying to the Lord is, “Don’t ask me to step over the line, Lord. You can have most of me, but not all of me.” If this is you, I want to challenge you to truly allow Jesus Christ to become the Lord of your life.

The world is waiting for someone to show them how real God can be in their lives if they are wholly given to Him.

This can be you! There is a magnificent alternative to being a mediocre, lukewarm, nominal Christian. Do you know what it is? It's being a Christian who is totally dedicated to Jesus Christ.

Those of you who will completely surrender to this exciting experience will know what it is like to become... *Mighty in Spirit.*

TOTAL DEDICATION

(Part 1)

There are many people today who profess to be following Christ. But the sad truth is, many of these people lack the first ingredient for following the Lord - “total dedication.” Total dedication doesn’t seem to be the norm in our generation, but a rarity among those professing to be followers of Jesus Christ.

Since the beginning of history, there has never been an individual who has been followed by such a diverse segment of the world’s population as Jesus Christ.

As we study the unchanging Word of God together, we will recognize more fully what makes Jesus Christ different from all other men who have ever lived. That difference is LOVE!

It is important that we understand that love is the only true catalyst for anyone ever being totally dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ. It’s His unexplainable love that causes such great passion and adoration to arise in the hearts of men and women, generation after generation. Only a genuine love for our Lord will produce “total dedication.”

All of us, no doubt, at some time during our walk with the Lord, have seen God’s beauty in the lives of Godly ministers and saints of God. We have seen His beauty shining through their character, attitudes and the messages of the words they spoke. As we looked into the eyes of these Godly men and women, we saw so much of Jesus, our lives were deeply touched. Because of what we saw in them, we desired Jesus to

do a deeper work in our lives as He had in theirs. The spiritual conditions they had to meet in order to live lives of total dedication were well worth the beauty God had produced within them.

If we want to have the heart of a champion then we need to ask ourselves four key questions concerning total dedication.

The first question is, “What will God do ‘in’ and ‘through’ me, if I am wholly given to Him?”

The dictionary meaning of the word “wholly” is: completely, totally and exclusively. We can apply this meaning of “wholly” to the following Scriptures.

Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the LORD.

Deuteronomy 1:36

You must be Continuously Meditating These Things. You Must Be with These Things, in order that your Advancement should be Openly Manifest with everyone.

1 Timothy 4:15

Have you ever wondered what God would do “in” and “through” you if you were to hold nothing back, but willingly lay “everything” on the altar?

What if we were willing to do “anything” and “everything” our Lord asked us to do? What could He accomplish through us?

Because it is God Himself Accomplishing Inside you, both to Will and to Accomplish, in behalf of God-Good Intentions.

Philippians 2:13

If we were willing to go “anywhere” and do “anything” He designated for us to do, what could He accomplish through us?

What would the Lord do through our lives if we were willing to forsake “everything” and “everyone” He desired for us to leave behind?

Jesus Answered and Spoke, Truly, I Say to you. There is no man who has dismissed house, or brother, or sister, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or fields for the cause of Me and the Gospel, Except he receives an hundredfold now in this Special Season with persecutions to houses and brothers and sisters, and to mothers and children and fields, and in this coming Age, Life Eternal.

Mark 10:29-30

The second question we need to ask ourselves is, “How can I achieve the full potential of what God has planned for my life?”

What do you think God requires of those of us who desire to be His servants? What prerequisites must we meet in order to reach our full potential in Him?

From time-to-time, we may have heard preachers talk about how we must pay the price. The truth is, it is impossible for any of us to pay the price. The price has already been paid by Christ, and He was the only one who could pay it. What we must do now is meet the conditions our Lord has laid down in His Word. The question is, what are these conditions we must meet in order to achieve God’s best for us?

Even when Abram was 99 years old, God specified a condition for him to meet.

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Genesis 17:1

The third question we need to ask ourselves is, “How can I achieve my maximum effectiveness for Christ?”

It is important for us to understand what path we must pursue in order to achieve maximum spiritual results in our lives.

Oh Brethren, I am definitely not accounting myself to be Now Apprehending. But one thing, forgetting the things back, I am Reaching Out to that before. I Follow Closely after the Goal for the Prize of the Above Service of Calling of God within Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

If we spend our entire lifetime merely “spinning our spiritual wheels,” what will we leave behind? We will leave only “spiritual ruts.”

Finally, the last question we must ask ourselves concerning total dedication is, “How can I reach the spiritual destiny God has set before me?”

We must make the decision not to “spend our lives” on what this world has to offer, but to “invest our lives” in the kingdom of God. Then, we must learn what changes we need to make in our lives, so we can realize the spiritual destiny God has set before us. But, it all comes back to totally, unreservedly, surrendering our lives to God.

Let me share with you five key scriptures concerning total dedication:

But seek first of all the Kingdom Rule of God and His Righteousness, and all these things shall be added more to you.

Matthew 6:33

So, therefore, whoever, of yourselves, that is definitely not saying goodbye to all his own material goods is continuously being definitely not able to be My disciple.

Luke 14:33

Consequently, we Now Have so great a Large Cloud of Witnesses Encompassing us, Laying Aside every weight and the impeding sin nature and sin. Through Endurance we should Be Running the Race Set Before us.

Hebrews 12:1

You must be Spiritually Seeing then how exactly you are Walking, not as unwise but definitely as Wise. Purchasing Out from the satan's world the Special Time, for the days are evil. Because of this you must become not mentally unwise, but definitely Understand about the Will of the Lord.

Ephesians 5:15-17

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Joshua 1:8

The five Scriptures will set our feet on the path to becoming totally dedicated to the Lord.

You might ask, "Why it is imperative that we live our lives

in total dedication?” Because we have the only hope for a world without hope.

That in that time you were without Christ, being made aliens of the citizenship of Israel, and strangers of the Covenants of Promise, having no expectation, and without God in the satan's world.

Ephesians 2:12

The world is desperate to see a demonstration of the reality of God's supernatural power and love. The world is bound by supernatural problems. There is no hope for the world except for the supernatural help which can only come through the lives of those who are totally dedicated to Jesus Christ. To bring a ray of hope to a world without hope.

There are five things today's generation desperately needs to see demonstrated:

First, the world needs a demonstration of the reality of God from those professing to be His children.

The lack of the reality of God seen in the lives of many of today's "professing Christians" has brought a reproach on the Body of Christ. The following Scripture leaves no doubt as to who was the light in the world while Jesus walked this earth,

When I should Be in the satan's world, I should Be the Light of the satan's world.

John 9:5

Since Jesus is no longer on this earth, it is now our responsibility to let the reality of God shine through us so we can be that light.

Yourselves are the Light of the satan's world. A city set upon a mountain definitely cannot be hid. Neither be burning a can-

dle and positioning it under a bushel. But definitely upon the candlestick, and brightly shining to all in the house.

Matthew 5:14-15

Jesus pointed to the demonstration of God's reality as the key to convincing skeptics of the reality of the Gospel.

In Matthew 5:13, we are called the salt of the earth. Salt is valuable to give flavor and preserve from corruption. Therefore, the Believer and the Church are to be godly examples in the world by resisting the moral decay and corruption that is so evident in our society today.

You yourselves are the Salt Flavoring of the earth. And then if the Salt Flavoring might have been made foolish, with what shall it be actually salted? Further, it is capable for nothing, except it be cast outside and trampled down by men.

Matthew 5:13

We must be ready to stand committed on issues which are contrary to the Word of God, even when others may succumb to public opinion or pressure. When God's Word says it is wrong, we must obey and stand fast in the truth. Our firm and consistent stand for what is right helps others to form solid opinions. If we lose our saltiness, we are worth nothing in the work of the Lord, but only to be thrown out and walked on.

The world can only learn about the reality of serving God through the lives we live before them. We can talk about our faith, but the Word tells us our faith is dead unless we accompany our faith with good works. Works cannot save us, but without works, the Word says we have no faith.

And in such a manner Faith, if It might not be having Works by God, It is dead, as itself (alone), But definitely a certain one

shall Spirit Say, you are having Faith, also I am having Works by God, you must show me your Faith without your Works by God, also I will show you my Faith by my Works by God.

James 2:17-18

But will you know, Oh delusional man, that Faith without Works by God is dead?

James 2:20

How can the world know about our faith unless we show our faith to them by our good works? God works through His people. Therefore, when God prepares an opportunity for His reality to be demonstrated through us, we must be quick to respond. Whatever the need, what better way is there to introduce the unsaved to the reality of God than by extending to them a helping hand of love and service? According to God's Word, our works will demonstrate to others the depth of our faith.

Oh my Brethren Beloved, you must not be made deceived. Every God-Good Giving and every Perfect Gift Given by God from Above is coming down from the Father of Lights, with Whom there is definitely no variableness or shade of turning, Having been Made Intending, He begat us by true Spiritual Communication of Truth, for the Purpose and Result that we be the Firstfruit, a Kind of His Creatures.

James 1:16-18

Good works is the switch that turns on our lights before the world.

So you must brightly shine your Light in such a manner before men so that they Discern your God-Works, Works by God,

and they might Attribute Glory (Spiritual Perfection) to your Father in the Heaven lies.

Matthew 5:16

Where would we be if Christ hadn't turned the light on in our lives? We were trying to find our way in the dark. We didn't know where we were going. We were bumping into things. We were bruised... bleeding... broken... hopeless... helpless. But then Jesus came and turned the light on in our lives. And, all of a sudden, we could see clearly where we were going. Life took on a whole new meaning.

As members of the Body of Christ, we are Christ's ambassadors to this world. As followers of Jesus, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation, which is to call all the unsaved to be reconciled to God. We are all Christ's ambassadors.

Then, we are continuously by our choice Ambassadors in Behalf of Christ, as God Beseeking Through Us; we are Praying earnestly in Behalf of Christ. You must be Made Reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

And He Spoke to them, Be made Going into all the satan's world. You must Preach the Gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:15

When the reality of God is revealed through dedicated lives, it influences others in a powerful way. For some Biblical examples, let's read about a few of these ordinary men and women who did some extraordinary things.

When Elijah demonstrated God's reality because God answered his prayer, the people were all convinced there was a God.

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

1 Kings 18:36-39

When three young Hebrew men demonstrated God's reality, nations were changed.

Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort. Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3:28-30

Daniel's godly life influenced Darius' rule of the nation.
I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men

tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel 6:26-28

Paul confirmed that his effectiveness was not in his education, but in the anointing of the Holy Ghost.

And my Spiritual Communication and my Preaching, definitely not in persuasion by manner of man's wisdom, but definitely in Demonstration of the Spirit and Miracle Power.

1 Corinthians 2:4

The second thing the world needs demonstrated is the superiority, and beauty, of God's ways.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9

The desperate need in this critical hour of history is for men and women to demonstrate that the Bible is true by the supernatural results of applying its principles.

The world must also have a demonstration of the truth of God's Word. People want to know that this Holy Book is not merely another book of fables and short stories, but a book that has power to change their lives and their eternal destiny.

And they came away to Preach everywhere, the Lord Working Together with them, and the Word was established by following after with Miracle Signs. Amen.

Mark 16:20

The fourth thing the world needs a demonstration of is the joy of total dedication. When people see the wonderful fulfillment and joy that comes from total dedication to Jesus Christ, there will be those who will gladly meet whatever conditions are necessary to experience this same joy.

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalm 16:11

I am having no more Important Joy than to be Hearing, that my children are Walking in the Truth,

3 John 1:4

These things I am now Uttering to you, that My Joy Inside you should Continue, and your Joy should be Made Fulfilled.

John 15:11

Again, the Kingdom Rule of the Heavens is like a treasure made hiding in the field which a man had hid, yet finding only Joy to himself, he goes away and sells everything, as much as he has, and buys that field.

Matthew 13:44

Finally, and most importantly, the world needs a demonstration of the supernatural love of God. When people see the supernatural love of God in our lives, our pure motives and sincere sacrifices for the benefit and success of others;

they will let down their guard and trust Jesus for their lives.

It's the love of God that causes us to sacrifice any personal gain on our part, so someone else may benefit. It's the love of God that causes us to help someone else become successful while we gain nothing in return. Unselfish love best describes God's love working "in" and "through" us.

Greater God-Love no man is Having than this, that any man should Lay Down his soul in behalf of his friends.

John 15:13

In every generation, God has certain goals. Total dedication to Jesus Christ and His Word prepares us so we will be ready for God's special missions and honor.

God works through people. Therefore, He is constantly searching for totally dedicated men and women through whom He can accomplish His goals.

To the degree that we live lives of total dedication to Christ and His Word is the degree that He uses us to accomplish His most important goals in our generation and our society.

God's eyes are searching all over the world for men and women He can use in His global plan of evangelizing our world. He is searching right now for those He can use in a mighty way.

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

2 Chronicles 16:9

There are no "little people" in God or "little places" where He desires us to go. Everyone God uses is important in His

program. Any place God sends someone is of the utmost importance, however small or insignificant it may seem. Paul changed the world with his letters from a jail cell. Joseph's dedication to God in a forgotten jail resulted in an entire nation being changed.

From God's Word, I have found that there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are "consecrated people" to the service and will of God and there are the "unconsecrated" people. Now the question before you is... which one are you?

But in a great house are not only golden and silver vessels, but definitely also wood and earthen, and some certainly to Honor and some to dishonor, If therefore a man should have Spiritually Cleansed Out himself from these, he shall be a vessel for Honor, and is now being Made Holy and useful to the Master is now being Made Prepared for every God-Good Work by God,

2 Timothy 2:20-21

The degree by which we live lives of total dedication to Jesus Christ, is the degree that God will use us to change the flow of our generation.

The Scriptures are filled with examples of ordinary people who lived a life of total dedication. There are those who have walked this road before us.

Job is an excellent example of total dedication. When Job was facing his greatest test, the question he had to ask himself was, "Do I love God because He makes things go well for me, or do I love God because He is worthy?" Job answered the question correctly and passed the test!

Job remained totally dedicated to God, not just when the sun was shining, but during the most difficult time of his life. Then, on the other side of Job's temptation to compromise,

God was waiting to demonstrate His supernatural power.

Satan accused Job before the Lord... But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Job 1:11

And Satan answered the Lord and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Job 2:4-5

No matter how difficult the circumstances around Job became, he responded with faith and integrity.

Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

Job 13:15

Finally, the Lord responded and blessed Job's faithfulness.

And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Job 42:10

Do we only love the Lord when He blesses us, or do we love Him just because He is worthy of our love?

We need to learn to have the patience of Job even when everything around us and pertaining to us is going wrong.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are also great examples of total dedication. The great test the three Hebrew children faced and the question they had to answer was, "Will we compromise our dedication to God in order to receive the

acceptance and benefits of the world's system?"

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego valued their relationship with God more than anything the world had to offer them. They passed the test! They kept their hearts totally dedicated to God! Because they persevered during their trial of faith, on the other side of their temptation to compromise, God was waiting to demonstrate His supernatural power.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said

unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire. And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them. Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

Daniel 3:16-28

Esther is another example. The great test and question Esther had to face was, "Do I want a relationship with God more than worldly power or position?" Esther passed the test! She kept her heart totally dedicated to God. She loved her Lord, King of all kings and His people more than her life as queen to an earthly king and his kingdom.

Because of Esther's uncompromising stand, God was waiting on the other side of her temptation to demonstrate His supernatural power to her and to His people, the Israelites. What would we have chosen if we had been Queen Esther?

Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than

all the Jews. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

Esther 4:13-16

For another example of total dedication, we can look to the life of Abraham. Abraham's question was: "Do I value my relationship with God more than my most cherished relationship on earth?"

God had given Isaac to Abraham, and now He was asking Abraham to give Isaac back to Him. As unfair as this may sound, whenever God gives us something, He has a right to receive it again unto Himself.

Though it must have nearly broken Abraham's heart to think about losing his only son, he was willing to be obedient to the Lord's instructions and give up Isaac. Abraham passed the test! Because he refused to compromise in His dedication to God, on the other side of his temptation, God was waiting to demonstrate His supernatural power.

And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains

which I will tell thee of.

Genesis 22:1-2

And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

Genesis 22:10

And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

Genesis 22:12

And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Genesis 22:16-18

If any man is coming by his choice to Me, and is definitely not continuously by his choice hating his own father and his mother, and his wife and his children, and his brothers and his sisters, and even yet also his own soul, he is definitely by his choice not able to be My disciple.

Luke 14:26

He having affectionately love for father or mother more above Me is definitely not worthy of Me, and he having affectionately love for son or daughter more above Me is definitely not worthy of Me.

Matthew 10:37

Joshua and Caleb are two more men from the Bible who lived lives of total dedication to God. Joshua and Caleb's great test and question was, "Will we build our life goals according to the average standards of God's people or will we build our lives around God's best?"

Joshua and Caleb passed the test. And because they did, on the other side of their temptation to compromise, God was waiting to demonstrate His supernatural power.

In every one of these examples we saw something of great spiritual significance. On the other side of their temptations or trials... God was waiting to demonstrate His supernatural power.

Is this true for us as well? It certainly is! No matter what trial we may be going through right now, rest assured that on the other side of our trial, God is waiting to demonstrate His supernatural power on our behalf. This does not mean God isn't with us in the midst of our troubles. Even when we don't feel Him or see Him, He is there. But we must not forget that after we have gone through something and have not given place to the devil, God is waiting with a great blessing for us.

And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

Numbers 13:30

But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Numbers 14:24

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers

served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:15

Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the LORD.

Deuteronomy 1:36

Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Numbers 14:22-24

Moses was another great man of faith who chose God over riches, power and position.

By Faith, Moses became Great, Disclaimed being made called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, Instead, personally Choosing to suffer hardship Together with the people of God, than for a time to have enjoyment of sin nature and sin, Esteeming the Reproach of Christ of greater Riches than treasures inside of Egypt, because he was Concerned for the Recompense (pay back), By Faith, he Left Egypt, Not Made Fearing the anger of the king, because as Seeing Attentively the Invisible. He has been Steadfast by his choice,

Hebrews 11:24-27

Another example is Josiah. We can read about Josiah in chapter 22 of 2nd Kings.

And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book. And he caused all that were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers. And Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Israel, and made all that were present in Israel to serve, even to serve the LORD their God. And all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

2 Chronicles 34:31-33

Even though Josiah did not have the wealth nor the wisdom of Solomon, he was the greatest king in the Bible for following after God with all his heart, all his soul and all his might.

And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

2 Kings 23:25

Timothy is another example of total dedication. Timothy was a man young in years and in the ministry, but he was faithful to his ministry calling. The great Apostle Paul referred to Timothy as a son because he followed in Paul's footsteps of service for the gospel's sake. To be working with Apostle Paul was an honor, but to be considered just like a spiritual

son to Paul was an even greater honor.

Now, I am Expecting in the Lord Jesus to rapidly send Timothy to you, that I also should be Comforted to know about you. Because I have no man having of same Mind who genuinely shall Take Thought concerning you. For all are seeking their own, definitely not the Things of Christ Jesus. But you are Knowing the Proof of him, that as a child with a father, he has Bondserved with me in the Gospel.

Philippians 2:19-22

Timothy was dedicated to serving Apostle Paul like a son. We as God's children must seek to serve God with this same son relationship and dedication.

We see another example in John the Baptist. Why was John the Baptist killed? He was killed for his stand for the truth. John dared to preach against the lukewarm hypocritical religion of his day. Here is a portion of one of John's sermons:

And then he Spiritually Discerned many Pharisees and Sadducees coming with the intent of immersion of themselves. He spoke to them, Oh product of vipers, who has forewarned you, to flee away from the expecting Wrath for Justice? Then you must Finalize Fruits Worthy of Repentance, And think not to be saying inside yourselves, We are having father Abraham, yet I say to you in that God is able out from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. And already also the axe is being laid to the root of all trees, therefore a tree not producing God-Work Fruit is being made cut down and cast into the fire. I am certainly immersing you in water into Repentance. And then after me is coming a Stronger than I am, of whom I am definitely not sufficient to bear His shoes. He shall Immerse you in the Holy Spirit and with fire. Whose fan in His Hand, and He

shall thoroughly cleanse His floor, and shall Gather Together His Wheat into the barn, and then shall fully burn the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Matthew 3:7-12

Even when it came to preaching the truth in regards to those who were in political power over him, John would rather die than compromise.

Because Herod held to retain John, bound and put him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of Philip, his brother. Because John said to him, It is definitely not Lawful for you to have her. He was willing to kill him, but feared the multitude of people, because they had him as a Prophet. And when the birthday of Herod is being acted upon, the daughter of Herodias danced in the midst and pleased Herod. From where, he confessed, with an oath, to give to her whatever she asked. And then, instructed before by her mother, she stated. Give to me here the head of John the Baptist on a platter. But the king was grieved, because of the oath he had commanded to give even while sitting to eat. And sent to have John beheaded in the prison.

Matthew 14:3-10

Down through the annals of time, God has always had a people who would not compromise. He has them again today. Praise God for the men and women who stand strong and steadfast in the truth and will not compromise. It is a fact that many believers around the world are laying down their lives right now for their faith. That's total dedication!

A while ago we read Hebrews 11:24, but let's look at it again more closely. In it we can see some important choices that Moses made.

First, *“By Faith, Moses became Great, Disclaimed being made called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.”*

This is first step that we take in finding the kingdom of God: we must refuse this world and what it has to offer. We can’t find the kingdom until we refuse this world’s kingdom.

“Instead, personally Choosing to suffer hardship Together with the people of God,”

We have to make a choice. We must choose to suffer. We will receive a 100 fold in this world and the world to come, but it comes with afflictions. Have you made the choice to suffer?

Many preachers today do not present the “suffering” side of the gospel when they are trying to coddle people to get them to the altar. Instead, their sermons are often filled with how, after we accept Christ, we will be the head and not the tail and how we will become blessed, and rich.

Moses chose suffering *“than for a time to have enjoyment of sin nature and sin.”*

This world doesn’t last long. The pleasures are but for a short season. The things that people lie, steal, and cheat for are here today and gone tomorrow.

Another important choice Moses made was *“Esteeming the Reproach of Christ of greater Riches than treasures inside of Egypt.”*

Contrary to what we too often hear preached today, there is a reproach that goes along with being a believer. Hollywood will not roll out the red carpet for true followers of Christ.

The Bible states, “because he was Concerned for the Recompense (pay back).” Only the cross will lead to the crown.

So, “By Faith, he Left Egypt.”

Many today have made a decision to follow Christ outwardly, but haven’t forsaken Egypt in their hearts and minds.

If this is you, now is the time for you make the choice to get Egypt out of your heart and mind.

Moses also made the choice of *“not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.”*

The hope is that everyone who reads this book will catch a greater glimpse of total dedication. This is far more than being faithful to our church or paying our tithes; although this is the extent to which many professing Christians go.

But total dedication is forsaking all to follow Jesus, clinging to nothing else... save Him alone.

J. David & Rose Ford

For over forty years J. David Ford has been ministering the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the U.S. and in foreign nations. From the time he ministered his first message in 1953 at the young age of five, the hand of the Lord has been mightily upon his life and ministry. Since 1973 David and his wife Rose have traveled into all 50 states and a host of foreign nations carrying the “Good News” of Jesus Christ. The Fords had their 50th wedding anniversary on October 7, 2017.



Over the years Brother Ford has authored books, developed Bible college courses, conducted pastor’s conferences, pastored several churches and founded three international ministries and one here in the U.S. Brother Ford’s ministry has taken him to a host of foreign countries around the world. Brother Ford is also the president of five ministries.

In 1933 his father, Rev. O.L. Ford, founded the **Evangelistic Messengers’ Association**. E.M.A. provides ministerial credentials to over 3,000 “independent” ministers in over 44 nations around the world. (www.emai.org)

In 1992, Brother Ford founded **More Than Conquerors School Of Theology**. Since then, MTC has been equipping those who are called to ministry. MTC’s courses are discipling men and women so that they may become better prepared to minister to their local needs. MTC grants degrees through a Doctorate in Ministry. (www.morethanconquerors.org)

In 2000, Brother Ford founded **New Hope Children’s Foundation**. Since then, New Hope has been ministering to the needs of chil-

dren in Nicaragua. Over the years over one million meals have been served to children while at the same time sharing the Gospel with these kids. This mission outreach provides a Christ-centered education for around 350 students from grade school - high school. This ministry also has a Christian FM station in the rain forest that ministers in the Miskito language to the Miskito Indian people that live in this area of Nicaragua. New Hope is located in El Crucero, Nicaragua. (www.NewHopeChildrensFoundation.org)

Brother Ford established **KWAH 95.5 FM Power Radio** in Ennis, Texas in 2013. This radio station plays Christian music and the Ford's Power In Living program twice a day. Power Radio is in the greater Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. (www.PowerRadio.org - www.PowerInLiving.org - APPs are available for Smart phones)

Haven of Hope For Women and Children was established on December 1, 2017. It is located on the campus and headquarters of the Fords in Ennis, Texas. Thirty rooms have been designated for Haven of Hope's usage for providing a home and spiritual guidance for women who have become homeless and their children. (www.HavenOfHopeForWomen.org)

Power Book Publications was established in 2018 to share the Word of God with those in the Body of Christ who are searching for a deeper walk with the Lord. PBP plans to release a new book each month from the messages and courses Brother Ford has taught over the past 45+ years. (www.PowerBooks.org)

Over the years, we praise the Lord for the many lives that have been changed through the power of God's Word. To it all we say, "To God be the glory"!

*If this book has been a blessing to you, please email
Brother Ford and let him know: j.davidford@icloud.com.*

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Iona Halsey, who for over 20 years, worked diligently by Brother Ford's side in developing MTC courses. Iona was promoted to glory at the age of 84, in November of 2016. Though she rests from her labors, her works do follow her.

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