



KEEP CALM because GOD'S IN CHARGE

Learning to Trust in the Power and Sovereignty of God

Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group

Lesson #2 | Thursday, March 4, 2021

These days it's hard to know if anyone is actually in charge! Rest assured, **God is in complete control**. If there was ever a time to explore Biblical truths on the Power of God—this is it! When those around us are panicking and “losing their heads”, we can remain calm by trusting in the Power of God and His plan for our lives. In this 4-week series we'll explore **your story**, and the plans God has for you. Our nation needs men of confidence who know the Source of all truth and power – Jesus Christ. We can become these men for such a time as this!

This week's lesson is focused on your story and you the “HERO” God has called you to be.

Week 1: **YOUR STORY:** Become the “HERO” God has called you to be.

Week 2: **YOUR BATTLE:** Identifying the “BATTLES” you've been called to fight.

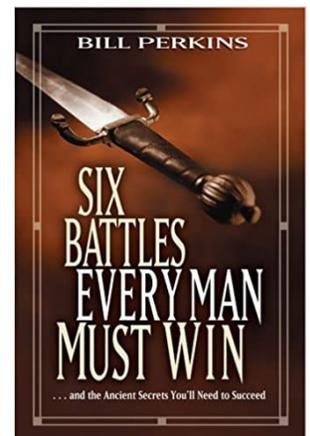
Week 3: **YOUR GUIDE:** Every hero needs a “GUIDE” to achieve *victory without fear*.

Week 4: **YOUR VICTORY:** Your role in the “KINGDOM of GOD” and *fighting the good fight*.

As we discussed last week, every hero must experience a crisis. What defines a hero is their ability to overcome the crisis. In other words, **the hero becomes the hero by being victorious in battle**. If you and I were to have a “real” conversation, we'd admit to each other we're engaged in a battle. Some of us are facing multiple battles.

In *Six Battles Every Man Must Win*, Bill Perkins' identifies six fights or conflicts that every one of us must address if are going live victoriously for Jesus. Men tend to be passive in at least some area of our lives. Even the most driven of men can be passive in a dark corner of their lives, which can result in a pattern of sin. **As a fire-breathing dragon is to the bravest of knights, so is unchecked sin in the life of a Believer.**

- **Battle One:** Fight for Your Identity
- Battle Two: Fight for Personal Holiness
- Battle Three: Fight for Your Family
- Battle Four: Fight Through Pain
- Battle Five: Fight for Your Friends
- **Battle Six:** Fight for a Strong Faith



In tonight's lesson we're going to dive into the first and last battles – *fighting for our identities* and *fighting for a strong faith*. If we can nail these two areas, most of the struggles we will face in life will take care of themselves.

When you think about your **identity**, what comes to mind? Another way of expressing your identity is to identify things for which you are either known or *desire to be known*. Examples include talents, skills, your job, your appearance, wealth, status, intelligence, education levels / degrees, and personal connections. What you'll notice in the preceding list is these are all "earthly" things – things that can be taken away in the blink of an eye. For most of us we spend most of our working lives building our identity. It's what everyone else is doing, so why not?

Ultimately, identity is about how God sees us. Ephesians 1:3-14 is one of the best passages in the Bible on this subject. Paul said a Believer has been given a new identity as a person when they become a follower of Jesus. According to this passage, we have been chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, grace-lavished, and unconditionally loved and accepted. We are pure, blameless, and forgiven because of Jesus. We have received the hope of spending eternity with God. When we are in Christ, these aspects of our identity can never be altered by what we do.¹ **If being a follower of Jesus is our identity, even if everything we have is stripped away we still have all that matters.**

The other battle we'll discuss tonight is our need to **fight for faith**. The writer of Hebrews said it best: *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see* (Hebrews 11:1). Although the Christian life starts with faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), somewhere along the way our "manliness" kicks in and we think we can do it on our own. Although we know dependence on God is our greatest attribute and how we should live, often times our belief system reflects we don't want to be dependent on anyone, including God. **Unfortunately, a Christian without faith is like a fish without water – they both lead to death.**

As you look at your life (past and current), how would it be different if fear had not been present in your life? What risks did you fail to take because you were **afraid of failure** or afraid the outcome might not be as you had wished? Most of us will admit there were times we wish we would have taken greater risks. For those of us who have taken risks, the outcomes were rarely as bad as we had originally envisioned. For those who desire to be mature *Warriors for Christ*, faith is our hallmark and probably the most important characteristic in defining who we are. Faith grows as we take "baby steps" in learning to trust God, His Plan, and in His goodness. Once we realize He has a plan for us and we develop confidence in His plan, the possibilities are endless. **What's holding you back?!**

Group Discussion Questions

1. Of Bill Perkins' *Six Battles*, which is the least challenging for you?
2. Of Bill Perkins' *Six Battles*, which is the most challenging for you?
3. Throughout your life, what characteristics or attributes have contributed most to your identity? Have these been good or bad (or perhaps neither)?
4. Is there anything in your life that you didn't do because you were afraid of failure? Do you believe it was related in-part to a **lack of faith**?

¹ <https://www.cru.org/us/en/blog/life-and-relationships/identity/who-am-i-a-new-way-to-define-identity.html>