



KEEP CALM because GOD'S IN CHARGE

Learning to Trust in the Power and Sovereignty of God

Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group

Lesson #3 | Thursday, March 11, 2021

These days it's hard to know if anyone is 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.

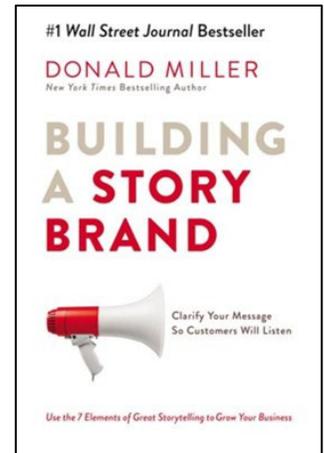
Week 1: **YOUR STORY:** Become the “HERO” God has called you to be.

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*.

In his award-winning book, *Building a Story Brand*, fellow-Believer Donald Miller identifies the seven elements in every great story. These elements are shown in the image below. During our first night together in this series we discussed that you are the hero in your story. We all have a problem (e.g., we're sinners destined for Hell). **To achieve victory, we need a guide who will give us a plan.** Although every great story has these elements, when God comes into our lives through the Holy Spirit we now have the ultimate story!



Let's quickly review the elements of every great story:

1. A **character** (i.e., the Hero)
2. The character **has a problem**
3. The character **meets a guide**
4. The guide gives them a **plan**
5. The guide **calls them to action**
6. That helps them **avoid failure**
7. That ends in **success**

In tonight's lesson we're going to identify the Guide in our story and what is His Plan. One essential part of every hero's story is they must learn to trust the guide. This is essential. Without trust failure is inevitable. Once the guide has proven himself and that His plan is worthy, the hero can move forward and proceed with confidence in what is prepared for him.

It's obvious that if you're a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is your guide. Throughout human history, God has been mankind's guide for those who would listen to Him. God has revealed Himself in different ways depending on the time period and to whom He was addressing (i.e., Dispensation). We have multiple instances in the Old Testament when the preincarnate Christ appeared to men to reveal God's truth (i.e., as the Angel of the LORD, including His being one of the three visitors to Abraham and Sarah). For the early disciples and Apostles, Jesus was their guide and provided a clear plan for them and issued a call to action (i.e., The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20). However, what makes Jesus incredibly **unique and powerful** as the guide is that through God's power He was able to send a guide to future followers. He even identified who the guide would be and what He would do. **You and I are those future followers.**

Through the Holy Spirit God uses resources to help provide direction, guidance, and protection to His followers when we need it:

- The Bible (Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 119:105)
- Wise counsel from other Believers
- The preaching and teaching of God's Word
- Prayer and meditation (how the Holy Spirit communicates with us)

As Jesus said in John 14:26, "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

As followers of Jesus, we have two options that lay before us: (1) to live with power or (2) to be powerless. We literally have a choice in how we live. If we remain (abide) in Jesus we will bear much fruit (John 15:5), which is another way of saying we will live successfully for Him and accomplish things for His Kingdom that are not possible when living on our own. The tension that exists for us whether if we really trust God and the plans He has for us. Unfortunately, I think most of us doubt God's plan, His call for obedience, and expectations for total trust. **Believers who "get it" function at a completely different level than those who never learn to trust in God.**

So, here's the take-away (homework) for tonight – your mission this week is to explore **God's plan for you**, how He is **calling you to action**, what's the **potential failure** for you, and what does **success** look like for you. As we wrap up our series next week, all of these elements play a central part in your role in God's Kingdom and the epic battle He has prepared just for you.

Group Discussion Questions

1. What do you believe God has called you to accomplish (be specific)?
2. Are there times in your life when you don't listen to the guidance provided by the Holy Spirit? Why do we do this?
3. How would your life change if you fully-surrendered to God and the Holy Spirit and lived your life trusting in God's plan for you?