



By Dan Schaffer

Does My Life Have True Significance?

Almost from the moment men are born, we seek to establish our value and prove our significance. Our accomplishments—careers, sports, conquests—and our addictions are some of the things we use to evoke self-worth and demonstrate our value to others. We tend to search for significance by focusing on ourselves and hoping to create something that will last, while at the same time we fear reaching the end of our lives only to discover that our time here has been insignificant.

From childhood through adolescence and into adulthood, our desire for significance influences our decisions and actions, even though we may not be aware of it. As we approach middle age, the quest for significance becomes a conscious motivation. What we desire is not just momentary significance; we desire to leave a legacy that will last. Many men in midlife find themselves at one of two points: Either they have accomplished their goals and find themselves asking, “Is this all there is?” or they realize that they are not going to reach the goals that they set for themselves, i.e., their means of gaining significance. The first will predictably lead to a midlife crisis; the second leads to despair. Are we doomed to search that cannot be satisfied. What is the alternative?

God has given us a powerful drive to reproduce biologically. This drive to reproduce after our own kind is what has kept us going as a people throughout the ages. It has also brought about abuse and pain. Could it be that we are trying to achieve through biological reproduction something that it was never meant to achieve? When we understand that God has called us to spiritually reproduce we see that our significance and legacy are based on our spiritual reproduction.

What God has set before us *is attainable and has eternal significance*. He has called His men to mature in their relationship with Him and to become spiritual reproducers who are spiritual fathers. This is the legacy that we as Christian men *can* and *must* leave.

In 2001, I was in Germany speaking on the effect of the “father vacuum” in the lives of people in modern society. While I shared this message over several weeks, God began working in a very unusual way: As I spoke and prayed with the men and women whom God brought into fellowship with me, they began to view me as a spiritual father.

I was at the airport leaving Germany when I spoke with one of the men that I had been ministering to during this eventful trip. I referred to him as “brother,” and he quickly stopped me. He told me that I was more of a spiritual father than a brother. I was uncomfortable with his statement and I called him a “brother” again. He stopped me again and said that I was more of a father to him.

During the flight back to the United States, God began to speak to me concerning the opportunities to be a spiritual father that I had missed. I had failed to recognize the possibility, the responsibility,

and the privilege of being a spiritual father. I had been so focused on establishing my value through “doing ministry” that I had failed to see the greater opportunity to build a spiritual legacy.

In the months following my return home, God opened my eyes to see men and women becoming whole and growing as they experienced the love and acceptance of a spiritual father. God has given us the power to give life or death and we will give one or the other. Are you giving life to those around you or death? Give life.

Some of you reading this are young men and this drive is not fully developed in you. Some of you are in your middle years and you are feeling a growing need to leave an eternal legacy. Some of you are in the final quarter of your life and you don’t see any way to have significance or leave a legacy. Whichever stage of life you are in you are the hope for the Church. If you allow God to mature you as a Spiritual Father this will be the greatest time of impact and legacy of your life.

Do you feel the need for significance? Do you desire to leave a legacy that will last for eternity? It is only through an intimate relationship with God that we can truly leave an eternal legacy. Are you willing to progress in your relationship with God from being a spiritual child to becoming a spiritual father? You can know God intimately and begin experiencing spiritual significance by reproducing the next generation of mature spiritual fathers (1 John 2: 12-14). *This can be your legacy*. Don’t miss it.

Levels of Maturity for Christian Men

Illustrated in John 2:12-14

Spiritual Child

- Has Sins Forgiven
- Begins to know the Father

Spiritual Young Man

- Strong in the Word of God
- Overcomes the evil one

Spiritual Father

- Knows God intimately and in beginning to know Him in His entirety
- Reproducing spiritual children

To give life we have to mature in our relationship with God until we reach the level of maturity so that we carry the DNA of life. I have been in the church for over 50 years and the best churches presented maturity with the characteristics given in 1 John 2. as the young man. No church has challenged me to be a Spiritual Father. We have not challenged nor have we provided a pathway that leads to knowing God intimately and become Spiritual Fathers. It is time to call God’s men to the pursuit of God and provide a pathway that invites the spirit of God to work.

God, come, and through your men, restore your church and give your men the opportunity to leave an eternal legacy.

BUILDING BROTHERS™

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Ministry Update

God has been at work in the hearts of men at the Evangelical Free Church in Alliance, Nebraska. It's been an incredible journey over the past 2 years. 8 years ago, there was no men's ministry. There were several attempts to start them, but to no avail. We tried a couple men's Bible studies, men's breakfasts with a program. Disappointment, frustration and low morale was the common denominator in our ministry. For whatever reason, men's ministry was not able to take hold in this small rural church. All that changed when we began the Building Brothers process. We started our group by selecting 4 elected male leaders from our church leadership and 4 men who had the potential to lead small groups. For 52 weeks these men met every Tuesday night and learned how to be honest with each other about the struggles of living out their faith. The 8 men began to change. The morale was rising to new levels. This began a new dynamic in church. Other men

wanted to get involved, but they could not join the first group of 8. So we began a men's study during the Sunday School hour. Some men who had never been to Sunday School were now coming to Sunday school with their wives and children. I could not believe what I was seeing. Since taking the first group of 8 men through building brothers we have now started new material and all men were welcomed to join. One year has past since we started our journey, and now, after starting our new material we now have 29 men attending our Tuesday night study. This translates into 5 new small groups where men are being empowered and transformed. It all started because one guy took his pastor to a Building Brothers seminar in Denver Colorado. To God be the Glory, Great things he has done.

Paster Robert Reuss
Evangelical Free Church of Alliance, NE

Current One Year Four-Phase Training Locations

Colorado Springs, Colorado
Denver, Colorado
Parker, Colorado
Montrose, Colorado
Fort Collins, Colorado
Alliance, Nebraska
Page, Arizona
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Akron, Ohio

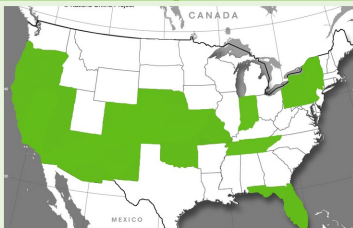
United Methodist Church
Port St. Lucie, Florida
Oviedo, Florida
Wichita, Kansas
Salina, Kansas
Jackson, Tennessee
Collierville, Tennessee

Church of God, 7th Day
Harrisburg, Pennsylvanna
New York City, New York
Las Vegas, Nevada
Toronto Ontario, California
Kansas City, Missouri
Topeka, Kansas

Churches in 2nd cycle
Marian, Oregon
Eugene, Oregon
Alliance, Nebraska
Denver, Colorado
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Wichita, Kansas

The Phase Process is a weekly meeting of the Clergy and key leaders using the interactive curriculum.

Visit the web site for more details.



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