

August 13, 2013

EXTREME FAITH

**What makes
a hero?**

"A person, who makes a radial impact on another person causing that person to be completely changed because of the interaction or experience."

What Makes A Hero?

A HERO HAS VISION AND GOALS FOR THEIR LIVES...

WHAT MAKES A HERO?

A hero has vision and goals for their lives...

What is your vision and what is your goal? if you don't know where you are going you most likely will never get there. In our discipline we have to have vision, and purpose. It is way cool to be a disciplined person, but if you are just disciplined and you don't have a vision or a goal, well then why are you disciplined?

Think about it like this, we have been talking a lot about your purpose in life, and the focus that the Gospel should play in your focus. Have you ever thought about the Gospel being the goal for your life? I want you to understand the Gospel is not just something that we share with other people but it is how we live. Our lives are suppose to be the Gospel lived out each day! If we are lacking discipline in our lives I can tell you from experience that it is impossible for you to live out the Gospel with your life! I have tried it and it only turns into a big mess. We have to stay connected to the source, to do that we must have discipline. Staying connected to the source and discipline go hand in hand. The source gives us power to do all the things that discipline sets us up to do! When we stay connected we live life out of the Spirit. Life by the Spirit is exactly what

leads us to a disciplined life with vision.

Check this out Galatians 5:16-18

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

I hope that makes sense to each and everyone of you, because there is a battle for us to live by the Spirit, and in that battle we have to know that it will take discipline to truly live out our purpose and to live out the Gospel each and every day. Why is this so important you might ask? Why should we seek to live out the Gospel? Because it is what you were made for. You will never live up to your fullest potential until you live out the Gospel everyday. It is a tall order and it cost a great deal, ` believe me it is worth it. Living a life with purpose, vision and a goal is the only way to live. Living life for what you were made for is the best adventure that you will ever have! So lets dig in and start this journey together!

**A HERO IS
DISCIPLINED...**



When we apply discipline to our lives and our relationship with God, **NOTHING is IMPOSSIBLE**. However we must ask the question are we being led by God or just following the crowd? It is easy to follow the crowd, it is what everyone else is doing. It is especially easy if you don't have a goal or vision for your life. When you have a goal or a vision for your life the goal and the vision is what you are chasing. Chances are that it is not the same direction that the crowd is going. Life by the Spirit is chasing after God.

What Makes a Hero?

"Let Go" by Barlow Girl

"Let Go"

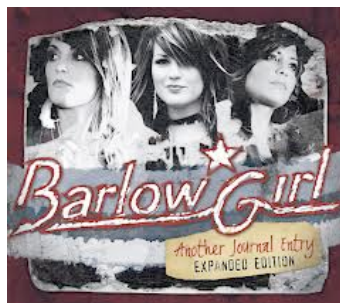
Yeah I trust in You
I remember times You led me
This time it's bigger now
And I'm afraid You'll let me down

But how can I be certain?
Will You prove Yourself again?

[Chorus:]
'Cause I'm about to let go
And live what I believe
I can't do a thing now
But trust that You'll catch me
When I let go
When I let go

What is this doubt in me
Convincing me to fear the unknown
When all along You've shown
Your plans are better than my own

And I know I won't make it
If I do this all alone



This song is featured on Another Journal
Entry
album
by Barlow Girl

REAL LIFE HERO'S

"EMPLOY YOUR WHOLE POWER UPON ME!"

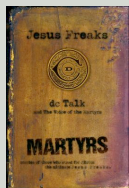
PROBIUS

ROMAN EMPIRE

CIRCA 250 AD

Probius was whipped until the blood flowed, then laden with chains and thrown into prison. A few days later, he was brought out and commanded to sacrifice to the heathen gods. He knew that he would be tortured and killed if he refused. Still he courageously said: "I come better prepared than before, for what I have suffered has only strengthened me in my resolution. Employ your whole power upon me, and you shall find that neither you, nor the Emperor, nor the gods you serve, nor even the devil, who is your father, shall compel me to worship idols" Probius was sent back to further tortures and eventual death by the sword.

You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you. C. S. Lewis



Featured Story
from the book
Jesus Freaks
Talk and the
voice of the
Martyrs

This is a very short story of a man's life, as it came to an end so very long ago. But what compelled me to put this story in the EFMag was this.

What was Probius's life before this moment, before he was thrown into prison and then later killed. His life had to be focused with purpose and vision. He did not follow the crowd, he was led by the Spirit! The crowd was worshipping idols and demons, they may not have believed in the false god's but they posed a front to keep from being trotted and killed. They played it safe and kept below the radar of the Roman government. Probius stayed true to his vision and what he knew to be true.

What about you, how you doing at this? Are you living by the Spirit? Are you staying true to what you know is true? I believe that you are, because you are a Hero, and you are a champion fighting the fight and living for the truth of the Gospel. Keep up the fight and stay true to the truth that you know is true!

BEING A HERO

EXTREME APPLICATION

Purpose never stops! Once you have purpose for your life, the reason that you breath each breath, it will never stop driving you and pushing you forward! Life by and through the Spirit will give you purpose and vision for your life, and nothing will be the same.

Think About it (The tension of Vision and Goals)

When you have a vision for your life your life changes. It becomes about the vision, it becomes about the goal. You work everyday with the finish line in sight! You may not even be able to see the finish line but you run towards it every day!

When you get a vision and you start running towards it you will leave the crowd, and you will have purpose in your life that creates tension. While everyone else is moving here and there, towards their own vision or just the vision of the crowd you will find that you are no longer part of the crowd. This is when the tension starts, everybody wants everyone else to be the same and to do the same things as everyone else. But not you! You have vision you have purpose and you are driven to see the finish line. You become something that most people don't understand. You don't fit in the box, your life is lived by different standards. You run with others who have the same values and same purpose. You create a movement that challenges the crowd to live for something more!

You become a culture changer, you challenge others to join you and find their purpose and vision for their lives. You do this by running your race, keeping your finish line before you at all times. The tension is there but it is not stronger or more powerful than your vision and your purpose. You are moving towards something and many things will try to pull you away but the resolution you have is clear.

Find your vision and your identity and never look back to what you once were!



DIG IN

Read Galatians 5:16-18 (NIV) Life by the Spirit

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

What is your purpose and vision for your life?

How are you different than the crowd?

List out what you think are steps to living life by the Spirit:

How does purpose and vision help you to live by the Spirit?

Try this everyday this week: Pray and ask God to show you a vision for your life, as you live with the purpose of sharing Jesus with the world. Ask God to help you live by the Spirit each day. Then look for changes in your life as things become guided by the Spirit.

Use your journal, or the journal page attached to this EFMag. write down what you experience this week. Be ready to share about it next week in small group time!

Hero: "A hero has vision and goals for their lives..."

Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your thoughts...

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.