



# POWER *for* LIVING

A quarterly publication of Empowered Living Ministries

April - June 2007

Dear friends,

At long last they're here! *Parenting Your Teen by the Spirit* and *Men of Power: Reclaiming Your Legacy* are now available for you! Order your copies today!

This issue's article features both books and gives you just a peek into what you'll find inside each volume. *Parenting Your Teen by the Spirit* sells for \$15 while *Men of Power: Reclaiming Your Legacy*, a hardbound edition, sells for \$17. Quantity discounts are available for both books.

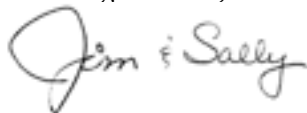
*Parenting Your Teen by the Spirit* is for you! In fact, Sally's special burden is for those teens and parents who have not "done it all right" or for those who want to do it even better. She unfolds simple principles illustrated in the framework of real-life teens that will work for everyone. By God's Spirit and His principles, we can help our young people to transition successfully over the bridge of adolescence.

You may have read *Parenting by the Spirit* and *Parenting Your Child by the Spirit*. But *Parenting Your Teen by the Spirit* is distinct in that the teen years represent a unique period of parenting. And even those of us beyond the teen years will find relevant help for those "history issues" that dictate our responses to life today. If you are a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or friend of a teen—or if you yourself are a teen—you won't want to miss this valuable resource.

*Men of Power: Reclaiming Your Legacy* shares how any man can recover the legacy of real manhood. It's really not complicated. You can become a real man—a man of courage, integrity, heart and purpose. Discover true intimacy. Regain the hearts of your children. Overcome pornography. Gain control of your life. Become a man of power—reclaim your legacy!

The **Fourth Annual Open House** is just around the corner—Tuesday through Saturday, July 24-28. We're looking forward to seeing you there! Perhaps you'll be playing stumpie or volleyball. You're sure to love tubing down the river with us. There'll be time to enjoy some quiet reflection in the shade of the trees. Contact our office at 406-387-4333 or check our website at [www.EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org](http://www.EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org) for more information.

Pressing forward,



## SPEAKING SCHEDULE

March 29 - April 1, 2007  
Empowered Living Camp Meeting  
Athens, TX  
Call (706) 398-7218

April 6-9, 2007  
Amazing Discoveries  
Millau, France  
Call (011) 33-5-65-59-8534  
[marc.fury@laposte.net](mailto:marc.fury@laposte.net)

April 26-29, 2007  
Empowered Living Camp Meeting  
Grizzley Flats, CA  
Call (707) 225-2265

May 17-20, 2007  
Empowered Living Camp Meeting  
E. Oxford, WI  
Call (715) 343-1751

June 7-10, 2007  
Stuttgart, Germany  
Call (011) 911-518-1549  
[info@amazing-discoveries.org](mailto:info@amazing-discoveries.org)

June 15-17, 2007  
Tirga Mures, Romania  
Call (011) 40722-268777  
[b.blenessy@megadata.ro](mailto:b.blenessy@megadata.ro)

July 5-8, 2007  
Empowered Living Camp Meeting  
Hood River, OR  
Call (541) 399-3020



EMPOWERED  
LIVING  
MINISTRIES

*It's About Walking With God!*

# The Wings of Decision

*“I bare you on eagles’ wings,  
and brought you unto Myself.”*

*Exodus 19:4*

**T**wo young eagles surveyed the vast horizon from the edge of their nest built high on a rocky crag. One said to the other, “I want freedom to do as I please, with no one to tell me what to do. I want to live life my way.”

His sibling replied, “I want to follow our faithful Father. I’ve seen him soar successfully, and I want to fly his way.”

The first eaglet spread his wings and launched himself confidently off the nest. Father eagle offered help, but the younger ignored him. He thrilled as the wind rushed over his wings and he veered right and left. He exulted, “Yes! This is what real flight feels like!” But he failed to notice the direction he was heading was down. He thought he was flying when, in reality, he was free falling. Too late, he saw the earth coming up quickly toward him, and CRASH—he landed in a crumpled heap. Sadly, this picture represents the life of many youth today—independent from their Creator God and free falling toward eternal death.

The second eaglet trustingly waited. He listened carefully to distinguish his father’s voice from the other voices around him, and when he heard his father call him to jump, he launched himself off the nest. He, too, thrilled as the wind rushed over his wings. He watched his father closely, listened carefully for instructions, and imitated his movements. Suddenly, he saw the earth coming up rapidly toward him. However, just before he crashed, his father swooped under him and carried him on his back safely to his lofty mountain nest. The eaglet repeated this experience over and over, gaining strength, until he

learned to fly well.

We all want our youth to fly above the pull of their flesh, don’t we? We want them to have self-control and upright manners. How are these things inculcated? How is this accomplished?

Matthew, age sixteen, approached his father. “I’ve been reading Sam Campbell’s books, and I want to find that mysterious ‘Sanctuary Lake’ he talks about. Let’s plan a family outing to the Quetico area of the Boundary Waters to search it out.”

“Matthew, we live in the most beautiful, vast wilderness area in the United States. Let’s play in our own back yard.”

Jim hoped that this would be the end of the matter, but it wasn’t. This was a test. What happens in families when there are differing opinions and one or more family members “exercise their wings” independently of God? It produces conflict and tension in the home, doesn’t it? On the other hand, what happens if each family member “exercises his or her wings” under God? When Jim spent time to know God’s will he got a surprise. “Jim, get into your son’s dreams. You need to go on that quest for Sanctuary Lake. It will be good for everyone.”

“But I don’t want to, Lord . . . but I’m willing to yield to You.”

“Jim, think about what this will mean to your son—not only that you are willing to get into his dreams, but also how it can motivate him to face hard things.”

“Matthew, let’s take that trip!”

“Really, Father? Really?”

“Yes, really! However, you’ll need to make all the calls and do all the planning for the trip.”

Matthew’s eyes got big, and he was a little less enthusiastic. “Oh, Father, you’re asking a hard thing of me. I don’t like to talk on the phone.”

“Well, that will be the price for going, Son. If you are really going to get into selling real estate someday, you may as well learn now how to make cold calls, talk with people, get information, and do research. God is by your side, and I am here

to counsel and coach you as well.”

Matthew consulted God and accepted the challenge. This was a jump out of the nest into a new, uncharted experience for Matthew.

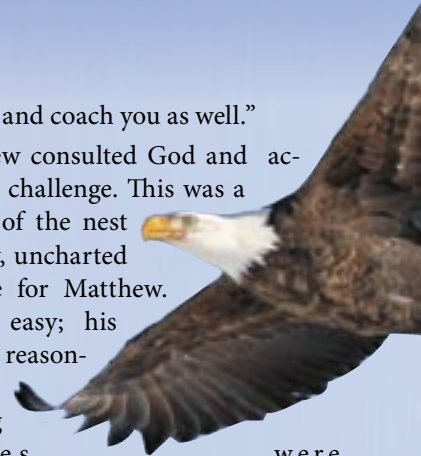
It wasn’t easy; his thinking, reasoning, and planning abilities were stretched. He chose to face his fears with God. Muscles of dependence on God, decision, and confidence grew with repeated exercise.

Finally, our vacation time arrived. All four of us were tested to the limits of our endurance, and it is always tempting at such times to exercise our wings of decision apart from God. Satan was at hand to suggest such peevish thoughts as, “Whose idea was this, anyway?” “Andrew, are you sure you’re carrying your fair share?” “Matthew, you are in my way.” “Sally, can’t you move any faster?”

But God was there too. “Encourage each other,” He whispered.

“Andrew, you’re carrying that load like a real trooper!” “Matthew, this is a great adventure you planned. We’ll never forget this!” “Father, you are doing a tremendous job with that heavy load!” “Mother, you can do it! I know you can!” As we cooperated with God, we began to enjoy the challenge of seeing what we actually could accomplish. By God’s grace, we would not be defeated! Of course, we had to cooperate with God, adjusting our attitudes more than once, and this exercise built perseverance.

After eight days, we had traced Sam Campbell’s route deep into the Quetico traveling twenty to twenty-five miles a day by water in addition to the portages. We had arrived in the area where we knew only one final leg remained. Finding it among the many possibilities was not easy. However, the details of what we were searching for were etched in Matthew’s mind. He and Andrew led the way, asking God for direction. We ventured into a string of lakes that seemed to fit the





description. The farther we went, the more excited Matthew became. "I think this one is it!"

Human words are insufficient to express the joy of finding the object of our search. The hardness of the way was insignificant. The aching muscles were forgotten. The low food rations didn't matter. We had found Sanctuary Lake! Our search was successful. We were a real team! "Hip, Hip, Hurrah" we all shouted!

We then turned back toward home anticipating a reasonable pace and pleasant trip. However, we awakened the next morning to a change in weather. Soon, rain began to fall—then to pour. We donned our rain gear, hurriedly packed up our camp, and loaded our canoes. Through two long miserable days, we paddled and portaged through the rain and wind. Once again, feelings of anger and frustration begged to be expressed. You understand what I mean, don't you? When you are tired and things don't go the way you expect them to and really want them to, negative thoughts and feelings seem so believable.

Once again, our heavenly Flight Instructor was present. "You can be cheerful. You can overcome this difficulty, too. Encourage your teammates, your family!"

As usual, the boys were leading the way. As I paddled, each stroke was a prayer for strength and endurance. Suddenly, a new sound caught my ear—a sound that contrasted marvelously with the howl of the wind and the splash of raindrops. It lifted my spirits at once! It was the sound of two weary pilgrims, yielded to God—and singing cheerfully "A Mighty Fortress is Our God!"

God wants us each, in our day-to-day lives, to find this experience of true spiritual flight. He calls us to exercise our wings of decision for Him, to flap our wings of self-control against discouraging odds. He is waiting and willing to help anytime we cry out to Him and exercise our muscles of surrender and cooperation to follow Him.

Won't you exercise your wings of decision under God's direction? Won't you let Him teach you to fly above the gravity of the world, the flesh, and the devil? Won't you help your youth to do the same?

Excerpted from Sally's latest book, *Parenting Your Teen By the Spirit*.

## I'm Here For You...Period!

Arriving at last, we were ushered into the hospital room, just ten minutes after the birth of little Landon James. He rested in his crib, quiet yet alert. But it was not the first sight of my new grandson that so captivated me. It was Andrew! Andrew was bending over his new little son, his hands grasping the tiny infant's, his gaze transfixed by Landon's. A sacred hush enveloped the room. The intensity of the connection being made between that little baby and his father was palpable.

I couldn't help remembering when I first became a father. I didn't understand true fatherhood. I didn't grasp the commitment needed to get the results desired. I was fully prepared to provide a comfortable home, food and clothing, a superior education, and a good social life. I thought that was about all there was to fatherhood.

It wasn't until I moved to the wilderness and invested real time with God that I came to understand in a new and fundamentally different way what fatherhood was all about. I discovered what it meant to be a father as I learned what it was like to have a Heavenly Father—the kind the Bible refers to as Abba Father (Galatians 4:6)—a Daddy, a Papa, One upon Whom you can lean for support and find Him there for you.

Being a Father is so simple and yet so very profound that it escapes most of us, perhaps because of its very simplicity. We tend to think that anything worthwhile has to be difficult and complicated. I won't downplay the fact that true fatherhood requires much difficult self-denial, but it is not complicated. In fact, there are really only two types of characteristics or two sides of being an Abba Father, like our Heavenly Abba Father.

There is the tender side of fatherhood consisting of what I refer to as the softer virtues. These encompass such things as gentleness, meekness, kindness, love and mercy. They are expressed in the home by denying oneself for the good of others. Abba Fathers live to bring others joy even though it costs them of their time, their own desires, recreation, or interests. Having tasted of their Heavenly Father's love they fill the home's atmosphere with joy that springs from within. The tender side of Abba Father gives a soft answer when he feels provoked, and because he has learned to filter his words and actions patiently through his Abba Father, their patience is in control of circumstances.

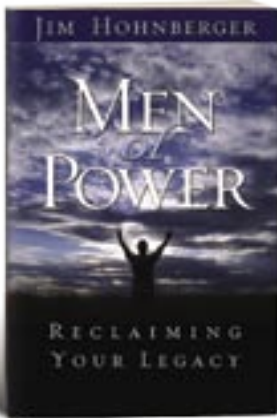


Abba Father endures all things knowing that God even the most unpleasant of life's circumstances and tender; he includes courage, strength, energy, perseverance, integrity, and justice. He will not wait until every obstacle is removed before he acts. He doesn't follow the crowd. Instead, he leads others to follow God. He stands firmly, as it were, in God's shadow, possessing the perseverance of a hero to resist evil and promote good.

Both the tender virtues and the firmer virtues are essential. Without our Abba Father, however, we are destined to be imbalanced. You see, a man who has only the softer virtues is not balanced any more than is a man who has only the firmer virtues. Think of the lessons of history. Neville Chamberlain was a man whose character was rich in the softer virtues, while Adolf Hitler had only the hard firm virtues. Chamberlain thought he could gain peace at almost any cost and has gone down in history a pitiful example of the follies of appeasement. Hitler walked out of their meetings thinking he had gained everything. Drunk with power and success, he felt he could conquer the world and so planted the seeds of his own destruction. Disconnected from God, both the firm and soft virtues will ultimately be used for selfish ends. But when cultivated under the influence of God's Spirit both sides provide essential tools enabling us to be there for them—Period!

Photo by Michael R. Babnick

Excerpted from Jim's latest book, *Men of Power: Reclaiming Your Legacy*.



**Fresh from the press!**

*Details inside this issue...*

*It's About Walking With God!*

**2007 Empowered Living Camp Meetings**

**July 5-8, 2007**  
Hood River, OR  
(541) 399-3020  
godsplan@gorge.net

**Open House**  
July 24-28, 2007  
Polebridge, MT  
(406) 387-4333  
office@empoweredlivingministries.org

**May 17-20, 2007** *New Location!*  
E. Oxford, WI  
(715) 343-1751  
pastordavidgl@netzero.net

**April 26-29, 2007**  
Grizzly Flats, CA  
(707) 225-2265  
christina@empoweredlivingministries.org

**October 18-21, 2007**  
Bourbon, MO  
(417) 661-6161  
empoweredfamilies@sbcglobal.net

**September 27-30, 2007** *New Location!*  
Angeles Oaks, CA  
(706) 398-7218  
cobos@empoweredlivingministries.org

**August 30-September 2, 2007**  
Cohutta Springs, GA  
(706) 398-7218  
cobos@empoweredlivingministries.org

**March 29-April 1, 2007** *New Location!*  
Athens, TX  
(706) 398-7218  
cobos@empoweredlivingministries.org

**December 6-9, 2007**  
High Springs, FL  
(706) 375-1707  
nrrnbcjp@comcast.net

"Power for Living" is available free of charge, and is sent out quarterly by mail.

If you or someone you know are not receiving it and wish to be added to our mailing list, please feel free to contact us.

For information on any of the materials or events mentioned in the publication you can reach us at:

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