



A quarterly publication of Empowered Living Ministries

July - September 2007

Dear friends,

One definition of courage is the ability to face difficulty, uncertainty, or suffering without being deflected from a chosen course of action. This kind of courage is uncommon—yet it is what distinguishes all who walk with God. Without it, we merely play the game of religion—going through the motions while lacking the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit.

God is willing to supply this kind of courage to anyone who will exercise it. This month’s article, “**Uncommon Courage**”, features how one man is doing just that. You can do it too!

Jim’s **Men of Power seminar on DVD** will be available soon! As a supplement to the book Men of Power, this resource can be used by men’s ministry groups, conferences, study groups, churches or individuals. Professionally recorded with a live audience of men, the presentations are dynamic, challenging, and interactive. They are the next best thing to having Jim in person. **Men of Power seminar on audio CD** will also be available soon. The DVD series is priced at \$39 and the audio series at \$28.

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. Plan to join us Saturday morning at 11:00 for a meaningful worship service. Bring your blankets or chairs to sit on the lawn and a picnic lunch to enjoy afterwards. Contact our office at 406-387-4333 or check our website at www.EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org for maps, options for camping or lodging, and more information.

Courageously,

SPEAKING SCHEDULE

July 5 - 8

Empowered Living Camp Meeting
Hood River, OR
Call (541) 399-3020

July 24 - 28

Fourth Annual Open House
Polebridge, MT
Call (406) 387-4333

August 30 - September 2

Empowered Living Camp Meeting
Cohutta Springs, GA
Call (706) 398-7218

September 27 - 30

Empowered Living Camp Meeting
Angelus Oaks, CA
Call (706) 398-7218

October 18 - 21

Empowered Living Camp Meeting
Bourbon, MO
Call (417) 661-6161

November 1 - 18

Brazil
Call (406) 387-4333



It's About Walking With God!

unCommon Courage



“Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

Luke 6:46

After returning home from our Texas Camp Meeting we received the following email from a gentleman named Michael Arcand:

“Dear Empowered Living Team,

“I just wanted to share with you what has happened in my personal life since I attended the camp meeting last week in Athens, TX. I have made a personal re-commitment to Christ, and have started walking with Him daily. It is still a struggle, but I have begun to hear and to listen. I have also come to a decision after reading half way through *Men of Power*.

“You see, I have an internet ministry site that I was very ‘proud’ of. I’m one of those conservatives that Jim said was always giving him a hard time. But the reality is that I am a front and a fraud. I have all the right beliefs and know all the right things ... but I don’t DO them and they are not changing my life or the spiritual life of my family.”

As I spoke with Michael, he shared with me the deep soul-searching he had been going through. He had carefully evaluated how good things in his life were stealing the best from him. And he had made a decision. More than that, he decided to hold himself accountable by making his decision

public. Here is what he posted on his website for all to read:

“I have prayed and prayed about this last weekend [ELM Camp Meeting in Texas], the messages from Jim Hohnberger, and what it should mean to me and my family. I have been reading *Men of Power* this week. I have discovered (admitted is probably more like it) that I am NOT a true man of power. At least not yet.

“You see, God has called us to do the work that lies nearest. In fact, Paul’s counsel to Timothy (1 Tim. 3:4, 5) tells us that men who are involved in church ministry should have their homes in order. We should be leading our families to Christ—this is our FIRST work. There is NOTHING that should take the place of us doing this work with our families. Not work, not church, not ministry, not outreach, not inreach, NOTHING. What good are we if we “win” the world for Christ, and lose our own families? Besides that, if our families are a failure, what real gospel (good news) do we have to share? We attend church, say the right things, do the right programs, and we think everything is OK? If we are truly honest with ourselves, I believe that there is not 1 in 20 who can truly say that they have a vital, daily connection with God and are following the path HE has laid out for their lives—not the one they have chosen.

“In light of these issues, I have a confession to make. I’m a front and a

fraud. That’s right. You heard me. I am a front and a fraud...because I portray myself as something I am really not. Sure, I know the doctrines, and I believe them. I know what present truth is, and I believe it. I am a church member ‘in good and regular standing’, and I believe in the mission of the church. I know what true health reform means, but I’m not living it. I claim to be a genuine Christian...but my life speaks otherwise.

“At home, I am cross with my wife and children on a daily basis. I lose my temper and get angry more often than not. The same thing goes for my job. My boss is not always the most pleasant person to work for, and as a result, I let him affect my attitude. I take it out on my subordinates. I have destroyed all witness that I have with the people I work with. They know better. In each and every area of my life, I have failed to exemplify Christ.

“So what can I do? Jesus said without Him we could do NOTHING. I have finally grasped this statement, and can apply it to my life. Without abiding in Him, daily, moment-by-moment, I don’t stand a chance. If He couldn’t do it without constant communion with His Father, what makes me think I can do it?

“So where do I go from here? Well, there is a great article that explains it all entitled ‘Slow Down, Christian’. [You can read and/or download this article by going to www.EmpoweredLiving-Ministries.org, clicking on the link

for “Free Resources”, and then clicking on the link for articles.] There is also a chapter in the book *Empowered Living* that tells about it. It’s called ‘Less is More’. The bottom line is this: we must get rid of anything (and I mean anything) in our lives that stands between us and God, between us and the salvation of our families. Friends, it’s time to give up some things that we feel might be good, to obtain the best that Jesus has for our lives. Paul said that all things were lawful for him, but not everything was expedient. He feared coming under the power of anything that would lead him away from Christ (1 Cor 6:12).

“I’m ashamed to admit where I’ve been in my Christian walk, but I’m not ashamed to tell you that I’m moving forward each day. I’m pressing toward the mark, lest after running the race I would be disqualified. I don’t want anything to stand in the way of my walk with Christ. I realize now, more than ever before, the solemn responsibility that has been placed upon me as the high priest of my home. I have a duty to my God, and my family that nothing should take the place of.

“It is with these thoughts and convictions in mind that I am going offline. I have decided that one of the greatest draws that I personally have that distracts me from God and my family is my time on the computer. Whether it is good (such as the ministry website) or acceptable (such as doing research, checking email, reading the headlines, etc), it is taking time away from what is THE BEST. I will not continue to give my time to things of secondary importance. Besides, what do I have to share with you folks if I don’t have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit directing my life at home? You don’t go to the frontlines if there is trouble in the base camp.

“While I have enjoyed my time online, I cannot and will not continue to trade my time there for the more important things of my life. Please keep me in your prayers as I journey down the road less traveled, to a final destination prepared and designed by our Heavenly Father. May His will be done, and may I find the strength in Him to lay down my life daily, submitting my will to that of the Father. I hope you find the uncommon courage to do the same.” *elm*

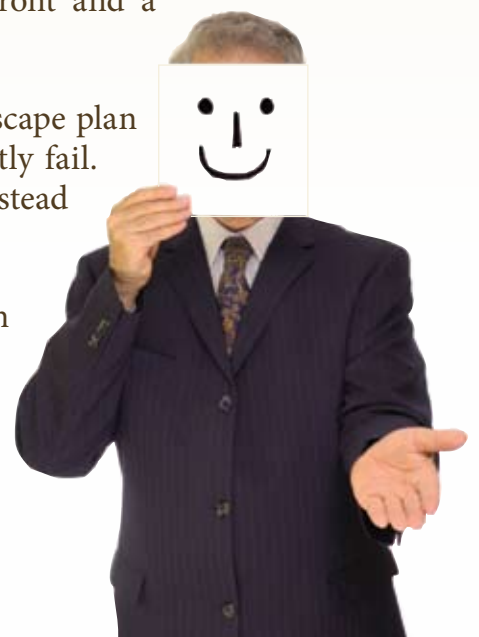
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AM I FOOLING MYSELF?

- ✓ Do I go through the motions of Christian living, but give way to despair, irritation, frustration, lust, over-commitment or discontent on a regular basis?
- ✓ Am I different at church than I am at home?
- ✓ Do I treat outsiders better than I treat my own family?
- ✓ Do I make time to help others while my family has to flounder without me?
- ✓ Do I prefer discussions about new and interesting religious ideas over meeting the real needs of my loved ones?
- ✓ Is it easier for me to point out the faults of my spouse, my children, my friends, or the church than to honestly list my own?
- ✓ Do I blame circumstances for my failings?
- ✓ Is my “in church” experience a substitute for my “in Christ” experience?
- ✓ Do I find more joy in sharing a book about the Ten Commandments than I do in heeding the Holy Spirit when He quietly suggests an application of God’s principles?

REMOVING THE FRONT

1. Acknowledge honestly to yourself, to God, and to others the specific ways that you are a front and a fraud.
2. With God, write out a fire escape plan for the area where you constantly fail. You need to know what to do instead of the wrong.
3. Make your plan of action public. Become accountable to someone. Practice it over and over again.





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COLUMBIA FALLS, MT 59912

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KALISPELL, MT

It's About Walking With God!

2007 - 2008 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, 2008
E. Oxford, WI
(715) 343-1751
pastordavidgl@netzero.net

April 24-27, 2008
Grizzly Flats, CA
(918) 807-1596
bryan.harding@yahoo.com

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

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

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

March 27-30, 2008 (tentative)
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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Office: (406) 387-4333 Fax: (406)387 4336 Order Toll Free: (877) 755-8300