



# MEN'S DEVOTION

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS.  
DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR I AM WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.

BASED ON THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY

# HACKSAW RIDGE

FROM THE ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR OF BRAVEHEART AND THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

IN THEATERS NOVEMBER 4

Facebook Twitter Instagram YouTube @HacksawRidge #HacksawRidge HacksawRidge.movie DEMAREST IM GLOBAL A FILM ARSENT [THE] [RE] [L]

# The Movie

HACKSAW RIDGE is the extraordinary true story of WWII medic Desmond Doss, played by Andrew Garfield (The Amazing Spiderman), who, in Okinawa during the bloodiest battle of WWII, miraculously saved 75 men in a matter of hours, without firing or carrying a gun. He was the only American soldier in WWII to fight on the front lines without a weapon, except the simple prayer he uttered before he single-handedly evacuated the wounded from behind enemy lines, under constant enemy gunfire and artillery bombardment.

Doss' courage and faith won the admiration of his commanders and fellow soldiers, as he saved the lives of the very men who had persecuted him for refusing to carry a gun. He believed the war was just, but to kill under any circumstance was wrong. Doss was labeled the first conscientious objector (he called himself a "conscientious cooperater" as he volunteered) to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Hacksaw Ridge - coming to theaters nationwide November 4th, 2016 - is directed by Mel Gibson (Braveheart, The Passion of the Christ) and also stars Sam Worthington, Luke Bracey, Teresa Palmer, Hugo Weaving, Rachel Griffiths and Vince Vaughn.

# Hacksaw Ridge

## Men's Devotion

### Why a devotion?

*"Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the LORD your God." - 1 Chronicles 22:19*

The ultimate goal for doing a devotional is to get to know God better. He has spoken to us through His Word, and devotionals allow us to sit quietly in His presence and listen. For the Christian, getting close to God is NOT an option. In drawing close to God, He draws close to us, and thus we are fulfilled. We find peace, comfort, joy, direction, love, and conviction when we set aside time to spend with God, daily.

If you're not in the habit of spending time in God's presence and in Bible reading, we pray that this 4-week devotional will help you truly desire and enjoy your time in the Word of God and that you will start to see real transformation in your spiritual life.

In doing devotional Bible studies, readers need to be consistent. Have a regular time and place to do your reading. Don't get legalistic about your devotion but get into a healthy habit of making it a scheduled priority. While you're reading, look for ways to apply the Scriptures to your life. Another important component to add to your devotional time is prayer. Prayer is having a heartfelt conversation with God. Begin and end your devotion time with prayer. Ask God to help you understand what you are about to read and then pray for God's help to apply what you have read to your life.

# About the Author

## About the Author

Jody Burkeen is the founder and president of *Man Up God's Way Ministry*. This ministry was birthed out of a desire to change the way Christian men "do" Christianity.

Jody's self-described "Damascus Road Transformation" led him on a journey to search the Scriptures to find what he had been missing his whole life – Jesus Christ. In this journey, the Word of God took over in a way he never expected. Searching for men in the church to help him in his walk, he found very little help. What he did find were men that needed the same kind of help he did.

Through *Man Up God's Way Ministry*, it is Jody's hope that he can challenge men to live a life on fire for God. His ministry is designed to empower men to be godly in an ungodly world, to strengthen men as they grow in their knowledge of God, to help them realize their victorious identity in Christ, to catapult men into new levels of desire for God's purpose to be fulfilled in their lives, and to teach men how to be bold leaders in their families, churches and communities. To help achieve these goals, Jody speaks to men's groups around the country.

A husband, father, speaker, author and pastor, Jody has written two books: *Man Up - Becoming a Godly Man in an Ungodly World* and *Pursuit of a Godly Life*. He also co-authored a book called, *The Marriage Advance*.

Jody has been married to his wonderful wife, Nan, since 1990, and has four beautiful children.

## Website and Social Media

[Man Up God's Way Website](#)



Download the Man Up God's Way App in [iTunes](#) and [Google Play](#).

For more information about Man Up God's Way or to book Jody Burkeen to speak at your next men's retreat or church event, email: [info@manupgodsway.org](mailto:info@manupgodsway.org)

HACKSAW RIDGE Motion Picture Artwork and Clips © 2016 Summit Entertainment, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

[www.hacksawridgeresources.com](http://www.hacksawridgeresources.com)

# How to Use This Devotion

## **WEEK 1 - THE SOURCE**

Power usually comes from a source. In this devotion, we want you to understand that God's Word is the source of power that enables you to be victorious in your daily walk. The first 5 days will demonstrate that you need God's Word in your daily walk and encourage you to make it the source from which you draw your power.

## **WEEK 2 - THE GROWTH**

Growth comes from being continually fed, watered and cared for. If you are in the military, you can relate to how much you grew with the rigorous and continual training you received. Week 2 will give you the training you need to keep growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

## **WEEK 3 - THE STRENGTH**

The strength required to win a war is unmeasurable. Every man digs deep to find that last ounce of determination and will to win. The spiritual battle is no different. The enemy is unseen but is no less real! We all have to rely on God and God's Word to give us the strength to endure. Week 3 will show you how to be battle ready!

## **WEEK 4 - THE SIX**

On a battlefield, your "six" is the most vulnerable. So, when someone tells you that they've "got your six," it means they're watching your back. By extension, that person expects you to have their back as well. Discipleship is no different. We must have men willing to sacrifice their time, money and talents to "watch the backs" of men that are struggling in their Christian walk. Week 4 will help you become a disciple-maker and show you why it's important to have "the six" of other men!

## THE REAL DESMOND DOSS STORY

On April 1, 1942, Desmond Doss joined the United States Army. Three and a half years later, he stood on the White House lawn, receiving the nation's highest award for his bravery and courage under fire. Of the 16 million men in uniform during World War II, only 431 received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Among these was a young Seventh-day Adventist Christian who refused to carry a gun and had not killed a single enemy soldier. His only weapons were his Bible and his faith in God. President Harry S. Truman warmly held the hand of Corporal Desmond Thomas Doss, as his citation was read to those gathered at the White House on October 12, 1945. "I'm proud of you," Truman said. "You really deserve this. I consider this a greater honor than being president."

When Pearl Harbor was attacked, Desmond was working at the Newport News Naval shipyard and could have requested a deferment. But he was willing to risk his life on the front lines in order to preserve freedom. He wanted to be an Army combat medic and assumed his classification as a conscientious objector would not require him to carry a weapon. When he was assigned to an infantry rifle company, his refusal to carry a gun caused his fellow soldiers to view him with disdain. They ostracized and bullied him. One man warned, "Doss, when we get into combat, I'll make sure you don't come back alive."

Desmond was raised with a fervent belief in the Bible. He took the Ten Commandments, personally—especially the words, "Thou shalt not kill." He also took the fourth commandment seriously. His religious upbringing included weekly church attendance, on the seventh day. The Army was exasperated when he asked for a pass to attend church every Saturday. His officers saw him as a liability, a soft spoken skinny kid from the south and a Bible reading misfit. They tried to intimidate him, gave him extra duties, falsely declared him mentally unfit and attempted to court martial him. He believed his duty was to obey God and serve his country—in that order, and he refused to leave.

Desmond served in combat on the islands of Guam and Leyte. In each military operation, he exhibited extraordinary dedication to his men. While others were taking life, he was busy saving life. As enemy bullets whizzed past and mortar shells exploded around him, he repeatedly ran to treat a fallen comrade and carry him back to safety. By the time they reached Okinawa, he had been awarded two Bronze Stars for valor.

In May, 1945, Japanese troops were fiercely defending Okinawa, the only remaining barrier to an allied invasion of their homeland. The American target was capturing the Maeda Escarpment, an imposing rock face the soldiers called, Hacksaw Ridge. After they secured the top of the cliff, Japanese forces suddenly attacked. Officers ordered an immediate retreat. As a hundred or more lay wounded and dying on enemy soil, one lone soldier disobeyed those orders and charged back into the firefight. With a constant prayer on his lips, he vowed to rescue as many as he could, before he either collapsed or died trying. His iron determination and unflinching courage resulted in at least 75 lives saved that day, May 5, 1945, his Sabbath.

Several days later, during an unsuccessful night raid, Desmond was severely wounded. Hiding in a shell hole with two riflemen, a Japanese grenade landed at his feet. The explosion sent him flying. The shrapnel tore into his leg and hip. While attempting to reach safety, he was hit by a sniper's bullet that shattered his arm. His brave actions as a combat medic were over. But not before insisting that his litter-bearers take another man first before rescuing him. Wounded, in pain, and losing blood, he still put the safety of others ahead of his own.

Before being honorably discharged from the Army in 1946, Desmond developed tuberculosis. His illness progressed and at the age of 87, Corporal Desmond Thomas Doss died on March 23, 2006. He is buried in the National Cemetery, Chattanooga, Tennessee. For more information, please visit: [www.desmondoss.org](http://www.desmondoss.org)

## What does it mean to Man Up God's Way?

### Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.* **John 3:16**

*"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and You will find rest for your souls."* **Matthew 11:28-29**

*"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."* **John 3:36**

### Call upon the name of Jesus

*"And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.* **Acts 2:21**

*...Behold, now is "the acceptable time," behold, now is "the day of salvation."* **2 Corinthians 6:2b**

### Confess Jesus as your Savior

*If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.* **Romans 10:9-10**

### Repent and turn away from your sins

*Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.*

**James 1:21**



If you want to take the first step, man up! Invite Jesus Christ to be your Savior and Lord, receive God's forgiveness, and sincerely turn from your sinful ways. Pray the prayer below. It will not save you on its own, but when it's said with a humbled, repentant heart, you will be saved!

Don't wait another day trying to "complete" your life with the things of this world. Let Jesus fill the emptiness of your soul and lead you to eternal life

FATHER, I KNOW THAT I HAVE BROKEN YOUR COMMANDS AND MY SINS HAVE SEPARATED ME FROM YOU. I AM TRULY SORRY, AND NOW I WANT TO TURN AWAY FROM MY SINFUL LIFE AND TURN TOWARD YOU. PLEASE FORGIVE ME AND HELP ME AVOID SINNING AGAIN. I BELIEVE THAT YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST, DIED FOR MY SINS, WAS RESURRECTED FROM THE DEAD, IS ALIVE, AND HEARS MY PRAYERS. I INVITE JESUS TO BECOME THE LORD OF MY LIFE, TO RULE AND REIGN IN MY HEART FROM THIS DAY FORWARD. PLEASE SEND YOUR HOLY SPIRIT TO HELP ME OBEY YOU AND DO YOUR WILL FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

IN JESUS' NAME, I PRAY. AMEN.

God bless you. If you need more information or just want to talk, you can reach us at: [info@manupgodsway.org](mailto:info@manupgodsway.org) Or visit [www.manupgodsway.org](http://www.manupgodsway.org)

## THE SOURCE

### Day 1-

*For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18)*

If you were in the military, many of you will remember the "rubber M16." It looked real, felt real, but it had no real power.

Throughout basic training, you were taught how to hold it, use it, and not lose it. You were shown the proper way to carry it and to store it. The training was to prepare you for the real thing. Once you received the real M16, it had a lock on it. You could disassemble it, clean it, and reassemble it. You could cock it and even pull the trigger, but yet it still had no real power.

Then finally came that one day! That day you were on the firing range and your drill instructor took off the red lock and handed you a full magazine. It was at that moment you realized you had the power to take a life and to save a life. Power like that made you feel invincible.

Your unopened Bible is much like the "rubber M16." It looks real and feels real, but has no real power when it's closed. The moment you open it, it's much like a real M16 with the lock. You can turn the pages, highlight verses, and read the contents, but yet it still has no real power.

But when you start to read your Bible daily, memorizing Scripture and applying them to your life, you now have the power of a fully loaded M16. You can help take lives from the hand of the enemy by sharing the gospel and you can help save lives by learning to love God and love others.

First Corinthians 1:18 says that the gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to save us. The Word of God is invaluable. It trains us to live victoriously through all the battles we will face. It teaches us who we are as conquerors and empowers us to triumph. Unlock the power of God's Word in your life by starting a daily regimen of Bible reading, praying and repenting of your sins. Learn to fight with the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Challenge

In addition to reading this devotional, set up a time and place to begin the spiritual discipline of reading your Bible daily. Make this place yours! Get comfortable but not so comfortable you fall asleep. Try to begin your devotion at the same time every day! If this is new to you, begin by reading the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), then work your way from there. Spend this time to reading Scripture in order for God to speak to you.

### Prayer

Pray that God will give you a hunger and love for the Scriptures and the discipline to make prayer and Bible reading a priority in your life.

**CLIP # 1 - Watch Dorothy give Desmond her Bible right before he leaves for boot camp. You'll later see just how important it was to Doss. [CLICK HERE](#)**

## THE SOURCE

### Day 2-

*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)*

To truly understand God's will for your life and to get trained and equipped to fulfill it, you need to know what is written in the Bible. And the only way to do that is to open it and read it daily!

God has a battle plan! It was penned by several different authors, written in 3 different languages and preserved over a 1,500-year period. The books of the Bible were written with very different styles and contain the message God meant for us to have. It's the bestselling book of all time, and more people are changed because of these writings than any other literary works. It is Holy Spirit-inspired and infallible.

Once you begin to spend time in the Scriptures, you will understand why it should be the main source for teaching, correction, and training in righteousness.

God's Word provides you with the guidance you need to follow Christ. Daily time with God through the Scriptures will change you, equip you and enable you to be the man that God has called you to be. It is the basic training manual for every Christian Soldier.

In the movie, Desmond Doss is portrayed as an avid reader of the Scriptures. Not only does he devote time to reading, but more importantly, he also applied them. Sticking with the discipline of daily reading God's Word will equip you to live out a victorious Christian life.

When I first became a Christian, I came into it with the mindset that there were certain sins and habits I liked. I thought that I wasn't going to change them. But after I began to fall in love with the Scriptures, God began to whittle away my sinful habits one at a time.

Once I read in Matthew 5:28, "... everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." All along I just assumed that I'm not supposed to have a physical affair, but after reading this verse I saw that God wants so much more. He wants our heart, soul, and mind.

When I realized God has a better way and plan for me, I started applying His truths to my life. This empowered me to control my lustful ways and get control of my porn addiction. This life change helped me get my marriage back in order.

### Challenge

As you keep searching the Scriptures, the source of your spiritual power, look for a truth that you can apply to a current situation in your life. God has something for you in his Word.

### Prayer

Pray today that God will show you a specific truth in His Word that you need to apply to a specific struggle in your life.

## THE SOURCE

### Day 3-

*... His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. (2 Peter 1:3)*

In boot camp, the number one goal for the drill sergeant is to train you to follow orders, which serve to keep yourself and others alive in the time of battle. The drill sergeant trains you in a way that helps you understand the source of your orders, and conditions you to follow them no matter what the cost. You dig deep when the battle begins and you remember all the training you received now that you are confronted with the enemy. All of a sudden the pushups, the miles run, and the thousand rifle drills make sense.

The spiritual battle is no different. God wants you to understand that the source of your power comes from him and helps you to become the warrior God designed you to be. Your life will align with the Word of God the more you read and apply it. The best soldiers in the world never stop training. That is also true of a faithful Christian. They never stop seeking the truths in God's Word. Daily devotions and prayer time are a part of their regiment and should be a part of yours too. The more you read, the more you learn. The more you learn and apply, the godlier you become. And it's in your godliness that the enemy starts to take notice.

Spiritual battles take place every day and there is never a day when you don't need to be prepared. Jesus says, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy" John 10:10. In other words, whether you are ready or not, Satan will try to destroy you, your family, and anyone in his way. But in the second part of John 10:10, Jesus goes on to say "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Jesus promises to help us through the battles of this life. He wants us to have an abundant life, one that is fulfilling and victorious. The more we acknowledge that, the more we will rely on the truths of God's Word. And a fool proof way to know God's truths is to read them!

Throughout the movie, *Hacksaw Ridge*, we see Desmond Doss relying on the Word of God. It is his belief that the Bible is the sole authority for just about every step he takes in and out of battle. We all need to have that kind of faith when it comes to the battles you and I will face in this world.

### Challenge

As you continue in your daily reading, identify the spiritual battles that are going on in your life. It may appear that you are battling against a person, but Ephesians 6:12 says that we battle against evil spiritual forces, not flesh and blood. The first step in your victory is to know your enemy. Focus not on the person who causes you trouble or pain today, but instead see that struggle as Satan's attempt to make you fail as a Christian. Now that you know your true enemy, what can you start or stop doing to be sure you do not let him win?

### Prayer

Pray to God that He reveals the battles to you well before they sneak up on you. Ask God to open your eyes to see the schemes of Satan in those battles. Pray to be prepared. Remember - Jesus came so that we may have life and have it abundantly!

## THE SOURCE

### Day-4

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes... (Romans 1:16)*

God's powerful Word changes lives. As someone who didn't believe in God, I relied on my own strength, and to be honest, it really didn't get me anywhere. I kept trying to fill a "hole" in me with money, sex, drugs, and work. Nothing satisfied me. Addiction after addiction kicked in, while I tried to mask the pain. Nothing satisfied my soul.

It wasn't until 2003 that I finally had enough of trying to do life on my own. I humbled myself just enough for the power of the gospel to fill a little of the black hole of my soul. It was at that moment I believed that Jesus Christ was my Lord and Savior and I invited the Holy Spirit to fill my heart. I repented of my sins and that was the beginning of my change.

Now, it wasn't something that was outwardly noticeable at the time, but I knew something was working from the inside out. It was God's Word! Hebrews 4:12 says, *"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart"* (NIV). As I learned the importance of getting into the Word and disciplined myself to do it, I began to see true changes in me.

Throughout this devotion, let God's Word help you see areas of your life in which changes need to be made. You must believe in the gospel of salvation. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, change is already happening and the process of sanctification has begun. Each day we strive to grow in God's grace and walk out our commitment to follow Him. Jesus isn't waiting for you to "clean" up first and be sinless before accepting His saving grace; He wants you just the way you are! But He will not let you stay that way.

The more you read God's Word, the more truth you will see. Jesus said in John 8:32 "And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Don't stop reading your Bible! The enemy will tell you that you don't have time or that it won't help, but stay the course, be diligent and start your day with God's truth.

### Challenge

Reach out to someone you know that is a godly Christian man and ask him to help you in your walk as a Christian. There's no need to do it by yourself.

### Prayer

Pray that God would give you boldness today and help you to never be ashamed of your faith.

# THE SOURCE

## Day-5

*For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth. (Psalm 26:3)*

In 1990, I entered boot camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky. A 20-year-old punk who thought he had the world figured out, I remember getting off the bus around midnight and being confused about where I was. All of a sudden I wasn't so sure I had this world figured out, and the 160 guys with me felt the way I did. It was as if there were five drill sergeants for every new recruit; it was overwhelming! Drill sergeants were yelling from every corner, trying to get us in line.

Once we were finally in line, I situated myself at the back as far from the yelling as I could get. But somehow my drill sergeant spotted me from the front and barreled through the line of guys. Once he reached me, he stood nose to nose with me. The top of his hat was against my head. He said "Fat boy, you're going to be my project this semester." I think I peed a little on myself after that.

I went to boot camp a little above my fighting weight of 235 lbs. At 5'11" and not working out, I was a little pudgy. But over time, and with rigorous training, I weighed in at 185 lbs. and was ready to take on the world.

So how did I lose 50 lbs.? Agony and Misery! Yes, those are the feelings I felt, but they were also the names of the two hills at Fort Knox. These two hills were brutal at first in boot camp. Out-of-shape boys like me had to carry a 70-lb ruck sack and an M16 up and down both Agony and Misery! Going down was just as bad as coming up; either direction was fierce!

But after weeks of training and marching up and down those hills, it became easier. March after march, the whole platoon was able to get up and down without coughing up a lung. We all started to lose the fat and extra weight we did not need! We were becoming warriors.

Your spiritual walk is no different than my days in boot camp. Maybe you are new to Christianity and you are sinfully obese. The discipline of reading your Bible and seeking God's truth will help you shed the extra "worldly" weight you have put on. You will go through "agony" and "misery," but the end result will be well worth it. You will come out in the end ready to take on the world and be a warrior!

## Challenge

Don't stop now! Keep reading your Bible and be willing and ready to go through the "agony and misery" of letting God's Word and the Holy Spirit change you into a better and stronger Christian. Choose one area of your life that you've had a hard time giving to God and ask Him to take you through the difficult process of changing for the better. Ask God to make you who He wants you to be, even if it's painful.

## Prayer

Pray that God will show you the "worldly" weight you need to shed in order to come out as a warrior. Ask God to show you practical steps you may need to take in order to do so.

# THE GROWTH

## Day-6

*...Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)*

Every year around December 28, I begin to think of my New Year's resolution. Mine usually involves my weight or getting in shape, so I head to the local sporting goods store, where I buy the latest fitness equipment.

I start with new shoes. Everyone knows that if you are going to be a runner, you need to take care of your feet and get good shoes. Then I get a new jogging suit—a jogging suit that will keep me warm in the winter and cool in the summer. I also don't want one that is so tight I look like the mannequin that was wearing it in the store. Then I wait till January 1. That day I will be able to look back at the previous year and remember the first step I took to getting back in shape. Then "D-Day" arrives, I get my gear on, and I head out the door. I'm so excited I run two miles. Wow, what an accomplishment! This is going to be the best year ever for my health.

Then the next morning comes. I can't feel my legs. My hamstrings hurt when I walk because they are so tight. My toes feel like balloons and my pride, well, let's just say, there is none since I just had my wife put on my socks because I can't bend over.

So this is where my journey ends. It takes me a couple of days to recover and then my desire goes away. My shoes go into the closet and my jogging clothes in the drawer. By now I am hoping that somehow someone will create a pill, with no side effects, that will make me look like the picture I have in my mind. So I wait. (Excerpt from Pursuit of a Godly Life-Living Like Jesus Matters pg 12).

Just like exercise, it takes a concerted effort to get the results you want. Growth happens over time. For the next 5 days, that's what I want you to realize. It's going to take time. Just like Desmond Doss didn't quit, I don't want you to quit either! Keep reading and keep praying.

## Challenge

Growth comes from steadfastness. This week, buckle down and keep reading and seeking God's truth. You will see growth; don't give up! (Said in my drill sergeant voice). Tell someone your goal, for accountability.

## Prayer

Pray that you will continue to grow through God's Word. Ask God to give you opportunities to share God's Word with others.

## THE GROWTH

### Day-7

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (Galatians 5:22-24)*

Throughout the movie, Desmond Doss is challenged in a way that you and I may never experience. He is ridiculed, attacked, and laughed at, but he never turns from his convictions. He also never attacks in return, nor does he ever stoop to the level of the men who scoff at his beliefs.

Paul talked about this very thing in the verse above when he said **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."** As we begin to grow as Christians, as followers of Christ, the Holy Spirit starts to guide our lives. Our demeanor starts to change. This is the growth in focus this week.

Where we once had anger, love takes its place. Where we were miserable, peace replaces that misery. And where we once had no control, self-control becomes easier.

This is what Desmond Doss demonstrates in this scene:

**CLIP # 2- Desmond displays self-control in this scene where Smitty bullies him and takes the Bible that Dorothy gave him. [CLICK HERE](#)**

When we start growing in regards to the fruit of the Spirit, we can be courageous like Desmond Doss. The growth we are seeking through God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit will help us discern what battles we need to fight and from which ones to walk away.

### Challenge

What battles are you now encountering which you need to face and from which ones do you need to walk away? Spend some time right now and write a note about each of your battles – i.e. someone offended you and you're hurt; there is strife with your wife; there are struggles with your children; difficulties at work.. Not every issue presents a battle worth fighting.

### Prayer

Pray that God resolves in your heart some offenses with which you struggle. Ask God to let the fruit of the Spirit begin to manifest in your life.



# THE GROWTH

## Day-8

*But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, **Ephesians 4:15***

Have you ever seen the old muscle building ads by Charles Atlas? They portray a skinny kid on the beach that gets sand kicked in his face by a bully, while on a date with his girlfriend. He is obviously embarrassed, but in his weakness, there is nothing he can do.

He then buys a book from Charles Atlas to learn how to have a muscular body. He starts to work out and becomes a muscle man. Later, he returns to the beach in all his manliness to confront the bully.

Society tries to give us a picture of what a man should be— good-looking, successful, rich and tough. But God's Word offers us another perspective. A man should be humble (*James 4:6*) and a servant (*Mark 9:35*). Living by the standards of the Bible doesn't make a man weak. As a matter of fact, it makes him stronger and bolder than any other kind of man.

The goal of this devotion is multifaceted. One goal is to take you from being a 98 lb spiritual weakling to a spiritually buff, godly man. Desmond Doss, who was willing to die for his convictions, was a man that wouldn't back down and cave in to the pressures around him. That is the kind of man we want you to become.

Unfortunately, the world is full of 98 lb "spiritual weaklings" still living on the "milk" of God's Word and getting sand kicked in their face. Peter talks about the "pure milk" of the word, in respect to our salvation (1 Peter 2:2). This is where we begin, but we should not live on milk alone. We are to get to the place where we begin to feed on the "solid food" of God's Word. The writer of Hebrews 5:13 tells us, **"For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant."**

Men, moving from the milk of God's Word to the meat of God's Word is summed up in one word: maturity. For the last few days, I have been telling you to read your Bible. I don't want you to stop, but in order to mature in your faith in Jesus, you have to start living as God has commanded you in His Word. Don't forget--growth doesn't happen overnight! Stay the course and stay in God's Word.

## Challenge

As you continue to "work out" in God's Word, look for ways to share your story or testimony with a stranger. Spend time today and write down your testimony. Your testimony is your life before Christ, how you met Christ, and what has your life been since you met Christ. I always say you need to have a 2-minute, 10-minute and 45-minute version of your testimony. You never know when opportunities will arise to share it. Read my testimony [HERE](#).

## Prayer

Ask God to give you the courage and strength to grow in righteousness and share your story.

## THE GROWTH

### Day-9

*Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:11)*

If you joined the military in the last 20 years or so, you weren't taken immediately to the battle front lines. You were first given training to help you fight battles. You were taught how to use a weapon, who the enemy was, and how to survive. And then, once you were ready, you were given your orders and sent to fight the fight. Ready as you could possibly be.

Unfortunately, in the spiritual battle you are facing now, most likely you weren't given any training on how to use the weapon of God's Word or how to combat the enemy (Satan) and allow the Holy Spirit to direct your life. Many of you are trying to jump into the battle without a clue about how to fight or how to win.

Paul gives us a great word picture of how we are to prepare for the spiritual battle that lies ahead of us. First, Paul identifies our enemy: *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places"* (Ephesians 6:12). Then in verse 13 he begins to tell us how to prepare for battle: *"Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."*

Now, every soldier has his basic gear to get him through battle. The Christian soldier is no different. Later in the chapter (verses 14-17), Paul continues to tell us what we need to do to fight the battles. *"Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth."* Understand that the truths we need for battle come from God's Word. *"Put on the breastplate of righteousness."* Without righteousness we are open to Satan's attacks. *"Shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace."* The word "preparation," denotes *readiness* and reminds us that we are to be eager to preach the gospel of peace. *"In addition to all, [take] up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."* When our faith in God's love is strong, Satan doesn't stand a chance. *"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."* It's God's saving power that gives us hope when we face circumstances that may bring discouragement and despair. And when you wield the Word of God like a sword, you will conquer your enemies.

Men, it's time to suit up and get in the battle. As you grow in strength, stop sitting back at the supply line and help the rest of us fight! Let's lock shields and use the power that God has given us!

### Challenge

Spend a little time to do an inventory of your gear. Make sure you are battle ready each day and put on the FULL armor of God.

### Prayer

Pray to God each morning, as you wake up. Ask God to remind you to put on the full armor He has provided.

# THE GROWTH

## Day-10

*For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11)*

Throughout American history, the military has been built on men and women willing to lay down their lives for the freedom of family, friends and strangers. Millions have given their lives for the security and freedom of this great nation. That ought to make you pause and pray!

Without this dedication and sacrifice, there's no telling what our nation would be like. Freedom is our foundation and sacrifice is the cost to have it. Without the foundation, we would not have celebrated 240 years of independence.

In the Christian walk, our foundation is Christ himself. He came as a perfect sin offering to cover the multitudes of sin in our world. He gave His life in order for us to have eternal life. And He is coming back. But in order to have that security, we have to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, confessing that He is Lord and repenting of our sins.

For centuries men have created religions and gods to replace the one true God. They have perverted the way and built on other foundations. Many religion and gods have crumbled in the past, and all will crumble in the future. Jesus says, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6)*. As a Christ follower, our faith building begins with Him.

As men, you and I sometimes try to build our foundation on worldly things. It might be our job, money, family, or just our own pride. Whatever it is, if it's not Christ, it will fall. Christ has laid the foundation and now all we have to do is build upon it.

Once you realize Christ is the foundation of your faith and eternal life, you can start building up on that. The more you read the Bible, live out the truths within the cover, and start being more Christ-like, you begin the building God is asking us to do. As your faith is being built on Christ, the next thing you should do is help others build their faith. This is where the rubber meets the road.

Desmond Doss' foundation was built on Christ and neither ridicule nor hell could shake his faith. Men, this is where we need to be as well – built on the foundation of Christ, ready to weather the storms of life.

## Challenge

As you reflect on the source of your faith and strength, and as you continue to grow in your Christian walk, start building on your foundation by reaching out to others in your life that need the same saving grace you have received. Share Jesus with others!

## Prayer

Pray that God opens your eyes to see a lost and hurting world as you continue to grow in Christ.

# THE STRENGTH

## Day-11

*Incline Your ear to me, rescue me quickly; Be to me a rock of strength, a stronghold to save me. (Psalm 31:2)*

As Desmond Doss continued to help the men during the battle of Hacksaw Ridge, he was running on pure adrenaline. Wounded soldier after wounded soldier he tirelessly helped them back to safety, often dragging or carrying them all by himself. At one point his platoon had been hit so hard they had to retreat, leaving him there alone with his mortally wounded friend. Dazed and confused, he had nowhere to turn but to cry out to God.

CLIP # 3- As his fellow soldiers are retreating, Desmond is struggling to know what to do. See him cry out to God in the midst of the battle. [CLICK HERE](#)

Men, when all your effort and training are used up, where do you go to for strength? Desmond Doss knew where to go. He turned to God in prayer. Once he cried out to God, strength flowed through him like a river. We need to cry out to God in prayer, praise and worship each day. In those moments we receive strength to continue in this battle we call life!

David, a mighty warrior for God, says this: *"In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God for help; He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry for help before Him came into His ears" (Psalm 18:6)*. The rest of the psalm is about the victory King David had over his enemies. In one of the darkest hours of David's life, he cried out to God and God heard him.

I have been telling you to read your Bible daily. But in order to truly understand where your strength comes from, you have to go to God in prayer to learn how the power of the Holy Spirit works in your life!

Desmond knew this, King David knew this and now you know this. Read, pray and seek God in all you do!

## Challenge

As you continue to read the Scriptures during your daily devotions, spend a little more time with God in prayer. Prayer doesn't have to be anything fancy. Just talk to God. Let God know your heart, your hurts.. It's that simple. Don't stop crying out to God!

## Prayer

Pray to God knowing that He will hear you and answer your prayers. Once you have prayed, be still and listen.

## THE STRENGTH

### Day-12

*The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous. (Proverbs 15:29)*

"Fox hole" prayers are a common occurrence in war. Men sit in the fox hole wondering if they will see the day of light and pray for the first time in their lives. Scared to death and with nothing to lose, they begin to pray.

Despond Doss didn't start praying for the first time when he was in war or a fox hole. He was accustomed to praying on what seemed a daily basis. He drew upon power derived from years of spending time with God and living a holy and righteous life.

As a follower of Christ, we need to be in a place where we can draw upon the power God gives us through prayer and not wait till we are in one of life's "fox holes". A daily prayer life will empower you to get through each day. Martin Luther said, *"No one can believe how powerful prayer is and what it can effect, except those who have learned it by experience. Whenever I have prayed earnestly, I have been heard and have obtained more than I prayed for. God sometimes delays, but He always comes."*

How is your prayer life? Are you experience the power of God through your prayer life? If not, commit today to improve your prayer life by to earnestly seeking God. At the end of today's reading, take time to have a conversation with God.

I have often thought, *If I had the opportunity to ask Jesus one question, what would it be?* I think something like, *Jesus, teach me how to walk on water or Jesus teach me how to do that "raise the dead" thing That would be a great party favorite.* But all joking aside, the apostles had an opportunity like that and do you know what they asked? They said, *"Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples"* (Luke 11:1).

WHAT? Teach them to pray? But why? Of all the things they could have asked, they asked that! It was because they saw the power that Jesus demonstrated and they knew that often he went away to pray! When Jesus was tired, he went to pray. When He was lonely, He went to pray. When He was scared, He went to pray. And every time He came back from prayer, there was obvious power! The disciples wanted some of that.

You and I have the same opportunity to receive the power of God through prayer; we just need to better utilize it!

### Challenge

Take a little more time than usual today to pray. Layout your request to God and don't hold back. After you pray, take even more time to listen.

### Prayer

Pray to God to show you His answers. Let it be clear whether He said Yes, No, or Wait!

# THE STRENGTH

## Day-13

*And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.'" (Luke 11:2-4)*

As you learned yesterday, the disciples asked Jesus how to pray. Luke 11:2-4 gives us His answer.

It's hard to believe that Jesus taught His disciple's this simple and short prayer. You would think that He would have given them pages and pages of notes on how to pray. But like so many things that Jesus did, he took away the 'fluff' and really got to the heart of the matter. Literally.

As you commit to daily prayer, the ACTS model will be helpful to you as you learn how to pray:

**Adoration**~ Is telling God how wonderful He is. Worship Him and acknowledge His greatness. *"Father, hallowed be Your name."*

**Confession**~ Is an admission of our sins, crying out in our brokenness. *"Forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us"*

**Thanksgiving**~ Is saying "thank you" to God for all He's done in our lives. *"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever" (Matthew 6:13)*

**Supplication**~ Is making requests to God, asking Him to meet our own needs, as well as praying for others. *"Give us each day our daily bread... And lead us not into temptation"*

Once you develop a consistent prayer life, you will start seeing and using the power God provides to those who are faithful and righteous in His eyes. Don't wait to get caught in the "fox hole" to begin to pray. Pray in the good and bad times, in the up and down times, and don't stop.

## Challenge

As you use the ACTS prayer model, be honest and sincere with God. Adore Him, confess to Him, be thankful to Him, and ask Him to supply your needs and the needs of others.

## Prayer

Pray that God will open you your heart and mind so you will be honest in your prayer. Pray that God will give you the grace to understand and accept His answer.

# THE STRENGTH

## Day-14

*And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." (Matthew 21:22)*

One of the most compelling things about Desmond Doss was his unwavering submission to God's calling on his life. His steadfastness was overwhelmingly uplifting. It made me see areas in my life where I compromised God's commands and His will in my own life. I see how my prayer life needs to grow much like that of Desmond.

Throughout the movie, Desmond Doss showed courage and belief that God had called Him to a particular role in life - to be a combat medic. His devoutness was a put off to the soldiers early on in the movie, but as it goes on, you see a change in the people around Desmond. They begin to see the power of His God and the power of His prayers! They begin to believe.

**CLIP # 4- Captain Glover describes to Doss about how everyone believes in him... in the hopes he would go back up on the ridge the next day. [CLICK HERE](#)**

Not only did the soldiers begin to believe, but they also began to follow Desmond Doss. Men, this is what happens when you start reading your Bible and praying to God on a daily basis. It starts to show in your life and others begin to see it. As time goes on, and you keep living the life that God has called you to live, people will follow you. Not because you want to be a leader, but because people will want what you have.

And what you have is what we talked about earlier in this devotion, on Day 7. You now have the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. That is the true look of a Christian and it either stirs other people's curiosity and leads them to want to find out more or it makes them uncomfortable. Either way you, now have their attention.

## Challenge

Share the power of your prayer. Ask others how you can pray for them and pray till God answers. Let them see that you believe in the power of prayer.

## Pray

Pray that God will open the eyes of unbelievers and show them the power of prayer.

# THE STRENGTH

## Day-15

*Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. (Psalm 95:6)*

Throughout the movie, Desmond Doss was faithful to God, the Bible, his men in war, and in his worship. He knew all the areas that gave him strength - the Bible, prayer and worship.

Many times we think worship to be a few songs at church and then a sermon. But worship is much more than that. It is a lifestyle. When we combine our Bible reading, prayer and worship, we get strength like the men of the Bible did. Samson, Moses, Noah, and the apostles were all men who knew how to worship and praise God even in life-threatening situations!

Too often, we only want to worship God in the good times. When our needs are met and we have money in the bank, when our family relationship is good and life just seems to be sweet, we tend to praise God.

But what about when all hell breaks loose and we feel like we are falling and there is no bottom? Are we praising God then? Most likely we're not. In *Isaiah 29:13-14*, the Lord said, "*Because this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote ... the wisdom of their wise men will perish and the discernment of their discerning men will be concealed.*" God doesn't want your habits or tradition or just the good times to be a part of worship. God wants your heart! He wants your all!

I loved the imagery Mel Gibson used with Desmond Doss's character in the movie. He showed Desmond looking at the beauty of the countryside in awe. We also saw the beauty of Desmond's wife and his complete devotion to reading and prayer. And, although they never say in it the movie, I believe that Desmond was worshiping and praising God in all of those moments in his life.

But what really amazed me was that during the war scene, Desmond never quit worshiping God or reading his Bible during his downtime. His heart was so fixed on God that no matter what was happening around him, he never stopped worshiping. And that, men, is where his power came from!

## Challenge

Learn to worship God no matter where you are in life. Through the good, bad and ugly, God wants to hear from you in prayer, in song, in hurt, in anger, and in happiness. Don't let your circumstances dictate how and when you worship God!

## Prayer

Pray to God that He will give you strength to read your Bible daily. Pray often and worship God in all things.



# THE SIX

## Day-16

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)*

In the military, "Got your six" means "I've got your back." The phrase started in World War I as fighter pilots referenced the rear of an airplane as the six o'clock position. On a battlefield, your "six" is the most vulnerable. So, when someone tells you that they've "got your six," it means they're watching your back. By extension, that person expects you to have their back as well.

**CLIP # 5- As Doss runs to the aid of his comrades, watch how Smitty "got his six" and covers him. [CLICK HERE](#)**

Luke Bracey plays the role of Smitty who, in the beginning, hates Desmond Doss, played by Andrew Garfield. Smitty thinks that Desmond is a coward for not wanting to carry a gun into battle. But Smitty soon realizes that the coward, Desmond Doss, is no coward at all. As Desmond begins to get into the heart of the battle to help the wounded, Smitty starts to follow him to make sure he is safe. That is a great picture of "got your six!"

Jesus left us with a command before he returned to heaven, after His death and resurrection. He said *"Go therefore and make disciples"*! Of all the things Jesus could have said, He told the apostles to make disciples and teach them to do the things He had commanded.

After Jesus' ascension, the Holy Spirit came to give us the power and the help we need to faithfully follow Christ in our daily lives. With this power, we should also "have the six" of others. We should share Christ's love with others, especially when they are most vulnerable. That is discipleship! When you and I start sharing the Good News we have learned from reading the Bible and start living out God's Word by worshiping God and looking out for the physical and spiritual welfare of others, that is called discipleship. There are millions of men and women out on the battle field of the Christian life without anyone having their backs. We need to start "getting their six."

## Challenge

This week, start looking for someone to disciple you. No matter where you are in your walk with Christ, you need the help of another. Look for a godly man to pour into your life.

## Prayer

Pray that God would lead you to someone who can disciple you.

# THE SIX

## Day-17

*Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:24-26)*

War is hell! No doubt! Millions have lost their lives for the freedom and security of this nation. It's a sacrifice that most of us will never have to know. We get to enjoy the life we have in these great United States because of the unselfish sacrifice of the American Soldier. They are willing to lose their lives for our freedom.

Wherever the government tells the military to go, they go, without question! Desmond Doss never questioned or doubted where he had to go. At one point, Desmond had just spent the night saving 75 men and lowering them down Hacksaw Ridge. Once he felt he had gotten everyone off the battle field, he himself went down. After taking a shower and receiving medical attention, they asked him to go back up. He was willing to go wherever he was told to go, willing to lay down his life.

Jesus is asking us to go! To make disciples, follow Him, and to lay down our lives. But it's not an easy task and we have to be willing to go whenever and wherever He calls us to go. Believe it or not, the men and women in our lives depend on it.

In the above Scripture text, Jesus warns the apostles that discipleship is costly—it cost their lives. As we begin to follow Jesus, our lives need to look more like Jesus' and His was a life of sacrifice. This requires that we fully surrender our lives to Jesus. The old life that we once lived is nowhere to be found! In essence we have lost it!

Jesus goes on to say that once we lose our lives for His sake, we have actually found the life we were meant to have. Our lives should be dedicated to helping others get to know Christ as we grow closer to Him. We do this knowing that the cost will be worth it.

God wants us to lay down our lives for the gospel's sake. He doesn't want us to live a lazy and complacent life. He wants us to be bold in sharing the Good News with everyone we meet. With whom have you shared God's message today?

## Challenge

By now, you should be well into reading Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. That was your first challenge. Today, take time to read 1 Corinthians 15. This chapter provides a short version of what is the gospel and it is a great reminder of why we disciple others.

## Prayer

Pray that God will plant the gospel message deep in your heart and help you know it well so you can share it.

# THE SIX

## Day-18

*Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 3:12-14***

To disciple others is to teach them about who you are and your beliefs. Jesus taught his disciples. They grew to know Him. As we come to know the Lord, we also need to make disciples. The process of discipleship starts the moment our personal relationship with Christ begins. As we grow in our Christian walk through reading and applying God's Word, prayer and worship, we gain the tools needed to witness to others and start making disciples. Your family is a good starting point.

One of the hardest places to share your faith is in your home. But I can tell you, it is rewarding. Do not feel as if you have to know everything and be perfect to start discipling others. You must know and use God's Word in your own life before you start to share it with others, but you don't have to be a Bible scholar. Your family needs you to lead in this area!

I love Paul's honesty in the above Scripture verses. He tells the Philippian church that he isn't perfect, but he knows who is - Jesus. And that is who he is following. He also says that he doesn't have it all figured out, but that is still not going to deter him from pressing forward. As people in your life disciple you and you start discipling others, you need to understand that no human is perfect. Never put someone else on the pedestal and worship them. They will always let you down. Let your faith be built on Jesus and Jesus only!

That's what Paul wanted the church to understand. Place your faith in Jesus, not in human beings. Desmond Doss did this throughout his life, as portrayed in the movie. Because his faith was built on the Word of God and in Jesus, he was never dismayed when others let him down. He stayed the course and pressed forward.

Discipleship is costly and messy. Don't get discouraged when people don't get it at first. Stay the course and press forward.

## Challenge

Start reading the Bible with your family or close friends. It doesn't have to be for long periods of time. It could be just something you do when the family or your friends get together. Suggestion: Have a meal with family or friends and read it then.

## Prayer

Pray that God will give you a desire to share your daily devotions and prayer time with your family and others close to you.

# THE SIX

## Day-19

*“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children” (Ephesians 5:1)*

There are two words that we should look at when talking about discipleship: *imitate* and *example*. Jesus and Paul should be imitated as great examples of how to carry out discipleship. Jesus turned unlikely men into disciples and Paul closely followed the teachings he received and in turn disciplined others.

When we begin the process of discipleship, our goal should be to imitate these two. Jesus led a perfect life. He did not get distracted from His purpose, and He showed love for all.

Paul did not hide his struggles with the flesh, but he overcame because he followed the One who came before him, Jesus Christ. We, as sinful men, will struggle just like Paul did and will sometimes fail. But as Paul overcame, so, too, can we be overcomers. To be victorious we should follow Paul’s example and be truly sold out to God. The more committed we are to Jesus, as Paul was, the more willing we will be to follow where God leads.

When following Christ, our ultimate example, we should imitate everything from His life. The apostle Peter describes the kind of life a Christian should live: *“For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls” (1 Peter 2:21-25).*

Until we learn to apply the Word of God to our lives, we are not fit to disciple others. When we are transformed into new creatures by living out God’s Word, we set a good example for others to follow. God used Ananias and Barnabas to have Paul’s back, shortly after his conversion. Ananias instructed him in the Scriptures before he began to spread the gospel and Barnabas brought him to fellow believers who were afraid of the newly converted Paul. We all need a Barnabas and an Ananias in our lives. Then, once we become mature disciples—through the help and teachings of our Ananias and Barnabas—we need to find our Timothy, as Paul did: someone we can begin discipling. In so doing we play our part in furthering Christ’s mission in adding to the body of Christ: one plus one plus one plus one.

## Challenge

Do you have a Barnabas or a Timothy in your life? As you continue to disciple your family and others close to you, look for a Barnabas to help you and a Timothy whom you can help. This is one way of having the “six” of someone else!

## Prayer

Pray that God gives you a desire to keep on sharing your faith and the knowledge you are gaining every day.

# THE SIX

## Day-20

### ITS TIME MEN PUT UP OR SHUT UP.

I hope this devotion stirs you to the point of action. I have thrown down the gauntlet. This is the charge I leave you with. What are you going to do with the challenge? Are you going to Man Up? Will you put up a fight and stand up for what should matter most in your life and in the lives of those around you?

Jesus challenged his disciples like this: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"* (**Matthew 28:19-20**).

This challenge is still in effect today and we can't afford to fail at it. Christian men should be honoring God by living out the Word of God. We are called upon to fight for our faith, stand up for our families, be good examples in the world and make disciples.

The time has come to make a change. I challenge you! I implore you! Seek God, pray, read God's Word and apply it daily to your life. That is the only way we will change the world.

Now is the time to put up or shut up. We are called to be godly, spiritual men who are willing to lay down our lives for our personal relationship with Christ, our marriages, our kids, our church, our work, and the betterment of our fellow man. Step into the role of a Christ-centered, God-fearing man, and let's change the world.

Desmond Doss wasn't a coward. He was a man on a mission and he was determined not to let God, his wife or his fellow soldiers down. He lived out his faith in boldness! Let's do the same!

## Challenge

Stop hiding behind fear and doubt. Be confident in who God made you to be. Jesus died for you, and he wants you to live for Him! Be bold, be prayerful, and be courageous.

## Prayer

Pray this prayer today! *"Lord, help me to be strong and courageous and not be afraid. Keep me ever mindful that You are with me wherever I go."* (see **Joshua 1:9**)

For additional Bible Studies contextualized for the military family and Veterans, go to <http://www.MilitaryBibleChallenge.com> or download the app on your mobile device. Military Bible Challenge allows you to create personalized digital study groups to share your experience while studying God's Word. You can set up a group for a military unit to take a Bible Challenge (a Scripture reading plan) together, complete a Bible study with your spouse, or simply read during your personal quiet time.



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Your final challenge!

Share Desmond's story, the movie, and this devotional with everyone in your sphere of influence. You never know what kind of impact you could have on someone's life by this simple gesture.

For more information about Hacksaw Ridge or Desmond Doss, check out these websites:

<http://www.hacksawridgeresources.com/>

<http://www.hacksawridge.movie/>

[www.desmondoss.org](http://www.desmondoss.org)

For more information, about the author and founder of *Man Up God's Way Ministry*, as well as discipleship materials, check out:



[www.manupgodsway.org](http://www.manupgodsway.org)

[www.facebook.com/manupgodsway/](http://www.facebook.com/manupgodsway/)

Other Hacksaw Ridge Partners:

[Catalyst Resource Group](#)



[National Coalition of Ministries to Men](#)



[Military Suicide PAIR](#)



[CRU Military](#)



[Military Missions Network](#)



[Four Bridges Half Marathon](#)



[American Association of Christian Counselors](#)



HACKSAW RIDGE Motion Picture Artwork and Clips © 2016 Summit Entertainment, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

[www.hacksawridgeresources.com](http://www.hacksawridgeresources.com)