



**Empowering People to Change the World**

**Training Worshipers and Warriors**

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## The 2022 Wholeheart Declaration

**I am growing to love Jesus with all my heart.  
I am building my life on the Word of God.  
I am trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
I am learning to live courageously.  
I will shine the light of Christ in my family and community.**

We had been going through the book of Ephesians until the Christmas Advent Season in December. We have gone through five chapters and are now on the final chapter.

### **Born for War: Ephesians**

#### **Last week: Honor in Parenting**

#### **Ephesians 6:1-4**

#### **Verse 4b**

#### **This Week: Training Worshippers and Warriors**

**I believe God has given us our children in order to coach them through a process of growth into maturity.**

- **Dependence** - learning to depend on you for their needs
- **Interdependence** - being coached in personal responsibility as a part of the home
- **Independence** - released into the world to make their own life

We see Jesus doing the same with His disciples:

1. Jesus taught and modelled the Kingdom of God.
2. The disciples watched.
3. Jesus sent them out.
4. Jesus critiqued them.

5. He sent them out again with 70 others.
6. Jesus left and gave us the Holy Spirit; He released us to take the world over with the Kingdom of God.

Liz and I always viewed the home as a Training Center for building the next generation of warriors.

**I've entitled this message, "Training Worshipper and Warriors."**

- Because no one will do it for you.
- On the church front, as a pastor, we only have your children two hours' max per week. We can't do it.
- The school has your kids 40 hours a week—they are training them!! But it's not to be a worshipper and warrior.
- Your children are a gift from God to be trained by you!

**We must have the Lord build our house. (Psalm 127)**

**Note: The Lord wants to build your house! You have to let Him in. You parents must choose WHO will build your house.**

**What God builds, God guards. If you are not allowing the Holy Spirit into your house, then God's not protecting your house.**

**"And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)**

Build on God! Build on serving the Lord. Set the Cornerstone for your marriage and family. This begins in the marriage and flows down to the family.

Two parts: 1) What you're building on; and 2) Training. How do we train our children in the discipline and admonition of the Lord?

**Build your marriage and family on the right foundation.**

## **1. Build on Jesus Christ.**

**He is the Cornerstone for building a marriage and family.**

**“Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” (1 Peter 2:6)**

- He is the Way and the Truth and the Life.
- Jesus said the greatest command, above all others, is to “love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength and your neighbor as yourself.”
- A Kingdom Revolution begins in the home. If homes across the county had revivals of love for Christ, we would change the entire atmosphere of our county!

## **2. Build on the Bible.**

**In Paul’s letter to Timothy, his last will and testimony, he instructs him this way,**

**“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:14-17)**

- Reading the Word of God as a family is huge!

- Taking time at dinner or after dinner. If you can, do it as a family at a certain time of day.

### **3. Build on church community.**

- Hillary Clinton said “it takes a village.” I would amend the statement to “it takes a church.”
- We so need each other. The five most influential people you hang out with will have an impact on your children.
- We have felt so blessed to have each of you in our life. You help us raise our kids!

### **Train your children to be worshippers and warriors.**

#### **1. Eat together.**

- Have one meal together daily. This is so vital as to be MOST important. It may sound corny, but eating together accomplishes so much.
- First, everyone gets hungry, and food is the best thing for a joyful experience.
- Second, you have to prepare it, so why not do it together or share the load.
- Third, you will talk. No TV in the kitchen! Not allowed. Talk, talk, talk.
- Fourth, guide the conversation on important issues of the day.

#### **2. Pray together.**

- When you pray together and see answered prayer, it ignites great faith in your whole family.

- Be sure to include everyone in your prayers. Everyone should share what's on their heart about school, sports, church, political stuff, etc.

### **3. Resolve conflicts.**

- Matthew 18 and the Covenant of Harmony guides this church, and we tried to have it guide our family.
- Talk out the issues that are bothering others. Hey, you live in the same house, you will have conflicts. Demystify conflicts by talking about the importance of harmony.

### **4. Have fun.**

- Do fun stuff as a family that encourages interaction: games, sports in the backyard, hide and seek in the house, Huckleberry Beanstalk, camping, hiking, etc. It doesn't have to cost money! We had no money when we planted Mountain Springs Church, as missionaries.
- Fill your house with laughter and joy.

### **5. Serve together.**

- Serve at The Road together by doing Children's Ministry, serving in the kitchen, going to school board meetings, etc. But do it together. Bring the kids along.
- Talk openly about why you serve others and why you are helping others.

### **6. Encourage each other.**

- It's so easy to tear down. Listen, these kids get torn down, compared, yelled at, and pushed around all day at school with their peers.

- At home, they should feel like they are unconditionally loved, accepted, and the best kid in the world.
- Tell your kids the positive things you see in them!