

# QUALITIES OF A SPIRITUAL WARRIOR

GRAHAM COOKE

BOOK 1 THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR SERIES



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## INVOCATION

Father, thank you that this is our time and season to fight back—to war against a religious spirit that has bound up your people in legalism, judgment, and an earthly logic that prevents discovery of the realm of Your Spirit.

Thank you that we can war against a religious system that teaches rules, performance and duty but does not allow us to have ongoing encounters with the Living God.

Thank you that we have a joyful, legal right, because of Christ's sacrifice, to wage war on the enemy wherever we may find him. Thank you for favor and vengeance combined, that in our freedom in Christ you not only deliver us from being victims, but you give us a ministry in the very areas where we have been robbed and ashamed.

Everyone that we in turn set free is a sign of our pay-back on the enemy. To destroy the works of the devil is the evidence of Your power at work.

I pray that You would give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus, that You would cause our eyes to be opened into enlightenment of the glory of Heaven here on Earth—on Earth as it is in Heaven—no more, no less.

Be our tutor, lead us into a revelatory experience of the power of the Christ-life within. In His Name and for His glory.

Amen.



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# THE WORLD IS CRYING OUT FOR HEROES

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**E***very culture has its icons—legends* who become larger than life as their story is told and retold. In days past, these heroes have often been war and political figures whose images are burned in our mind’s eye. In western nations like Great Britain, the United States, and Canada, we can picture them clearly: Winston Churchill—under fire from every side, chomping on his cigar, face resolute, certain his nation would not fall. (Who can forget his, “We Will Fight Them on the Beaches,” speech which so wonderfully armed a people with resolve and determination to both endure and overcome?); George Washington—standing in his boat as he crossed the Delaware River, tunic flapping in the breeze; American soldiers raising the flag at Iwo Jima; William Wallace, running through the Scottish highlands; General Douglas MacArthur—smoking his corn cob pipe, defiantly promising, “I shall return”; Admiral Nelson at Trafalgar; Wellington, defeating Napoleon at Waterloo; the

ragtag band of Canadians, overcoming all odds to take Vimy Ridge.

As the western world has evolved, we have seen our cultural heroes shift from revolutionary warriors to sports figures and entertainers. Their images resonate with us as well. Michael Jordan, flying through the air, tongue hanging out, ready to tomahawk the ball through the hoop; John Elway, juking and jiving and plunging head first into the end zone; Wayne Gretzky ducking out from behind the net and lifting a backhanded shot past a hapless goaltender; Roger Clemens striking out batter after batter after batter; Muhammad Ali flexing his muscles over a splayed-out Sonny Liston. Entertainment has provided similar icons: Bono, arms spread open, singing with all his might; Marlon Brando as Godfather Vito Corleone; Russell Crowe, the Gladiator himself, shouting to the crowd “Are you not entertained?”; Jerry, George, Elaine, and Kramer chatting away at the coffee shop on Seinfeld; Batman standing alone atop a building.

But these icons pale in comparison to the influence of spiritual heroes. The lives of these war heroes and entertainment superstars have been examined and chronicled, but never to the degree of the heroes of the Bible. An entertainer’s life is like dust compared to the influence of those who accomplished great things for the Kingdom of God. For centuries people have looked to the lives of these spiritual heroes for guidance and inspiration. How did they do it? How did someone like that change the world?

Hebrews 11, one of my favorite passages of Scripture, lists some of these spiritual heroes. It leaves us a defining image

of their greatness. Abel, who offered “a more excellent sacrifice” than his brother Cain, and who had “God testifying of his gifts” (Verse 4). Enoch, who “pleased God” to the point that he did not die, but “was taken away” by Him (Verse 5). Noah, who “moved with godly fear” and became “heir of the righteousness which is according to faith” (Verse 7). Abraham, who “went out, not knowing where he was going,” because he had a promise from God (Verse 8). Sarah, his wife, who “bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised” (Verse 11).

Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets: heroes, all of them. “Through faith, (they) subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens,” as Hebrews 11:33–34 says. And for every one mentioned in this passage, there are five more left off the list. A new generation of spiritual heroes fills the pages of the New Testament: Peter, the rock on which Christ built His church; John, the Beloved, resting his head on Jesus’ shoulder; the Apostle Paul, preaching the Gospel fearlessly, even while in chains; John the Baptist, foretelling the arrival of the Messiah; Mary, the gentle and devoted mother of a child that changed everything; Barnabas, the encourager; Timothy, the young pastor; Luke, the faithful scribe and doctor.

Who could ever forget Dr. Martin Luther King, at a critical time in the life of black Americans, standing resolutely against separatism and declaring, “I have a dream”?

Think of the enormous respect from all people and creeds for the purity and passion of Billy Graham, a man after God’s heart. My own heroes are: Graham Perrins, who taught me prophetics and gave me a profound love of scripture; Arthur Burt, Harry Greenwood, and Ian Andrews who modeled a life of faith and a passion for the Spirit; Gerald Coates, for his courage in standing up for non-religious Christianity; Paul Pillai, an unsung apostolic, church-planting hero in India; Mike Bickle and his passion for intimacy with God.

All the people in prophetic ministry —John Paul Jackson, Rick Joyner, Jim Goll, Larry Randolph, Bob Jones, Patricia King, Stacey Campbell—who have stood the test of time, withstood the warfare that surrounds their lives, have prevailed over the enemy, and especially organized religion, are icons and legends in their own fields. The list of Hebrews 11 is ongoing in the Father’s heart.

This is the legacy that we as Christians walk in. As the poet John McCrae said in his work, *In Flanders Fields*, “Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high.” The heroes of the faith have passed this torch from generation to generation, and now it is time for our present-day spiritual warriors to carry it forward. We are heirs of the same Christ that these heroes prophesied would come and redeem the world.

ASSIGNMENT

✂ Who are your heroes and why? Identify them by name and consider what they have been to you.

✂ How has their life touched yours?

✂ What difference have they meant to:  
Your walk with God?

Your ministry and place in the kingdom?

The relationships around your life?

COMMISSION

✂ Write to these people to bless, encourage and affirm them in their calling and destiny. If your hero is deceased, write a letter to the Father asking for similar qualities to be in you.