



DANGEROUS FOR GOOD: *TRANSFORMATION*



Dangerous for Good

Part 3: Transformation

What if you could experience intimacy with Jesus that deeply transforms your heart? Over five days, you'll be encouraged to unlearn false beliefs, realign with God's love, and embrace your identity as his beloved son. Through scripture and reflective prayers crafted for men, each day offers an opportunity to slow down, listen, and invite God to bring healing, validation, and transformation into a man who is dangerous for good.



The content of this plan can be explored in more depth in Michael Thompson's *The Heart of a Warrior*.

Day 1: What's in the Way of Your Freedom?

Scripture:

John 8:32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 8:44-45 (MSG) "If God were your father," said Jesus, "you would love me, for I came from God and arrived here. I didn't come on my own. He sent me. Why can't you understand one word I say? Here's why: You can't handle it. You're from your father, the Devil, and all you want to do is please him. He was a killer from the very start. He couldn't stand the truth because there wasn't a shred of truth in him. When the Liar speaks, he makes it up out of his lying nature and fills the world with lies.

Galatians 5:1 (MSG) Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.

Devotional:

If the offer is freedom, then why aren't more of us free?

In all our stories, there were untrue words that were whispered to us. Then, over time they develop into thoughts that we have rehearsed and recycled, lies the enemy has reinforced in our hearts, souls, and minds for so long that they feel like truth. Subtle and powerful declarations made in the quiet places of our pain—I am alone. I am not enough. Love must be earned. No one will fight for me. These beliefs, shaped by wounds we may not even remember, have woven themselves into the fabric of our hearts. But they are not the words of our Father.

And yet, we can not help but be ruled by them, living smaller lives than we were made for.

Unlearning false beliefs (lies) is not simply an intellectual exercise—it is a sacred act of healing. To unlearn is to allow God to take us by the hand, walk us back through the places of our wounding, and gently show us where they began, why they are there and invite us to turn in our false belief for what is true. It is to let him unravel the tangled cords of fear, shame, and striving, replacing them with the experience and certainty of his love.

This journey of transformation is not easy. There is an odd comfort, however false, in what is familiar. Lies often feel safer than truth because they require nothing of us—no risk, no surrender, no vulnerability. Truth, though it may sting at first, brings relief and then love, and in the end, truth sets us free.

God does not expose our false beliefs to condemn us. He reveals them so he can restore us, and a man being restored is a man becoming more and more free. Like a loving Father kneeling before his child, he invites us to place every self-imposed declaration in his hands

—every “I am on my own,” every “I have to prove my worth,” every “I am too much” or “not enough.” And one by one, he tears them apart, making space for something lovingly new.

"You are Mine."

"You are fully loved."

"I will never leave you."

"You do not have to strive for what has already been given."

The process of unlearning and untangling from the lies may feel like loss at first. But what we are losing is only what was never meant to define us. And what we gain is what we were made for—intimacy with God, the weightless joy of being fully known and fully loved—and that is worth everything...that is a man living free.

It was George Macdonald who once wrote,
Foolish is the man, and there are many such men, who would set the world right by waging war on the evils around him, while he neglects that integral part of the world where lies his business, his first business—namely, his own character and conduct.

Looking back over the previous Dangerous for Good Reading Plans, they all lead to this next invitation—to step into the light, see the moment when the voice of darkness or your false self has the mic. See it, hear it, THEN call “time out.” It’s when you see it and pause that you can allow God to help you bring the voices and false beliefs of your past into His loving presence. This is the good he is up to. He already knows and he is waiting, waiting to let the voice of Love rewrite your story, and to walk you backward in order to move you forward, unburdened and free, into the fullness of who you are ... who you were always meant to be. Will you take him up on his offer of redeeming and freeing you by making good what wasn’t good in your story?

As you ponder all this today, consider asking God:

Father, what false beliefs (lies) have I carried from my past that are not from you? Would you show me where they began?

Jesus, as I turn them in, what is the truth you want to replace them with? If they are not the truest thing about me, how do you see me, who am I to you?

Spirit, give me the courage to let go. Help me see and then unlearn what is false so that I may see again and fully receive what is true.

Day 2: The Transformation Process

Scripture:

John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father, I have made known to you.

Psalms 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Ephesians 1:5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

2 Corinthians 5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Devotional:

The journey to becoming the man God calls us to be is a process, not an event. It is a deep and ongoing journey of healing, initiation, and validation—a journey where God's love and truth slowly transform us from the inside out. But the path is not always easy, and it requires great vulnerability. To walk this path, we must face the wounds and false beliefs that have shaped us and allow God to bring his healing and validation into the deepest parts of our hearts.

"Through the work of Christ in his cross, resurrection, and ascension, we have been ransomed, rescued, and redeemed. Much of the heavy lifting has already been done. Now, most of what the Father is up to in our lives is restoring us through healing, initiation, validation, and training. We turn in what isn't us (the false self) for what is ... our true self. And in the process, we move from disoriented to oriented, from unsettled to settled." The Heart of a Warrior, Michael Thompson

Healing is the first step in this process. Our hearts are often weighed down by hurts and pains from the past—emotional scars, rejections, and traumas that we may have never fully dealt with. These wounds can leave us feeling disconnected from God's love, or unworthy of his affection. But God promises to heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds (Psalm 147:3). As we bring our pain before him, he replaces our fear with his love and our shame with his grace. We are not beyond repair. His love can touch the deepest parts of us and begin the work of restoration.

Initiation is where the long steps in this transformative journey take place. Once we have been healed by God, he begins to initiate us into the unique ways we bear his image, into the calling and purpose he has for our lives. This is not a passive process. We must respond to God's invitation to step into the life he has designed for us, to be his ambassadors in a broken world (2 Corinthians 5:20). And there are times this isn't fun or glorious; training

seldom is. God equips us for this purpose, giving us the courage, and wisdom to keep moving, and over time, the strength needed along the way to overcome and become and fulfill his purpose in you, as you live out his will for you and others on the earth.

Validation is the last step. Every man longs to know that he is seen, known, and loved for who he truly is. Without this, it is so easy to seek validation in the wrong places, trying to earn approval or live up to a false image or standard. But God's validation is different. In Christ, as we overcome and become, he speaks over us the validating truths of our identity: You are my beloved sons, chosen, redeemed, and affirmed (Ephesians 1:5). We do not have to strive to prove ourselves. We are already enough; we are already affirmed in him. Validation is the ceremony available to image bearers who move with God through healing and initiation, the well-done that every heart longs to hear and experience.

It was Howard Thurman who wrote, "Don't ask what the world needs, ask what makes you come alive because that is what the world needs, men and women who are alive."

May you come alive as you feel and experience God's loving touch in your life today, knowing that he is with you and for you ... healing, initiating, and validating you ... calling you into the fullness of who he created you to be.

As you ponder all this today, consider asking God:

Father, where do I need healing in my heart? What past wounds have I carried that need your touch?

Jesus, how do you see me? What truths do you want to show me and affirm about my identity in you?

Holy Spirit, what is the unique glory and calling you are initiating me into? Empower and equip me to respond to your voice, direction and leading with courage and obedience.

Day 3: Initiation

Scripture:

Matthew 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

1 John 3:1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Ephesians 5:1-2 (MSG) Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly, what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us, but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

Matthew 11:28-29 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, 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.

Devotional:

From the very beginning, you were spoken into existence with purpose and for a purpose. Formed in the image of God, breathed into with divine intention, you were created to be loved and to reflect his glory which is love. From that same beginning, your life has been opposed.

This is the great assault of the enemy—to distort the image of God within us, to make us question what was never meant to be questioned: *Who am I? Am I loved? Am I seen? Do I matter?*

But what if new moments could come, initiating moments that would redeem, replace, and repair your heart, mind, soul and even body?

Hear this, deep in your soul: **God's answer has never changed. You are his. Fully known. Fully loved. Not because of what you have done, but because of who he is and who you are to him.** And this is not just what is written in scripture but what he wants to write into your story, to show you, to tell you. He may even partner with other image bearers, those who love him, to give you good words, encouraging compliments, honoring listening, and yes, even recognition for your wonderful way. That's how love works. That's how initiation works. Initiation is another moment in time, one more powerful than the day you were taken out.

The journey of reclaiming your identity is not about hiding your past or striving to become someone new. It is about healing from your past through initiation and validation so you

can return to who you have always been in the eyes of your Father. It is about unlearning the lies that have entangled you, renouncing them, and hearing his voice above the noise, "I love you, I love you, I love you." Empowering you to step out of the shadows and into the unshakable experiencing of his love.

God does not require you to perform for his approval. You already have it. He does not ask you to prove your worth. It has never been in question. Instead, he calls you to see what is in the way, to bring it to him so you can be initiated and then ... rest—ah, rest; to let go of the exhausting effort to be enough and simply receive the truth that you already are. Welcome to the party, the Kingdom celebration of you and welcome to the sanctuary, the Kingdom spa of rest for you.

Jesus said, actually invited, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, 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

This is the invitation: to align your heart with his truth, not just once but again and again and again, to let his voice be louder than all the others, even if it is just a whisper. To walk as one who is chosen, cherished, and commissioned. Because when you experience from God who you truly are, the initiation will allow you to then see how to truly live.

You were never meant to live small. Stand tall, beloved one. The truth of who you are has been spoken from the beginning of time, and continues to be spoken, the Trinity wants to show and tell you again and again ... their feelings about you will never change. Today, will you receive the love of God that heals, validates and initiatives you ... that transforms you?

As you ponder all this today, consider asking God:

Father, where have I believed lies about who I am? What words or wounds have shaped my identity in ways that are not from you?

Jesus, how do You see me? What is the truth you are speaking over me today?

Holy Spirit, give me the courage to let go of false identities and step fully into the person you created me to be.

Day 4: Validation

Scripture:

Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God.

Philippians 2:13 (AMP) For it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure *and* satisfaction *and* delight.

Romans 8:29-31 (MSG) God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him.

2 Thessalonians 1:11 (MSG) Because we know that this extraordinary day is just ahead, we pray for you all the time—pray that our God will make you fit for what he's called you to be, pray that he'll fill your good ideas and acts of faith with his own energy so that it all amounts to something.

Devotional:

Life moves fast. Too fast. The world demands our attention, pulling us in a hundred different directions, convincing us that if we just run a little deeper, push a little further, try a little harder, we will finally arrive. But at what cost? Our souls weren't made for this kind of frantic striving. And yet, how often do we find ourselves caught up in it—exhausted, overwhelmed, unsure of how to move forward? It is in moving slowly that we can truly see, hear, and experience the good God is up to in our lives.

Let me ask you a question: which is more intimate, a candlelight dinner or a drive-through window? Of course, the candlelight. Slowing down not just your schedule or a meal but your heart and your mind allows one to see the music and the rhythms of the Kingdom, to hear the voice of God and experience his validating presence in our lives. I remember hearing one time, "When I am busy, the Father is quiet."

It's in the quiet moments that is when and where we are invited to be still and know. God wants us to experientially know that you are seen, wanted, belong ... that you are loved, even more, you are in love, and love is the most validating thing in the universe.

It's in the stillness that we find our way. Where? Home.

It's in the hurry, the fast pace, the drive-through life that the voices of anxiety, fear, and isolation that feel all-consuming run us down and convince us we aren't wanted, valuable, or loved. Slowing down isn't easy. Everything in this world tells us to do the opposite. Keep moving. Keep producing. Keep proving.

And here's the truth: when we let go of control, be still, and get quiet ... we are in the best place to allow him to validate us, guide us to who we truly are in the Kingdom, and he will. Our part? Rising to the challenge of hearing those unwanted voices, seeing where they come from in our story, and shutting them down, hitting pause on the noise long enough to hear the validating words God has to say, show us, or even intimately ask us in the candlelight.

The way forward is not found in more effort, but in more surrender. Let your soul breathe today. Be still. Listen. The One who holds the whole course in his hands lovingly wants to validate you, guide you ... love you ... let him, step by step. I invite you to let Him.

As you ponder all this today, consider asking God:

Father, where in my life am I striving instead of trusting? Where am I running ahead of You instead of walking with You?

Jesus, what does it look like for me to slow down and listen for Your voice today?

Holy Spirit, give me the courage to release control and follow your lead, even when it feels uncertain. What do you want to say to me, tell me, show me, or invite me to in this quiet moment?

Day 5: Freeing You to Become You

Scripture:

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..."

Romans 8:31 (AMP) And those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified [declared free of the guilt of sin]; and those whom He justified, He also glorified [raising them to a heavenly dignity].

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Galatians 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Devotional:

"The freedom Christ purchased was a freedom from the penalty and presence of sin in our lives—freedom from so that we can be free to become. Free to become more, to become who we truly have in us to be. This isn't just a good deal for us. God also benefits greatly. He gets what he wants. He gets back the desire of his heart, what he is most fiercely after: his image-bearers, his beloved children, and the chance to love them."

Michael Thompson, *The Heart of a Warrior*

There is a weight to those words—in His image. We were not just created; we were crafted, formed, designed to bear the very likeness of God. The fingerprints of heaven are upon us. His breath fills our lungs. His glory is woven into the fabric of our being.

But if that is true, why do we so often feel like anything but glorious, anything but free?

Life has a way of burying this truth under layers of wounds, lies, and disappointments. The previous Dangerous For Good Reading Plans cover so much of this. The enemy knows that if we truly grasped the image we bear, who we are and who we are becoming, we would walk in a confidence that cannot be shaken, a love that cannot be stolen, and a purpose that cannot be extinguished. So he whispers doubt. He distorts. He attacks the very core of who we are, our identity.

"You're not enough."

"You're unworthy."

"You have no real purpose."

And too often, we believe him, why? Because these messages don't just come out of thin air, they are delivered by other image bearers—wounders in our life—in wounding moments that leave their mark. But God is not in the business of leaving his children marked and in the dark. He is always at work restoring, reminding, and calling us back to the truth: You are mine. You are made in my image. You carry my glory.

The process of healing, training, initiation, and validation ... experiencing God's transforming love takes time. All great works do.

But this glory entrusted to us isn't just for us.

God didn't imprint his likeness upon us so we could hoard it or hide it away. Such giftings are *entrusted*, and therefore, while giving us an affectionate dignity, ultimately, our glory is for others. This world is aching for glimpses of something real, something true—something that reminds them of home, and that something is most often a *someone* who can be a loving presence and a kind guide to accompany them on their journey home. If wounding happens in a moment, a healing touch, a healing voice, a healing presence does too. The enemy uses image bearers to wound; the Trinity partners with image bearers to help heal. And when we overcome and become more in our own lives, we become that presence that makes a difference. The enemy will do everything they can to keep us and others blind, bound, and believing we are anything less than what God says we are. But he does not have the final say. God does.

If wounded hearts wound hearts, then free hearts can help free hearts. You are not just *anyone*. You are his. Made in his image. Called to bear his glory and offer it to others. Keep walking in that process today. You are and are becoming. You are free and are becoming more free. You are Christ-like and becoming more Christ-like. This *is* the Good God is up to in our life.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. (Galatians 5:1)

Be Free.

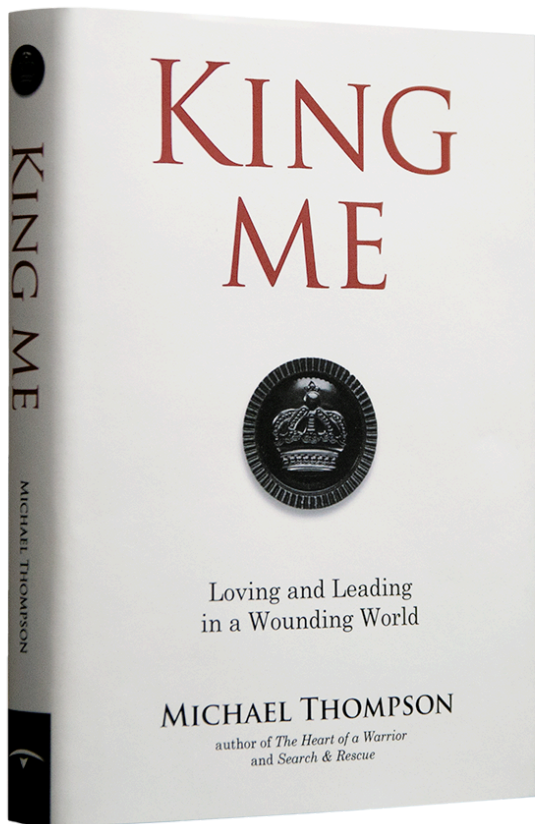
As you ponder all this today, consider asking God:

Father, what lies have I believed about who I am? What false identities have I carried that are not from You?

Jesus, show me how You see me. Reveal the glory you bestowed on me that I carry simply because you love me and I am Yours.

Spirit, what is in the way of awakening my heart to walk in my true identity and then offer it to others? Who needs my help today? Who can I encourage with my presence and words today, partnering with you to dispel darkness and bring Light?

If you enjoyed this reading plan, we invite you to continue your healing journey in *The Heart of a Warrior* and *King Me*, both by Michael Thompson.

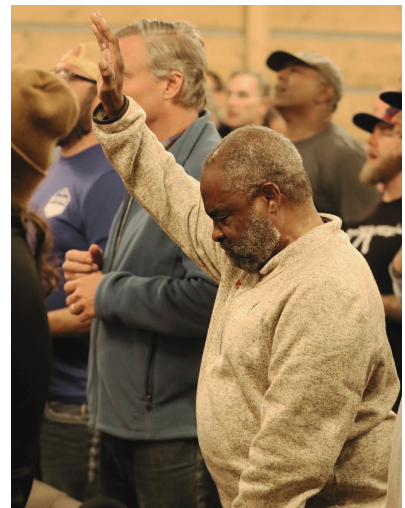


CONSIDER HOSTING OR GOING TO A



DISCOVER **WHO** YOU ARE, **WHERE** YOU ARE,
AND **THE GOOD** THAT GOD IS UP TO IN YOUR LIFE.

A Dangerous For Good Men's Summit is designed to be a catalyst event for the hearts of men in your church or community, inviting them to encounter God in a way that validates and initiates them along their masculine journey of becoming more oriented men.



YOU CAN FIND MORE DETAILS AT
<https://www.zoweh.org/dfgsummit>