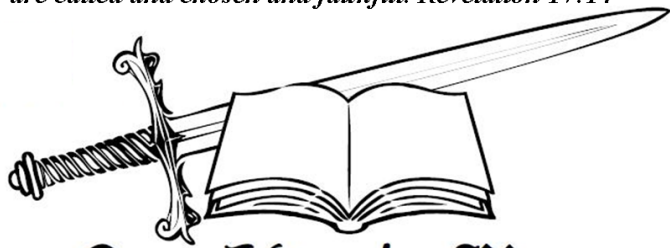


He is Lord of lords and King of Kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful. Revelation 17:14



Our King's Men

Laurel Ridge Community Church Men's Ministry

Spring 2018

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might —Deut. 6:5



Men's Community Group

Study: *Act Like Men*, with Joby Martin
Time: Tuesday evenings, 7:00 PM
Place: Laurel Ridge Church, Room 301
Host: Jeff Alford

God has created men to have incredible strength. But today's culture has hijacked masculinity, distorting strength into passivity and abuse. In this 5-part video Bible study series, pastor Joby Martin invites men to embrace God's definition of masculinity and to step into His calling upon their lives to wield their strength on behalf of others. God has designed men to be protectors, providers, and defenders. When men act like men, everyone flourishes. †



In His Time

(name of author withheld by request)



We had just found out my son's wife was pregnant with their first child. My son at the time was 30 years old. We were so excited for the two of them. My son came up to me and wanted to talk. He told me at that he had a drug addiction problem. He told me that his drug of choice was methamphetamine.

I was floored! I knew that that he had dabbled in marijuana as a kid but I had no idea of this drug. I had just retired from a major metropolitan police department and was working for the county as a criminal investigator. I was familiar with this drug and the battle he was facing. Due to my background, experience, and contacts, I thought I could solve this problem as I had done throughout my career. I have a type A personality and I honestly believed I could solve this. I knew what my son was up against. I had no idea what my wife and I were in for, for the next five years.

We started with the hospital programs for him and us. I heard the terms *enabling* and

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Events and Ministry Opportunities



June date TBA, 8-10 AM at Laurel Ridge Church. Kids and fathers are welcome—bring at least one of each if you can! Join us for fellowship, encouragement and a delicious breakfast.

Sign up for the men's breakfast on the Sunday service communication card or on the church website or mobile app.

We need a few good men to cook the meal and set-up tables. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Jeff Alford at 925-550-4334 or at men@laurelridgechurch.org.

2nd Annual Lake Finnon Men's Retreat

Friday, August 10 to Sunday, August 12 at Finnon Reservoir, near Placerville. Last year's inaugural event was a great success, join us for this year's event. Contact Jeff Alford at 925-550-4334 or at men@laurelridgechurch.org.

Serve at the River

Sunday, March 25, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at the corner of A and 6th Streets in Antioch.

Also on April 29, May 27 and June 24 (the last Sunday of each month).

Join with other believers in providing a meal and sharing God's love with the homeless and other people in need.

Donations of food, soft drinks and other items, and volunteers to help set up, serve and share are welcome. Contact Bob Andrade at 925-329-1108 for more information or to sign up.

Forged NorCal Men's Event

Friday, May 4 at 6 PM and Saturday, May 5 at 9 PM at The Father's House church in Vacaville. If you attended Iron Sharpens Iron last year, you won't want to miss FORGED! We have responded to your request and made this a two-day event. Session speakers will address topics relevant to men in all seasons of Christian life.

For more information, browse to <https://my.tfh.org/page/817> or contact Jeff Alford at men@laurelridgechurch.org or at 925-550-4334.



Tuesday night men's group got together recently for dinner at the Black Bear Diner. The guys with food look happier than the guys without!

Men's Basketball

Each Monday evening at 6:00 PM in the Laurel Ridge

Church gym. All are welcome.

Who's got next?!

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In His Time

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hitting rock bottom but didn't think it pertained to us. I knew God was with us and he would help us to beat this. Looking back, I don't know how folks go through these deep valleys in their life without God. I also heard the term *in his time* but again I didn't think that term pertained to me!

The next five years became an ugly blur and nightmare of treatment programs, counseling, court cases, and jail. One dark night we got the call that my son was attempting to take his own life. We jumped in the car and arrived at his residence to see police officers in tactical gear, police cars and many red lights flashing in our eyes. My son was in the back yard with a pneumatic-powered nail gun threatening to take his life. It was surreal to me. I had been a hostage negotiator for 10 years and never thought that this scenario I was familiar with would happen to my family. I tried to get the officer-in-charge to let me talk to my son. He told me I was too close and they would handle it. He finally put down the nail gun and was taken to the county psychiatric ward. To this day I relive that night in my dreams even though it has been almost 19 years later.

We finally attended a treatment group meeting called Al-Anon for families who have family members. It was there that we realized that we were enabling my son down his path to self-destruction. He had to hit rock bottom to get better. It was up to him and only him. While we were in the Al-Anon meetings, my son was incarcerated for traffic violations, violation of probation and resisting arrest.

We went to Santa Rita jail to visit him one day while he was waiting for his day in court. He asked us there to bring his daughter to visit him. My wife stated that she would not bring her granddaughter to such a place and she would never walk into this prison or any prison ever again. It was time for him to make a change in his life. I again was stunned, as my wife is pretty reserved, but she had given my son an ultimatum. We should have done that years earlier.

Now the good news. My son entered a drug program in Santa Rita. My daughter, who is an ordained minister, came back to California to help us. My son lived with her for a short time once he was released from the county jail.

My son and his wife stayed together. He has been clean and sober ever since. Their oldest daughter is a freshman at the University of Nevada now. They have a second daughter who is 10 years old. My son has been involved with many projects helping others less fortunate. He makes me very proud of him.

Yes, God never left us! I believe that through these times God gave us the ability to tell this story to many. God worked through my son to help him and guide him in his life. My daughter has continued her church ministry and works with others who are in hospice programs. My youngest helps others through her blog and with her sewing abilities. The words "in his time" are three words I will never forget. Trust that God has his plan for you and your family. ✝

Do you love God?

By Keith Cook

One of the things I had to face about my relationship with God a few years ago was that I did not love him. Sometimes during the worship service I would feel a surge of emotion, but most of the time I did not feel much of anything.

Deut. 6:5 says, *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might*, a command that Jesus repeated to his disciples. Some folks at church really did seem to love God that way. They had a joy and enthusiasm toward Him that I lacked. I wondered why I didn't and what was wrong with me.

Jesus said in John 15:14, *You are My friends if you do what I command you*. I attended church every Sunday, served in ministries, tithed. I was doing what I was supposed to do, mostly. Why wasn't I feeling closer to God? The problem began showing itself in failed ministries, weakness in the face of temptation, increasing bitterness and cynicism, and the feeling that I lacked an authentic relationship with God.

For me, the answer came when I decided to do one little thing for God simply as a gift to Him, with no expectation of return. That one thing was to read the Bible for about ten minutes each day. It was all I was willing to commit to doing. I hoped it would please God. I had no idea that it would transform my life. Love and joy began replacing bitterness and cynicism in my heart. I became increasingly eager to

spend more time with God in prayer and Bible reading. Sinful habits became easier to avoid. I began taking on new ministries and enjoying them. I became bolder in sharing my testimony about God with others. Best of all, I can honestly say now that I feel love for God, too.

So what does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul and mind? It means to bring God into every part of your life each day in your thoughts and prayers. Seek and pursue Him. Ask Him to help you love Him and others. Do everything you do to please Him, not others. Do you hate to do the dishes? So does your wife. Why not relieve her of that burden when you can as a gift to God? You'll be surprised how much easier chores become!

Try to see each situation in your life through God's eyes. Are you angry at someone? Remember that God loves that person and died for him or her. Remember all that God has done for you, simply because He chose to love you. Remind yourself each day that what you really want is to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and see what happens. †



What is the *time of Jacob's distress*?

Answer below.

The coming days of tribulation before the Second Coming (Jer. 30:7).