

Fight like a Man 2013

A New Manhood for a New Warfare

By Gordon Dalbey

9/11 revealed the enemy of God and humanity as rooted in shame-based religion. The focus of warfare has now shifted dramatically from military battles to the hearts of men.

I'M RUNNING SCARED across an open field--in this nightmare that hounded me so often as a young man--chased by a platoon of brown-uniformed soldiers armed with rifles and bayonets. Desperately, I race toward an old, two-story house in the middle of the field. Reaching it, I burst into the front door and slam it behind me, panting.

Boots thump on the doorstep. Turning quickly, I tear up the stairs, dart into a room and close the door. The front door bangs open downstairs. The boots tromp around below and then finally, up the stairs in staccato urgency toward my room. Sweating, I rush into a closet and shut the door behind me.

The boots stomp into my room seconds later, shuffle uncertain, and then move louder, toward the closet.

Trembling in the stuffy darkness, I grasp after breath. Pounding furiously, my heartbeat merges with the boots and

BAM! A fist explodes on the closet door and I jolt awake in terror.

Apart from either violence or lust, *Fight like a Man 2013* restores both courage and passion to manhood. Here's a masculinity you can trust—and the Father who makes it happen.

Born in August, 1944, I was called a "Victory Baby," because by my birthday, D-Day on June 6th of that year had secured the decisive initiative against the enemy. Today, I believe God is mounting an offensive, as a spiritual D-Day, to reclaim his territory in men's hearts.

Even as the flak is thickest when you're over the target, I also believe that 9/11 was the enemy's reaction to sabotage God's initiative among men.

This warrior's view at last reveals my nightmare as the Father's dream for me, that **those soldiers were pursuing not to kill me, but to recruit me**. In fact, it's a parable for men today as unfathered, unequipped, and ashamed, we can't recognize our true Father God and run from His call.

It's both our heritage and our destiny to join His warriors in the battle even now to liberate the world from darkness and destruction. In order to do that--to transform my nightmare into Father God's dream for us all—we need to face that very battle in our own hearts. Those who do that will discover the truth: we don't need more teachers. We need fathers.

There are a lot of people around who can't wait to tell you what you've done wrong, but there aren't many fathers willing to take the time and effort to help you grow up (1 Corinth. 4:15TMB).

That's why Jesus came. "Whoever has seen me," He declared, "has seen the Father" (John 14:8).

Fight like a Man completes my men's trilogy by focusing on the byproduct of fatherlessness in men today, namely, shame—too often fostered by religion, always overcome by Jesus.

Widely regarded as the best of my three men's books, *Fight like a Man 2013* is now even more timely today with its updated post-9/11 perspective.

The new Foreword calls men to join Father God in today's battle against darkness and destruction by facing it in ourselves. An Epilog traces the history of military warfare from age-old national turf battles to modern ideological conflict (as communism vs. capitalism), to the imperial claims of shame-based religion (as Al Qaeda).

This new *Fight like a Man* is a timely training manual for men courageous enough to face the true battle within us all--and faithful enough to trust the Father's victory in and through us.

Includes small group interaction questions for chapters--such as First We Surrender, Battling False Religion, Victory over Racism, Battling for the Child, Battling Addictions, Weeping Warrior, The Woman as Ally, and From Jackass to Warhorse.

**The weapons we use in our fight are not the world's weapons,
but God's powerful weapons, which we use to destroy
strongholds (2 Cor. 10:4)**

Sound Bites

from *Fight like a Man 2013*

- * God's victory begins with our surrender.
- * Religion tells us what to do; Jesus shows us who does it.
- * Unlike religion, in Jesus blessing comes *before* obedience.
- * We're not trapped in shame because we keep falling; we keep falling because we're trapped in shame.
- * A man who won't face his own pain can't see it in his child.
- * You can't ride the warhorse into the New Jerusalem until you've ridden the jackass into the Old Jerusalem.
- * Worship is bragging about your Father.
- * Humility before the Father delivers you from humiliation before the enemy.
- * The difference between a man and his son is the mother.

* An unfathered man can't affirm femininity without becoming it.

Both refreshing and upending, Gordon Dalbey's books take us to the depths of authentic manhood where we're both humbled by its mystery and engaged by its call.

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Ministry Update

The new updated and revised *Sons of the Father: Healing the Father-Wound in Men Today* came out in 2012, and now the new *Fight like a Man*. I'm almost finished *Do Pirates Wear Pajamas? And Other Mysteries in the Adventure of Fathering*, a collection of impacting stories from my early years as a dad, **for release this upcoming Father's Day**.

A November ministry trip with Mary to France and Switzerland to promote the new French translation of *Healing the Masculine Soul* was very productive. Mary often spoke to women separately while I spoke to the men—each of us with translators alongside. The Forum des Hommes (Men's Forum) near Geneva drew 400 French-speaking men excited to hear about Father God and His heart for them. DVD and CD recordings with French translator alongside are available on my site catalog at <http://store.abbafather.com/SearchResults.asp?Cat=6>.

Like the proportion elsewhere around the world where I've ministered, only 7 of the 400 men said their fathers had talked to them about girls and sex. The father-wound is a world-wide epidemic, the elephant in the world's living room which few men dare to face when blackmailed with its crippling shame—and which even fewer believe Jesus can heal.

My call at this point focuses on 1) providing the Father with updated resources to heal the father-wound, 2) showing how the shame which cripples men fuels a Pharisaic spirit of religion in the Body of Christ (see *Broken by Religion, Healed by God*), and 3) alerting Christians to the reality of spiritual warfare and Holy Spirit's power at hand to win it (see *No Small Snakes*).