

An aerial photograph of a dense forest. The majority of the trees are green, but there are several distinct patches of trees with orange and yellow foliage, suggesting autumn. The text is overlaid on this background.

Foreword by John Eldredge

BECOMING A KING

The Path to Restoring
the Heart of a Man

MORGAN SNYDER

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the Heart of a Man

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*Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.*

—Jeremiah 6:16

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FOREWORD

Many years ago Morgan and I found ourselves deep in the Yukon wilderness, fulfilling a lifelong dream to bowhunt for moose. We had to overcome a wild set of challenges to even get there.

After driving down the Alaska Highway from Whitehorse, following the overflowing banks of the Yukon River, we flew by floatplane into remote wilderness with our guide, whom we nicknamed Muskrat (he wore a cap made of muskrat pelts he'd trapped himself). Then came a six-hour trek in an Argo (an eight-wheeled amphibious vehicle) deeper into moose country, chainsawing our way through tangled forest, paddling through swamps. Hours of grueling labor passed slowly. We were less than a mile from our camp when we hit a branch of the mighty Jennings River that we simply could not cross; the current was too strong.

It was getting late, we were exhausted, and we sat there assessing the gravity of the situation.

"One of you needs to put on some waders," Muskrat said, "and take that winch cable across. Wrap it around some willows. If we try this without it, we'll be swept to hell and gone." I wanted to discuss more reasonable options, but Snyder was already pulling on the waders. I walked to the river's edge and dipped a hand in the glacial waters; it was numb before I could pull it out. I wanted to say, "No—I'll do it," but I hesitated just long enough to make sure Morgan was already suited up.

That's the kind of guy he is: willing to go for it. Willing to take one for the team.

And because of that, we made it to our camp and spent one of the most magical weeks in the wilderness either of us will ever have.

I tell you this story for two reasons: because Morgan never will, and because you need to know what kind of man is offering you counsel in this book.

The plague on the church today is that too many leaders are teaching about too many things they have never really lived. It's all hip theory and sexy ideas that haven't been tested in real life, and it does a lot of harm. We need wisdom. We need guidance. We need to hear from men who have actually walked the "ancient paths." As you've noticed, there aren't too many around.

Now let me quickly add—Morgan lives in a typical suburban neighborhood with a wife and two kids and has a nine-to-five job and trash that needs to be taken to the curb every Tuesday morning. They own a minivan. It's important to reveal this stuff, too, because we need counsel and wisdom that can be lived out in ordinary life. As much as we'd all love to quit our jobs and go find adventure on the high seas, we've got our actual lives in front of us, and it's right here that we navigate the pressures, challenges, heartbreaks, and chaos of this world. It can be done. With joy, even.

The treasures in this book weave together into a map of the masculine journey, a guide into wholehearted maturity. It is a joy-filled process—liberating, strengthening—and the results are the kind of men God loves to bless; the kind of men he is earnestly looking for.

I've known Morgan for more than twenty years; we've seen a lot of wild stuff together: missions to places like Africa and Australia, hundreds of counseling sessions with men in some pretty dark places. I can assure you he has lived all of this deeply, with love and perseverance, before he took it in hand to write this book and offer what he's learned to you. In fact, it took him years to write it because he didn't want to rush.

That's the best endorsement I can give.

This journey will be well worth your time.

John Eldredge

Colorado, 2020

UNCOVERING THE ANCIENT PATH TO BECOMING

Midway along the journey of our life
I woke to find myself in a dark wood,
for I had wandered off from the straight path.

How hard it is to tell what it was like,
this wood of wilderness, savage and stubborn
(the thought of it brings back all my old fears),
a bitter place! Death could scarce be bitterer.

But if I would show the good that came of it
I must talk about things other than the good.

—Dante, *Inferno*, Canto 1 (c. 1308)

More than a decade ago, I found these words painfully true. In a personal wilderness, I awoke—lost, alone, disoriented, and very afraid. In a bitter place.

I had a beautiful wife, two healthy and happy kids, meaningful work, and the beginning of a little nest egg for the future. What more could a man ask for?

But when I was finally honest with myself, the steady waves of discouragement and anxiety were undeniable. Looking at my life as an iceberg, the 10 percent above the waterline looked impressive. But the 90 percent below told another story: I was not well; I was submerged in pain and confusion.

While I had already committed the decade of my twenties to focusing on becoming a more mature and wholehearted man, as I rounded the bend into the thirties, my inner life was not what I'd envisioned. Perhaps better said, *I* had not become *who* I'd envisioned. At least at most junctures, I'd made what I thought were good, honorable decisions to get where I was. But where I was wasn't good, at least not on the inside.

And so, as every good story goes, I left the comfortable and set my soul on a quest. In time I became aware that God had already set my rescue in motion, as I began to discover answers to my questions in the least likely places.

Where Are You?

Looking back, I wonder now if God's pursuit of me was that different from his engagement with Adam. You may remember the story: Adam and Eve had just eaten from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, choosing to break trust with the One whose image they bore. Throwing off Love's authority and allowing the lines between good and evil to be blurred, they chose to call into question the goodness of God's heart.

Then the story takes a remarkable turn of kindness. Instead of withdrawal and attack, God offered relationship and pursuit. Love came *looking* for Adam and Eve, reaching out. Moving toward Adam in strength and engagement, the Hebrew Scriptures record, God offered this intimate and profound question: "Adam, where are you?"

This was not a question to collect data. God knew *where* Adam was. It was a question to pursue and connect soul to soul. And it might be one of the most important questions we ever ask ourselves. What's more, it might be the question God is curious about in this moment.

Where are you?

It was surely the question with which my heavenly Father pursued me in that bitter place a decade ago, and it's the question he continues to ask me today. To experience the depths of his intentions, we must pause to hear our own name beckoned by the heart of God.

Where are you?

The journey to becoming the kind of wholehearted man to whom God can gladly entrust the care of his kingdom will require courage, vulnerability, and beyond all, love. To open your masculine heart to receive a love that is being made available more deeply than you might even imagine. In order to do that, you must choose whether to risk being honestly vulnerable about where you are in your story. You are worth pausing—here in this moment—to consider how you are doing on the inside. Perhaps on a soul level there is disappointment or anger. Perhaps it is a deep sense of fatigue or of being overwhelmed. Perhaps a feeling of being behind. Whatever it is, let your soul speak for a moment. There are treasures waiting for you and deep hope infused in the pages ahead. The only way to receive all this is to start by being honest with yourself about the true condition of your heart, as a man.

Questions

I, too, chose to get really honest with myself. Over several weeks, my heart reached out in desperate pleas for God to make sense of my life. I poured out questions to him: *God, where are you in this? Where am I in this? How did I get here? Where do I go from here? Why is there such a disconnection between the goodness of my circumstances and the discontent within? What is this next decade supposed to be about? What are the pitfalls? What are the hopes? What's the one thing? Above all, how do I find the fullness of life I was made for and thirst after so desperately?*

Nothing. For weeks. Silence.

Then an impression from the Father started slowly coming to me: *Morgan, I am right here with you. I love your questions, and they will be your guides from here. To begin, I want to speak to your questions through the counsel of older, wise men. Go to the oldest men you know and respect, and ask them. Listen to me through their stories.*

God was inviting me to heal through relationships, through sitting at the feet of older, wiser men who had suffered and found life; my Father was

directing me to the ancient path of *becoming* and to the rare men who had chosen to walk along it.

Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.

—Jeremiah 6:16

And so it began.

The Ancient Path of Becoming

It began with a single letter. I found the oldest man I knew and respected, and I put pen to paper regarding the questions in my heart. In time I formed a list of all the older men who, in one way or another, had a place in my story. I sent letters to them, asking for their counsel. I asked those in faraway states or countries for a letter in return or a phone call. Responses from those in proximity came over time, in the form of conversations over a pint or with a cigar by a campfire. As the experiences grew, so did the list. I kept adding to the ranks more and more guides, men in front of me on the masculine journey. Over two years' time, the number grew to nearly seventy-five sages, with whom came a treasure chest of clues to an ancient path eager to be recovered. As I sat in their counsel with a stack of notes, I started to notice the themes of their responses, and with those in hand I began to add to their advice the counsel of the great heroes of our faith down through the ages. The Father's affection and assurance began to break through to my lost and weary soul.

Son, you're not behind. You are on time. And you're going to be okay.

The lives of these elders represented a variety of vocations, socioeconomic thresholds, faith practices, and journeys. Yet through the diverse experiences of these men, a common path emerged: each man had been entrusted with power and had to navigate a process of restoration to become the kind of man who

could handle it. There were consistent themes, spoken in many different terms but all with the same heartbeat. Men reclaiming their identity, their strength, their integrity, and their purpose through *becoming a student, becoming a son, and consenting to the slow and steady process of inner transformation*. As the years transpired, a map took shape around signposts rendered from the joy and suffering I witnessed in the lives of these men. After a decade, through the urging of trusted friends and growing out of my work rescuing and restoring the hearts of men, I began to realize this map was not for me alone. It was meant to be shared.

This book is my effort to share that map, to help others recover the narrow path to becoming a king.

And it is intended to reach the man, to find the few.

To share that outright is the best way I can think of to honor you. Books offering quick, easy steps to change your life will sell, but they aren't sufficient to bring long-term transformation. This book is for the few who want life and are willing to be transformed in the pursuit. It is for men who are thirsty for adventure, meaning, recovery of soul. It is for men who desire to engage this pursuit through a fellowship with a small, heroic tribe along the way. Men who have suffered enough to be open to the possibility that recovering a life in and with God and his kingdom is the context in which the masculine soul will flourish. It is for men who are willing to trust that the process of inner transformation leads to the kind of legacy we dream to leave behind as we one day depart from this world.

As you will see, there is little new in these pages but much newly recovered. My intent is to serve as a curator and distiller of an ancient path to becoming a king. Fueled by a relentless pursuit of becoming a wholehearted man, I've invested the better part of the last two decades seeking the heart of God and the nature of reality as shared by these modern-day fathers I have sought out and come to trust. As mentors, John Eldredge, author of *Wild at Heart*, and Dallas Willard, author of *The Divine Conspiracy*, were central to recovering a map to the restoration of the heart of a man. While there were many other modern-day fathers with whom I've had the privilege of cultivating personal relationships, there have been others among this fellowship of giants

who have recently crossed over from human history—men like A. W. Tozer, C. S. Lewis, and George MacDonald. Still others reach much further back into the story: the earliest disciples as well as more ancient forerunners of our faith such as Solomon, Isaiah, and Nehemiah—most of whom were, by all outward appearances, ordinary men whose noble hearts found life in and with an extraordinary God. Together, this collective has formed the basis for any wisdom saturating these pages.

This book is offered for those who choose to believe transformation of the masculine soul is possible and are willing to risk moving toward it. My intention is to build upon the faithful apprenticeship laid out before me and to share a map of the ancient path of becoming the kind of king to whom God greatly delights to entrust the care of his kingdom.

While it is my heartfelt intention for this book to deeply benefit women who desire to see the men in their lives restored, I wrote this book primarily for men. I hold fast to a facet of reality expressed in Genesis 1, that God authored gender and created humans as male and female in his own image. My experience is that recovering the fullness of what it means to bear the image of God *as a man* is central to the restoration of men and women.

After years of conversation with my wife and other women I deeply respect and admire, I'm convinced that men and women share many core desires and that these common desires are expressed in very personal ways, particular to the individual, to his or her calling, heart, preferences, and story. Being entrusted with a kingdom and lovingly reigning over it is one of our shared desires, as are the desires to explore, to discover, to create, and to be loved, to love, and to move ever closer to the Source of love. However, with humility, I'm choosing to honor the feminine soul and allow this book to focus on the masculine soul and the path to becoming a king.

This is a no-BS kind of message, and it requires soul-centered honesty, courage, and love. You'll find that to be my style. I will be myself with you, in the hope that you might find permission to become more of the unique man God created you to be.

Keep in mind, it is never too late. Be encouraged: this is a book for a man of any age who is willing to honestly consider what is lacking in his path to

becoming wholehearted. Clearly, there are ages in most men's lives at which a level of deep inner transformation is more readily achievable. Yet rather than focus on age, this book explores the epicenter of the process that the masculine soul goes through to grow, heal, and mature into full manhood.

When I started my journey down this path years ago, little did I know the accuracy of Louis L'Amour's words: "There will be a time when you believe everything is finished. That will be the beginning."¹

I invite you to a new beginning. To stand with me at the trailhead of a path into the wild. To risk taking one more step into the unknown. To trust that your suffering has not been wasted. To believe that you will find a good Father leading the way and celebrating your courage and vulnerability at every turn. May you find grounding in these truths as we plunge into the promise together.

You may be feeling weary, discouraged, defeated. You are not alone. There are other men who are holding on to hope that the abundant life is available. Men who know there is a life of deep meaning, adventure, beauty, courage, and intimate relationship, a life that is worth fighting for. There are men who want it and, perhaps like you, are growing in willingness to go for it. The offer is fullness of life for you and those you hold dear. It is available. It isn't cheap. It isn't easy. It isn't quick. But it's worth the cost.

Journey with me as we begin to make our way down the path laid out long before our days. It is a path that will remain long after we are gone. It is an ancient path we can recover even now. May we learn together how to become the kind of man—the kind of king—to whom God can entrust his kingdom.

To the few, the rare, and the brave:

Welcome.



BECOMING POWERFUL

The great problem of the earth and the great
aim of the masculine journey boil down to this:
when can you trust a man with power?

—John Eldredge

Do you remember your first taste of power?

I can still hear the blades engaging on our 1976 Cub Cadet riding mower. I was eight years old, and after I rode on his lap a few times, my dad put me behind the wheel. I distinctly remember taking the throttle for the first time as my dad stepped aside and turned me loose. I was given rule and dominion over the half-acre lawn that hugged a strip of western Pennsylvania woods. And I loved it. For the first time, I felt the masculine surge of fierce mastery over a domain. Even now, several decades later, the smell of freshly cut grass takes my soul back to that moment of being entrusted with power.

What have you done with the desire to be powerful?

Here is the unapologetic premise of this book: the desire to be powerful—to lead, care for, and bring goodness to a man's realm—is central to the soul. The story line of what we do with power is the path to recovering the depth and breadth of what God meant when he made you and me. While it expresses

itself in infinite ways, this desire to be powerful is common to us all; it's in our design. Regardless of what we look like, where we come from, and what we do for work, all of us can identify with this desire uniquely expressed in our lives.

Think of what you long to have spoken about your life in your eulogy. What if, among stories of shared adventure and intimate relationships, the people closest to you were able to speak words like these:

He lived and led with wisdom, vulnerability, and courage.

He shaped the world for good and left a lasting legacy.

He loved well and loved deeply from a sincere heart.

And he finished strong.

The *Imago Dei*

The desire to be powerful transcends both social constructs and our boyhood dreams of becoming firefighters, policemen, NFL football players, Olympic athletes, fighter pilots, or soldiers. This longing transcends because it is the image of God in us.

We need to look no further than the opening chapter of Genesis for this reminder. God formed us from soil into his image, then breathed us to life in order that we might rule and reign under the authority of his goodness. To share valiantly and effectively in God's power was the first mission entrusted to humankind. With deep anticipation, God declared to Adam and Eve, "I want you to rule."

When we strip away the religious veil, this command is more rousing than we might first think; it is the invitation to become who we were *meant* to be. As bearers of God's image, we were meant to embody God's heart, character, and power, partnering with God to fulfill his purposes in our days. "Like a foreman runs a ranch or like a skipper runs his ship. Better still, like a king rules a kingdom, God appoints us as the governors of his domain."¹ A kingdom is, as Dallas Willard pointed out, simply the range of our effective will. It is where we have say, where our will is done. It is within the context of kingdom

language and kingdom thinking that we must reconsider God's design for effective power-sharing with created yet creative human beings.

God's desire to share his power with us is displayed across the narrative of Scripture. From God's convocation of Adam and Eve to his ultimate re-instatement of the human race at the restoration of all things, described at the end of the book of Revelation, God is inviting humanity to collaborate in his dominion.

Even at a midpoint in the biblical story, David marveled that God endowed humans with the capacity to wield power within a universe charged with grandeur and magnificence.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
 the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
 what is man that you are mindful of him,
 and the son of man that you care for him?

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
 and crowned him with glory and honor.
 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
 you have put all things under his feet,
 all sheep and oxen,
 and also the beasts of the field,
 the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
 whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

—Psalm 8:3–8 ESV

Yet what do we do with the dissonance between the wonder of the invitation and the poor way we've fulfilled it? A glance at current events and an honest look in the mirror both reveal that something has misfired. Yes, there are men among us who valiantly bear the image of God. And there are no doubt also moments where we find ourselves living strong and true. Yet by no means is pervasive and integrated masculine goodness the major theme of our day.

For me, as for many, Dallas Willard served as one of the central modern-day fathers of the faith. For several decades he mentored men and women in kingdom living as a teacher, philosopher, and author. Dallas captured the deep dilemma of masculine power with these words: “The primary work of God is finding men to whom he can entrust his power. And the story of most men is being entrusted with power and it bringing harm to themselves and those under their care.”²

Willard suggested that throughout the narrative of Scripture and through the entire record of human history, again and again we observe this same pattern of men being entrusted with power intended for the good of others. And often that power is used for self-promotion or personal gain and in the end does not bring the greater good for which it was intended, neither to the man nor to the people and kingdom entrusted to his care.

Let that sink in. The power entrusted to most men often brings harm. Think of the stories that have come out in recent years.

Bill Cosby was a hero for a generation, an iconic family man. Yet at least fifty women have come forward accusing him of sexual assault. The harm he caused is incalculable; the fissure between his on-screen life and his private inner life has cost him—and many others—nearly everything.

Lance Armstrong. Seven-time Tour de France champion. Cancer survivor. Founder of the Livestrong Foundation, which has given hope to millions. Yet he chose to lie to the world—even to his own kids—about his reliance on performance-enhancing drugs to make every Tour championship title possible.³ His extensive drug use is one of the greatest scandals in professional sports history. Having seven world titles revoked was only the beginning of the unraveling of his wide influence.

No coach racked up more wins in the history of college football than Penn State’s Joe Paterno. More bowl victories than any coach in history. In his own words, “I don’t fish. I don’t golf. I don’t cut the lawn. . . . Football is my life.”⁴ And it was true. Enough for him to overlook the conduct of his long-standing assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, who was convicted of fifty-two counts of child molestation. At the height of his professional achievements, Joe was fired by the board of trustees and died within a month.

Disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein was indicted on several predatory sexual assault charges and has been accused of sexual misconduct by more than forty women. What has come to light—from Hollywood to corporate America to politics—is systemic abuse of power through sexual harassment, misconduct, and abuse in every arena of our society. More than fifty other high-profile men were called out in 2018 alone.

Organized religion has not escaped these tragic stories. The Catholic Church faces perhaps its greatest crisis in modern times with pervasive and systemic sexual abuse surfacing around the globe. A grand jury issued an 884-page report identifying more than one thousand child victims of sexual abuse by three hundred priests in Pennsylvania dioceses alone. The now-disgraced founding pastor and forty-year leader of Willow Creek Community Church was ushered into “early retirement” by confirmed cases of power abuse and misconduct. The *Houston Chronicle* published an article detailing 220 Southern Baptist church leaders accused of sexual misconduct who have been convicted or have taken a plea deal in cases involving more than seven hundred victims.

Nearly any search of the news can yield a fresh batch of dethroned monarchs, religious or secular. Men entrusted with power but who, having unaddressed and unattended rifts in their masculine soul, have brought harm to women and men and children under their care.

Fallen kings and fallen kingdoms.⁵

Scripture is replete with similar stories. Remember the cowardice of Pontius Pilate when he refused to stand up to the crowd and save the life of Jesus? How about the impact of David’s power upon the lives of Uriah and Bathsheba? The Old Testament Pharaoh killed thousands of Hebrew boys, and the New Testament King Herod repeated this horror in his jealousy and fear of a rival king. Though the characters change, the story line remains the same: broken, unfinished, uninitiated men breaking the lives of others with their power.

Think of the men who have held positions of authority over you in your own story. When did they use their power to meet their own unharnessed need for validation rather than offer their strength in the service of love? Coaches, teachers, pastors, bosses working out their core desire to feel powerful at the

expense of those entrusted to their care. The list is long, and the damage is real. Kings of this world are notorious for using the talent of young men to serve their own needs to build their kingdom.

More sobering, when I survey my own domain and all that has been entrusted to my care, I see that my own mishandling of power has wounded those I love most. Though in ways I am growing and maturing in my capacity to love well, the harm I've caused others is undeniable and long-standing. I am not yet the man I was made to become. Both in acts of commission, where my power has hurt others, and in acts of omission, where I have failed to engage, to bring a genuine strength in love, I have brought harm. Even this morning I found myself needing to pause and invite my wife to sit face-to-face, heart-to-heart, so that I could take renewed responsibility for places where I have failed to bring into our story the strength and love she deserves.

And so we return to the question, when can you trust a man with power?

Initiation by Fire

"It felt as though I was on a huge roller coaster. It was all I could do to hold on." I was sitting in a truck, deep in the high country of Colorado, with one of the guides from whom I had sought out wisdom. He was reflecting on his years as a young husband, with young kids, in a young and growing career. He named the universal shift that happens for every maturing man, where we begin to move from being the center of our story to coming to the sobering realization that life is not primarily about us.

In the masculine journey, our early years of manhood often begin as a season of exploration and discovery. In youthful exuberance, we tend to view the world with ourselves at its epicenter. Passing through this in time, every man is faced with this profound, essential transition. While it may not be easy to name, the shift is felt deeply in the masculine soul.

I am not the center of the story.

A significant portion of my life is behind me.

And for better and worse, my decisions have deep consequences in the lives of others.

Sure, we are important and affect the lives of others at every stage of development. But at some point in young to mid-adulthood, we find our lives bound with others in inextricable ways. This shift is often initiated by marriage, having kids, and taking on a full-time job or other major responsibilities.

Signing up for a joint checking account with my wife, Cherie, and eventually purchasing a home in both of our names was sobering. The implications of “till death do us part” became concrete, hitting me with the pressure and fear that ultimately I did not have what was needed to come through.

When we stepped into marriage, both Cherie and I were intent on seeking God’s heart, filled with a sense of promise and possibility. While many rocks lay strewn on the path in our first years, I remember the joy of lingering conversation and sharing what we were learning and what questions were emerging as we explored life, each other, God, and the world.

And then we became parents. We were delighted by God’s good provision and felt the joy of being entrusted with these little ones. Yet as quickly as they came, so did all margin depart. I remember Joshua crying and being unable to comfort him, the sleepless nights, the disorientation of being the first among our peers to become parents, and feeling painfully out of place between couples with older kids and our peers who were single or newlyweds.

My dreams and desires became very simple: a few hours’ sleep, a beer, a cup of coffee, or—someday—maybe even ten minutes of stillness. As margin evaporated, the negative impact of my style of relating with Cherie increased. I could see the check engine light on the dashboard of my soul illuminated, but our lives seemed to be functioning well enough, and as long as the car is still drivable, who has time or emotional space to check under the hood anyway? So we kept on driving our life and our marriage. (It’s amazing how at times we can pay more attention to our vehicles than to the state of our souls.)

Do you remember this transition from a season of exploration and discovery into the season of being consequential to other people? While it caught me off guard, there were a handful of moments in which it was crystal clear that

I'd been catapulted out of one season of life and had landed with bumps and bruises in another. And I, too, found myself on a huge roller coaster. And it was all I could do to hold on.

I started to notice certain things for the first time. Professional athletes were actually younger than I was. One day my head was strangely sore after a short adventure with some buddies under the hot summer sun. I soon realized I had badly sunburned my scalp. I had no idea I'd lost enough hair to warrant replacing styling gel with sunscreen from the kids' swim bag.

With this shift into a new season of heightened responsibility, the pressure builds quickly and steadily, and most men reach for security with a determination to start building. The standard blueprint for this reactive building process often has three components:

1. **Making a name for ourselves.** Whatever we can do, big or small, we establish ways to secure our identity by what we do so it isn't rooted in who we are.
2. **Making a little money.** We lock onto our own version of the modern dream. We take the bait of thinking that building a bank account will validate us as a man or give us more of the lasting rest or satisfaction that our heart seeks.
3. **Getting something going.** Whatever it may be, we start building. We build resumes, social media networks, churches, businesses. We start hustling. Whatever it may be, much of it fueled by the desire to feel alive. To feel the thrill of accomplishment, success, and to have something of which we can be proud.

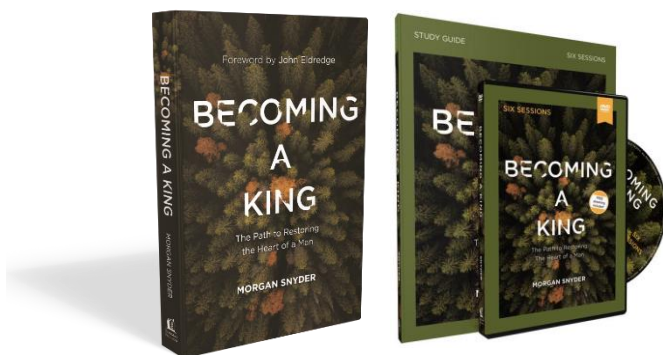
Consider these three central motives for building. Look back at your life over the years. Notice how these motives have been expressed and how much of your time and energy has been invested in succeeding in these pursuits. If we slow down and observe our lives, we often will find that many of our activities are a reaction to mounting pressure and responsibility. In and of themselves, none of these things are inherently bad. It is the motives with which we pursue them that must be unearthed. Notice how often, even if we are physically

present with the people and things we attest to care most about, we find ourselves not soulfully present and engaged. Rather than bringing to our families playfulness and affection, we bring fatigue and frustration. Why is it we spend our best energy at work and show up at home with mere scraps? We determine to achieve something to call our own, to start that company, to conquer that initiative. Yet why is it we find ourselves scrambling to prove to a boss, to our spouse, or—even more—to our own souls that we have what it takes?

And the desire and vision we have for being powerful collides painfully with our inability to maintain integrity of soul under the weight of the demands. What if the desire deep within our souls, expressed in so many forms, to be powerful is whispering to us an ancient truth?

We are meant to be powerful.

And in order to become powerful, to become a wholehearted king, to become a man who can delight the heart of God through what he does with power bestowed, we must take a journey down a rarely traveled and adventurous path. We must risk believing that these desires placed within us were meant for good. They were set deep inside us by the Father heart of God. And in order to recover life, we must first venture far enough down this ancient path to recover the possibility and the promise of becoming a son.



BECOMING A KING

BY MORGAN SNYDER

Masculinity is in need of restoration. But how do you become the kind of man – the kind of king – to whom God can entrust his kingdom?

A look at our history and the world around us shows that the story of most men is being entrusted with power and having that power bring harm to themselves and those under their care.

What's gone wrong? When can you entrust a man with power?

In *Becoming a King*, Morgan has curated and mined discoveries from the lives of over seventy-five sages who have gone before us, and we journey with him on an ancient and reliable path to restoring the heart of a man and becoming the kind of man who can wield power for good. Speaking unabashedly to men, Morgan invites us to a rare and remarkable fellowship of like-hearted kings and an honest conversation about what power and responsibility look like for men in our world today.

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