



**FATHER'S DAY SERMON**  
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**MEN OF GOD ARISE TOGETHER**  
**Ephesians 5:14**

#### **SERMON OUTLINE**

**INTRODUCTION:** Biblical masculinity has come under assault as never before in our lifetime, fostering enormous confusion regarding a man's role and responsibility in the 21st Century. God is not confused about a man's identity or assignment on the earth. His anointed word summons men to step into their prophetic destiny as men of God who reject passivity, accept responsibility, lead courageously, and invest eternally.

God has not called men to be lone rangers. Instead, He calls men of God to arise together as a band of brothers from every tribe, tongue, and nation. The Apostle Paul admonishes us in Ephesians 5:7-14 to walk in the light as authentic Christ-followers who reflect the light and life of Christ in this dark world.

**TEXT: Ephesians 5:14 (NKJV)** Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

**PREMISE:** “If you want to get somewhere fast, go alone. If you want to go the distance, take a team.” Ancient African Proverb

**NOTE:** Men Of God Arise Together is the clarion call of the hour. Just as Nehemiah called the men of his day to fight for their families, we, too, must fight for our families, embracing the same strategies Nehemiah used to lead his men to victory in the face of significant opposition.

**Nehemiah 4:13-14 (NLT)** <sup>13</sup>I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows. <sup>14</sup>I said to them, “Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!”

**The Fatherless Epidemic:** A father-absent society is pulling our society apart at the very core.

**Resolve:** Instead of fighting with my family, I will fight for my family.

**Nehemiah’s Theme:** Rebuilding What’s Broken

**2 Corinthians 2:11 (KJV)** We are not ignorant of [Satan’s] devices [designs, schemes, sly ways].

**Note:** Satan uses fatigue (Nehemiah 4:10), frustration (4:10), and fear (4:12) to wear us down in the fight for our family.

**What’s a man to do? Four Things:**

**1) Request God’s Help** (Nehemiah 1:5-11; 2:4; 4:4-5; 4:9)

**2) Rally Your Family** (Nehemiah 4:13)

**3) Remember Who God Is** (Nehemiah 4:14)

**4) Reclaim Your Family** (Nehemiah 4:14)

**1 Corinthians 16:14 (MSG)** Let all that you do be done in love.

**James 1:20 (NKJV)** The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

**CONCLUSION: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (MSG)** Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, Doesn’t have a swelled head, Doesn’t force itself on others, Isn’t always “me first,” Doesn’t fly off the handle, Doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, Doesn’t revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.

## COMMENTARY

A real man engages the battle within and stands in the gap for his family, wife, children, and grandchildren. Too often, men fight with their families rather than fighting for their families. A father-absent culture is pulling our society apart at the core of its being, causing a fatherless epidemic.



Instead of fighting with my family, I will fight for my family.

Nehemiah, threatened by sinister forces of destruction, said, "I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to

**stand guard by families**, armed with swords, spears, and bows. As I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, 'Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and **fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!**'"<sup>10</sup> Our great and glorious God has made us "more than conquerors through Christ, who loved us" (Romans 8:37).<sup>11</sup> We will fight for our families and prevail even as Nehemiah did by requesting God's help, rallying our families, remembering who God is, and reclaiming our families.

### REQUEST GOD'S HELP

As fathers, we must learn how to pray, requesting God's help for our families. Nehemiah asked for God's help in Chapter 1. He then offered a "popcorn prayer" in the king's presence in Chapter 2 and prayed two more times in Chapter 4. Nehemiah 4:4-5 (NLT) <sup>4</sup>Then I prayed, "Hear us, O our God, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads, and may they themselves become captives in a foreign land! <sup>5</sup>Do not ignore their guilt. Do not blot

out their sins, for they have provoked you to anger here in the presence of the builders."

Nehemiah 4:9 (NLT) We prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.

### **RALLY YOUR FAMILY**

Nehemiah Chapter 3 records the names of different men who stood guard over their respective families, standing in the gap, ready to defend their families against enemy attack. We, too, must rally our families, stand guard over them, and engage the enemy on their behalf.

### **REMEMBER WHO GOD IS**

Nehemiah 4:14 (NIV) After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. **Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome**, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." We, too, must remember who our God is and who we are in Christ, thereby encouraging ourselves in the Lord with the full assurance that our God will fight for our families and us as we give Him first place.

### **RECLAIM YOUR FAMILY**

Nehemiah 4:23 (NLT) "During this time, none of us—not I, nor my relatives, nor my servants, nor the guards who were with me—ever took off our clothes. We carried our weapons with us at all times, even when we went for water." In his book, *Standing Tall: How a Man Can Protect His Family*, Steve Farrar says, "A godly father is the unseen spiritual submarine who lurks below the surface of every activity of his child's life. A man who has put on the full armor of God and with that armor goes to warfare on his knees for his children is a force to be reckoned with. We cannot be with our children 24 hours a day, but we can affect situations

through our prayers even when we are not physically present. You may be undetected, but that does not mean you are ineffective.”

The Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 16:14 (MSG), “Let all that you do be done in love.” The Apostle James reminds us in James 1:20 (NKJV), “The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” Hence, in our fight for our families, we must never forget, “Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, Doesn’t have a swelled head, Doesn’t force itself on others, Isn’t always “me first,” Doesn’t fly off the handle, Doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, Doesn’t revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7, MSG).

The journey of becoming like Jesus is not a solo venture. It is a race we are running together. If we go the distance, we need each other more than ever! So, let us arise together as men of God who reflect the light and life of Christ in our witness, in our word, in our walk, in our worship, in our warfare, and in our work for the glory of God!

***Oh, Men of God, Arise***  
**Steve Green**

Oh, men of God arise  
Awake from slumber's night  
Shake off sin's drowsiness  
And rouse yourself to fight  
Run from vain this distraction  
Keep your vision clear  
Cast out all fleshly stowaways  
Refuse to harbor fear

Lift up the cup of holiness  
Drink long and take your fill

Oh, men of God arise  
To carry out to carry out God's will  
Oh, men of God arise  
Take up your sword and shield  
Your foe has no defense  
Against the power they wield  
Christ has gained the victory  
The outcome is assured  
Satan is defeated  
By the power of God's word

Lift up the cup of holiness  
Drink long and take your fill  
Oh, men of God arise  
To carry out to carry out God's will.