

STRENGTH 1: GRIT

BUILT FOR IMPACT SERIES

*For this very reason, make every effort to **add to your faith goodness**; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. – 2 Peter 1:5-8*

GRIT IS THE STARTING POINT OF GREATNESS

You remember the movie Braveheart? William Wallace doesn't lead a rebellion because someone gave him a leadership seminar. He fights because something deep inside won't let him settle for injustice and cowardice. That's what Peter's getting at here when he says, "Add to your faith... goodness." He's not talking about being polite or just doing good deeds. The Greek word here is *aretē* — it's moral courage, virtue in action, the kind of inner strength that makes you get up and fight the right battles.

Let's be honest — most men are exhausted because they've been swinging swords at the wrong enemies. Chasing titles, bank accounts, approval, or pleasure — all while neglecting the inner life that makes a man truly dangerous for the Kingdom.

But Peter is clear: Faith is just the beginning. If your faith is real, it will show up in how you live. Not perfectly, but intentionally. With guts. With grit.

FAITH THAT WORKS

Faith alone saves you — that's grace. But faith alone is not enough to make you effective. That's why Peter uses the phrase "make every effort." In the Greek, it means bring intense diligence, eagerness, and focus — not casual interest.

You don't drift into greatness. You build it — brick by brick, choice by choice.

Adding "goodness" means we refuse to settle for mediocrity. It means we grow a backbone. In your marriage, it looks like showing up emotionally, even when you're tired. At work, it's taking responsibility when it would be easier to shift blame. In your spiritual life, it's choosing obedience even when no one's watching.

AT WORK: WHERE GOODNESS GETS TESTED

Your job isn't just a paycheck — it's a proving ground.

- Are you known for cutting corners or raising the standard?
- Do people trust your word, even when there's money on the line?
- Do you make others better, or just try to look better than others?

God doesn't just want you to survive the workweek — He wants you to represent Him in how you lead, decide, and influence. That's "goodness" in action.

THE QUIET INTEGRITY OF TRUETT CATHY

Truett Cathy, the founder of Chick-fil-A, was once asked why he insisted on closing all stores on Sundays, even though they were losing millions in potential revenue. His answer? "Because my convictions matter more than my profits." That's the kind of goodness Peter is talking about — moral excellence that doesn't cave under pressure.

It's not about perfection. It's about deciding: *I'm not for sale. I'm not going with the flow. I'm going with God.*

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q. Where in your life are you settling for "good enough"?
- Q. What's one area at work where you've been compromising excellence or character?
- Q. What would it look like for you to pursue goodness with intentionality this week?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- James 2:17 – "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."
- Psalm 15 – A picture of the man who lives with integrity and stands firm.
- 1 Corinthians 16:13 – "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."

PRAYER

Lord, give me a backbone of courage and a heart of conviction. Don't let me settle for comfortable or easy. Teach me to live with grit and goodness — the kind that reflects You and inspires others to follow. Help me lead, work, and love with moral strength. In Jesus' name, amen.

TAKEAWAY SUMMARY

A man who adds goodness to his faith doesn't just believe the truth — he embodies it. He shows up. He owns his influence. He fights the right battles. He builds a life of excellence and integrity, one decision at a time.

THIS WEEK'S ACTION STEP

Pick one area of your life (marriage, job, parenting, leadership, etc.) where you've been on autopilot. Ask God to show you where you've been settling — and make one bold move to raise the bar. Write it down. Share it with a brother. And follow through.

GOODNESS

Acting with integrity and striving for moral excellence. Raising the standard in your work, your words, and your influence — even when no one's watching.

STRENGTH 2: GRIT WITH SMARTS

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GRIT WITHOUT SMARTS IS JUST NOISE

You ever meet a guy who works hard, but keeps hitting the same wall over and over again? All effort, no adjustment. Like a weightlifter using terrible form — getting nowhere fast, just wearing himself out.

Peter's second building block for impact is *knowledge*. Not head knowledge that puffs up — but practical, spiritual insight that helps you live wisely and effectively. The kind of man who's not just tough, but strategic. Not just busy, but fruitful.

Faith gives us identity. Goodness gives us character. But knowledge gives us clarity — how to live in a way that honors God and helps others.

This isn't about being a Bible trivia champ or quoting Greek. It's about learning to think like Jesus. To become a man who isn't led by emotion, fear, or culture — but by truth.

THE MIND OF CHRIST

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

– Romans 12:2

“We have the mind of Christ.” – 1 Corinthians 2:16

Peter's not asking us to be academic — he's calling us to *be awake*. To tune into truth instead of defaulting to instincts or assumptions. When you add knowledge, you're choosing to stop winging it and start living with purpose and understanding.

A man who never stops learning is a man who never stops growing.

AT WORK: KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING – AND WHY

In your job, you wouldn't wing a presentation without prep. You'd study your product. Your competition. Your numbers. So why do so many men wing it when it comes to their faith, marriage, parenting, or personal habits?

Adding knowledge means you ask deeper questions:

- Why do I react that way?
- What lies am I believing?
- How does God want me to handle this situation?

It's the difference between a man who blows up in a meeting — and one who reads the room, listens, and speaks with wisdom. One lives by impulse. The other by insight.

God wants you to be *both strong and smart* — tough with a teachable spirit.

GENERAL EISENHOWER'S D-DAY PLANNING

Before launching the largest amphibious invasion in history, Eisenhower didn't just rally the troops. He studied everything — from weather patterns to beach terrain, enemy placements to moonlight levels.

He knew the cost of ignorance. He knew a reckless move could cost thousands of lives.

Men of impact do their homework. They pray, prepare, and plan — and they're humble enough to keep learning.

Adding knowledge means you don't act like you know it all. It means you're teachable — because the more you grow in knowledge, the more you realize how much you still need to learn.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q. Where in your life have you stopped learning or growing?
- Q. Who do you go to for wise counsel when you're stuck?
- Q. Are your daily choices guided more by emotion, culture, or truth?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- Proverbs 4:7 – *“The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.”*
- Colossians 1:9–10 – *“...that you may live a life worthy of the Lord... growing in the knowledge of God.”*
- Hosea 4:6 – *“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.”*

PRAYER

God, grow in me a desire to know You more deeply — not just so I can be right, but so I can live wisely. Help me to seek truth over convenience, and understanding over opinion. Teach me to think like Jesus in every part of my life.

TAKEAWAY SUMMARY

A man who adds knowledge to his faith doesn't just act — he understands. He doesn't just respond — he discerns. He asks questions, listens for God's voice, and lives like he's building something that matters.

THIS WEEK'S ACTION STEP

Identify an area of your life where you've been “winging it” — maybe your marriage, finances, spiritual leadership, or emotional control. Choose one **truth-based resource** to help you grow this week: a Scripture passage, a wise mentor, or a book. Pursue it. Apply it. Share what you're learning.

KNOWLEDGE

Growing in wisdom and professional competence. Gaining practical insight through experience, reflection, and learning — then applying it with discernment.

STRENGTH 3: SELF-CONTROL

BUILT FOR IMPACT SERIES

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MASTERING THE MAN IN THE MIRROR

Picture a man who can lead teams, close deals, raise a family, and win influence in his community — but can't control his temper when things go sideways. Or his phone when he's alone. Or his tongue in a moment of stress.

That's not strength. That's slavery.

Peter's next challenge hits hard: if we're serious about growing into the kind of men God can use, we have to get serious about *self-control*. That means mastering the man in the mirror — not by sheer willpower, but by surrendering daily to the Spirit and learning to live *trained*, not triggered.

DISCIPLINE OVER DRIFT

The word Peter uses here for “self-control” (Greek: *egkrateia*) refers to **mastery of one's impulses** — the kind of restraint you'd find in a disciplined athlete or a skilled warrior. This isn't about denying every desire or pretending you're not tempted. It's about choosing who gets to be in charge — your old habits, or the Spirit of God.

“Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.” – Proverbs 25:28

A man without self-control is defenseless — exposed to every temptation, frustration, or addiction. But a man who learns to govern himself under God's authority becomes a force of peace and power in the chaos.

AT WORK: WHERE YOUR DISCIPLINE SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS

Let's get practical. Self-control shows up at work when:

- You don't interrupt just to prove your point.
- You shut down gossip instead of entertaining it.
- You respond calmly under pressure, not emotionally or explosively.
- You follow through when it would be easier to shift blame or check out.

A man of self-control can be trusted — not because he's perfect, but because he's **consistent**. His presence brings steadiness. His words carry weight. His yes means yes, and his no means no.

Craig Groeschel says it this way: "Discipline is choosing what you want most over what you want now." That's self-control in a sentence.

NAVY SEALS – THE POWER OF CONTROL UNDER FIRE

Navy SEALs are some of the most skilled warriors in the world — not because they're fearless, but because they're **trained**. They don't rely on adrenaline. They rely on discipline. When chaos hits, they fall back on muscle memory.

You don't rise to the level of your intentions — you fall to the level of your training.

In the same way, godly men don't just hope they'll do the right thing in tough moments. They train their minds, habits, and hearts to follow Jesus when pressure hits.

Self-control isn't just a fruit of the Spirit — it's a **daily workout**.

YOU'RE NOT MEANT TO TRAIN ALONE

Every man fights this battle. But not every man fights it *with brothers*.

Self-control grows best in community — when we have trusted men who will ask hard questions, call us out, pray with us, and help us walk in the light. Isolation is where bad habits grow. Brotherhood is where strong men rise.

You need a band of brothers who'll help you **see your blind spots** and **stay in the fight**.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." – Proverbs 27:17

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q. Where in your life have you stopped learning or growing?
- Q. Where are you "training" — and where are you just hoping for the best?
- Q. Who in your life has permission to hold you accountable?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- Galatians 5:22–23 – *"The fruit of the Spirit is... self-control."*
- 1 Corinthians 9:27 – *"I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave..."*
- Proverbs 16:32 – *"Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city."*

PRAYER

Lord, train my heart to desire what's good, not just what's easy. Help me resist the quick fix, the shortcut, the compromise. Grow in me a life of discipline — not for my glory, but for Yours. And give me brothers who will walk this with me.

TAKEAWAY SUMMARY

Self-control is the strength to say "no" when it counts — and "yes" to the things that matter most. It's not weakness. It's *spirit-powered mastery*. And it's essential for any man who wants to lead well and live with impact.

THIS WEEK'S ACTION STEP

Identify one area where you regularly give in to impulse — your phone, your tone, your schedule, your appetite, your spending. Tell a trusted brother about it. Then make a specific, measurable plan to train that area — not in isolation, but in community.

SELF-CONTROL

Responding calmly under pressure or provocation. Choosing discipline over emotion. Keeping your commitments and showing up steady, not reactive.

STRENGTH 4: PERSEVERANCE

BUILT FOR IMPACT SERIES

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THE FINISH MATTERS MORE THAN THE START

In the 1968 Olympic marathon in Mexico City, a Tanzanian runner named John Stephen Akhwari started the race like every other competitor. But somewhere along the course, he fell badly — dislocating his knee and badly injuring his shoulder. He could've quit. Most would have. But hours after the winners had finished and the crowd had mostly gone home, Akhwari entered the stadium — limping, bloodied, and determined.

The few spectators left rose to their feet as he hobbled across the finish line.

When asked why he didn't quit, Akhwari famously replied:

"My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start the race. They sent me 5,000 miles to finish it."

That's perseverance. And that's what Peter is calling us to build.

STAYING POWER THAT HONORS GOD

The Greek word for perseverance (*hypomonē*) means steadfast endurance under pressure. Not passive waiting — but courageous, active, gritty resolve. It's the man who keeps showing up even when it's hard. Even when he's tired. Even when he's wounded.

This virtue builds on the previous ones:

- **Faith** anchors you.
- **Goodness** shapes your integrity.
- **Knowledge** sharpens your decisions.
- **Self-control** trains your impulses.
- And now — **perseverance** toughens your soul.

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial..." – James 1:12

AT WORK: WHEN QUITTING SEEMS EASIER

Perseverance at work shows up when:

- The project falls apart... and you rebuild it.
- Your boss doesn't notice... and you stay faithful.
- The promotion doesn't come... and you keep growing.
- You've lost motivation... but not your calling.

Men who finish well in business — and in life — are not always the smartest or most gifted. They're the ones who don't flinch when things get heavy. They know their why. They know who they serve.

As Patrick Lencioni often says, "Success is not about avoiding hardship. It's about being willing to endure it for the right things."

AKHWARI'S FINISH IS A MIRROR FOR OURS

When John Stephen Akhwari limped into the Olympic stadium, there was no medal waiting. No TV deal. No national parade. Just a man who knew what it meant to finish what he started — with resolve, honor, and pain in every step.

That's the kind of spiritual perseverance Peter is talking about. This world needs men who keep their promises. Who keep showing up. Who keep leading their families, investing in others, and obeying God — even when it costs something.

FINISH LINES ARE NOT SOLO EVENTS

The path of perseverance is not meant to be walked alone. You need men who'll run beside you, pace you, pick you up when you fall. Every man limps at some point — but not every man finishes. The difference? Brothers who don't let you quit.

Your band of brothers reminds you who you are, what you're made for, and why it matters that you keep going.

"Two are better than one... if either of them falls, one can help the other up." — Ecclesiastes 4:9–10

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q. Where have you been tempted to quit — in your faith, family, or calling?
- Q. What would it look like to stay faithful this week, even if the outcome is still unclear?
- Q. Who in your life helps you keep going when you're weary?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- Romans 5:3–4 – *“Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*
- Galatians 6:9 – *“Let us not grow weary in doing good...”*
- 2 Timothy 4:7 – *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”*

PRAYER

God, I want to be a man who finishes. Strengthen me when I’m tempted to give up. Help me stay faithful to the race You’ve marked out for me — not just for my sake, but for the sake of those who follow. And thank You for the brothers who help me keep going.

TAKEAWAY SUMMARY

Perseverance is not about perfect strength — it’s about gritty faithfulness over time. God isn’t looking for men who start strong. He’s looking for men who finish well.

THIS WEEK’S ACTION STEP

Identify an area in your life where you’ve stalled out — and take one step forward. Tell a brother. Ask for his prayer and encouragement. Then get back in the fight.

PERSEVERANCE

Remaining steadfast amid setbacks or adversity. Staying faithful to your purpose even when recognition is absent and results are slow.

STRENGTH 5: GODLINESS

BUILT FOR IMPACT SERIES

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LIVING WITH TRUE NORTH

Imagine if your next meeting, email, or lunch appointment were being livestreamed straight to heaven. Would anything change?

That's the idea behind godliness. Not living in fear — but living with God-awareness. Godliness isn't just moral behavior. It's a posture. A mindset. A life aligned with God's presence and purpose, not just on Sunday, but on your most ordinary weekday.

Peter says that after perseverance, we're to add godliness. Why? Because grit without godliness just makes you hard. Godliness is what keeps you grounded, humble, and aligned.

It's your spiritual True North — the compass that keeps you from drifting into pride, performance, or burnout.

A LIFE THAT REFLECTS THE ONE YOU FOLLOW

The Greek word here for godliness (*eusebeia*) carries the idea of devotion to God in everything you do. It's not about pretending to be holy — it's about living from a holy relationship.

“Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things...” – 1 Timothy 4:7-8

It's the man who invites God into his Monday morning meeting. Into his calendar. Into how he speaks to his wife. Into how he disciplines his kids. Into how he makes decisions when no one's watching.

Godliness means your whole life bears the fingerprints of the One you serve.

AT WORK: EXCELLENCE WITH INTEGRITY, PRESENCE WITH PURPOSE

Godliness at work isn't about preaching — it's about presence. It looks like:

- Owning your mistakes, even when no one would've caught them.
- Speaking truthfully and graciously, even when pressured to spin it.
- Treating the custodian and the CEO with the same respect.
- Working with excellence, because your work is worship.

You don't need a cross on your wall to represent Jesus. You just need to let Him shape your conduct when it counts.

John Mark Comer says it well: *"Godliness is not about escaping the world but engaging it with a heart formed by God."*

THE COMPASS VS. THE CLOCK

Leadership consultant Stephen Covey once said: *"The clock represents your commitments, appointments, schedules, and goals. The compass represents your vision, values, principles, and conscience — your direction."*

Too many men lead with their clocks — busier and busier, but not necessarily heading anywhere that matters.

Godliness is about choosing the **compass** over the clock. Asking regularly, *"God, does this align with You?"* Not just, *"Is this productive?"*

YOU NEED MEN WHO POINT YOU BACK NORTH

Even the best compass needs calibration. That's why godliness isn't grown in isolation. We need **men who remind us of what's true** — who ask the deeper questions, not just how you're doing at work, but how you're doing in your soul.

It's easy to lose your spiritual bearings when you're the only one holding the map. But when you walk with men of godliness, you stay on course.

"Have nothing to do with godless myths... but train yourself to be godly." — 1 Timothy 4:7

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q. In what area of your life have you separated “faith” from “real life”?
- Q. What would it look like to invite God into your workplace rhythm?
- Q. Who are the men in your life that help keep your compass aligned?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- Micah 6:8 – *“Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.”*
- Titus 2:11–12 – *“...teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness...”*
- Psalm 1:1–3 – A godly man is planted, steady, fruitful.

PRAYER

Father, I don't want a life that just looks good — I want a life that reflects You. Align my heart with Yours. Teach me to walk with awareness of Your presence in every moment. Form in me the kind of godliness that brings light to dark places.

TAKEAWAY SUMMARY

Godliness isn't a vibe. It's a life lived with intention — one that keeps returning to the heart of God, and aligns every action, word, and priority with His presence.

THIS WEEK'S ACTION STEP

Choose one area of your life where you've been living with a “clock” but not a “compass.” Invite God to speak into it. Share it with a brother, and ask for accountability to walk it out this week.

GODLINESS

Reflecting Christ's character in all interactions. Living and leading with integrity, humility, and God-awareness in every setting.

STRENGTH 6: MUTUAL AFFECTION

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YOU WEREN'T BUILT TO GO IT ALONE

There's a reason the strongest military units on earth fight in teams. A reason firemen go in pairs. A reason championship locker rooms are built on trust, not just talent.

Because when it's all on the line, *brotherhood saves lives*.

Peter's next instruction — after godliness — is to add mutual affection. The Greek word is *philadelphia* — brotherly love. This isn't soft sentimentality. It's loyalty. It's presence. It's the kind of relationship that's got your back when life goes sideways.

Godliness connects you to God. Brotherhood keeps you connected to the people who help you stay there.

REAL MEN BUILD REAL RELATIONSHIPS

This kind of affection isn't surface-level friendliness — it's shared commitment, deep connection, and *faith lived out in community*.

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." – Romans 12:10

It's choosing to show up in each other's lives. It's telling the truth in love. It's walking with another man through struggle — not just congratulating him in victory.

Men thrive when they're seen, known, challenged, and encouraged. And yet — most men are starving for this and don't know how to ask for it.

AT WORK: BROTHERHOOD IN THE OFFICE AND THE FIELD

You don't have to lead a Bible study at work to be a man of brotherhood. Mutual affection at work looks like:

- Encouraging a co-worker instead of competing with him.
- Listening when someone's going through it — not just nodding and moving on.
- Celebrating someone else's win with genuine joy.
- Refusing to gossip — and protecting someone's reputation.

Francis Chan said, *"The church was never meant to be a bunch of isolated individuals. It was always meant to be a family."*

That's not just true in the church building — it's true in the break room.

JONATHAN AND DAVID – COVENANT BROTHERHOOD

In 1 Samuel, we find one of the clearest pictures of brotherhood in Scripture — Jonathan and David. Despite being the heir to Saul's throne, Jonathan willingly gave up his position, armed David with his own gear, and risked his life to protect him.

Their friendship wasn't casual. It was covenant.

Brotherhood isn't about convenience. It's about commitment. And in a culture of isolation, it's also about courage — to open up, to reach out, to walk together instead of going it alone.

MUTUAL AFFECTION GROWS THROUGH INTENTIONAL BROTHERHOOD

This one's obvious — but easily overlooked. You *can't* live out mutual affection without other men in your life. Not acquaintances. Brothers.

Who do you call when temptation hits? Who knows the battles you're fighting? Who challenges your blind spots — and believes the best in you?

You can't become the man God's called you to be without the men He's placed around you.

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." — Proverbs 17:17

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q. Who are the 2–3 men who know the real you?
- Q. Are you building brotherhood, or coasting on shallow relationships?
- Q. What keeps you from pursuing deeper friendships with other men?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- John 15:12–13 – *“Love one another as I have loved you... greater love has no one than this...”*
- Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 – *“Two are better than one...”*
- Hebrews 10:24–25 – *“Spur one another on... do not give up meeting together...”*

PRAYER

Father, give me the humility to admit I need other men in my life — and the courage to pursue it. Help me be a brother who shows up, speaks life, and walks in love. Build in me a heart that honors others above myself.

TAKEAWAY SUMMARY

You weren’t designed for isolation. Mutual affection is the brotherhood that shapes character, strengthens conviction, and keeps your faith alive. Don’t just hope for it. Pursue it.

THIS WEEK’S ACTION STEP

Text or call one man today and invite him to meet up this week. Not to catch up — but to open up. Share where you’re growing, struggling, or needing prayer. Be the one who goes first.

MUTUAL AFFECTION

Supporting and encouraging colleagues. Investing in real relationships. Being a man others can count on — and choosing to walk with others instead of going it alone.

STRENGTH 7: LOVE

BUILT FOR IMPACT SERIES

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THE FUEL OF IMPACT

We all want to make an impact. But Peter makes it clear — without *love*, all the grit, wisdom, self-control, and perseverance in the world won't amount to much.

Not just any love. Not surface-level affirmation. Not sentimentality.

The kind of love he ends with is *agape* — selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love. It's the love that stays. That gives. That keeps showing up when it's inconvenient, unreturned, or unseen.

If you want to be the kind of man God can use — in the workplace, at home, in your city — agape love isn't optional. It's the fuel that makes all the other virtues matter.

AGAPE ISN'T WEAK – IT'S WEAPONIZED GRACE

Agape love is the same kind of love God shows us — love that sacrifices, forgives, and serves.

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.” – John 15:13

“Put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” – Colossians 3:14

When you love like Jesus, your life becomes a weapon against despair, division, and apathy. You become a man people can trust — not because you're impressive, but because your love has weight.

AT WORK: LOVE SHOWS UP WHEN IT'S NOT REQUIRED

Agape love shows up in the workplace when:

- You choose grace over gossip.
- You mentor the younger guy with no strings attached.
- You use your platform to protect people — not just promote yourself.

- You give away opportunities because someone else needs them more.

It's not soft. It's sacrificial leadership. And it's rare.

Agape love looks like taking the hit to protect someone else's future. It's staying late to help when no one notices. It's choosing to speak life when tearing down would be easier.

MILLARD FULLER — THE MILLIONAIRE WHO STEPPED INTO THE GAP

Millard Fuller made his first million by age 29. Smart. Driven. Successful by every metric. But his marriage was unraveling, and deep down, so was his soul. So he walked away from it all.

He and his wife gave away their wealth and asked a simple question:

“What would it look like to use our business experience to love people — not profit from them?”

That question birthed Habitat for Humanity.

Fuller didn't just write checks. He showed up. He worked alongside the families. He built homes, but more importantly — he built dignity. And he did it without expecting anything in return.

He said, “For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people's love and concern for each other.”

That's agape.

And that's what it looks like when a businessman chooses love over legacy — and still leaves one.

LOVE CAN'T LOVE DEEPLY WITHOUT LIVING CLOSE

Agape love doesn't grow in isolation. You learn it in community — when your patience is tested, your time is stretched, and your comfort zones are shattered.

Brotherhood is where love becomes more than a concept — it becomes a *practice*.

You don't become a man of impact by working harder. You become one by *loving deeper* — through conflict, disappointment, sacrifice, and service.

“Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” — 1 John 3:18

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q. Who has God placed in your path that you've overlooked because they can't give you anything in return?
- Q. Where are you holding back love because it's costly or inconvenient?
- Q. What would agape love look like in your leadership this week?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- 1 Corinthians 13 – Without love, everything else is just noise.
- Romans 12:9–10 – *“Love must be sincere... Honor one another above yourselves.”*
- 1 John 4:7–12 – *“This is how God showed His love among us...”*

PRAYER

Jesus, teach me to love like You — not just when it's easy or admired, but when it's hard and hidden. Give me eyes to see who needs Your love today, and the courage to act, not just feel.

TAKEAWAY SUMMARY

Agape love is the mark of a transformed man. It's not what makes you impressive — it's what makes you *impactful*. When you lead with love, people feel the presence of Christ — not because you said His name, but because you lived His heart.

THIS WEEK'S ACTION STEP

Find someone in your workplace, family, or community who can't repay you. Do something sacrificial and intentional for their good. Don't broadcast it. Just obey — and let God multiply the impact.

LOVE

Seeking the good of others above self-interest. Leading with humility, acting with compassion, and giving even when it costs you — because people matter more than performance.