MEN'S FRATERNITY

Knights of the 21st Century

Trail 16

KEITH: The fire is dying out. There's just a few coals. Not much left on this floor anymore. This is the lower level. This is a part of our life where you receive inputs from a variety of places and after awhile you just feel like it's not enough. I'm going to need more if I'm going to become the man I'm designed to be. There's a craving inside of us. We're saying, there must be something else and that's what Trial 16 is about, guys. There must be more. There needs to be more. There is. One of the most amazing realities is, there is. The problem is what you have to do to figure that out.

So look at your books in Trail 16 and where it says in I., these words. A man self sorts through the numerous messages from his internal elements and decides which element's input to value above the others. You all have to put and you have to sort through it. It's like this conveyor belt of stuff just coming at you and you got to say, what is good and what isn't good. And the reality is if only you live on this level and never go to the next level, you're always going to be frustrated. The inputs are a lot. I mean you get a lot of stuff. It's just where's truth and what's right and what's good and what isn't good and how do you pull all this apart. There must be more and just sorting through all this information is going to allow

me to understand who I am and what I am so that those behind me can be defended or those with wounds can be healed.

Let's go to the rest of that statement from I. It says, a man's self sorts through the numerous messages from his internal elements and decides which element's input to value above the others. If the messages from his internal elements provide the only input to his self, he would, and you got some frustration, so look at A. Experience high levels of anxiety about his ability to handle life's challenges. One of the struggles we face with guys is this, that if all we have is this input and this is all there is, you're going to have anxiety because you're going to figure out what am I going to do when crisis hits, right. Where's truth and where's life and when I get older what about death an stuff starts to hit us and we go, there must be more than what's here. There must be something else. Your level of anxiety grows because you're saying there's more truth and I'm not finding it man. I don't know where it is. The great news is we do, but you need to understand the frustration if you keep staying here. Some of you have lived here for a long time where you've gotten the inputs of your body and of sometimes of your mind and everything else around you, but you've never gone to the other parts of the core which will take you to a much higher understanding and clarity about who you are.

Look at B. Emphasize the need for defensive actions because he would view the world as unsafe making it hard to trust. Down here, it feels pretty vulnerable. I mean even with armor on, it feels pretty

vulnerable. It feels alone. It feels like I'm not sure how safe I can be. One of the things that was interesting is if I'm going to make the world behind me safe, I got to feel like the world around me is safe. And don't you just sometimes feel like, man, I don't know if I got all the information I need.

I had a guy sit in my office about a year ago and he was saying to me, you know, I have this, this, this. This, this and this is what he had was I have everything you would want economically. I own two companies and I have a family that's all healthy. And then he said to me, I feel like none of this is doing it for me. There must be more. The coolest part about it is, I could talk to him about the fact that there was more if he'd be willing to join me. You feel unsafe at this point. You could see the shakiness and where he was in the journey. By your standard or my standard, we would have had everything we could have wanted, but yet everything was empty. What does he trust?

Look at C. Be held hostage by the negative feelings that are related to his past experiences to making his healing and restoration more difficult. What happens is when you get paranoid, when you get fearful, when you feel like I'm not safe, you start to get this idea of the fact that, you know, I don't think there's a whole lot of hope for me.

There was a guy that was struggling through the loss of his mate. His mate had left him for not another man, but another woman and as he was talking about that loss, he didn't know what to do with it. He didn't

know where to go with it and one of the things he felt was, listen, there's just really – I don't know how to ever restore my life from this wound. And it's funny, I told him, you'll never actually have the scar of that wound go away, but there is hope up the stairway. There's a higher level. There's a higher stage to go to. You don't have to live here. He actually took me up on the challenge and he's been with us for a couple years now at Knights and he's a changed guy. It's pretty impressive because he got to see what's there.

Look at D. Not understand how his body, gifts and mind serve specific purposes in his life. Is that enough? Well no. I have all this stuff but it just is not enough for me. I mean, I have my body. I have my mind. I have some abilities. I have my armor. I have certain things, but it's just not enough from what I sense that there's more for me. Well of course there's more for you. You know why? This place within you, in your soul, is a longing for the man God designed you to be which completely fulfills you. What if I told you that what God designed would completely fulfill you? What if I told you that in that design that would completely fulfill you, you can't miss it or mess it up. It's there, you're just going to have to go discover it, but it's there. It won't go away, uniquely designed for. You have a longing for it, right?

So look at E. Be unaware of the existence of a power, God, beyond his self. Beyond his self alone. You see sometimes, guys, when we're down here, we say if this is it, it's not enough. The first time I ever faced

somebody taking their life, it was one of my students. I was a youth pastor. I was 18 years old. This guy was 16 years old and he took his life after we talked for a few minutes one night and said, hey can we get together. And I said, yeah, how about on Wednesday. This was on Sunday. I said how about on Wednesday. He said sure and on Tuesday, he took his life. I don't know what went on in his mind. I've dealt with a number of people who have taken their lives since then and you read their notes, you sort of try to piece things together. Everybody tries to figure out what they could have done. But it's interesting. I believe that they felt like they were alone. It's like the starkness of this room, the emptiness of what it is. I mean it's a castle and it feels like there's so much here, but it's just hollow, echoing walls. Feel alone. You know there's a higher room. You know there's a higher level so you head towards it.

Let's go to II. The other elements that can provide input to the man's self are his soul and his choice to resurrect his human spirit through a relationship with Jesus Christ. That's what's up here. It's what is on the higher level for us. Now in order to do that, you need to understand a few things because you're soul and this resurrected possibility of your spirit coming alive, which is what you're really longing for down here, on the upper level, keep these elements understood.

A. These elements are going to help him make better choices. If there is hope up here and that hope will give you input so that now all of

a sudden the self can make the choices that you need to make, then you're going to be willing to say, I'm going to find out what that is. Don't go there because somebody tells you to go there. Don't go there because you think you got enough. If you think you got enough, there's really, I'm going to be honest with you. Your soul while crying out to you, you're just not listening to it, but when you listen to it, when you hear it, you say, what more is there? How do I get my spirit alive? How do I get my soul to be fulfilled?

Consider B. These elements will provide an external power source to achieve his manhood. You see I actually believe that all of us have wondered if we are enough. Everyone of us as guys. Am I enough? And it's not just the measuring of a sex organ. That's not just measuring your pedigree or what kind of influence you have. It's just deep down you say, am I really enough? Am I the man I was designed to be? Journey up these stairs into a higher place and if you do, you'll realize there's a hope that's staggering.

Consider this element, C. These elements will provide an orientation point like a North Star by which he can build the rest of his life. Guys, I stand in this room, I have no idea where to go but I see this stairway. I see the candles burning. I see the possibility. I see that maybe somewhere up here there is life and I got a path to go in. I got some steps to take which are going to move us up the stairway from our soul into our spirit. It's kind of a cool area that's going to allow all of our

core to come into existence and give us all the input we need to make the choices we need to make.

Look at III. A man's soul makes important suggestions for consideration by making a decision. You want to make a decision, you want this input, here's what you're going to need.

A, requires this. The man's soul encourages the self to make a decision about God. That's one of the two things that's going to help you decide. The beginning of the universe, which then will allow him to explain a larger forest context. These choices include the following items. Now as we go there, I want you to understand, we're moving from the lower level to cope with something else. So when you're going to figure out if there's a God or not, these are the ways you're going to do it, alright? So kind of follow me as we walk up this way.

1. God is a figment of the imagination of a needy person and does not really exist. Just so you know if that is you, we would call that an atheist. It means that when I look at the universe, this is it. I mean, I can follow this weird guy up the stairs, but the bottom line is there's really nothing up here. There is no God.

There's another possibility. Look at this. The existence of God is something that cannot be known. Okay, maybe there is a God. I can't imagine this world just fell into existence, so I think there must be a Creator. There's no way you can have any kind of relationship with Him. There's no way that I can be involved. It's called an agnostic. So you get

to this step and you go, I think I'm going to end up going back this way because I don't see what's up here because there's no possibility of knowing someone, alright.

The next one. God is a non-personal energy source which is used for good and can be seen everywhere. It's energy. It's what you do when you kind of sit there and you meditate and hope that somewhere along the line you'll get this energy that built up. It's sort of the New Age kind of Buddhism kind of thing. It doesn't mean that God is a being or personal. It's a source. It gives you something and again, you get here and you go, okay, maybe I can examine the possibility, but you don't know with who. You don't know with what. What do I have? What am I doing? But some of us find ourselves, that's where we're at. It's okay. I understand that. Your soul is looking for something and you stop at energy and you say, maybe that's it. I'm going to tell you, there's more though.

Look at 4. You are the person that believes there is many gods, all which interact together like Hinduism. I got a bunch of Gods, and there's all kind of somewhat connected, somewhat not connected. There's man Gods, polytheism is what we would call that and, and so you say, alright well may there's – maybe they want you to go higher, maybe they want you to know more, but it doesn't feel very safe and secure. It doesn't feel like that's what we want. It feels like somewhere along the line we're going to get frustrated because who do I got anyway, right.

So I want you to experiment with the next concept, 5. God exists and there are many behavioral requirements that must be met in order to stay in contact with Him. That's were you're saying, okay, I'm up here. I believe there is a God. I believe that He's involved with us. I believe He's involved in us from a series of things we must do. If we do those things, He'll love us. If we don't' do this, we'll lose His, kind of His acceptance of us. That's what religion is. I will do and God will respond. I try to get to Him and if I do the right things, then He'll come and get to me. So it's that conditional thing. The problem with that is I'm always uncertain. I always feel like, do I really want to go much further because just knowing me, I'm going to screw it up, right.

There's another level. It's this one up here. This level is where you and I begin to see things very, very different in our lives. It's where you and I look around and we go, alright, maybe there's something on the other side of the door. Number 6 describes that level. God recognizes a man's spiritual deadness and offers His son, Jesus Christ's death as a substitute payment for each man's chosen imperfections – our shadow. He desires to maintain regular communication with us. This is called spirituality. This is called rebirth. This is where you go, wait a minute, whoa, whoa. There is a God. God's involved in a relationship. I don't have to figure out how to get to Him, He's figured out how to get to me. I don't figure out how to get Him to like me. He's already decided he likes me and He sends a redeemer. This becomes an incredible change in who

we are. This takes us up in our soul. Now, guys, when you get to here your soul is fully engaged now with the God of the universe who wants to take what He's made and do something with it.

There is, however, another part that you and I need to understand. It's B. God provides man with his life theme. This becomes his overall guiding mission statement, defining who he is, the reason he exists, and how he should live his life and what gives his life meaning. When you guys get to this point and you say my soul is connecting or longing to connect with God, realizing He's made it possible for me to connect with Him, but He's also going to say, what I've made, what I've designed you to be, which is uniquely for you which will completely fulfill you, which you can't really miss if you just seek me, I'm going to take you to an amazing place of fulfillment in your manhood, fulfillment in who you are. When you get to this particular point, you feel like your soul has done its job. It sort of moved you from the lower stage to the upper stage. At that point, you start to look at life differently from almost everybody else.

That's like your Knightly News. In the Knightly News, there's a guy by the name of Noah. Noah was a man in a world full of people messing up and as the world is messing up, Noah wanted to find God, wanted to God. Noah believed God, that God would be his redeemer, God would be his rescuer. In a very functional way, God did just that in Noah's life. He literally rescued him. As the rest of the world was lost in a flood, he and his family were rescued. It's kind of an interesting thing. Here's a

statement about Noah. It says this. The clarity of his choice to follow God and obey his commands brought safety to his family and ultimately to mankind. So that you know, what God – what happened with Noah on that day was he said, I'm going to obey you that says if you trust me I'm going to change you and give you life. Noah literally rescued his family. That's what we're designed to do, right guys? Protect those behind us, right. He literally was able to do it because he came to a place of deep faith. His faith drove him to the belief that one day God would send the redeemer, the redeemer is Jesus Christ who makes all the difference.

Therefore, IV is true. When a man chooses spiritual rebirth, a theological processed called justification occurs. When you choose spiritual rebirth, here's what you do. You can I'm going to move from here to something brand new, much higher.

T.C.: You know guys, as you go through the different trails, you're going to have your favorites. And that's okay. Hopefully you are excited about certain things and you know, you may get more excited about one part than another. I'm going to tell you for me, this is my most exciting part, you know. I love it all, but I love this part because it's all about transformation. This is that moment where everything changes. The way you see things, the way you live your life, just your perspective changes and God is in total control. There's no better spot to be so I am excited to share the next few points with you.

Let's look at 4. It says when a man chooses a spiritual rebirth, a theological process called justification occurs. Let's look at A. His position with God changes. He moves from being outside of God's family to being inside it. It feels good just to, just to say that, you know. God adopts us into His family. We'll talk more about how as we go through these points, but He does offer His son, Jesus Christ, but if you can imagine yourself having nothing, being nothing, not having food, not having clothing, not having a purpose, not having a roof over your head, and then a family who has everything takes you in and says, come with me, I'll take care of you. You didn't do anything to earn that. You didn't do anything to deserve that. They just saw you, they saw your need and freely, graciously decided to take you in and change your whole entire life. And they didn't just do a little bit, they just didn't give you a cracker or some water, man, they took you in, clothed, gave you warmth, gave you a bed, gave you a new life. That's what this is all about and that's exciting. I love how we're going to get to talk more about that in a little bit deeper detail.

Let's move to 1. God has permanently removed His sin – we're talking about a man, now, we're talking about the new man – God has permanently removed His sin because of Jesus Christ's act of love on the cross. So obviously here for those who are believers, we're talking about the death of Jesus Christ. If you're new to all this, Jesus Christ died on the cross. And because of that, we can freely go to God. He – we can do

this because He doesn't see us as sinful beings. That's gone. That's done away with. Now He sees us through the lens of His son, Jesus Christ, which makes us perfect in the sight of God. And if you can literally imagine Jesus Christ standing here like I am and then you and I, we're behind Jesus, literally. If I stay behind Jesus and I don't move to the right or to the left, going my own way, and I just keep following Jesus, I can't even be seen. I literally can't be seen because I'm going to stay right behind Jesus Christ and as he approaches God and speaks on my behalf, God sees me through Jesus. He talks to Jesus and Jesus responds for me, hey, he's alright. Hey, he is repenting, he's with me, he's following me. So that's a beautiful gift that we get from God for sin to just be totally removed and we are seeing it through the lens of Jesus Christ. What an honor. What a blessing.

Let's move to the next one. No. 2. There is nothing that hinders his access to God, his, meaning yours, meaning mine. Nothing gets in the way of that. Remember, we just talked about sin and a simple person cannot just be in the presence of the holy God, but because of our relationship with Jesus Christ, because of this provision called justification, now nothing gets in the way. You can pray to God at any moment. You can talk to God about every aspect of your life. You can freely do this, guilt free because of our relationship with Jesus Christ. Another blessing, another privilege.

Let's move again. No. 3. His dead spirit has been reborn, making it possible to have an active relationship with God's spirit. There's a key word there – reborn. You know, we talk about change, and we talk about being reborn. Reborn reminds me of a word called transformation and there's a big difference between change and transformation. I'll give you an example. Water is a good example. Water can change. It can go from a liquid to a solid, then it can change again and go from a solid to a gas. Do you know what, it can change again. It can go back. It can go from a solid back to a liquid, alright, so you see, these are changes. But being reborn, being transformed, that's different. That's more than just a change. You know, it's more like water to wine. You make that change, that's a total transformation from water going into wine. But here's the key, guys. It can't go back. You can't change wine back into water. That's why that's a transformation and being reborn, you're not going back. This is the new you. The Bible says the old is gone and the new has come and so being reborn, we're new. We think differently. Our old habits, especially the bad ones, they go away. Our perspective changes. Our whole outlook changes. God becomes the leader. His purposes become more important than my purposes. It's the best way to live life.

Let's go to the next one. His faith in God is strong, eliminating his desire to return to his old life. Man, when you get to this point to where God is in God, God calls us in perspective and your desires shift, you're able to view your old life as your choices. You're able to see them as

most likely the wrong choices because they were most likely initiated by your flesh, by your own ideas. You probably didn't pray to God and ask Him what He wanted. You pretty much went on just pure instincts, and just kind of did what you wanted. You look at your mistakes. You look at your troubles. You know they were caused by you. Now you look at your successes. You look at things going great in your life and you know that comes from the Lord and that's an exciting place to be. And you put all your faith and trust in Him and that conducts the way you live your life moving forward.

Let's move to No. 5. There is a new purpose in his life which is to honor God in all of his actions. This, I can tell you, this is one of my favorite places to be. God provides – this is something I always say – God provides purpose to an otherwise purposeless existence meaning there's no reason to be here, except for the purpose of God. He provides meaning to an otherwise meaningless life. I mean you wake up, you go to work, you come home, you eat, you go to bed. You just keep doing it, over and over and over again. That was never the design for us. Man, God made us with a purpose, a reason for being here and through praying to Him and seeking Him, we see what that is on a daily basis and we, in an exciting way get to go and live that out.

Point No. 6. Spiritual discipline becomes a primary focus of his life which helps him seek God's presence in his life. Let's look at this first point here. Reading God's Word, reading the Bible. This is – now for

these quick – we're going to fly through these and the way I'm going to do it, I want you to imagine yourself on a team, you know, like a football team. I love, you know I love football. So on a team, I want you to think like a player. So we're on God's team, so I want you to think like one of God's players. The Bible is like what a playbook was for me in football. I read my plays and then I know what to do when I'm on the game field. So the Bible is our playbook for life. Each scripture serves as a play, a thing that God uses to show us what to do. We don't want to go into life without opening up our playbook and being disciplined about seeing what God's plan is for the game of life. Let's see if you can follow me as we roll through the rest of these.

Let's look at the next one. Praying to God constantly. When I played football, I didn't just get in the game without a plan. I consistently consulted my coach and my coach would tell me what the game plan is and then I would know what to do with those plays that I ran out of the playbook. It's the same thing for you and I on God's team. Praying to our coach, which is God, that's our way of talking – that's the way we communicate. We get the game plan by praying and talking to the coach. Hey, what do you want me to do in the game of life, God, Coach God? What do you want me to do? Tell me. He'll reveal His plan.

Let's go to the next one. Worshipping God with others. This is where we celebrate and we praise God for who He is and what He does and what He means to us. Hey this is like on a team, we celebrate wins

together. Somebody makes a great play, great. I want to celebrate that with you and congratulate you and we do it all together corporately. It's the same thing as players on God's team, you know we worship together. We come together, we meet together and just thank God and bless Him for who He is and we do it with other believers and we celebrate our successes and we build each other up when we fail and encourage each other. Man, that's what being on a team is all about.

Let's go to the next one. Participating in the sacrament of communion. This is cool because on a football team, before we go into a big game, the coach always had us reflect. We sit, we get quieter, we just start reflecting on, you know, what got us here, you know. How blessed it is to be able to play football, how fortunate we are to have our lens and we reflect and we start to appreciate the great privilege to be able to go out and play and it inspires us to give it all we got. The coach would say things like each play is like it is your last and things like that. It's the same thing when we take communion. You know, we are remembering what Jesus Christ did on the cross. All these things we talked about so far, the way that sin is gone and Jesus is a way for us to be seen and sinless, and we can approach God. All these great things, they are there because of Jesus Christ dying on the cross. If we reflect on that regularly by taking communion, that's where we take bread and juice and remember his broken body and his blood that was shed, we take these things as the Bible says, do in remember of me, that's so you never lose the motivation

to do all these things that we're talking about. If you ever feel like, man, why am I doing all this, take that communion moment and remember what God did for you and then you live your life as a way of saying thank you to Him by giving all you got. That's a great thing, man.

Let's go to the next one. Sharing his faith, sharing his faith. One of the things about being on a team, if you're proud of your team, if you love your team, you go and you tell other people about your team. In the football world, we call that recruiting and I'm not going to go out and recruit another player to my team if I wasn't proud of my team, if I didn't believe in my coaches, if I didn't believe in everything. As players on God's team, when you experience this point, when you get to the point of where you're seeing perspective in a way that makes you happy, you feel fulfilled, you're strong, you got a great outlook on life, you're thinking eternally, man you should want to go tell other people about that. I actually want to go and tell my brother Rob about that. Like hey, I want to tell you about this God I serve. I want to tell you about this great team I'm on. I want to tell you about my new perspective. I'm going things differently. And that's called recruiting man, bringing other people to know God and you'll be sharing your faith and sharing with people the great things that have happened in your life and man, that makes God attractive. That makes the team attractive and you should be excited about it, because I wouldn't want to be on a team that you're not even excited to be on. So hopefully you are internalizing all these points, man.

Robert's going to take it from here and talk to you about a few more things.

ROBERT: Awesome bro. Being on God's team, I like that bro, and I like how you share your faith, brother. That's great.

Alright, let's go to the next one here, B. So then he experiences an internal press to move beyond an immature level of faith to one of maturity. Guys, we're talking about sanctification. Sanctification, that is a pretty Biblical term but here we're going to explain it right now.

Look at Point No. 1. Along with a positional change, there is a behavioral change as the man acts with pure motive. See, now that you've been justified and that you are this new creature because you've been reborn, you're this new person, alright, you're new being. You've been made aware of your shadow. You've been made aware of your life and what you're doing, all of a sudden now that you are aware of what Christ has done for you, your motives change. You live life differently. You feel that pressing from inside pushing you to start changing these behaviors because you're not liking the things you used to like anymore. Your desires begin to shift.

Look at point 2. The negative ways he acted in the past are not an option because he wants to live for God in the present. It's going right along with what I've been saying. Now that you're aware of the shadow that you've been carrying and listening to for most of your life, and you're aware that that's there constantly trying to get you to do things you're not

supposed to do, that sin nature that we talked about, well now that you are been, having justified and you're beginning the sanctification process, that is, you're beginning to be more like Christ, you now have a different desire. You no longer do the things you used to do. You begin to do things differently.

Look at point 3. He enlists God's strength to sin less. Again, God is giving you a new nature and now He allows you to have His strength. We have a new identity in Jesus. We can rely in him for the fact that sin no longer has a hold on us. The shadow no longer has control over us. We can now tell the shadow, you know, be quiet and we can do that through the power of the Holy Spirit. We learned that when Jesus left, he said he would send the comforter and that comforter is also our strength, the source of our strength, the Holy Spirit.

Next point. No. 4. God's Spirit becomes a participant in the decision-making process of his self. There he is again, the Holy Spirit present, his power motivating you, giving you the power to be able to move forward and the way that you do this is by prayer, through the scriptures. You begin to get closer to God's heart so that you can understand where your decisions need to be made, which way to go – left, right, up or down.

No. 5. He experiences God's forgiveness for his sin. Now look, I don't just want to blow by this because we may understand intellectually to a certain degree, you know, what we have been forgiven of. But then

there's the part where you actually get to experience it. Listen there are guys I know that are listening that have gone through their own little mini hell, alright. You guys have gone through your problems and you know that a lot of it, not all of it, is really your fault. Or perhaps you've had some shame from your past, something you've been carrying and if you're in this process, if you put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, you get to experience a remarkable thing. God says come to me all ye who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. That's what this is. You don't carry that weight anymore. Christ takes it from you. It's a remarkable experience.

Next point, No. 6. He receives the Holy Spirit who serves as a daily guidance counselor. Again, guys, that's going to the scriptures. That's going in prayer. That's going and seeking His will, seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness, He will make your paths straight.

And last, point 7. He receives strength from God which will assist him in limiting the influence of his shadow. Man, that shadow is always there, constantly nagging, constantly telling you or trying to get you to do all these things. We've talked so much about that. And guys, when you have been reborn, when you've been justified and as you experience the sanctification process, it's a remarkable thing. The authority that you've been given to be able to recognize your shadow and say, I'm not listening. I'm going a different direction. Isn't that cool?

KEITH: What's so amazing is, is that this guy is sanctified. I've watched him live it. I've watched him demonstrate it. I've watched the power. Even as he talks, I mean, we were just laughing about the fact that I feel like we're at, kind of this revival dude. We were dancing up here man, and I love it because he's changed. Man, I mean it's just a transformation that takes place and that's what happens.

Alright guys, let's go to C, because this is really, really puts it all together. This is going to take you to a place I think it's going to help you go, man, I am so free as a guy. C. Sanctification which is the process of becoming more like Jesus occurs when a male who is spiritually justified grows into manhood. Now I'm going to kind of say something here that was so revolutionary when we got it. It was, if Christ is the man we want to follow, if that's it and we can become like Him, guess what manhood is? True manhood is sanctification. Let's walk through some things and make you understand that.

1. Jesus was the ultimate man and we are to become like Him. So one of the amazing things is, Jesus Christ, the God of the universe, gave himself, gave us so that we could live and if we ever needed a man to follow, that was it, right – no shadow, no hurting people, no wounding but coming to heal, rescuing – dies, beat, theft, resurrected. Powerful, right? He's the guy that says I'm the ultimate man and you can become like me. Think about that. All of a sudden your spirit starts to take off because number 2 happens.

Look at this. God designed us to grow into manhood. God designed us to grow into manhood. This is such a cool concept. He designed us to go where we are as males to a man, to be like Christ and in doing that, that's where you become fully alive. All parts of your core with your shadow held in check, everything gets changed and we start to become like Him.

We see this in No. 3. God needs us to be capable men which allows us to represent Him while we're here on earth. One of the most cool things is Christ left. It always amazes me. He arrives from the dead, He hangs around for a few weeks and then He says to his disciples, it's going to be better for everyone if I leave. And I go, whoa, what are you thinking about? You're the ultimate man and we're just, we're His representatives. He actually felt better with us here. That allows us to do something on earth that is so incredibly significant. That means our purpose is huge. It frees you up as a man and you go, what I've always longed for, what I've always wondered, it's true.

It's possible which takes us to No. 4. Men are passionate, powerful and proactive, exactly what our hurting world needs. All you need is to see the guys behind me and you're going to see passionate, powerful, proactive. Were they always that way? Well, yeah, I mean Latin and T.C., probably, but not like they are, man. They're like dynamos. But you know what's really interesting, I know hundreds of men like these guys, hundreds. What happens is man, we look at a world that says, give me a

man so when he walks in a room I'm safer and we do, because we say, let your spirit come alive in Christ and let Him do the work in you, man. It gives all of the being of a man functioning and living.

Which takes us to No. 5. Manhood is more easy for us to evaluate than many spiritual processes so we can more clearly identify for fulfilling God's will. You ever say, man, what does God want me to do? That's such a hard question to answer. Guess what He wants you to do? Be a man. I mean, be the kind of man that everyone finds you to be trustworthy, finds you to be safe, finds you to be a place where the source of pain gets healed. Be that kind of man. That's what you're designed to be. You don't say that's who you are. Be it. That's what this room does for us when we get to that place where our spirit just takes off on the upper stage.

6. At times we may feel more disappointed with ourselves over situations in which we did not act manly than we would at some of our sin not realizing that they are the same. You know what's really interesting guys? There are times when we feel so disappointed when we lose it and just aren't what we're supposed to be at a given moment, when we disappoint, when we hurt instead of heal, and sometimes I honestly think we're more upset about that than we are about sin. They're one in the same, but I just think sometimes as a guy, it's an easier measuring stick to say, that's a man and I'm not being it. Instead of trying to figure out

what was my sin, it's not being the man I'm designed to be. So what we are we going to be?

Look at the last one. God's purpose for you is for you to be the man of God, for you to be a man of God, not to be T.C., not to be Robert, not to be somebody else, for you to be a man of God in the image of Christ, changing a world that desperately needs us.

So guys, here we are, upper stage. If you're here with us, I mean if you're truly, truly here with us, your spirit, your soul, your mind, your body are fully engaged so that your self can make the choices necessary and your sin, your shadow is held at bay. Man, what a place for you to become a defender.

Trail 17 is going to take you to another place. See you next week. Thanks for being with us.