MEN'S FRATERNITY

Knights of the 21st Century

Trail 17

KEITH: We dealt with a pretty interesting trail yesterday – last week. We got together and we said, what would it be like to make good choices on all parts of our core, completely alive, completely engaged? That becomes a huge, huge step with where we're going to go with three key choices in our life that we need to make in this trail, Trail No. 17. Now in order to understand that, you need to understand that there's always when we're rock climbing, whenever we're involved in anything like that, you've got to be at three points on the rock face. What has to happen is you have to always have three points on or you'll never advance. You can't climb anymore if you're just stuck with two. Now in my case, for the longest time when I was rock climbing, I thought my stomach was a key point, but apparently it's not. You need to have one foot, two hands, one hand, two feet or you can't move. So just apparently not just being able to be stuck on a rock because of your gut, it doesn't work guys. This is where you say there are three places where I know that I'm solidly where I need to be so I can advance to do what I need to do on the next phase. So I can make a difference to those behind, I can make a difference to those who will then because of my advance, be able to get behind me and feel safe and protected. Again, it's never about

control. It's about good choices that make people feel that they're safe and they can be healed.

So guys, what we're going to do is this. We're going to look at the three points that we're going to have to be on. Now this guy actually, you can tell where his lean is, he's about to reach that way. Now I have two of my sons, my second and my third son are both rock climbers. I'm a guy with about fifteen ropes, people yanking on it, pulling me up kind of rock climber. My guys can free climb. Now you hit a certain moment where you're confident of all of your points and you can see his left hand is where it wants to be. He's about to reach with is right hand. He's about to make a difference but he has to be confident of the other three points or he won't reach. He simply won't do it. So, I need you to think through what are the three choices that I need to make, what are the three areas that I need to be solid on so then I can make the next choice. So we've been learning how to make choices. There's three areas that we're going to look at that you need to make that choice.

Consider I. in your books there. What separates a man from simply being good at something to becoming his best has a lot to do with what he does with his choices. What's going to separate you from being good at something to being the best. Now, if you talk to T.C., he'll tell you that he was a football player and as a football player, he was a very good running back. He did not make it where he wanted to make it so there had to be better running backs than him but he was the best that he could be.

That's true of any athlete that's really striving to be the best. Guys, being the best is the key to this thing and how you're going to be the best is I am solid in the choice that I'm making that will make me the best I can possibly be.

There's one such man in the New Testament. His name is Nathaniel and you actually don't hear much of Nathaniel but in your Knightly News, you're going to see that there's this guy that Christ complements actually. There's a friend looking for Nathaniel. He finds him and says, hey, I found the Messiah. He's from Nazareth and Nathaniel knowing what the Old Testament said about where the prophet would come from knew it wasn't going to be Nazareth so he says, what good could come out of Nazareth? And the guy says, well come, come and see. And so when he gets there, Jesus says here's a man without any kind of integrity problems. Here's a good, good man of Nathaniel and Nathaniel goes, how do you know me? You've never seen me. Jesus says I saw you when you were under the tree and you made that comment. And Nathaniel goes, whoa, if you could do that then you must be the Messiah. You must be this man who the prophets say would come. Jesus says, because I saw you with that under the tree you now believe? He says you're going to see far more than that. But if you stop for a minute and realize what Jesus was saying about Nathaniel, He was saying Nathaniel, you're the best of the best when it comes to being a man of integrity.

Look at this statement in your Knightly News. A man who is true to his spiritual beliefs and whose integrity is strong is a man who can be relied upon. What happens in our lives, if we believe that you and I are all that we can be, we'll discover that people can trust us, invest in us, and we can advance way beyond. So here's what I want us to do. We're going to move up the rock face. We're going to make sure we're solid in our three points so that we can do the couple things we're going to do over these next several trails to advance, alright. So we're going to work on those three solid things. The guys are up in the roundtable room, so join me up there as we're going to kind of teach it from up there and then we'll do our own roundtable and so we'll see you up there. Follow me.

When we were downstairs talking, I knew that we would getting up here with the guys who are each going to share some things with us as we talk about those big three key choices. What makes a difference in doing this is once you got those points solidly locked in your life and you can answer the questions, the choices in your life, you really are going to make a huge difference. So we're going to get right to it.

They're going to share and so, look at A. A man must choose which habits will define him. A man's habits are.

T.C.: 1. Should be evaluated regarding how helpful they are to his ability to live an efficient and productive life. This is simple, guys. You want to ask yourself, is what I'm doing working? You know, does it work? Is it helping me? Is it contributing to my ultimate goal, you know,

does staying up all night, actually giving me energy in the morning, or am I sluggish and I'm not, I'm doing the best as I can do. It's just simple things. Is it working? Is it fulfilling me forward.

No. 2. May be positive and yet not always the right choice for each situation. I think in an earlier trail we talked about this. There is a difference between good ideas and God ideas. That's a spiritual thing that I like to go by. You know, just because it seems good doesn't always mean it's what God wants me to do. I have to pray about that. But even in a more practical – some of the things I kind of jotted down for myself, you can give too much. I think I talked about this earlier. You can over commit. You know these are good things. I want to do all I can for people and then you don't have enough time for your family. I want to give all I can but then you don't have enough to pay your own bills. So, these are things you have to consider. You know, good idea but is it the right idea? Am I doing it the right way?

KEITH: What habit defines you, what people would know you as, would you say, is this habit giving a positive viewpoint of who I am? It's such a great thing to say, you know that habit doesn't do that or it does. So I think you're right on target with what you're saying.

CLAIR: I'm thinking about, there's a phrase out there that says, if the only tool you have is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail. And I was thinking about, I love the positive side of life. I love encouraging. We were talking earlier about there was a time Keith didn't

need encouragement so even though my habit was positive, my desire was to have a positive, it was not the right tool for that time.

T.C.: Yeah, you got to look at the situation and then act accordingly. You know not everything works for everything, even if it's a good thing. You got to kind of think that through.

Alright, No. 3. May need to be changed as a result of living in the forest as it is dynamic and is constantly changing. So you know when we talk about the forest, we're talking the world we live, the world around us. And I know, if you're like me, you're a creature of habit. For example, I love that every morning I will start my day with reading the Bible and then working out. But if something happens that changes that, sometimes you get this weird silly superstition that, oh, my whole day is messed up because now I have to try to find another spot and it may not work out the way I want it. You just get thrown all out of whack, but when you realize how life may present these challenges, you got to be able to adjust, so you know what, I want to read my Bible in the afternoon and I'll work out in the afternoon and, you know, it will be – I'll still get my results. But I can't freak out because life throws me a curve ball. You just got to adjust the bat, you know, adjust the way you swing.

No. 4. Must be guided in ways that reflect his purpose and his values. Always want to think about what's guiding you, what's leading you, you know, what's out in front. The cool thing about me is, at least I think it's cool, is (laughter), but I'll tell you what man, I love the fact that

for me the Holy Spirit is out in front and I believe that God has a purpose for me. So if God has a purpose, it doesn't even matter if I know the way or not. I just got to make sure that the person leading me knows where they're going and I just got to follow closely and so from a spiritual aspect, that's how I do things. But from a more practical standpoint, you got to look at what leads you in your daily grind, as I like to call it. Look, the job, you know, how you approach a job, how you approach your family, how you approach your friends, how you approach your relationships, the thing that you have out in front, that motivates what you do in all different situations is going to dictate how successful you are. So these are some of the things that you guys need to take a look at. Clair is going to come along and go over some more points.

CLAIR: That's good. I want to tell you T.C., what I know of your life, I see it, the habits, the patterns that you establish on a daily basis we feel lived out and they are designed around your purpose, the things that you think God has called you to do, so way to go.

So I heard about the Biblery, I knew about that. When did you start working out (laughter).

Let's move on to No. 5. No. 5, must encourage him to express his emotions and care for others. Don't know about you guys, but expressing my emotions, feelings, not a huge thing for me. It's something I really had to work on. There's a joke going around about a guy whose wife said do you still love me and he looked her square in the face and said, I told

you the day I married you I loved you. If it ever changes, I'll get back to you. Pretty lazy way to live our lives so out of my natural response to want to express my emotions, especially with my wife. I don't know how you guys are, but that's a tough one for me. I've got to work on it.

T.C.: Well for me, I failed at that miserably in the first couple years of my marriage. I just didn't know how, you know. I know there's some guys out there that just don't know how to do it. I just didn't know how. Over the years through good examples of other men and seeing them successful, I just got tired of not being successful. I wanted what they had and I started copying what they do, you know, which is another reason you want to lead out well, because you know, you got guys looking up to you.

CLAIR: Good. Let's go on to No. 6. Habits are not always good. There is often the need to develop new, more positive ruts or patterns might be another way of saying it. My understanding, I've had to do this in my own life, if I'm going to take away a habit or change a pattern in my life, I immediately create a void. A lot of the things I do, I do because I enjoy and if it's a bad habit and I've got to take it out, I've just created a vacuum in my life if you will of fun. Things, something I enjoyed is now gone. I can't just let that void there. I'm feeling empty and I'm actually going to feel back into that trap because I want to fill that void. We don't like empty spots in our lives. So I think what I've heard recommended is find a new positive rut that Roy talks about here to fill

that void. So do not just assume I can take it away without replacing it with something more positive. Do you guys have any experiences with that? (Laughter) You all sat there looking like an envelope without an address on it for just a second. (Laughter). Apparently I'm the only one.

No. 7. Habits should encourage positive relationships, adaptive skills, personal development and physical self-care. I think this is one I was thinking about as you were talking, T.C., that our habits need to align with our goals. Habits are patterns in our lives and if I have a goal of having positive relationships, being adaptive in life, being able to respond to different situations in a different way so I don't get a bad result the second time, for personal development and for physical self-care, I have got to make sure that my habits are aligning with all those goals so that on a daily basis, I'm moving forward in each one of those areas.

T.C.: That one I do. I just, hanging around guys that are, you know like I like to say, coming out of the same playbook that I come out of, the same team that I come out of, they're not going to, their goals are usually lined up with mine. That's one thing I love about this is anybody doing Knights all across the country, our goals are going to pretty much be the same because we're chasing after the same things. I could meet a guy in whole other state and we're doing the same thing. It's just like man, how are you doing on that trail, that trail, that trail and then you get all those different anecdotes from other people and oh, I can apply that from a guy you've never met just because we got the same goal. I try to

hang around people that are on the same team that I'm on. You know, we're all pressing to be, I want other people trying to be good fathers, other people trying to be good husbands, because they're going to propel me to where I want to get to. So I a hundred percent agree with that.

CLAIR: Great. Well let's move on to No. 8. Habits can be changed but if they have been practiced for a long time, he will need God's empowerment in order to change them. One of my favorite Biblical characters is Paul and he was an amazing guy. He was all over the place, had a lot of crazy energy and I just – I relate to him in a lot of ways.

KEITH: He traveled more than you do.

CLAIR: He did, that's hard to imagine. (Laughter). And wrote a lot, maybe wrote more than Roy. (Laughter). The only thing that limited Paul was the amount of parchment in the world. Roy has paper.

Talking about Paul, he was talking about, he definitely heard from God and God raised the bar on him in so many different areas and he was looking at some habits, some patterns in his life that he desperately wanted to change. He didn't get real specific about what they are. I don't think it mattered but we all struggle with these patterns in our lives that we hate. And Paul was struggling with it so much he actually referred to himself, he said I'm a tormented soul. Here's what he said in Romans 7, he said, for I do not do what I want. Instead I do what I hate. So any of you guys out there resonate with that? Have you see a pattern you keep

falling back into and it just tears you up. Why can I not get pas this? Why do I keep disappointing myself? Why do I put things in my life at risk, my family, my relationship, my marriage? You name it. Whatever habit it is you can't pull past here's what Paul found out. He said, you know, I give up God. I cannot do this on my own. I have failed again and again and again. What makes me think that if I've been at this five years that something new is going to come along and I'm going to beat it. He just turned it over to God. He said, God, I'm the tormented soul. You're the only one who can change it. Empower me that I can change this habit.

KEITH: This whole issue guys is the possibility in your life to say, what are the issues that are the habits that define me? So if somebody were to observe me, they would go, that habit defines that individual. When you know those habits are the habits you want to define you, you got a solid footing on the three points on a rock face.

The next one is B. It says this. A knight must respond to God's call so your call is the second habit, the second issue, the choices you need to make. A man's calling is like this.

ROBERT: Well No. 1, a man's calling is from God. It fits so perfectly with God's unique genetic design that he must develop his full potential in order to be completely satisfied. Listen guys, the scriptures teach us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, right. And what that means is that God actually knit us together and designed us for a certain

purpose and we have that coating within our bodies to fulfill that purpose. You know, sometimes whether it be like, you know, you're meant to do football, perhaps you look like T.C. I am not designed for football.

KEITH: You could be the football. (Laughter).

ROBERT: Now, guys the bottom line is, you know what, you should always ask yourself in any situation that you find yourself in, you know when you're trying to figure out what your purpose is or what you're supposed to do with your life and what your calling is, you know what, am I actually equipped for these things? When you ask yourself that question, it's a lot easier to kind of decipher and navigate through all those, the grey kind of area and be able to come to a definite place.

Let's move on.

ROY: Wait, wait, wait. What's God's genetic design? Why am I bald? Now I know it came through from my mother's father, so you know, you always look at your mother's father, and you know, he got this gift, you know. Well you know, I thought God gave me this design, which I – you know, if I had a different – if I had my way, I would use a different design, okay. But it's not – God has given me that and it's kind of like, okay, how can I use it, you know, so when I used to work with youth, the minute I said, you know here I am this baldheaded guy, and the minute I could talk about let's say something that might not be cool or seem inadequate or not perfect, it immediately put the people at ease and I've learned to use it. Now in my plan, I would have given myself a different

genetic design. In God's plan, He gives us this potential, or the way we are and then we have to make it work for His glory.

ROBERT: Oh yeah, and I guess the bottom line is you use what God has given you and where He's put you to fulfill His calling for your life.

ROY: Yeah.

ROBERT: In a every awesome way.

KEITH: I think all the rest of us are wondering, how early were you bald? (Laughter)

ROBERT: Alright, moving on. No. 2. A man's calling will always reflect God's message of love to a hurting world. Look, bottom line in this point is we have been called to love God and love people. That is really what our mission is as far as the scriptures are concerned. And to do that, we got to understand that God's calling for our lives, whether it's our genetic design, in all the circumstances that we find ourselves in, what God has provided for us are the raw materials that we can fulfill that calling, to love God, love people, take that message of God's love to them.

Which kind of goes with the next point which is 3. That a man's calling will specifically apply his giftedness in ways that enhance others. So you've been given all these gifts, you've been designed a certain way, go out there, love people but also find ways to enhance their lives. You know, for me for example, believe it or not, some people think I may not

be passionate enough. It's true. No, but the thing is I try to use that in my motivation and kind of my emotions to try to encourage other people to, you know, kind of light a fire underneath them so they can move around and do what they're supposed to be doing.

ROY: Robert, sometimes guys don't recognize what their giftedness is because sometimes what they're gifted in is easy and they think that because it's easy it doesn't have value. So there's guys that will walk up and they can fix any kind of car and hear any kind of sound. Every time I try to fix a car, I go to the doctor to stitch myself up because I bust myself up with tools. These guys will go, but you know, all I can do is fix cars, all I can do is make a nice lawn, all I can do, and they're failing to recognize that that all I can do is what God created them to do and be. And that is their giftedness and that's honoring God with what they're good at is the key.

KEITH: And our calling is never done in a vacuum. Our calling is always done with people's lives that touch as you were just saying.

ROBERT: Absolutely. Moving onto the next one, No. 4. A man's calling will provide him with a sense of meaning and purpose. Truthfully speaking when you begin to figure out what God's calling in your life is and you begin to do those things, you know there's a – I'm reminded about Psalm 1 and it talks about how God will prosper the good man. Whenever the Bible talks about prospering, it's actually referring to fulfillment of the purpose that you've been given so when I think about

that, I think, you know what, as you begin to fulfill the purpose that God has put in your life, well then you begin to get this sense of accomplishment. You just have this wonderful sense that you're doing exactly what God wants you to be doing.

Point No. 5. A man's calling allows him to express his gratitude to God for His guidance and love when he follows it. When all these pieces are falling together, you know that you have found your purpose, you know that you're living out God's calling in your life, you're able to see it and have a sense of accomplishing it, then all of a sudden you just become real grateful for it. You know it's kind of like, and I think T.C. might agree with me, it's kind of like a football player that finally gets himself out into the end zone and scores a touchdown. You know and there's a sense of thankfulness to be able to put that finger up many times and say, you know what, it's because of God. He has given you the ability to do that.

ROY: Let's go to 6. Will require him to periodically leave his comfort zone as he moves into the transparent stage of giving and growing. There's always further we men can go with our lives. There is absolutely no reason as we're following God's calling in our life for us ever to be bored, and ever think that we've arrived. There's always another step beyond where we're at and the question is whether we as Christian men have the courage to go looking for those extra steps because they're going to always cause us to leave our comfort zone.

Let's go to 7. Provides comfort to him when he looks back on his life as a knight. We, as we go forward, should at times look at some of the memories that we have regarding how, when we left those comfort zones areas and stretched, God was always there to catch us. God is always that net under the trapeze that as we go a little further in our marriages, a little further in sharing our faith, a little further in applying our faith to a difficult situation, God is there to kind of catch us and we can go back and look at those times that catch us so that next time we go, I know God will be there. I can go for it.

Let's look at the next one. Will be fulfilled if he develops a good support system, a learning spirit and has a regular dialogue with God. These guys are my support system and we don't have time for this, but can you picture, you know, like they do at acrobatics, a group of guys three or four guys on their hands and knees and three guys on top of them and then two guys on top of them and, you know, they build a pyramid and then I get to go up – sorry guys – and I get to stretch. I get to stretch and I get to do my calling because they serve as the foundation to help me do it. And then when I'm done my calling, guess what, I go to the bottom and I'm one of the guys on the bottom and maybe the next guy on the top is Clair and Clair stretches. For us to do our calling, we need the men around us to support us to do that.

9. Will help him change the world when combined with the efforts of other men who are willing to follow their calling. You and I have been

made to make a difference and one of the things all of us keep saying every day or when we turn on the TV, man, it can't get worse. Man, it can't get worse, alright. We're not going to fix what's every year getting worse without the guys around us. God has called us to work together as a team to change the world so that I magnify another man's positive influence as God has called him to be and he magnifies mine.

10. Will allow him at the end of his life to hear the message from God, well done my good and faithful servant. God is so good to me. I want to give a little something as a thank you.

KEITH: One of the most amazing parts of what we just talked about is that in the world in which we find ourselves, we need men who know what their habits are, men who know what their calling is because when they establish those two, they're going to be able to reach, as you mentioned, reach to the next higher level. But there's still one more point that we have to understand because it's going to help you to know where to put your effort. Habit will define you. Calling is who God designed you and you're living in it, completely fulfilled in it. This next one is key, though.

Look at C. A man must choose the relationships that are important to him. You have to choose which relationships you're going to focus on. He must have the willingness to do the following.

T.C..: Alright, No. 1, to do the hard work that is necessary to maintain his marital relationship. A man's got to do this. I learned this

very, very quickly in my marriage. You know I've been married 13 years to a beautiful woman. I have two children and my first couple of years they were very rough because of just me doing the opposite of this. I didn't understand this principle, this concept and I made the hard step which is just proposing it and saying I do. And then everything's supposed to fall in place, but it certainly doesn't work that way. Man, you're bringing your life together, you're bringing your finances together, you're bringing your debts together, you're bringing everything together. There's some work that goes into that. You can't shy away from it and you can't take it lightly and you can't wait for somebody else to do it for you. And so, for me, that was a challenge but now I'm experienced in the proof of that going on year 14, so praise God for that.

No. 2. To model a grace filled attitude, a forgiving spirit, and principled lifestyle to his children which will help them become their best. Now I read that slow because there's a lot there. You know, starting even with the forgiving spirit, you know, I'll give you an example. Me and my father whom I'm 36 years old and I didn't really get a chance to know him until I was 33 years old. And so he didn't raise me. He didn't have a whole lot of input into who I was going to become. You know, he brought me into the world and everything but he didn't get a chance to contribute to me becoming a man. For me, if I was to hold onto bitterness about that, if I was to decide to not set goals now and just sulk about that, and be upset about that, then I'm not able to be a great dad to my daughter

and my son. I'm also not able to be a great husband to my wife, but instead I took what he did and I said, look I've seen what doesn't work. I want to take that and do all the opposite and I'm going to do everything he didn't do. He didn't have a support system, I want a support system. He didn't have a plan, I want a plan. And you can go down the line and see where I'm going. By the way, we restored ourselves and we got a great relationship now, but that's just to the point. You know, you got to – I had to forgive him. That's the whole point. I forgive him. We have a great relationship. I can use him as an example of restoration and I'm also a better father from learning myself from his mistakes that he's learned from his own mistakes, he's a better man now. So it's pretty cool stuff.

ROY: You know, God is a god of relationships and God's whole purpose in our existence is to have a relationship with Him and is very attuned, God is, to our relationships with others, especially since we're supposed to reflect His love in those relationships.

Let's look at the next one. To have conflicts with others, he must learn to look at what he has done wrong, apologize and seek forgiveness while confronting others who need this feedback. One of two things is going to happen or you're going to have conflict. In every relationship you have, you will have conflict. If you don't have conflict, there are two reasons for it. One, you're either not close enough or two, somebody is not being themselves and is trying to act exactly like the other person. If

you have two people who are themselves, being what God has called them to be and they are close, you're guaranteed conflict.

Let's look at the next one. 4. To walk away from relationships which are harmful or negative or which require him to make choices that are unethical or compromise his values. There are tough times in life when in relationships you need to separate your way from the other individual because their negative influence on you is wearing you down. Their ethics, how they do life and these are times that are tough, especially for some of us when it's family members. When we have to make a decision, I can't call that family member or be close to them because the way they live life and the choices that they're making will be harmful to my spirituality.

5. To engage with others by smiling, complimenting them, playing with them or just having fun. God wants us to have positive relationships and that means complimenting, smiling, being open, and as I do here at this table, just enjoying each other.

CLAIR: Let's go on to No. 6. No. 6 says to contribute to the lives of others in supportive ways making them better off for having met him. Guys, you have over the course of a week probably literally hundreds of interactions with other people. Quite of few of them are redundant interactions. You're interacting with your family quite often, coworkers. Then you also have some people you may have never met that you're going to bump into. I'm just going to encourage you to be real

intentional about being an encouragement to them. You've got a moment to make a waitress' day. You've got a moment with the checkout clerk. You've got a moment each day with your wife to make her day, to make your kids days amazing.

T.C., you were talking earlier today. We were actually off camera but about a dark room where there's a lot of people in the room but it's completely dark. One person walks in with a flashlight and that person's burning some energy. A flashlight takes energy to light up a room. You start lighting up all those other people. As you light them up, they may start their own flashlight up. Something really cool is happening. That whole room is getting brought up by one flashlight as others start lighting up and they spend their energy bouncing back, the whole room comes together. You're getting some bounce back off of them, so I thought it was a beautiful analogy of what one person could do in a dark room.

Let's move onto No. 7. No. 7 says to practice relationship skills by sharing his feelings honestly and listening to others. I am fond of saying I had a feeling one time back in '96. I didn't like it. I'm not going to do that again. I, guys do not like feelings. I don't trust them. I don't like when I get emotional and so often are in denial. There's two pieces to this skill as I see it. Number one, acknowledge your feelings and then the second part is sharing them. They're a tool that's supposed to be useful to us. I 'm thinking about our lives in particular. I don't know if they feel a whole lot closer to us than they do when we share honestly our feelings.

Move on to point No. 8. To do the tough job of prioritizing his relationships which then allows him to invest his time in the people who are the most significant to him. This has been a huge failure in my life. Thankful, very thankful to my wife that she never gave up on this. I have a real risk with the way God wired me up valuing people way outside of my priority list, higher than those who are close to me. And I have, I have sacrificed my family. I have drug them into service roles they didn't want to be in because I had such a desire.

I came across a theory a little while ago that works so well for me. It's the theory of concentric circles and it starts out with the most important relationship in my life. That's God. When God and I are tight and I'm sure that relationship taken care of, then I move out to the next circle which is my family. When that is nailed down and I've taken care of them, then I have the right to look out a little bit further. Maybe that's coworkers or the community and I can keep branching out further and further as long as those inner circles are tight. When I run out of energy for those relationships, it's time to pull back and make sure that the core is tight. So I do not want to gain thousands and thousands of friends and lose the most important people in my life.

ROBERT: No. 9. A man must have the willingness to worship with those who will encourage, strengthen and challenge his spiritual walk with God. Now there's some key words there. That is to worship with those that are willing to challenge him. Kind of like what we're doing

here, what you see here and even what you get to see us do in our campfires. It's important for a man to gather with other guys around him, to kind of rally around him and be able to encourage him and challenge him to be able to strengthen his walk and that you do the same. I mean we've touched on it in different forms whether it be the pyramid or whether it be just to gather with being the flashlight and stuff. That's really what it's about. You've got to be willing, a man must be willing to worship with other people.

Next point. No. 10. To maintain his commitment to his family, friends and campfire group and to be an ever present source of strength by contributing positively to their lives. There's some key words in this point here, and that is the word maintain and the way you maintain these relationships is by contributing. Guys in order to maintain the relationship that you have with your families, with your fellow brothers and campfire buddies, let me tell you the only way to do that is by contributing. Now it's okay if you show up, but sometimes you need to be quiet. You need to hear people and they need to speak into your life but you also got to be willing to contribute, to go in there, have something to offer, bring that to the table. You know if I came here and all you saw me was showing up but I was quiet for every single trail we had, well that would be pretty awkward actually. I wouldn't be connecting with these guys but the fact that, you know what, sometimes we have things to say and we contribute into each other lives makes a big difference.

Defender

Next point, 11. A man must be willing to strengthen his relationship with Jesus Christ by reading the Bible and communicating with God through prayer on a daily basis. Self explanatory. Read the Word, pray to God. That's the only way that you can grow and you got to be willing to do that.

KEITH: So where we are guys is this. There are three distinct points in a rock face and if you're going to advance, you're going to have to deal with them. They are: what habit defines you, what is the calling in your life and what are you about when it comes to relationships? That's what makes a man, and then once you got those things solid, you can make the next move.

We're going to spend a few minutes in our campfire sharing together on these, not just teaching, but just sharing together and then I want you to enjoy your time as well. Thanks.

Alright guys, as we were walking through those three keys points., let's start with that. What habit defines you? What would be the one like T.C. was talking about the fact that he would get up every morning, he would spend time in God's Word and then he'd exercise, alright. So I have spent time in God's Word, oh yeah, not the exercise, but I would do that. So what key habit would you say defines you? Like for me, every morning in the shower, every day, I pray on my armor. I go to Ephesians 5 or Ephesians 6 and start with my head go all the way out to the shield, so it's - _____ salvation, breast _____, righteousness,

_____ truths, _____ preparation of the gospel _____ ever day, and I pray that on, because I'm fully aware that during the night, man, the enemy could be messing and playing and so that is a habit. It defines me because I believe I'm in a battle and so that's one of the habits.

ROBERT: I definitely, I mean I can relate to that. In the morning usually when I'm either showering, whenever I'm getting ready, usually when I'm spending time with God and just praying and stuff, but you know, I'm kind of putting a little twist on it. One of the habits I think that will define me is I'm always opening doors for my wife and my daughter, kind of just, you know, it's something that I never let that moment pass. It's my way of showing some respect and building them up. Definitely for my daughter, it's a way of showing her how she should be treated in the future, but it's a habit that I've always carried with me and it pretty much defines me.

KEITH: It's funny because my habit, another habit that I have goes with that, I'll take Lynn's phone call every time. Now she and I have talked that during this video shoot I don't have my phone with me, but I'll take her phone call at any time. And that habit lets her know that I'm fighting on your behalf at any time. It defines me, you know. Protect the heart of every woman, protect the heart of your woman, you know.

CLAIR: Yeah, it's interesting. We're talking about mornings here. But I have a habit, I leave the home very early a couple mornings a

week. Our men's fraternity, typically 5:00 a.m. I'm walking out. Any time my family is still sleeping God's put a call on me and it's very clear, you pray over them on the way out the door. So there's an extra five minutes, starts with my wife in our bedroom, walk to my youngest son who still lives with us, he's sleeping in there. I pray over him for his day. The next door is an empty room. My oldest son is in college. The third door is a really interesting one. We've had a nephew whose spent four years with us. We've had three exchange students and some friends who've stayed in that room and each one of them gets prayed over before I leave.

T.C.: Well I don't want to be Captain Obvious, you know with mine, but I got to tell you but for me, it's 4:30 in the morning and I spend sometimes up to three to four hours studying scriptures. You know I work out after that, but the reason for that is that I used to spend a little less time, you know people say you can spend as much time as you want. I agree with that, to each his own. Whatever works for you, but for me, I've noticed that whatever I spend the most time doing sticks in my head. Like if you ever go to a concert, a music concert, three or four hours at this concert, for days, and days, and days just singing the songs. You know, if you went to the concert for five minutes, it's highly unlikely you'll be that impacted by it and so for me, that morning time I start early because I know nothing is going on. The world is so dead at 4:30 in the morning. Nothing is going on so I got all this time and I read so much that that is for me one of the only ways I can carry that for a 24 hour day every day.

Because I've read so much and it just keeps flying through my head, flying through my head, flying through my head. That's one habit that I will never change, you know, and now since we're doing ministry, this is somewhat taking the place of it because we do this like eight, nine hours a day. But yeah, the more, that 4:30 I'm there. It's me and God and it's dark. The only thing that's lit up is my iPad and my scriptures for four hours and then that carries me throughout the day. It's like a full gas tank.

ROY: You know, I have a number of different habits, some that are good, some bad. One of the ones that I have been introducing into my life because of my heart is kind of kind of gets out of rhythm as we talked about earlier is I have to walk, walk to try to control my weight, walk to try to get my heart healthy here, and so I pray and sometimes I'll walk six or eight miles and I'm not fast. So that's about two to three hours and I'll be praying for you guys, I'll be praying for men I've talked to across the country on the phone that are doing Knights chapters, you know my family, people that I work beside, my employees that are part of my company and it's just so great to be able to walk for a couple of hours and just talk to Jesus and talk to God and yeah, also spend some time trying to listen, you know. God, what are you trying to tell me so that I can make His calls during the day versus always rely on myself.

KEITH: There's also one of the points that we're going to have in our life is not just a habit but a calling. What sense do I have that

going to make a difference in the world in which I find myself. It might be unique from what we're doing in Robert's or Clair's life. What is my calling? What is my distinct calling? So where's yours? What would you say a calling – you might have three or four, but what's one of them?

ROY: You know we look at where we go naturally and if you walk and I have a pretty big library, I like to read when I have time and one of the one section of my library that's in my office is leadership books. I just love reading leadership books and so I believe my calling in some ways has to do with leaders, whether it's leading Knights, whether it's leading my company called Pennsylvania Counseling Services, or somehow contributing, it's a way of how can we gather a group together, understand each person's strengths and weaknesses and intertwine a tapestry that eventually honors God.

KEITH: Mine's right above my desk and it's about the calling I have to this generation of men, to bring them into full manhood which is to bring them into Christ and so for me that, that just drives me and it's where my heart comes alive communicating to the guys in any kind of setting, any kind of environment and that's really a big one for me.

CLAIR: I guess some of you guys may not, when you think about a calling, it may not jump out of you. For me it's anything that you could do 24 hours a day, something that energizes you that's better sleep that you can't wait to do. I love encouraging men. I love when someone calls and says, hey I'm struggling. We get together for breakfast. I love

sitting and listening for awhile and then just trying to eliminate it somehow. What are you missing? What are the lost dreams. What five changes could you make today that would start encouraging you?

ROBERT: For me, I mean right along those lines, I really believe my calling, or one of my callings is to encourage other men, just other people in general, through the preaching of the Word. I enjoy that so heavily. I mean whenever I get the opportunity to go to a church or go to a conference and be able to speak, I just absolutely enjoy that. I mean I can barely sleep. I want to go and jump right into that. And then I think the other one is kind of obvious, you know, to be able to go and be a story teller through film in some way or another, that is either to writing or just through the acting.

T.C.: Mine is definitely, and I'm glad I finally recognize this in my life is to be able to help people in spiritual transformation through getting to know Christ. You know, to provide people with hope. My calling is I see a person that comes into my office or to my home, or I meet them on the street and they are crying. You know they are crying and they lost hope and they just, they are broken and everything. My calling is to introduce them to a new life to where that all changes. That brings me more joy than anything else is to hear about life change and transformation and they say I used to be this, I am this now. Thank you. That right there is my calling to see people change, because you know that if I never see them again, everything they do from that point, they've

changed the course of their life. They're probably going to change the course of somebody else's. If they stayed in their broken, hopeless state, they never become what they need to be and they're not going to help anybody else, but to see people – to help them remove their pain by introducing them the way where it's not there anymore, that brings tears to my eyes, you know. Just to know that you have the ability to do that just through what Christ has done for and sharing with other people and if they catch and they start changing, I can do that all day.