

THE SWORD & SHIELD LETTER

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July 2026

- **Every Man A Warrior, Chapter 4**, *Connect Meeting* via Zoom, Tuesday, July 14th @ 6:45 PM.
- Men's Ministry meeting July 19th @ 8 AM, **Every Man A Warrior, Chapter 5**.
- *Register for KYTN 2026 Fall Men's Summit September 25-27 @ Indian Creek Camp.*
<https://kytnmensministry.regfox.com/kytn-fall-mens-summit-26>

"Free Indeed: Men Who Stand in Liberty"

July 4 reminds us that freedom is costly. Families gather, flags fly, and a nation remembers the sacrifice behind independence. But Scripture points men to an even deeper freedom. A man can live in a free country and still be chained by fear, pride, anger, lust, bitterness, or spiritual laziness. *Galatians 5:1* says, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." NIV

Christ does not set men free so we can drift away. He sets us free so we can stand, serve, lead, forgive, and obey. This month, the call is to declare independence from whatever is mastering you, and renew your dependence on Christ. Real freedom is a surrendered life under the Lordship of Jesus.

As men of God, we must ask ourselves: What still has authority over me that Christ has already broken? Freedom in Christ is not only something we celebrate but it is something we must walk in daily. The enemy wants men passive, distracted, and bound, but Christ calls men to be watchful, courageous, and steadfast. This July, don't just thank God for national freedom. Thank Him for spiritual freedom and let's live like a man who has been set free.

Declare Your Independence

- What chain needs to break in your life?
- Where have you confused comfort with freedom?
- Who needs to see Christ's freedom through your leadership?
- What will you surrender before July ends?

"Grace is opposed to earning, not to effort."

- Dallas Willard

"The only condition upon which our freedom is possible is that of becoming one with Christ."

- Ellen G. White, DOA pg. 466



"From The Bondage of sin to Amazing Grace"

John Newton was a man who knew what it meant to be bound by sin. As a young sailor, he lived a reckless life and became involved in the slave trade. But during a terrifying storm at sea in 1748, Newton cried out to God for mercy. That moment began a long transformation in his life.

Christ did not only save Newton from danger but began freeing him from the sins that had ruled him. Newton later became a pastor and wrote the famous hymn "Amazing Grace," with the powerful words, "I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see."

His life reminds us that no man is too far gone for the grace of God. In Christ, a man can be forgiven, changed, and used for God's purpose.

July Leadership Challenge: Lead Like Free Men

1. Pray for the nation. Ask God to raise up leaders who value truth, justice, mercy, and humility.
2. Break one chain. Identify one habit, attitude, or distraction that has been mastering you.
3. Build one man. Encourage, call, or invite one man who needs brotherhood.
4. Bless your home. Use your freedom to serve.
5. Be present. Lead with courage, integrity, and love.



In Christ,



KYTN 2026

Fall Men's Summit

"Act Like Men"

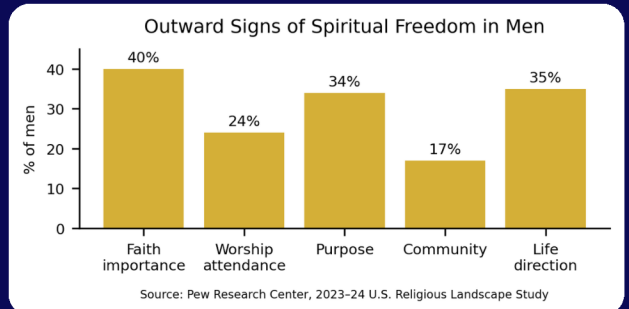
September 25-27

@ Indian Creek Camp

Early Bird Ends 8/1/26

Men, mark your calendars for the KYTN Fall Men's Summit, September 25-27 at Indian Creek Camp. This year's theme, "Act Like Men," is a direct call for us men to stand firm in faith, live with courage, and lead with Christlike strength.

In a time when many men are searching for identity, purpose, and spiritual direction, this summit is an opportunity to step away from the distraction, reconnect with God, and grow alongside other men who are seeking to live faithfully. Scripture says, "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." - 1 Corinthians 16:13-14



- **Faith importance:** 40% of men say the Bible is extremely or very important in their life.
- **Worship attendance:** 24% of men attend religious services at least weekly.
- **Purpose:** 34% of men say religion is very important in their life.
- **Community:** 17% of men participate in prayer, Scripture study, or religious education groups at least monthly.
- **Life direction:** 35% of men report feeling spiritual peace and well-being at least weekly.

*Pew's Religious Landscape Study was conducted July 17, 2023–March 4, 2024, among U.S. adults.

Source: Pew Research Center, 2023-24 U.S. Religious Landscape Study.