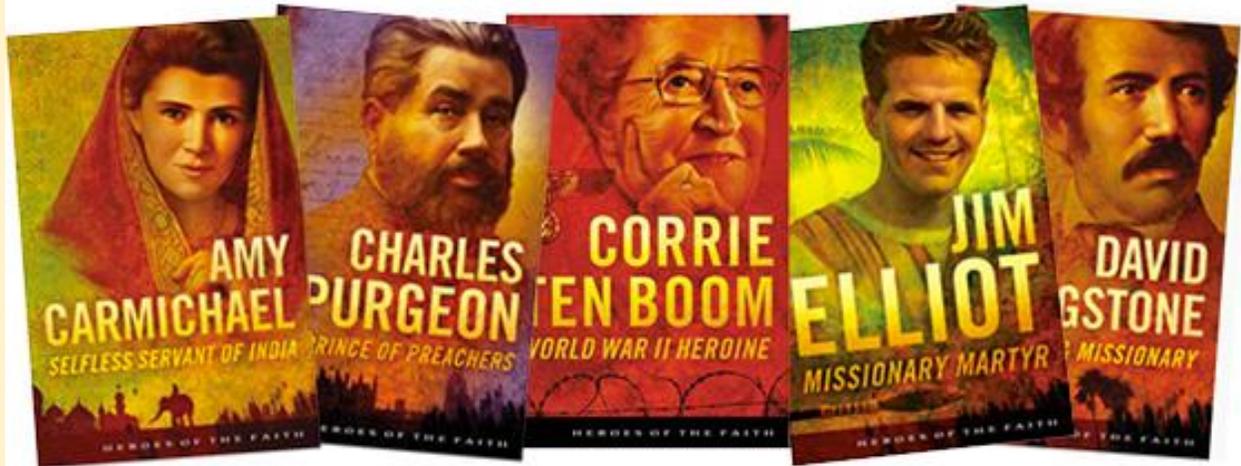


OUR LIVES ARE BOOKS WRITTEN IN THE PAGES OF TIME



When yet in our unformed substance, all the days of our lives were written in God's book. Our destiny was established at that moment. Circumstances presented to us often require choices. Life is full of choices. They determine our success or our failure. The choices we make also determine our future. From the time we learn how to walk and talk, choices are before us. We as parents, have guided the lives of our children in every way exposed to them. Either by words, behavior or actions. A child left to decide for himself will have a hard time following directions in the adult life. He will wander through life, not knowing what he wants; he will however, follow the pressure of friends, and become like them or worse than them. That's when parents have lost their good influence on their children. Because we are carriers of our ancestor's iniquities and curses, we tend to be contrary to sound teachings, until we are transformed by the Word of God.

We start writing our lives' stories from the time we learn to walk and talk. The first pages are gibberish and laughter. The things we do in our innocent age are really funny in the eyes of an adult. Sometimes they are funny, but sometimes they are indicative of developing rebellion. It is important for a parent to correct the child even in his innocent behavior, for the pages of his book to reflect the love of his parents. The Bible says, Even a child is known by his acts, whether [or not] what he does is pure and right (Proverbs 20: 11), and again, Foolishness is

bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him (Proverbs 22: 15). When discipline is applied to the child he becomes the crown of his grandparents and joy to his parents. At the end of his life, if accepted the corrections, the pages of his book will reflect wisdom and discernment and well guided decisions.

Solomon said, when he was a son with his father, tender and the only son in the sight of his mother, King David taught him and said to him, Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments and live; get skillful and godly Wisdom, get understanding; do not forget and do not turn back from the words of my mouth; forsake not Wisdom and she will keep, defend, and protect you; love her, and she will guard you (Proverbs 4: 3-7). Solomon was the wisest person who ever lived, but he was also one of the worst king. In spite of his father's teachings, his heart went the way of physical and spiritual adulteries when he grew in riches and in fame. He sinned against His God and his people. His life became fat and useless. The more he had, the more that he wanted. But at the end of his life, he returned to God and had this to say, All has been heard; the end of the matter is: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole of man; and the whole [duty] for every man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing whether it is good or evil (Eccle. 12: 23-24). The last pages of his life were better than those of the time when he was a king over Israel. The life of Solomon is an example of a child who had been trained in the way he should have gone; in his old age he kept in it. That was according to his own words, Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it (Prov. 22:6).

The life of Martha found in the New Testament, was a life of worries and anxiety. They filled a few pages of her life book story. Martha, Martha, said the Lord, you are anxious and troubled about many things. Martha's strength was overlooked by her anxiety and worries. Her sister Mary, however, had a better report from the Lord: Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her (Luke 10: 41-42). What was that good portion that Mary had chosen? She set at the feet of the Lord to listen to His teachings. Mary's life book story transpired spiritual riches learned from the greatest Teacher that has ever lived on this earth. Just before the death of YAHSHUA, she was the one who anointed Him, unknowingly to her, preparing Him for his burial. Her life wrote a story of gratitude and love to her Lord and it has been written in the pages of the holy

Word of God for the entire world to know. That is the most powerful way of recognition. Her life story was a continuous beauty in the eyes of the Lord.

Every behavior we display; every decision we make; every word we speak good or bad all taken together will fill the pages of our lives' book. The life that reaches out beyond his own needs is like a river flowing to every creek and estuaries, with life support for all those that need. His life book will bless everyone for many years to come, even after he is gone. But for some other people life comes and goes without blessings shared with others. Their empty lives are blank pages in the storybook of their lives. They are reservoirs- holes in the ground, always waiting to receive and keeping all for themselves. The Lord identified this life as a fool. Circumstances of all sort comprise the life of all of us. Be it of success, happiness, tragedies or victories. It is easy for us to accept success, but not tragedies. Either we have not understood or have forgotten that is tragedy that shapes us into maturity. It helps us to be sympathetic with someone else's pain. It brings colors to our life storybook and teaches us endurance. It is like an exercise machine to strength the muscles. James says, Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials of any sort or fall into various temptations. Be assured and understand that the trial and proving of your faith bring out endurance and steadfastness and patience (James 1: 3-4). Our attitude then will determine the way our life storybook will be written. For those who accept tragedies and see good coming out of them, secure themselves in the endurance of faith. Their lives are lessons learned and now being taught in every page of their book. However, no life ever lived on this earth has a written story so complete and perfect than that of our Lord, YAHSHUA. His was the greatest life ever lived. We read the pages of His life with awe and tears for the love that He transpired for all of us. His love was and is so perfect and unconditional that While being crucified, He released forgiveness to all who were doing it. He did not spare the extent of His sufferings for our salvation. He embraced the entire world with His love, while it was lost in sin and in its condemnation. Every page of His life brings salvation, joy, peace, love and hope. One cannot close His storybook without being affected one way or another. His is the greatest story that has ever been told!

So my friend, yours and my life storybooks are determined by our attitudes. Let then the same attitude that was YAHSHUA'S be ours, who although being essentially one with God and in the form of God, did not think this equality with

God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained, but stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant in that He became like men and was born a human being... therefore God has exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess and acknowledge that YAHSHUA the Messiah is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phi. 2: 6-7,9-11). To Him be the glory, the power and the honor forever!

