

From the BATTLE CRIES Series

Bound For Godliness

*Fortifying the CORE of an
Authentic Wingman*

Robert Cossick

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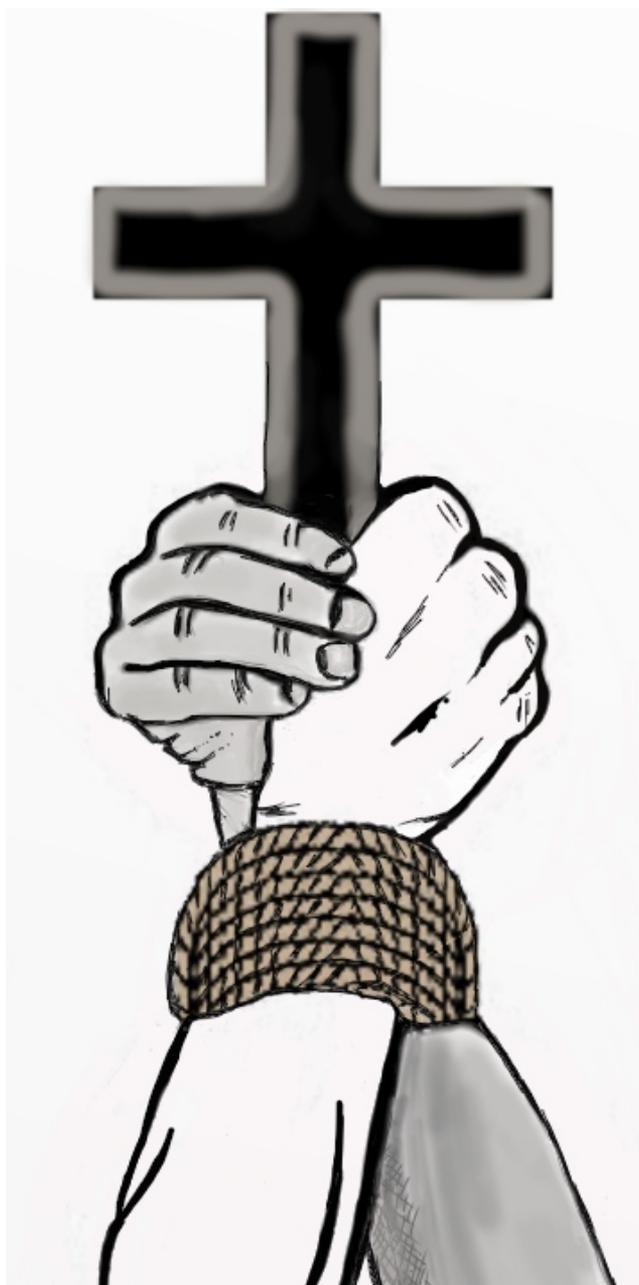
To Kathy, my wife and best friend, I love you with all my heart.

To Wes, Krissie, and Allie, I'm very proud of the love each of you has for the Lord. It's what I've prayed for since the day you each were born.

To Christopher Whintont, my good friend, advisor, and Wingman.

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BOUND

BOUND FOR a life exemplified by Godliness.

BOUND BY principles and character traits to guide you along the path to Godliness.

BOUND TO another to pull each other closer to Godliness.

FORTIFYING THE CORE

At the core of an authentic Wingman is the mindset of being focused on Godliness.

To strengthen and protect that core against attacks, a Wingman's life will be fortified by principles and character traits exemplifying Godliness.

BATTLE CRIES

A battle cry: a chant recited to ward off the enemy and inspire one to forge forward when feeling as though he/she can't go any farther. The battle cry for an authentic Wingman is *Bound Together, There Forever*. This battle cry proclaims you're a man of honor, integrity, and commitment.

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BRIEFING

Mission

Iron Sharpens Iron

If you were to list men who had a positive influence in your life, who would you put on your list?

What was it about those men that earned them the right to be an influence in your life? Was it the way they led by example, their business acumen, or their athletic ability? Was it the way they honored their wife, their integrity, or their walk with God? Maybe it was simply

that they valued you, cared about you, and were willing to make investing in your life a priority. Their investment in your life yielded great returns, and you will forever be grateful to them for it.

Iron sharpening iron is a process whereby a harder more refined metal is used to sharpen a softer, rougher metal. This process is slow and creates friction, but in the end the softer metal is sharpened, refined, and readied for its intended purpose. When a man invests in another man's life, the process is similar to that of iron sharpening iron. The process can be slow and can create friction, in the end, however, the one in whom the investment is made will be sharpened and readied for the road ahead. "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

You've been through the sharpening process to one degree or another. You've been made ready for your intended purpose, and you can list the men who made that investment in you. The question now becomes, what are you doing with their investment? Have you

reinvested what was invested in you? Have you cared enough to make investing in someone else's life a priority? To be more direct, how many lists have your name on them?

Blank Sheet

What if your list is a blank sheet of paper? What if no one valued you or cared enough to invest in your life? You had no one, so why should you be there for anyone else? The fact that you picked up this book indicates you would have chosen a different path. You would have given anything to have your dad, a coach, a teacher, anyone value you for who you were. You can't do anything or change anything about your past; it is what it is, but you can offer a different path to someone else and by doing so, dramatically influence his future.

Men need men in their lives. They need men who will mentor, coach, and encourage them, expecting nothing in return, and who are willing to be there for them no matter the circumstance. Whether you have names on

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your list or not, you should become that man to someone else. Invest in someone's life, get your name on another man's list of men who cared enough to invest in his life.

Mentor / Coach

Mentor

A Mentor is someone who is already in the place where you want or need to be. He encourages, counsels, guides, and advises from personal experience. A mentor is someone you can go to because he understands what it's like to be where you are. He can help you avoid mistakes when faced with situations he has already been through or experienced.

Coach

When you hear the term “coach,” you think of sports, and if you’ve had a sports coach, you probably remember yelling, hard work, and being driven beyond what you thought were your limits. A coach trains, instructs, and strategizes. A good coach will push you and almost force you to get where you want or need to be.

Mentoring-Coach

Some men gravitate toward mentors, others toward coaches. I would argue that men need to get both, and they need to do so in one person, a mentoring-coach.

A mentoring-coach exhibits qualities of both a mentor and a coach. He is someone who can be counted on for support, and to provide wise counsel and push you to forge ahead when things get tough. A mentoring-coach is someone who understands what’s at stake often before anyone else, because he’s already taken the journey. He’s seen the disappointment of those who gave up before

reaching their goal and the rewards to those who persevered until the goal was reached. A mentoring-coach will make sure it's understood that giving up is not an option.

A mentoring-coach is someone's most trusted friend who understands and lives by the battle cry *Bound Together, There Forever*, no matter what is being faced. *Bound Together, There Forever* is more than a cliché; it's a promise, a pledge, and an irrevocable commitment made to another person.

You've benefited from the investment mentors and coaches made in your life. It's time to reinvest what others invested in you. It's time to care enough to make someone else a priority. It's time to become a mentoring-coach to someone else. It's time to become a Wingman.

Wingman

A New Concept from an Old Tradition

The term Wingman stems from a tradition of the United States Air Force. It refers to the pattern in which fighter jets fly whereby there's a Lead aircraft and a second aircraft, the Wingman, who flies off the right wing and behind the Lead. The Wingman, in this context, provides support, situational awareness, and warns of

incoming threats. Because of the protection and guidance provided by a Wingman, the military principle is 'you never leave your Wingman.' The term Wingman provides a great analogy for the concept of being a mentoring-coach to another man.

The military Wingman provides crucial information to the Lead pilot, who uses the information to make decisions on direction and actions. The information provided by the military Wingman is critical to a successful mission. The mentoring-coach Wingman (*Wingman*) provides crucial information to the one being mentored so he can make informed decisions and not just learn from mistakes.

Point Man

When a platoon goes on patrol, one man is designated as the Point Man. He assumes the lead position and is the one who is most exposed. It's his responsibility to get the platoon through a successful mission. Every man is the Point Man in his own life. Therefore, we will use the term

Point Man to refer to the one who's being mentored/coached. The Wingman is a mentoring-coach to a Point Man.

It's imperative to understand a Wingman doesn't control or direct the life of his Point Man. The Point man can make a choice to "go it alone" or choose to be bound to a Wingman who will provide crucial guidance.

Vital Bond

The bond between a Wingman and his Point Man is one of the most trusted bonds attainable between two people. It's a treasured bond which, unfortunately, few men experience. John MacArthur, in a sermon from the Biblical book of John, chapter 15, verses 1-8, explains a similar bond between a vine and its branches.

Jesus chose the figure of a vine for several reasons. The lowliness of a vine demonstrates His humility. It also pictures a close, permanent, vital union between the vine and branches (Grace to You. www.gty.org)

The Wingman's effectiveness is driven by the strength of the bond and the importance placed on the relationship between him and his Point Man. Both the Wingman and his Point Man must consider their relationship to be the same as that of a vine to its branches; a close, permanent, and vital bond. Vital means being of high, great, or critical importance to the life of the individual. Vital means . . . 'All in.' Anything short of 'all in' will result in disaster. Vital means . . . this is not a game.

Authentic Wingmen

Terry was playing in areas a husband and father should never venture into. He was hooked and felt like he could never get out, so he did everything he could to keep his other life a secret. Although Terry met with his Wingman every week, he wasn't completely honest with him, nor did he consider their relationship to be a vital part of his life. Terry was simply going through the motions to present an appearance of seeking help. To

Terry, it was just another relationship. When it came right down to it, it was all just a game to keep his other life hidden. Then it happened; Terry's other life was discovered. His world came crashing down and he could do nothing except watch as years of lies and deception were exposed. For Terry, the game was over.

Terry's Wingman saw the warning flags along the way, but didn't confront him for fear of ruining their relationship by putting Terry in an uncomfortable position. Instead of having his back, Terry's Wingman never asked the tough questions, opting instead to let his Point Man 'fly' without his Wingman.

It took Terry years to recover from the crash that exposed his secret life. His crash caused pain for many other people as well, pain which could have been avoided. Had Terry's Wingman understood becoming a Wingman was not a role to be taken lightly, he would have called Terry out on the warning signs before Terry crossed the line.

There's no guarantee Terry would have heeded his Wingman's warnings. Nonetheless, Terry's story highlights the fact that men need authentic Wingmen in their lives. I'm not talking about wannabe's like Terry's Wingman. I'm talking about authentic, real Wingmen who are willing to invest in other men's lives without compromising their own integrity.

You're being called to become an authentic Wingman to another man. However, before you initiate that process, it is critical that you first fully understand what is expected of every *authentic* Wingman.

Every man needs a Wingman. Every man has what it takes to be a Wingman.