

# HEROES AND FRIENDS (PART 1)

By Keith Greer

While on my way to a Bible study not long ago, I was listening to my radio, and the lyrics to a song that was playing caught my attention. **"Heroes will help you find good in yourself. Friends won't forsake you for somebody else..."**

As the song continued to play, I began to think and wonder. Today, we are told that our young people are missing "real heroes" in their lives. The fact that many of the actors, actresses, and rock stars are among the most immoral people of our society certainly cannot be disputed. The fact that many of our young people are virtually idolizing these same people also cannot be disputed.

Yet, I have to wonder. .. Is it really true that there are no "real heroes"? In searching through the scriptures, I am reminded of some real "heroes of faith".

In Genesis - 6:1-8, we read that the world had become so corrupt that "... it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart ... But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." (Hebrews 11:7) Noah lived in a time that was so corrupt God destroyed all but eight souls, and yet, Noah raised three sons to obey God. That is a worthy pattern for godly parents trying to raise and encourage their children not to "follow the crowd".

We can also read of a young Moabite widow named Ruth who forsook her pagan heritage in order to cling to the people of Israel and the God of Israel. The words that she spoke to her mother-in-law, Naomi, are ingrained in most of our hearts. "... Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:" (Ruth 1:16) She left much behind, and, yet, she gained much in return. Because of her faithfulness, God rewarded Ruth by giving her a new husband (Boaz), a son (Abed), and a privileged position in the lineage of David and Christ.

Hannah was without a child. On her yearly trip to go to the temple in Jerusalem, for a special feast, she went in to pray begging for God to bless her with a child. In her petition she also made a promise to God: "Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head." {1 Samuel 1:11} God heard the prayer of Hannah and blessed her with a son. He named him Samuel and after he had been weaned brought him to Eli to be given in service to the Lord. He was trained as a priest and later became a prophet and a judge over God's people. What Hannah did is what God expects from every parent isn't it? God blesses us with our children and He desires we show our thanks by

giving "the child back to God" by teaching and training them to become one of His children." And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord {Ephesians 6:4} "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6}

"Heroes will help you find good in yourself .... ", and we need to look no further than our Bibles for heroes who will encourage us to live a godly life. So many examples of heroes of the Old Testament times to help motivate and encourage us to live daily for God in our lives. Men and women who placed God first in everything they determine to do in their life. Thank God that such stories have been left for us to study and read! "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:4) \*\*\*