

April 8, 2007

Jeff Mikels

AIEFM: You Were Born for Greatness

"...IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS..." — ROMANS 8:37

WEEK 1

Almost Isn't Enough for Me: Hold up a postcard & read the titles

Our struggle:

- On our "up" days we feel like we were born for greatness.
- On our "down" days we feel like we'll never amount to anything.
- We have attempted great things and **COME UP SHORT**.

My high school idealism and the bumper of a car.

You were born for greatness, don't shy away from it, the key to unlocking it is Easter.

You were born to REPRESENT a greatness beyond yourself.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."... "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man..." **Genesis 1:27-28, 9:6**

For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. **2 Corinthians 4:5-7**

Volunteer to give me their wallet... exchange for \$20

Jesus: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. **Acts 1:8**

I don't like newspaper articles about me. It's like playing "Telephone"

You were born to EXPERIENCE greatness beyond your imagination.

However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"— **1 Corinthians 2:9**

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21

You were born to ACCOMPLISH great things beyond your ability.

I loved to dream as a kid. My VCR dream. My attempts at flying.

But all my dreams about those things are worthless without accomplishment!

Jesus: I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **John 14:12**

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. **John 15:5-8**

We were born for greatness,
but that greatness is BEYOND US!

The key to unlocking our greatness is Easter.

The story of Easter is a story of POWER!

We can connect with ALL GOD'S POWER
through CHRIST and HIS SPIRIT.

Jesus: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Peter: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." **Acts 1:8; 2:38-39**

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.... Now if we are children, then we are heirs---heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.... What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?... Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died---more than that, who was raised to life---is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **Romans 8:11, 8:17, 8:31, 8:34, 8:37**

Your suspicions are true... but greatness is beyond you... Will you follow Jesus?

APRIL 15: OVERCOME WHAT HOLDS YOU BACK

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