

## THE POSER

**“THE MASS OF MEN LEAD LIVES OF QUIET DESPERATION.” HENRY DAVID THOREAU**

Most men are not living the lives they want, the lives they once dreamed of, the lives they were created to live. We want the heart of the warrior, but something is preventing us from having it.

Our quiet desperation can take many forms:

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ we don't love.
2. An \_\_\_\_\_ with our wives, kids, and grandkids.
3. Being in a place like this. We look around and see men who know the Bible, can openly share about their faith, and who seem to have all this spiritual stuff figured out.

Underneath this quiet desperation is a condition that has plagued masculinity since our first ancestor. This condition stems from a simple, yet haunting question:

Am I \_\_\_\_\_?

John Eldredge refers to this type of condition, this type of man, as The Poser. An impostor, a fraud, a phony. Someone pretending to be a person that they're not.

**Friedrich Nietzsche** “All great men are play actors of their own ideal.”

A mark of the poser is to be self-deprecating one moment, and then overly self-confident in another. It's like we have a poser on one shoulder and a narcissist on our other, battling for our souls.

**“I've got this,” and, “I wonder if they'll find out that I don't got this” wage war within our heads and our hearts.**

Sometimes, this condition is what's called “The \_\_\_\_\_ Syndrome.” It's a psychological occurrence in which an individual doubts their skills, talents, or accomplishments and has a persistent internalized fear of being exposed as a fraud.

**Genesis 3:1-6:** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.”

Adam had the power, authority, and ability to convince the one he loved to avoid cursing mankind for all eternity. But instead of stepping up to the challenge, he folded. He stood there passively.

**Genesis 3:7-10** Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

Adam realizes that he had not lived up to his potential. He realizes that he wasn't enough. So, he does what every man has done since then: he \_\_\_\_\_.

Our fear of being exposed as not being enough causes us to lead lives of quiet desperation.

**John Eldredge:** “‘Any day now, I’ll be found out’ is a pretty common theme among us guys. Truth be told, most of us are faking our way through life. We pick on those battles we are sure to win, only those adventures we are sure to handle, only those beauties we are sure to rescue.”

## HOW TO OVERCOME THE POSER

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ It.

It's okay to not be the jack-of-all-trades. It's healthy to know that you still have things to learn and ways to grow, no matter how old or young you are.

**Isaiah 6:1-5:** In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

The prophet Isaiah encounters the holiness and perfection of God and comes to the realize that he, Isaiah, is neither holy nor perfect.

It’s okay to not be \_\_\_\_\_. It’s okay to not be okay.

## **2. \_\_\_\_\_ COMMUNITY.**

You need a group of men you don’t have to impress.

A study in 2021 found that only \_\_\_% of men have six close friends, and \_\_\_% have no close friends at all. It’s easy to be a poser if no one truly knows you.

## **3. ACCEPTING THE \_\_\_\_\_.**

The Gospel says that you’re not enough, and that’s okay, because Jesus us.