

# YOU ARE MORE

**John Greenleaf Whittier:** For of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these:  
“It might have been!”

“It might have been” will be your story if you want too little, dream too small,  
believe you’re less than you are, and get comfortable where you are.

## 1. THERE’S MORE GOING ON THAN MOST MEN KNOW.

There’s more to reality than we can perceive with our \_\_\_\_\_.

That’s one reason Jesus would often say, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear,” and  
“He who has eyes to see, let him see.”

**Sam in The Lord of the Rings:** I wonder what sort of tale we’ve fallen into.

**John Eldredge:** *What sort of tale have I fallen into?* is a question that would help us all a  
great deal if we wondered it for ourselves. It might just be the most important  
question we ever ask.

Fail to ask that question and you are likely to spend all your life in a small world where  
you feel comfortable and competent.

You will have struggles and challenges, and they may be exhausting, but they will never  
be large battles because the cause you fight for will be small and the kingdom you  
serve and protect will be no bigger than \_\_\_\_\_.

Live that way and your life will be no more than what might have been.

What’s most real is often \_\_\_\_\_ and unseen, and if you take this world and its  
events at face value you’ll miss what’s really going on

What’s really going on is a battle between good and evil: the forces that would deceive,  
blind and enslave against the forces that would bring freedom and truth.

**A. ON ONE LEVEL THERE ARE OUR INDIVIDUAL STORIES.**

**B. ON A GRANDER LEVEL THERE IS THE STORY OF HUMANKIND’S MARCH TOWARD  
CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE.**

**C. BUT BENEATH THOSE STORIES THERE IS THE REAL TALE WE’VE FALLEN INTO.**

It’s the story of a gracious and powerful \_\_\_\_\_, creating a good world with  
magnificent beings made in his image.

And how betrayal and rebellion both in heaven and on earth have left his creatures lost  
and captive in a kingdom of darkness.

**Jesus’ favorite phrase was “The Kingdom of God.”**

**Mark 1.14-15:** The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and  
believe the good news!"

Translated: The time is now. The invasion has begun. God’s Kingdom is here.  
Choose sides, men, because it’s going to be one hell of a war.

**He saw his death on the cross as a victory that would bring \_\_\_\_\_ to the world.**

**John 12.31:** Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

Judgment has begun upon the forces of evil, and the powers of liberation are moving forward.

**Paul used the same language to describe the tale we've fallen into.**

**Colossians 3.13-14:** For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

“The tale we've fallen into” is the tale of two kingdoms, clashing and competing for world dominion: one to set us free so we may live as the sons of God; the other to \_\_\_\_\_ the children of men to what is base and corrupt and brings death.

In the stories that we love, there is always a moment when the hero, if he is to be a hero, must ask himself: What kind of battle am I really being called to fight?

And it's the question you and I must ask because there is more going on than most men know.

Miss it and whatever else you may accomplish, your life will be what might have been.

## **2. YOUR LIFE \_\_\_\_\_ IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU HAVE IMAGINED.**

When you and I were born into the Kingdom of God, we were born into a Kingdom that's at war.

And our mission is to promote the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Kingdom into enemy territory.

### **Frederick Buechner in Telling the Truth:**

It is a world of magic and mystery of deep darkness and flickering starlight.

It is a world where terrible things happen and wonderful things too.

It is a world where goodness is pitted against evil, love against hate, order against chaos in a great struggle where often it is hard to be sure who belongs to which side because appearances are endlessly deceptive.

Yet for all its confusion and wildness it is a world where the battle goes ultimately to the good who live happily ever after and where in the long run everybody, good and evil alike, becomes known by his true name ...

This is the fairy tale of the gospel with, of course, one crucial difference from all the other fairy tales, which is that the claim made for it is that it is true, that it not only happened once upon a time but has kept on happening ever since and is happening still.

When we are born into the Kingdom, we are born to \_\_\_\_\_ against the forces that deceive and corrupt and enslave the world that our God loves.

Miss the big story and you'll miss your \_\_\_\_\_.

Ask “what sort of tale have we fallen into?” and you begin to understand the words that Jesus spoke when he said:

**John 10.10:** The thief comes to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come that they

might have life and have it abundantly.

The battle Jesus came to fight not only happened once upon a time but it has kept on happening ever since and is happening still.

And if you sit out the battle, your life will be “what might have been” and that will be it.

**Erwin McManus:** We will not stand by and watch humanity sell its soul to gain the world. We will not be seduced by the comforts offered us if only we would compromise. We cannot pretend that all there is, is what we can see. (We) know the world of spirit. We know there is a darkness that subversively corrupts the hearts of men, and to do nothing is to be complicit. We are born into a war. We may feel like children, but we are warriors.

**Ephesians 6.10-12:** Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Translated: There’s a war going on. Like it or not, you’re in the middle of it. And you’d better hike up your skirt and man up because the world that God loves is under siege and you’re here to make a difference.

Like Frodo and Sam, we unlikely characters have been given a \_\_\_\_\_ part to play.

If we fail, lives will remain captive and dark.

If we fight and win, lives will be set free and made whole for this world and for eternity.

**Tolkien to Lewis:** What if the greatest story ever told happened to be true?

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ ARE MORE THAN YOU KNOW.

In the Kingdom of God, you are more important and you are more capable than you know.

We act in accordance with our \_\_\_\_\_.

**A. YOU ARE MORE \_\_\_\_\_ THAN YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE.**

**Acts 1.8:** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses ...

**Philippians 4.13:** I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.

You have what it takes – that’s God’s promise, not mine.

**B. YOU ARE MORE \_\_\_\_\_ FOR BATTLE THAN YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE.**

**2 Corinthians 10.3-5:** For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

**C. YOU ARE MORE \_\_\_\_\_ THAN YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE.**

**1 Corinthians 12:4,7:** There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ... A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each

other.

**D. YOU ARE MORE RESILIENT THAN YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE.**

**2 Corinthians 4.8-10:** We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

**In addition, God's word says that you are loved as sons (I John 3.1), valued as friends (John 15.15-16), forgiven (Colossians 1.13-14) and accepted (Romans 15.7).**

**That means you have nothing to prove, nothing to lose and nothing to hide.**

**God's word is clear: You are more than you know.**

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