

COWBOY TOUGH



**BUILDING STRONG APOSTOLIC
PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES**

ELDER KEITH JOEL WALKER

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Pentecostal Churches*

Written by
Elder Keith Joel Walker



A Tribute to Elder Vaughn Morton: Cowboy Tough, Built to Last

In the heart of Texas, where the sun sets in brilliant hues over the wide-open plains, a true giant of faith has made his mark—Elder Vaughn Morton. A man who embodies the spirit of the cowboy, Elder Morton is “cowboy tough, built to last,” a phrase that perfectly encapsulates his character and ministry. His life is a testament to resilience, strength, and unwavering commitment to the Apostolic Pentecostal faith.

Elder Morton’s preaching style is as rich and hearty as a plate of Southern cornbread and beans, served with a side of solid Texas hospitality. He teaches life lessons through his stories, each one a reflection of his experiences growing up in Texas. With every sermon, he serves up “steak and salad” doctrine—nourishing, substantial, and always seasoned with love and care. His words resonate deeply, reminding us of the importance of Acts 2:38 and the Oneness of the Godhead, as he calls us to holiness within and without, urging us to separate ourselves from the world.

His passion for evangelism and revival is infectious, igniting a fire in the hearts of those who hear him. Elder Morton has a unique ability to “catch the spirit” of those around him, encouraging a generation to rise up and take hold of their faith. His sayings, etched in the pages of our

minds, are a roadmap for living a life dedicated to God. “Just let it unfold,” he often says, a reminder to trust in God’s plan, while also warning us, “There is a Hell,” urging us to stay true to the Scriptures.

Elder Morton has a way of delivering hard truths with love—a skill that allows him to “clean your clock” and rebuke you, yet leave you wanting more of his wisdom and guidance. He once gifted me a pocket knife, a symbol of his mentorship and the many lessons he imparts. He embodies the spirit of a true elder, a modern-day Apostle Paul, building men and women to last in their faith.

As he often reflects on the legacy of those who have come before him, like Elder IH Terry and Elder Paul Price, we see the strength of the churches they built—strong in holiness, strong in spirit, and fervent in evangelism. Elder Morton is not just a preacher; he is a builder of lives, a craftsman shaping the faith of countless individuals.

In the spirit of General Douglas MacArthur and the determination of Vince Lombardi, Elder Morton stands as a pillar of strength in our community. He has weathered the storms of life with grace and resilience, inspiring all who have the privilege to know him. The day the Lord calls him home will mark the saddest day in Apostolic Pentecost—a profound loss for a generation that has been shaped by his hard-hitting, cowboy tough preaching.

Elder Vaughn Morton is a legacy, a beacon of hope, and a true elder of our day. His impact on the Apostolic Pentecostal movement will echo through the generations, a testament to a life lived fully for Christ. As we honor him, we recognize that there will never be another like him—his spirit, his teachings, and his love for the Lord will forever be cherished in our hearts.

Written By Keith Joel Walker

Introduction

We want our Apostolic Pentecostal churches to be cowboy tough—resilient, grounded in faith, and committed to upholding the values that define our identity. I was raised by Kenny Walker, my father, an Okie born in Oklahoma, who embodied the old-school values of hard work, integrity, and respect. He taught me and my brothers what it meant to be men, emphasizing the importance of manners and politeness.

My mother, of Italian descent, was the backbone of our family. She cooked, cleaned, worked tirelessly, and supported our family events. Raised by a good old-fashioned Italian mother and grandparents who were immigrants, she exemplified the strength and resilience of her heritage. My father was the man of the house, and my mother was the lady of the house; both worked hard to provide for our family.

The Legacy of Hard Work and Patriotism



My father often shared his little old Southern sayings, passed down from his parents. His father was a Cherokee Indian from Oklahoma, a true country boy who was cowboy tough. Like many Okies, he moved to California

during the Dust Bowl, seeking work and a better life. The Southern folk were built to last, and the Italian immigrants who joined them were equally hard workers. They loved the United States of America and embodied the spirit of patriotism.

I admire what leaders like Donald Trump stand for: God, country, and the values of being Made in the USA. We need some good old Apostolic Pentecostal preaching—cornbread and beans preaching, as Elder Morton would say. He often emphasized, “I tell it like it is because I care.”

Honoring Our Elders

We must recognize the legacy of the great men who have paved the way for us in the Apostolic Pentecostal movement. Figures such as Elder Morton, Elder I.H. Terry, Elder Verbal Bean, Elder T.W. Barnes, Elder Westburg, Elder Carl Blastero, Elder Bill Yandrish, and Elder Wilson preached with a toughness that resonated deeply. Elder Morton produced champions—Eagles—men of God who were strong and unwavering.

Elder Ron Garrett, Elder Hyler, Elder Klann, Elder Garza, Elder Runner, and Elder Sosa are examples of “men’s men,” embodying that cowboy tough Texan style. I watched these men preach since I was a teenager, like a fly on the wall, observing the impact they had on families and the Fivefold ministry.

Elder Morton and Elder I.H. Terry produced strong leaders like Elder Dallas Medford and Elder Brown. Elder Webb produced I.H. Terry and Elder Frost, and I can’t name them all, but they emerged from the Central Valley as strong Apostolic Pentecostal, cowboy tough men—solid in doctrine and faith.

A Commitment to Strength and Doctrine

How do I know this? Because I have spent years studying these men and listening to preachers like Elder Phil White and Elder Pace. These are strong, cowboy tough men who have weathered the storms of life. Elder Dudley, Elder Tom Akers, Elder Gary Martin, Elder King, Elder

Doug Wright—these men have left an indelible mark on our faith community. Brother Elder Webb’s son-in-law was a prince of a preacher, reflecting the rich legacy of strong preaching in our movement.

Building a Strong Community

1. Creating a Supportive Environment:

- Our churches must be places where faith is nurtured and where young people can grow without the distractions of modern culture. We need to establish a strong sense of community that encourages mentorship and support.
- Church events, such as family nights, retreats, and community service projects, should foster relationships among members and create a network of support. I remember the joy of church picnics and gatherings where families came together, sharing food and laughter, strengthening our bonds in Christ.

2. Mentorship and Guidance:

- Older generations must take an active role in mentoring the youth. This includes teaching them not just about faith, but also about life skills, work ethic, and the importance of family.
- Establish mentorship programs that pair young men with older male leaders and young women with older female leaders, ensuring that they receive guidance and support in their spiritual and personal lives. I was fortunate to have mentors in my life who guided me through challenges,

teaching me the value of perseverance and faith.

3. Teaching Biblical Values:

- Regularly incorporate teachings on masculinity and femininity into sermons and Bible studies. Use examples from Scripture to illustrate the importance of these roles.
- Key Scriptures to Emphasize:
 - For Men: “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13).
 - For Women: “She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue” (Proverbs 31:26).

4. Engaging Families:

- Encourage families to participate in church activities together, reinforcing the values taught at home and in church. I’ve seen firsthand how family involvement in church fosters a sense of belonging and commitment to faith.
- Provide resources for parents to help them guide their children in their spiritual journeys, emphasizing the importance of family unity in faith. Workshops on parenting and family devotionals can equip parents with tools to nurture their children’s faith.

5. Faith in Daily Life:

- Encourage members to integrate their faith into their daily lives, whether in the workplace, at school, or within the community. Living out our faith authentically can

inspire others to seek God.

- Share testimonies of how faith has impacted lives, emphasizing that being cowboy tough means standing firm in our beliefs, even when faced with adversity.

6. The Role of Prayer:

- Emphasize the importance of prayer as a foundation for our lives and our churches. Regular prayer meetings and personal prayer time can strengthen our relationship with God and with one another.
- Encourage members to share their prayer requests and testimonies, creating a culture of openness and support within the congregation.

7. Outreach and Service:

- Encourage the church to be active in the community, reaching out to those in need. Service projects, food drives, and outreach programs can demonstrate the love of Christ in action.
- I recall organizing community service days where we would come together as a church to serve those less fortunate. These experiences not only helped others but also deepened our own faith and commitment.

Conclusion: A Vision for the Future cowboy tough
Apostolic Pentecostal Churches

As we move forward, let us commit to building our Apostolic Pentecostal churches to be cowboy tough. We

need to teach our young men how to be men of God and our young women to embody the virtues of femininity, guided by the older generations in our church. Together, we can create a community that honors our heritage, upholds biblical values, and prepares the next generation to stand firm in their faith.

Let us remember the legacy of hard work, integrity, and patriotism that defines us. By fostering an environment of mentorship, community, and strong biblical teaching, we can ensure that our churches remain a beacon of hope and truth in a world that desperately needs it.

In the spirit of our forebears, let us rise to the challenge of being cowboy tough, embodying the strength and resilience that our faith calls us to uphold. Together, we will build a legacy that not only honors our past but also shapes a brighter future for generations to come.

My book has been written from the heart, drawing upon my experiences, observations, and the wisdom passed down through generations. It is a call to Apostolic Pentecostal Authentic Apostolic Action for all of us who cherish our Apostolic Pentecostal heritage and strive to create a community that reflects the values we hold dear.

Cowboy Tough Apostolic Pentecostal People Building
Strong Apostolic Pentecostal Acts 2:38 Jesus Name
Churches

Introduction

The phrase “cowboy tough, built to last” embodies a rugged, resilient spirit often associated with the traditional cowboy lifestyle. Here’s a breakdown of its meaning and implications:

Definition and Meaning:

1. Cowboy Tough:

- **Resilience:** This part of the phrase suggests a person who is strong, enduring, and capable of handling difficult situations. Cowboys are often depicted as individuals who face harsh environments and challenges with grit and determination.
- **Independence:** Cowboys are often seen as self-reliant and resourceful, able to take care of themselves and their responsibilities without relying heavily on others.
- **Bravery:** The term implies a willingness to confront danger or adversity head-on, embodying a courageous spirit.

2. Built to Last:

- **Durability:** This indicates that something is made to withstand the test of time and endure wear and tear. It suggests high quality and reliability, whether referring to a person’s character or physical items (like clothing, tools, or gear).
- **Longevity:** The phrase implies that whatever is

described as “built to last” can withstand challenges and remain functional or relevant over a long period.

Overall Implications:

- **Character:** When applied to a person, “cowboy tough, built to last” suggests a character that is dependable, strong-willed, and capable of overcoming obstacles. It reflects values such as hard work, perseverance, and integrity.
- **Lifestyle:** The phrase can also describe a lifestyle that embraces challenges, valuing hard work, and living in harmony with nature. It reflects a connection to traditional values, often associated with the American West.
- **Products:** In a commercial context, it might refer to products (like boots, clothing, or tools) designed for durability and performance, appealing to consumers who value quality and resilience.

In summary, “cowboy tough, built to last” evokes an image of strength, durability, and a determined spirit, whether applied to individuals, lifestyles, or products. It celebrates the qualities of resilience, independence, and the ability to endure hardships.

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who embodied the old-school values of hard work, integrity, and respect. He taught me and my brothers what it meant to be men, emphasizing the importance of Southern Manners and politeness.

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cornbread and beans preaching, as Elder Morton would say. He often emphasized, “I tell it like it is because I care.”

Here’s a list of influential men who exemplified the “cowboy tough” spirit and played significant roles in shaping the Old West and cowboy culture. These figures are known for their resilience, bravery, and contributions to the development of cowboy life and the American frontier:

Iconic Cowboy Tough Men

1. Charles Goodnight (1836-1929) - A pioneer cattle rancher and one of the founders of the Texas Panhandle. Goodnight was instrumental in creating the Goodnight-Loving Trail, which helped transport cattle from Texas to markets in the West.

2. John Chisum (1824-1884) - A cattle baron in New Mexico, Chisum was a major figure in the cattle industry and is often associated with the Lincoln County War. His ranching operations helped shape the cattle trade in the Southwest.

3. William “Billy the Kid” Bonney (1859-1881) - A notorious outlaw and gunfighter, Billy the Kid became a legendary figure in the Old West. His life of crime and escapades captured the imagination of the public and contributed to

the folklore of the cowboy era.

4. Wyatt Earp (1848-1929) - A lawman and gambler, Earp is best known for his involvement in the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral. His life as a lawman and his pursuit of justice made him a legendary figure in cowboy history.

5. Wild Bill Hickok (1837-1876) - A famous lawman and gunfighter, Hickok became a symbol of the Wild West. His larger-than-life persona and exploits in frontier towns made him a folk hero.

6. Buffalo Bill Cody (1846-1917) - A showman and bison hunter, Cody founded Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, which popularized the cowboy image and showcased the skills and bravery of cowboys to audiences across the country.



7. Tom Mix (1880-1940) - An early film star known for his roles in Westerns, Mix helped define the cowboy hero on screen. His tough persona and adventurous spirit contributed to the romanticized image of cowboys in American culture.

8. Gene Autry (1907-1998) - A singer and actor known as “The Singing Cowboy,” Autry brought the cowboy lifestyle to a broader audience through his films and music, celebrating the cowboy spirit.

9. Davy Crockett (1786-1836) - A frontiersman and folk hero, Crockett is remembered for his role in the Texas Revolution and his legendary status as a rugged individualist, embodying the spirit of the American frontier.

10. Ned Buntline (1823-1886) - A writer and publisher, Buntline is credited with popularizing the Western genre through his dime novels, which depicted the lives of cowboys and lawmen, shaping public perceptions of cowboy culture.

Additional Influential Figures

1. Clyde Barrow (1909-1934) - As part of the infamous criminal duo Bonnie and Clyde, Barrow represented a different side of the cowboy tough persona, embodying rebellion and outlaw culture during the Great Depression.

2. Pat Garrett (1850-1908) - A lawman known for his role in capturing Billy the Kid, Garrett’s life as a sheriff and his pursuit of justice reflect the tough law enforcement figures of the Old West.

3. John Wesley Powell (1834-1902) - An explorer and geologist, Powell is renowned for his daring expedition down the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon, showcasing the toughness required for exploration.

4. Franklin “Frank” McCarthy (1924-2002) - A noted Western artist, McCarthy was known for his depictions of cowboys and the Old West, capturing the spirit of toughness in his artwork.

5. Chuck Yeager (1923-2020) - While primarily known as a test pilot and Air Force officer, Yeager’s rugged individualism and pioneering spirit echo the cowboy ethos, especially in his breaking of the sound barrier.

These men not only exemplified the “cowboy tough” spirit but also played pivotal roles in shaping the culture, mythology, and history of the American West. Their legacies continue to influence how we view cowboys and the rugged individualism associated with that lifestyle.

Circuit-Riding Cowboy Tough Preachers

The image of “circuit-riding preachers” evokes a sense of adventure, resilience, and a deep commitment to spreading the Gospel, often in rural and frontier areas. Many of these preachers were rugged individuals, embodying the “cowboy tough” spirit as they traveled by horseback or wagon to reach congregations across vast

distances. Here are some notable circuit-riding preachers who exemplified this tough, pioneering spirit:

Notable Circuit-Riding Preachers

1. Peter Cartwright (1785-1872) - A well-known Methodist circuit rider, Cartwright traveled thousands of miles throughout the Midwest, preaching in various towns and often facing hostility. His fiery sermons and rugged demeanor made him a legendary figure.

2. Francis Asbury (1745-1816) - As one of the first bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, Asbury traveled extensively on horseback, establishing congregations and preaching the Gospel across the United States.

3. John Wesley (1703-1791) - Although he was not a circuit rider in America, Wesley's teachings inspired many early American preachers who traveled the frontier, spreading Methodism and embodying the spirit of the circuit-riding ministry.

4. Bishop William McKendree (1757-1835) - The first native-born American bishop of the Methodist Church, McKendree was known for his dedication to circuit riding, often traveling long distances to preach and establish new congregations.

5. Rev. John M. McGee (1803-1876) - A dedicated circuit rider in the Midwest, McGee was known for his strong character and commitment to serving his communities, often facing the elements and hardships along the way.

6. Rev. John C. H. Hurst (1820-1903) - A Methodist preacher who traveled extensively in the West, Hurst was known for his commitment to his mission and his ability to connect with rural communities.

Contemporary Circuit-Riding Preachers

While the classic era of circuit-riding preachers has largely passed, the spirit of traveling evangelism continues in modern contexts, often with a country cowboy flair. Here are a few contemporary preachers who embody this spirit:

1. Randy Frazee - A pastor and author who emphasizes community and outreach, often traveling to speak at various events and churches, embodying the spirit of a modern-day circuit rider.

2. David Platt - Known for his passionate preaching and commitment to missions, Platt travels extensively to share the message of Christ, often addressing challenging topics in a straightforward manner.

3. Rick Warren - While primarily known for his role at

Saddleback Church, Warren often travels to speak and share his insights on faith, leadership, and community, connecting with diverse audiences.

4. Mike Huckabee - A former governor and current commentator, Huckabee often speaks at churches and events, sharing his faith and connecting with audiences in a way that resonates with the “cowboy tough” spirit.

5. Tony Evans - A well-known pastor and author, Evans travels to preach and teach, often addressing practical life issues from a biblical perspective, embodying resilience and strength in his ministry.

Cowboy Country Preachers

The essence of “cowboy country” is often reflected in the preaching style and lifestyle of those who connect with rural communities. Many contemporary preachers incorporate country themes into their messages, resonating with the values and experiences of their congregations. Some notable examples include:

- Cowboy Churches - Many regions in the U.S. have established cowboy churches that cater to the rural and farming communities, often featuring pastors who embody the cowboy spirit and lifestyle. These churches focus on fellowship, community service, and faith in a down-to-earth, relatable manner.

- Country Gospel Artists - Many gospel singers and musicians who perform in country settings also take on preaching roles, sharing their faith through music and ministry. Artists like Ricky Skaggs and The Isaacs often blend their musical talents with messages of faith, reaching audiences in a uniquely cowboy country style.

The legacy of circuit-riding preachers continues to inspire modern evangelism, with many contemporary figures embodying the toughness, resilience, and dedication that characterized their predecessors. Whether through traditional preaching or contemporary outreach, the spirit of the “cowboy tough” circuit rider remains alive and well in various forms today.

The legacy of Black cowboys and circuit-riding preachers is rich and often underrepresented in American history. Many Black circuit-riding preachers embodied the “cowboy tough” spirit, traveling vast distances to spread the Gospel while navigating the challenges of their time. Here are a few notable figures who exemplified this spirit:

Notable Black Circuit-Riding Preachers

1. Rev. John Jasper (1812-1901) - A former slave who became a prominent Baptist preacher in Richmond, Virginia, Jasper was known for his powerful preaching style and deep faith. He traveled to various congregations, often speaking to large crowds and emphasizing the

importance of spiritual resilience.

2. Rev. Allen D. Smith (1841-1916) - Smith was a well-known circuit-riding preacher in the post-Civil War South. He traveled throughout the rural areas of Virginia, preaching and establishing churches. His dedication to his mission and ability to connect with communities made him a respected figure.

3. Rev. J. M. W. Johnson (1866-1933) - Johnson was a circuit-riding preacher in the early 20th century who traveled extensively throughout the Southern United States, preaching in rural areas. He was known for his strong commitment to his faith and his ability to inspire others.

4. Rev. C. S. Smith (1870-1945) - A Methodist preacher, Smith traveled throughout the American South, often facing challenges due to the racial climate of the time. His resilience and dedication to spreading the Gospel made him a respected leader in his community.

Black Cowboys and Preachers

While specific names of Black circuit-riding preachers may not be as well-documented as their white counterparts, Black cowboys were an integral part of the American West and often took on roles as community leaders and spiritual guides. Here are a few notable Black cowboys

who also had connections to preaching or spiritual leadership:

1. Bill Pickett (1870-1932) - While primarily known as a rodeo performer and the inventor of “bulldogging,” Pickett was also a man of faith. He traveled extensively for rodeos and performances, often sharing his love for God with those he met along the way.

2. Nat Love (1854-1921) - Known as “Deadwood Dick,” Love was an African American cowboy and author. Although not a preacher, he often spoke about the importance of faith and community in his life and writings.

3. Bishop John A. Smith (1860-1931) - A prominent figure in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Smith was known for his work in rural communities and his dedication to spreading the Gospel. He often traveled to various congregations, embodying the spirit of a circuit-riding preacher.

Modern Connections

In contemporary times, many Black pastors and leaders in rural and cowboy communities continue the legacy of circuit-riding preachers. While they may not always be recognized as traditional circuit riders, they embody the same spirit of resilience and commitment to faith:

- Cowboy Churches: Many cowboy churches today

are inclusive and celebrate the contributions of Black cowboys and their culture. These churches often focus on community outreach and fellowship.

- **Rodeo Ministries:** Various ministries are dedicated to serving the rodeo community, providing spiritual guidance and support to cowboys and cowgirls of all backgrounds.

The contributions of Black circuit-riding preachers and cowboys are an essential part of the broader narrative of American history, reflecting the resilience and strength of those who traveled the rugged landscapes to share their faith and stories.

Honoring Our Elders

We must recognize the legacy of the great men who have paved the way for us in the Apostolic Pentecostal movement. Figures such as Elder Morton, Elder I.H. Terry, Elder Verbal Bean, Elder T.W. Barnes, Elder Westburg, Elder Carl Blastero, Elder Bill Yandrish, and Elder Wilson, Elder Kenneth Haney, Elder Andrew Urshan, and Elder Nathaniel Urshan with a Cow boy toughness that resonated deeply. Elder Morton produced champions—Eagles—CowBoy Tough men of God who were strong and unwavering.

Elder Ron Garrett, Elder Hyler, Elder Klann, Elder Garza, Elder Runner, and Elder Sosa, Elder Montano, are

examples of “men’s men,” embodying that cowboy tough Texan style. I watched these men preach since I was a teenager, like a fly on the wall, observing the impact they had on families and the Fivefold ministry.

Elder Morton and Elder I.H. Terry produced strong leaders like Elder Dallas Medford and Elder Brown. Elder Webb produced I.H. Terry and I.H. Terry, Elder Frost, and I can’t name them all, but they emerged from the Central Valley as strong Apostolic Pentecostal, Cowboy tough men—solid in Apostolic Pentecostal Doctrine Acts 2:38 and Oneness of Almighty Jehovah in the Lord Jesus Christ.

A Commitment to Strength and Doctrine

How do I know this? Because I have spent years studying these men and listening to preachers like Elder Phil White and Elder Pace. These are strong, cowboy tough men who have weathered the storms of life. Elder Dudley, Elder Tom Akers, Elder Gary Martin, Elder King, Elder Doug Wright—these men have left an indelible mark on our Apostolic Pentecostal Faith community. Brother Elder Webb’s son-in-law was a prince of a preacher, reflecting the rich legacy of strong Apostolic Pentecostal Preaching in our Apostolic Pentecostal Movement.

Building a Strong Community

1. Creating a Supportive Environment:

- Our Apostolic Pentecostal Churches must be places where faith is nurtured and where young people can grow without the distractions of modern culture. We need to establish a strong sense of Apostolic Pentecostal community that encourages mentorship and support.
- Church events, such as family nights, retreats, and community service projects, should foster relationships among Apostolic Pentecostal Saints of the Local Church and create a network of support. I remember the joy of Apostolic Pentecostal Church picnics and gatherings where families came together, sharing food and laughter, strengthening our bonds in The Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 2.42

2. Fivefold Elders Our Pastor of the Local Apostolic Pentecostal Church Discipleship-Mentorship and Guidance:

- Older generations must take an active role in mentoring the youth. This includes teaching them not just about faith, but also about life skills, work ethic, and the importance of family.
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4. Engaging Families:

- Encourage families to participate in church activities together, reinforcing the values taught at home and in church. I’ve seen firsthand how family involvement in Apostolic Pentecostal Church fosters a sense of belonging and commitment to the Apostolic Pentecostal Faith once delivered to the Saints
- Provide resources for parents to help them guide their children in their spiritual journeys, emphasizing the importance of family unity in faith. Workshops on parenting and family devotionals can equip parents with tools to nurture their children’s faith.

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Conclusion:

A Vision for the Future

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Building a Strong Community

1. Creating a Supportive Environment:

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2. Mentorship and Guidance:

- Older generations must take an active role in mentoring the youth. This includes teaching them not just about faith, but also about life skills, work ethic, and the importance of family.
- Establish mentorship programs that pair young men with older male leaders and young women with older female leaders, ensuring that they receive guidance and support in their spiritual and personal lives.

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31:26).

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- Encourage families to participate in church activities together, reinforcing the values taught at home and in church.
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Cowboy Tough:

Building Strong Apostolic Pentecostal Churches

Introduction

We want our Apostolic Pentecostal churches to be cowboy tough—resilient, grounded in faith, and committed to upholding the values that define our identity. I was raised by Kenny Walker, my father, an Okie born in Oklahoma, who embodied the old-school values of hard work, integrity, and respect. He taught me and my brothers what it meant to be men, emphasizing the importance of manners and politeness.

My mother, of Italian descent, was the backbone of our family. She cooked, cleaned, worked tirelessly, and supported our family events. Raised by a good old-fashioned Italian mother and grandparents who were immigrants, she exemplified the strength and resilience of her heritage. My father was the man of the house, and my mother was the lady of the house; both worked hard to provide for our family.

The Legacy of Hard Work and Patriotism

My father had his little old Southern sayings, passed down from his parents. His father was a Cherokee Indian from Oklahoma, a true country boy who was cowboy tough. Like many Okies, he moved to California during the Dust Bowl, seeking work and a better life. The Southern folk were built to last, and the Italian immigrants who joined them were equally hard workers. They loved the United

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We must recognize the legacy of the great men who have paved the way for us in the Apostolic Pentecostal movement. Figures such as Elder Morton, Elder I.H. Terry, Elder Verbal Bean, Elder T.W. Barnes, Elder Westburg, Elder Carl Blastero, Elder Bill Yandrish, and Elder Wilson preached with a toughness that resonated deeply. Elder Morton produced champions—Eagles—men of God who were strong and unwavering.

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As we move forward, let us commit to building our Apostolic Pentecostal churches to be cowboy tough. We need to teach our young men how to be men of God and our young women to embody the virtues of femininity, guided by the older generations in our church. Together, we can create a community that honors our heritage, upholds biblical values, and prepares the next generation to stand firm in their faith.

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As we move forward, let us commit to building our Apostolic Pentecostal churches to be cowboy tough. We need to teach our young men how to be men of God and our young women to embody the virtues of femininity, guided by the older generations in our church. Together, we can create a community that honors our heritage, upholds biblical values, and prepares the next generation to stand firm in their Apostolic Pentecostal beliefs.

Building Cowboy Tough Apostolic Pentecostal Churches

In today’s world, our Apostolic Pentecostal churches face significant challenges from cultural influences that threaten the faith and values of our young people. It is crucial that we build our churches to be “cowboy tough,” instilling in our youth the principles of strength, integrity, and biblical morality. This effort requires a commitment to teaching our young men how to be men of God and our young women to embody the virtues of femininity as

outlined in Scripture.

The Call for Cowboy Tough Young Men

1. Defining Cowboy Tough:

- Being “cowboy tough” means embodying resilience, courage, and a strong moral compass. Our young men should be taught to face challenges head-on, grounded in their faith and values.

2. Old-Fashioned Southern Manners:

- We need to instill traditional manners and values in our young men. This includes respect for elders, politeness, and a strong sense of responsibility.
- Characteristics of a Godly Man:
 - Respectful: Treats others with dignity and honor (Ephesians 6:2).
 - Hardworking: Understands the value of hard work and diligence (Colossians 3:23).
 - Protective: Stands up for his family and community (1 Timothy 5:8).
 - Loving: Loves his wife as Christ loves the church (Ephesians 5:25).

3. Mentorship:

- Older men in the church should take on the role of mentors, guiding young men in their spiritual walks and teaching them the importance of leadership and service.

The Role of Young Women in the Church

1.Emphasizing Femininity:

- Our young ladies should be taught the value of a meek and quiet spirit, reflecting the beauty of godly womanhood (1 Peter 3:4).
- Characteristics of a Godly Woman:
- Modest: Dresses with modesty, reflecting her inner beauty (1 Timothy 2:9).
- Submissive: Understands her role in the home, submitting to her husband in the Lord (Ephesians 5:22-24).
- Keeper of the Home: Manages her household with care and diligence (Titus 2:5).

2. Teaching by Example:

- Older women in the church should mentor younger women, teaching them about godly living, homemaking, and the importance of nurturing a family.
- Scriptural Basis:
- “Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children” (Titus 2:3-4).

Building a Supportive Church Community

1. Creating a Safe Environment:

- Our churches should be places where young men and women can grow in their faith without the pressures of modern cultural influences.

- Encourage activities that promote fellowship, such as retreats, youth camps, and community service projects.

2. Teaching Biblical Values:

- Regularly incorporate teachings on masculinity and femininity into sermons and Bible studies. Use examples from Scripture to illustrate the importance of these roles.
- Key Scriptures to Emphasize:
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3. Encouraging Family Involvement:

- Promote family-oriented events that encourage parents to engage with their children’s spiritual development.
- Encourage parents to model biblical values at home, reinforcing what is taught in church.

Conclusion: A Vision for the Future

As we strive to build our Apostolic Pentecostal churches to be cowboy tough, we must remain committed to teaching our young men and women the values of strength, integrity, and godliness. By fostering an environment that emphasizes traditional manners, biblical principles, and the importance of mentorship, we can equip the next generation to stand firm in their faith and navigate the

challenges of our time.

Together, let us raise a generation of young men who embody the strength of cowboy toughness and young women who reflect the beauty of godly femininity, ensuring that our churches remain a beacon of hope and truth in a world that desperately needs it.

Here's a revised and structured version of your message, emphasizing the need to build strong Apostolic Pentecostal churches and protect our youth from cultural influences:

Building Cowboy Tough Apostolic Pentecostal Churches

In our current cultural climate, many Apostolic Pentecostal churches are witnessing the impact of societal pressures that threaten to undermine the faith and values of our youth. It is imperative that we stand firm and build our churches to be “cowboy tough,” equipping our young people to navigate these challenges with strength and conviction.

Protecting Our Children from Cultural Influences

Our children are facing a barrage of influences designed to reshape their beliefs and values. The current culturalism, with its focus on liberal ideologies, is systematically eroding the foundations of faith in our youth. We must

take decisive action to protect them from these harmful influences.

1. Education Choices:

- **Avoid Public Schools:** Do not allow your children to attend public schools where the curriculum may promote ideologies contrary to our faith.
- **Be Cautious of Liberal Colleges:** Encourage your children to seek higher education that aligns with our values. Attending liberal colleges can expose them to socialism and globalist ideologies that contradict our beliefs.

2. Understanding the Curriculum:

- The curriculum in many educational institutions is designed to promote psychological brainwashing, leading our children away from their faith. We must be vigilant in understanding what our children are being taught and how it may affect their worldview.

3. Limit Technology Use:

- **Consider restricting access to technology and social media.** Young people are often exposed to harmful content through their devices, which can further influence their beliefs and behaviors.
- **Cell Phone Guidelines:** We recommend delaying the acquisition of cell phones until children are mature enough to handle the responsibility. This can help shield them from negative influences and distractions.

A Call to Action

As Apostolic Pentecostal leaders and parents, we must be proactive in safeguarding our children. We need to foster an environment that emphasizes strong biblical teachings, encourages open discussions about faith, and builds resilience against cultural pressures.

- **Strengthening Our Churches:**

- We must work together to create a supportive community that uplifts our youth and instills in them the values of faith, family, and patriotism.

- Encourage programs and activities that promote fellowship, mentorship, and spiritual growth.

- **Empowering Parents:**

- Equip parents with the tools and resources they need to guide their children in a world filled with conflicting messages.

- Offer workshops and seminars that address the challenges of raising children in today's society.

In conclusion, building our Apostolic Pentecostal churches to be cowboy tough is not just about physical strength; it's about mental and spiritual fortitude. We must stand united in our commitment to protect our youth from the destructive forces of culturalism and ensure they grow up rooted in their faith.

Built Cowboy Tough: Apostolic Pentecostal Identity

Introduction

In a world increasingly influenced by cancel culture, woke ideologies, and moral relativism, we stand firm in our commitment to raise our young men to be Apostolic Pentecostal, cowboy tough. This book is a call to action for fathers, mentors, and leaders to instill values of strength, integrity, and faith in the next generation. We are dedicated to cultivating 100% men who love Jesus, cherish their families, and uphold the principles of our faith.

Chapter 1: The Biblical Foundation of Masculinity

- Understanding Gender Distinction: God created us male and female, and we must embrace this truth.
- Examples of Strength in Scripture: Highlight biblical figures who exemplify true masculinity (e.g., David, Joshua, Paul).
- Defining Biblical Manhood: Characteristics of a godly man—strength, leadership, and devotion to family.

Chapter 2: Cowboy Tough Defined

- What Does It Mean to Be Cowboy Tough?: Resilience, courage, and a strong work ethic.

- Cultural Icons of Masculinity: Celebrating historical and contemporary figures who embody these traits.
- Aligning Traits with Biblical Values: How these characteristics reflect our faith.

Chapter 3: Raising Our Boys to Be Men

- Encouraging Strength and Resilience: Practical ways to build toughness in our boys.
- Mentorship and Role Models: The importance of fathers and mentors in shaping young men.
- Instilling Values of Faith and Family: Teaching boys to love Jesus, their wives, and their children.



Chapter 4: Upholding Femininity

- Defining Biblical Womanhood: The importance of modesty and holiness in women.
- Guidelines for Dress and Appearance: Long hair, no makeup, and the significance of modest attire.
- Encouraging a Kind and Meek Spirit: The qualities that define a godly woman.

Chapter 5: Standing Firm Against Cultural Pressures

- **Identifying Influences:** The impact of media and societal norms on our values.
- **Rejecting Left-Wing Ideologies:** A clear stance against the promotion of abortion, homosexuality, and transgenderism.
- **The Importance of Distinction:** Upholding the truth that God made them male and female.

Chapter 6: The Role of Community

- **Building a Supportive Network:** The importance of church and community in fostering strong values.
- **Creating Safe Spaces for Discussion:** Encouraging open dialogue about faith and identity.
- **Engaging in Service and Leadership:** Opportunities for young men and women to lead and serve in their communities.

Chapter 7: A Call to Action

- **Rallying the Community:** Encouraging collective action against cultural encroachments.
- **Empowering the Next Generation:** How to inspire young people to stand firm in their faith.
- **Living Out Our Values:** Practical steps for families to embody these principles daily.

Conclusion: A Vision for the Future

- **Recap of Core Values:** Summarizing the importance of raising cowboy tough, godly men and women.
- **A Challenge to Our Community:** Encouraging everyone to take a stand for biblical truth.
- **Hope for the Future:** A vision of a generation that embodies strength, faith, and commitment to God.

Appendices

- **Resources for Further Reading:** Books, articles, and websites that align with these values.
- **Suggested Activities:** Programs and events to engage young men and women in faith-based activities.
- **Contact Information for Support:** Guidance for those seeking mentorship

Building Our Young Men:

Apostolic Pentecostal Cowboy Tough

We are committed to raising our young men to be Apostolic Pentecostal, cowboy tough—men who are built to live for God. We envision 100% men who love Jesus, cherish their wives and children, and hold a deep love for their country. We stand firmly against the encroachment of cancel culture, the influence of woke ideology, and the promotion of LGBTQ+ agendas. We are resolute in our stance against sin.

We want our boys to embody the strength and resilience of cowboy toughness, and we desire our girls to embrace

their femininity with dignity. We believe in long, uncut hair for women, modest dress, and a commitment to holiness. Our women should reflect a meek and kind spirit, avoiding makeup, jewelry, and pants. We uphold the principle of gender distinction: men are men, and women are women.

We reject any attempt to blur these lines and firmly oppose the left-wing ideologies that seek to infiltrate our values here in Oklahoma. We do not believe one can truly be saved while supporting a Democratic platform that endorses abortion, homosexuality, and transgenderism. It is inconceivable to call oneself an Apostolic Pentecostal preacher while voting for policies that contradict our faith and values.

God created us male and female, and there must be a clear distinction. We stand united in our commitment to uphold these truths and to raise a generation that reflects our beliefs with strength and determination.

Cowboy Tough: Building Strong Apostolic Pentecostal Churches

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Made in the USA: A Testament to Resilience

Being “Made in the USA” is more than just a label; it represents a commitment to quality, resilience, and the spirit of hard work. Just as our churches should be built on a foundation of faith and community, they should also embody the principles that have made our nation great. Cowboy tough means being able to withstand the storms of life, just as our forebears did when they faced adversity with grit and determination.

In our churches, we need to foster this same spirit. We must encourage our members to be strong, to stand firm in their beliefs, and to support one another in times of need. The values of hard work, integrity, and patriotism should resonate in our worship, our service, and our daily lives.

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- Church events, such as family nights, retreats, and community service projects, should foster relationships among members and create a network of support. I remember the joy of church picnics and gatherings where families came together, sharing food and laughter, strengthening our bonds in Christ.

2. Mentorship and Guidance:

- Older generations must take an active role in mentoring the youth. This includes teaching them not just about faith, but also about life skills, work ethic, and the importance of family.
- Establish mentorship programs that pair young men with older male leaders and young women with older female leaders, ensuring that they receive guidance and support in their spiritual and personal lives. I was fortunate to have mentors in my life who guided me through challenges, teaching me the value of perseverance and faith.

3. Teaching Biblical Values:

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4. Engaging Families:

- Encourage families to participate in church activities together, reinforcing the values taught at home and in church. I’ve seen firsthand how family involvement in church fosters a sense of belonging and commitment to faith.
- Provide resources for parents to help them guide their children in their spiritual journeys, emphasizing the importance of family unity in faith. Workshops on parenting and family devotionals can equip parents with tools to nurture their children’s faith.

5. Faith in Daily Life:

- Encourage members to integrate their faith into their daily lives, whether in the workplace, at school, or within the community. Living out our faith authentically can inspire others to seek God.
- Share testimonies of how faith has impacted lives, emphasizing that being cowboy tough means standing

firm in our beliefs, even when faced with adversity.

6. The Role of Prayer:

- Emphasize the importance of prayer as a foundation for our lives and our churches. Regular prayer meetings and personal prayer time can strengthen our relationship with God and with one another.
- Encourage members to share their prayer requests and testimonies, creating a culture of openness and support within the congregation.

7. Outreach and Service:

- Encourage the church to be active in the community, reaching out to those in need. Service projects, food drives, and outreach programs can demonstrate the love of Christ in action.
- I recall organizing community service days where we would come together as a church to serve those less fortunate. These experiences not only helped others but also deepened our own faith and commitment.

Conclusion: A Vision for the Future

As we move forward, let us commit to building our Apostolic Pentecostal churches to be cowboy tough. We need to teach our young men how to be men of God and our young women to embody the virtues of femininity, guided by the older generations in our church. Together, we can create a community that honors our heritage,

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In the spirit of our forebears, let us rise to the challenge of being cowboy tough, embodying the strength and resilience that our faith calls us to uphold. Together, we will build a legacy that not only honors our past but also shapes a brighter future for generations to come.

Here are additional dimensions and interpretations of the phrase “cowboy tough, built to last,” expanding on its meaning and cultural significance:

Cultural Context:

1. Western Heritage:

- The phrase draws upon the rich history and mythology of the American West, where cowboys are seen as symbols of freedom, adventure, and the pioneering spirit. This cultural backdrop adds depth to the idea of resilience and toughness.

2. Symbol of Masculinity:

- In many contexts, “cowboy tough” can represent traditional notions of masculinity, including strength, bravery, and stoicism. It often evokes images of rugged men who are not afraid to get their hands dirty and face challenges head-on.

3. Connection to Nature:

- Cowboys often work outdoors, dealing with the elements and the unpredictability of nature. This connection reinforces the idea of being “built to last,” as they must adapt and thrive in various environmental conditions.

Personal Development:

1. Mental Toughness:

- Beyond physical strength, the phrase can also refer to mental resilience—the ability to stay focused, maintain a positive attitude, and push through adversity. This aspect emphasizes personal growth and the development of a strong mindset.

2. Work Ethic:

- “Cowboy tough” implies a strong work ethic, highlighting the importance of diligence, perseverance, and commitment to tasks. This work ethic is often seen as a key to success in both personal and professional realms.

Community and Relationships:

1. Brotherhood and Camaraderie:

- The cowboy lifestyle often emphasizes the importance of community and relationships among peers. The phrase can reflect the bond shared among those who face challenges together, reinforcing the idea of loyalty and support.

2. Mentorship and Legacy:

- The notion of being “built to last” can also relate to the idea of passing down knowledge and skills from one generation to the next. Cowboys often share their expertise with younger generations, creating a legacy of toughness and resilience.

Applications in Modern Life:

1. Lifestyle Choices:

- In contemporary culture, “cowboy tough, built to last” can inspire individuals to adopt a lifestyle that values simplicity, hard work, and authenticity. It encourages a return to basics and an appreciation for quality over quantity in various aspects of life.

2. Fashion and Branding:

- Many brands, especially in the outdoor, workwear, and rugged apparel sectors, leverage this phrase to market their products as durable and reliable. It appeals to consumers who value authenticity and practicality in their clothing and gear.

3. Inspiration and Motivation:

- The phrase can serve as a motivational mantra for individuals facing challenges. It encourages people to embody the qualities of resilience and strength, reminding them that they can overcome obstacles and endure hardships.

Conclusion:

In summary, “cowboy tough, built to last” encompasses a wide range of meanings and applications, from cultural symbolism to personal development and modern lifestyle choices. It celebrates the qualities of resilience, hard work, and community, inspiring individuals to embrace these values in their own lives. Whether referring to a person’s character, a way of life, or a product’s quality, the phrase conveys a powerful message about enduring strength and reliability.

Cowboy Tough, Built to Last: The Apostolic Way

Introduction:

Praise the Lord, Church! Today, we’re going to explore how our faith can be as tough and enduring as the cowboy spirit. Just as a cowboy faces the challenges of the open range, we are called to navigate the spiritual landscapes with resilience and determination. Our foundation is the Apostolic doctrine, rooted in Acts 2:38, and our strength is found in Jesus Christ.

1. The Resilience of Faith:

- Just as a cowboy must be resilient to face the harsh elements, our faith must withstand the trials and tribulations of life. The Apostolic message calls us to repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. These are not just rituals; they are the bedrock of a faith that is built to last.

- Scripture: Hebrews 10:23 encourages us, "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."

2. Holiness: Our Spiritual Armor:

- A cowboy's gear is essential for survival, just as holiness is essential for our spiritual journey. Holiness within and without is our armor, protecting us and setting us apart as God's people. It is a lifestyle that reflects the character of Christ in every aspect of our lives.

- Scripture: 2 Corinthians 7:1 urges us, "Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God."

3. The Power of One God:

- Our faith is anchored in the Oneness of God, a truth as unwavering as the cowboy's code. We believe in one God, and His name is Jesus. This belief is the compass that guides us, providing direction and purpose in a world of uncertainty.

- Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4 proclaims, "Hear, O Israel:

The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”

4. Built to Last: The Apostolic Legacy:

- Just as the cowboy legacy endures through generations, so too does the Apostolic legacy. By living out the teachings of the apostles, we ensure that our faith is not only for today but for future generations. We are called to be witnesses, sharing the message of salvation with a world in need.
- Scripture: Acts 1:8 reminds us, “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.”

Conclusion:

As we embrace the cowboy spirit of resilience and the enduring truth of the Apostolic faith, let us commit to a life that is truly “built to last.” May our faith be unwavering, our holiness evident, and our witness powerful. Let us ride this trail together, confident in the promises of God and the strength of His Spirit.

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the strength and resilience You provide. Help us to live out the Apostolic faith with courage and conviction. May our lives be a testament to Your enduring love and truth. In Your mighty name, we

pray, Amen.

This preaching aims to inspire the congregation to embody a resilient and enduring faith, drawing on the imagery of the cowboy spirit and the foundational beliefs of the Apostolic tradition.

A Tribute to Elder Vaughn Morton:
Cowboy Tough, Built to Last

In the heart of Texas, where the sun sets in brilliant hues over the wide-open plains, a true giant of faith has made his mark—Elder Vaughn Morton. A man who embodies the spirit of the cowboy, Elder Morton is “cowboy tough, built to last,” a phrase that perfectly encapsulates his character and ministry. His life is a testament to resilience, strength, and unwavering commitment to the Apostolic Pentecostal faith.

Elder Morton’s preaching style is as rich and hearty as a plate of Southern cornbread and beans, served with a side of solid Texas hospitality. He teaches life lessons through his stories, each one a reflection of his experiences growing up in Texas. With every sermon, he serves up “steak and salad” doctrine—nourishing, substantial, and always seasoned with love and care. His words resonate deeply, reminding us of the importance of Acts 2:38 and the Oneness of the Godhead, as he calls us to holiness within and without, urging us to separate ourselves from the world.

His passion for evangelism and revival is infectious, igniting a fire in the hearts of those who hear him. Elder Morton has a unique ability to “catch the spirit” of those around him, encouraging a generation to rise up and take hold of their faith. His sayings, etched in the pages of our minds, are a roadmap for living a life dedicated to God. “Just let it unfold,” he often says, a reminder to trust in God’s plan, while also warning us, “There is a Hell,” urging us to stay true to the Scriptures.

Elder Morton has a way of delivering hard truths with love—a skill that allows him to “clean your clock” and rebuke you, yet leave you wanting more of his wisdom and guidance. He once gifted me a pocket knife, a symbol of his mentorship and the many lessons he imparts. He embodies the spirit of a true elder, a modern-day Apostle Paul, building men and women to last in their faith.

As he often reflects on the legacy of those who have come before him, like Elder IH Terry and Elder Paul Price, we see the strength of the churches they built—strong in holiness, strong in spirit, and fervent in evangelism. Elder Morton is not just a preacher; he is a builder of lives, a craftsman shaping the faith of countless individuals.

In the spirit of General Douglas MacArthur and the determination of Vince Lombardi, Elder Morton stands as a pillar of strength in our community. He has weathered the storms of life with grace and resilience, inspiring all

who have the privilege to know him. The day the Lord calls him home will mark the saddest day in Apostolic Pentecost—a profound loss for a generation that has been shaped by his hard-hitting, cowboy tough preaching.

Elder Vaughn Morton is a legacy, a beacon of hope, and a true elder of our day. His impact on the Apostolic Pentecostal movement will echo through the generations, a testament to a life lived fully for Christ. As we honor him, we recognize that there will never be another like him—his spirit, his teachings, and his love for the Lord will forever be cherished in our hearts.

My book was written from the heart, drawing upon my experiences, observations, and the wisdom passed down through generations. It is a call to action for all of us who cherish our Apostolic Pentecostal heritage and strive to create a community that reflects the values we hold dear. We are made in the USA, cowboy tough, and built to last—let us live out that truth in every aspect of our lives and churches.

Written by Elder Keith Joel Walker
Read and Obey Acts 2:38



