

A HEART ACCORDING TO GOD



PASCAL MALONDA

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*By the size of one's heart,
you can measure one's greatness.*

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*“People judge by outward appearance,
but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

(1 Samuel 16:7)

Introduction

On May 26, 2018, a 4-year-old young boy was hanging over emptiness, dangling to the fourth-floor balcony of a building in Paris. His father, who was away to go shopping, left him unattended. Several passersby were present on the scene, powerless. Among them, Mamoudou Gassama, a 23-year-old Malian young man, showed outstanding bravery and managed to climb the front of the building at the risk of his life with bare hands. He pulled the child to safety back onto the balcony while the people below were cheering and crying with relief. The scene, which was filmed by passersby, has been watched several thousands of times on social networks. His feat was quickly relayed by mainstream media in France and abroad, which resulted in an invitation at the Elysee Palace to meet Emmanuel Macron, the French president. He congratulated and rewarded him with granting him the French citizenship. The naturalization order, published in the Federal Register and signed by Prime Minister Édouard Philippe, points out that: *“This act of great bravery has perfectly exemplified some of the values that contribute to put together the members of the national community such as bravery, disinterest, selflessness, attention paid to the most vulnerable.”*¹ The congratulations have not come to an end at that point, since Mamoudou Gassama has been hosted to

1. Official journal of September 12, 2018/ N°210: ([https://: www.legifrance.gouv.fr](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr))

the Paris city hall to get the Medal of the City of Paris, and to the United States for the “BET Humanitarian Award” prize, attributed by the TV channel BET², which rewards people who have shown bravery during the year. He has also been invited to Mali to meet the Malian president Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, not forgetting the Paris Fire Department squad that has offered him to join them. His heroic act has thoroughly changed his life and enabled him to gain access to some people he should never have met otherwise.

There are so to speak two kinds of heroes: the classic hero and the hero according to God. Both stand up for values, even a cause they deem good; however, the big difference is that a hero according to God is someone according to the heart of God, who tries at all costs to do His will. The classic hero gets admired by people for what he has done or for what he is, even if some heroes obtain recognition only long after they pass away. The hero according to God will win top honors in his moment as well, but this time from God Himself. At the end of his journey, Jesus Christ will welcome him with these words: “*Come and share your master’s happiness, my good and faithful servant*” (Matthew 25:23). By crossing the doorstep, he will be amazed to hear the ovation from the people he would have driven to Christ, as well as from angels. Everyone who has the life of Jesus Christ as a model will be greeted as a hero, because He Himself is the ultimate Hero. The election criteria being quite different from those we may generally know, nobody can foresee the rewards he will inherit, because what truly animates our heart will determine the worth of every action we have made. That is why the Bible warns us not to judge the others too early, because only God, who tests the hearts, genuinely knows us, as it is shown in this verse:

2. BET: Black Entertainment Television

“Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.”
(1 Corinthians 4:5)

If society likes to consider people according to what they have done, the same is totally different in the Kingdom of God, since by **the size of one’s heart, you can measure one’s greatness**. One day, every heart will be unveiled before God and everyone will stand facing the mirror of his soul. By seeing the seasons and events that have punctuated our existence passing before our eyes, a strong belief will then be marked in us. We will know very clearly, at this very moment, if we were someone according to the heart of God or not. The light of his revelation will come and enlighten our mind and remove the intellectual, cultural, environmental and societal veil which prevented us from seeing Him as He really is. The non-believers will no longer have any doubt whatsoever about the existence of God, but unfortunately, it will be too late. In the same way, a separation will be made between those who claim to be believers and true believers.

How to be someone according to the heart of God? How to have a heart in which God holds a central place, a heart full of love, honest, true, humble, not judging others, loving everybody in the same way, serving his neighbor, obedient and making God’s will? Here is the whole subject of this book. These characteristics particularly concern the heart of God, but the people who show this kind of attitude are often put aside, because the world is more and more individualistic and dominated by a competitive spirit. Nowadays more than ever,

living according to the perfect will of God is a true feat, so much so that those who make the choice are often compelled to stand against the society's influence. The men and women who succeed in doing so will nevertheless, at the end of their life, be hailed as heroes, because they have succeeded in not conforming themselves to values contrary to God, by firmly withstanding the negative hold society can sometimes have. When the time comes, they will realize the repercussions of their behavior in the natural world, but also in the spiritual world.

Through this book, I suggest you three pieces of advice that will help you in this approach to become a man or a woman according to the heart of God, and show thus the hero inside you. The first one answers the need of Man, who, to shape himself, is constantly looking for models he can refer to. In fact, in a world whose landmarks are challenged, in which the foundations and the traditional patterns that enabled peoples to become great nations, are being undermined, it is time to turn our looks to the perfect model that pleases God. The second one sheds light on some attributes it is fundamental to develop, so as to satisfy the heart of God and to influence our environment by making his will. Finally, the third one encourages us to act, by showing the Hero who lives in every born-again Christian, that is to say Jesus Christ.

Table of contents

Introduction	11
ADVICE N°1	
Modeling Jesus Christ to please God's heart	15
Chapter 1 - Every society needs to have models	17
1 - Man needs models to shape his personality	19
2 - The three components that make someone a model	22
3 - What about today?	24
Chapter 2 - Jesus Christ, the ultimate model	27
1 - The life of Jesus Christ, a fulfilled life	28
2 - An extraordinary identity: Son of God	37
3 - A singular relationship with the Father	40
Chapter 3 - Jesus, a hero like no other	43
1 - Jesus has come to restore the sight to the physically and spiritually blind	45
2 - The destruction of the power of death and sin	51
Chapter 4 - Walking the way of Jesus	55
1 - Manifest Christ in character and in work	57
2 - Deepening one's knowledge of God	67
3 - Foregoing one's life to follow Christ	77

ADVICE N°2	
Adopt the qualities that please the heart of God	81
Chapter 1 - Love	87
1 - God is love	90
2 - The royal law of love	92
3 - Love: the only prerogative to please God	93
4 - The perfect love of God	100
Chapter 2 - Obedience	103
1 - Our obedience gives glory to God	106
2 - Our obedience assures us to walk in he plans of God	108
3 - Our obedience testifies that we belong to God	110
4 - Our obedience enables us to enter the supernatural	113
5 - Our obedience enables to identify adversity on a spiritual level	114
Chapter 3 - Humbleness	115
1 - Pride precedes destruction	117
2 - Humbleness gives access to the throne of God	119
3 - Humbleness changes the outlook we have at the others	123
Chapter 4 - Faithfulness	125
1 - Only faithful people will inherit the crown of glory	129
2 - Faithfulness in small things enables to have bigger ones	131
3 - Our relationship with God and with the others depends on our faithfulness	133
4 - God knows He can trust faithful people	134
5 - Faithfulness is a proof of honesty and a token of trust	137

ADVICE N°3	
Letting all His will happen through you	139
Chapter 1 - King David, a hero according to God	141
1 - King Saul	144
2 - David: a kind of hero according to God	149
Chapter 2 - Having the correct perspective	157
1 - Understanding the spiritual world and discerning the spirits	162
2 - Learning to see how God sees	170
3 - Watching over our thoughts	171
4 - Adopting a new thinking	173
Chapter 3 - Walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit	179
1 - The person of the Holy Spirit, a peerless partner	180
2 - The role of the Holy Spirit	183
3 - The hand of God on the Earth	186
4 - The importance of developing a communion with the Holy Spirit	189
Chapter 4 - Manifesting the hero	193
1 - A new race of believers	194
2 - A new generation of heroes	198
3 - Consecration	201
Conclusion	205