



# When Renewal Starts With Leaders...

Looking back on life it is easy to identify key events that change and help define us. But when Hutch Garmany came to his first Battle for Men's Hearts in 2012 he had no idea of the widespread impact his decision would have not just in his life and family but also in the lives of his future congregants.

*"Coming into the Battle for the Heart, I had more of a rational understanding about renewal," Hutch shared. "I believed that if you did the right things to work toward renewal then the renewal would take place. The Battle process allowed me to understand that renewal is more than just the result of the combination of the right things but instead it starts with and involves the renewal of my whole heart; it is renewing my relationship and is affecting my whole life and ministry."*

In 2014 Hutch and his wife, Ashleigh, who began the Battle for the Heart process a year earlier, joined with eight other families in a church plant in the rural area of Trenton, GA. Ashleigh shared how her growth through the Battle process impacted her ability to partner with her husband in the work God has called them to.



Hutch Garmany

*"In the past it was as if I would assume the role of associate pastor instead of Hutch's wife," Ashleigh said. "Our marriage often looked like a staff meeting instead of a marriage relationship." But through the Battle process, she continued, "I have shifted from being Hutch's biggest critic to his biggest cheerleader. We have locked arms with each other and to the leaders in our church. We are soldiers fighting this battle together and carrying one another as we offer the gift of who we are to the people around us."*

Part of this journey for Ashleigh involved growing in understanding God's love for her as an individual.

*"I came face to face with the Lord's abundant love for me in the places of my greatest brokenness. Knowing and experiencing God's immeasurable love has given me great freedom, joy and courage in my relationship with God, Hutch and others."*



Ashleigh and Hutch Garmany

*"Before, I was stepping into the lives of others in a way that wanted to fix and dominate people including Hutch. Through the Battle process I have been able to see the beauty of who I am and the energy of fixing and dominating is shifting. Instead of fixing, I am able to walk alongside others with gentleness and concern."*

Hutch and Ashleigh are seeing their marriage transformed "from the inside out" as they have participated in and led multiple teams through the Battle for the Heart Process.

*"We have felt the security of each other's love as we have been able to embrace and come home to the Father's love. In spite of the sin we struggle with, we are able to live and love in safety of who we really are and that has birthed beautiful things."*

**Read more of the Garmany's testimony and about Grace Community Church in the article below.**



Renewal was not something Hutch and Ashleigh wanted to see just on a personal level but something they envisioned on a church level too.

Joining with 8 other families to plant Grace Community Church in 2014, their heart was to see renewal in the hearts of the people who would join the congregation and ultimately in every part of the Dade county community – churches, families, children, schools and businesses all experiencing the transformational love of God.

Part of cultivating the environment for renewal has involved building the Battle for the Heart into the foundational DNA of Grace Community, with the leaders gaining heart and skills of authentic community on an individual and congregational level.

Already, the church is seeing fruits of leaders being impacted by renewal in their own hearts and lives and they are taking it into their spheres of influence.

Brent and Megan Halderman, youth leaders at Grace Community often start their youth meetings with a “State of the Heart.”

He has been inspired, Brent said, *“to see our youth leaders modeling for the middle school and high school students in our church what it looks like to look within and begin to give God your heart. As a result, young people are beginning to understand, connect and identify their feelings and desires and express them in the safety of the youth community.”*



Megan and Brent Halderman

Hutch says that shepherding his key leaders in the Battle for the Heart process has been challenging yet rewarding. *“The Battle process unearths the barriers to biblical community that the typical church community does not bring to the surface. People are beginning to see that their brokenness is more and deeper than they previously realized.*



*As the pastor, I have realized that the renewal of the church starts with me. Personally, the Battle process has given me an avenue to take my pain to the Trinity and scripture. It has given me a community of men where I can walk through my pain, identify and repent of the strategies that keep me from true heart renewal, that keep me being the man, husband and leader I was created to be.*

*As I own my own personal and leadership struggles I am able to guide our leadership team to honestly engage in the hard work of authentic Biblical Community. We are experiencing real unity, real growth and real depth. Renewal is taking place.”*