

THE BATTLE WITHIN US

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

WORSHIP

Anchor, We Praise You,
Oh Lord, Living Hope

WELCOME

What are your struggles
lately?

WORD

ROMANS 7:14-25

¹⁴ For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. ¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. ¹⁷ So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. ¹⁹ For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. ²⁰ But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. ²¹ I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. ²² For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, ²³ but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

How is a war won? War is a series of battles, one after another. Do you keep winning the battles inside you? Or frequently losing the struggle?

To be victorious in our inner battle we need to know what this warfare is all about. The inner battle is very real. It is something each and every single follower of Christ (no exceptions) will face once we fully commit ourselves to Jesus and obey His word. There is no such thing as smooth-sailing or walk-in-the-park Christianity. Sure, we are saved by grace and it is a free gift from God, but from this point on we face a battle, and therefore, how do we succeed?

1. **REALITY OF WARFARE.** We must accept that this war is real and we are part of it. We got to stop diminishing it or sweeping it under the rug in denial. Sometimes the tension will go away but one little slip and all of a sudden it hits us. We must know how to handle the bad side of us the YETSER HARA. We need to know the enemy and the battle plan. Our enemies are:

a. **THE DEVIL (THE INFERNAL FOE)** is the mastermind, and his name is satan. His final destiny is the eternal flames of the lake of fire. The Bible says he was the most special of angels but had pride in his heart. He was cast out of heaven and since then his mission is to destroy mankind. If you are owned by God, he will still continue trying to destroy your testimony and make you useless for God (1 Peter 5:). Just like a lion in the African Desert, he uses stealth/lying/deception to snare and capture. He is the father of lies.

b. **THE WORLD (THE EXTERNAL FOE)** the second enemy is the external world. It is hard to accept as we look at the world as a good place, but take a good look, and we see that the values & morals of the world are declining (1 JOHN 2: 15 & 16), and drifting farther away from godliness. Some of us are persecuted for our faith. Prayer is not allowed in schools here. Canada National Assembly passed a motion that states prayers in public school goes against secularism.

c. **THE FLESH (THE INTERNAL FOE)** it is us, our sinful nature residing in us. In Galatians 5:19-22 our sinful nature makes us desire sin. Our focus is on ego or self. When we feel disrespected or hurt, we want to retaliate. Sexual desires, greed, hatred, bitterness, lust, envy, drunkenness, these are the things of our flesh, our past sins or favorite sins. God gave mankind the gift of free will although sometimes free will feels more like a curse.

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RESPONSE TO TEMPTATION

Temptation is a test, an invitation to sin, but we always have a choice. When we say no to temptation, we please God but we cannot defeat temptation if we don't understand how it works.

A greater law enables us to rise above and resist temptation. It is not natural, it is supernatural. **(Gal. 5:16-17)** says when we surrender, yield to the Holy Spirit, we succeed in resisting temptation. If we are in Christ, we are a new creation **(2Cor. 5:17)** and change is now possible; **(Gal. 5:1)**. Jesus died to free us from slavery and sin.

3. REWARDS OF VICTORY

We need to learn to deal with temptation and remember that it is an invitation to sin. When we refuse to give in, we will be rewarded with victory **(2 Timothy 4:7-8)**. When there is sin in us, **(Isaiah 59:2)** God turns His face away from us. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we now have victory over sin. We are now fighting the battle supernaturally in God's power not in ours.

To experience victory we can see the fruit of the Holy Spirit **(Galatians 5:22-23)** emerging in our lives. As we crucify our flesh **(Galatians 3:20)** the Spirit will produce these fruits in our lives, but we must always do our part. The battle will continue until we go home to Jesus.

Remember always to put off our old self and put on the new self **(Ephesians 4:22-23)**. Be prayerful and surrender to the Spirit and meditate on God's word.

How To Win the Battle Within Us?

- **Confess your struggles before God-** We cannot win the battle on our own. Humble yourselves to God.
- **Have an accountability group-** **Hebrews 10:24-25** Your accountability group will serve as your balance check and openness to others can have a profound effect on you.
- **Refrain from exposing yourself to your weakness.** **1 Cor. 10:13** Flee from the things you get easily tempted.
- **Involve yourself in doing God's work-** Keeping away your thoughts from yourself and your temptation and replacing it by giving it to others through volunteerism will have a much greater impact for yourself and give glory to God.
- **Stay connected with God-** Consistent prayer life and faithful study of God's word.
- **Think of the consequences-** it will have an effect on you and the people around you specially your loved ones. Do not also grieve the Holy Spirit **Ephesians 4:30**.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In which area am I currently experiencing this ongoing battle inside of me?
2. After hearing this message, what changes will I make in my life in order to experience the Victorious Life that Christ has in store for me?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people to encounter Jesus Christ and find hope and healing in Him. Pray that they will have open hearts to accept Him as their Savior and Lord. Through Christ, be a good testimony of God's transformative power over the "old nature" as you serve other people with joy and humility. Share the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ to your loved ones.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines and Canada.
- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to end; peace and order be restored, lives spared. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, families, leaders to turn to Christ; refugees be given safe passage into surrounding nations.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCFE Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Shelter and Retreat Centre

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 7:24-25

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