

Surviving the Struggle!!!

Revelation 12:1-12

Struggle

- 1 : to make strenuous or violent efforts against opposition : CONTEND
- 2 : to proceed with difficulty or with great effort

2 Tim 2:3-4

3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

1 Tim 1:18

18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

John Stuart Mill

War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.

Sir Winston Churchill

Never, never, never believe any war will be smooth and easy, or that anyone who embarks on the strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes he will encounter. The statesman who yields to war fever must realize that once the signal is given, he is no longer the master of policy but the slave of unforeseeable and uncontrollable events.

Here is the answer which I will give to President Roosevelt... We shall not fail or falter; we shall not weaken or tire. Neither the sudden shock of battle nor the long-drawn trials of vigilance and exertion will wear us down. Give us the tools and we will finish the job.

1. Struggle with Alcohol
2. Struggle with Pornography
3. Struggle with Prescription drugs
4. Struggle with Depression
5. Struggle with Lust
6. Struggle with Change
7. Struggle with Gossip
8. Struggle with Unforgiveness
9. Struggle with Bitterness
10. Struggle with Marriages

I) **Adversary in our Struggle**

Eph 6:11-12

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood**, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

A. Deceptive Adversary

Rev 12:9

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

B. Devouring Adversary

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, **walketh about, seeking whom he may devour**:

II) **Advocate in our Struggle**

Advocate - one that defends or maintains a cause or proposal

A. He Abides

Heb 13:5

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

B. He Assists

Phil 4:13

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Isa 41:10

10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

III) **Ammunition in our Struggle**

A. Work that's Finished

Pays, Purges, Purifies

B. Word that's Final

“What is your Final Answer” (When Satan accuses you what will you say)

IV) **Attitude in our Struggle**

“Loved not their Lives unto Death”

A. Unselfish

Matt 16:24-25

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

B. Undivided

Matt 22:37

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Life Group Questions

1. Can you remember a time when you have fought or had ill feelings toward “flesh and blood” (spouse, friend, coworker, fellow church member) when really Satan was behind the whole situation?
2. Why is it that one of the hardest things for a Christian to see is Satan being behind problems we have in marriages, ministries and such and we take it out on each other? (Could it be Satan’s Deception, if we are fighting each other then we won’t be fighting him, just a thought)
3. How often have you looked at your problem or struggle as Christ problem? David looked at the giant and said “The Battle is the Lords” what do we need to do to be able to do this?
4. Can you give a testimony of a time when there was no doubt that God gave you the strength to win in a struggle from the past?
5. Read II Corinthians 12:9-10, and discuss what this means to you.
6. Sometimes our struggle is made more difficult because we are selfish in our attitudes about life and what we feel we are entitled to (Especially with change or suffering) discuss what you think this means use Job and Paul’s thorn as an example.
7. How will loving God more than anything else in this world even our own lives, help us in the struggles we face every day?