

We have been talking about a war we are all in the midst of, The War Within.

It is a battle against our own flesh, the sinful nature of man.

That nature that was created in the garden when Adam and Eve sinned. It is now present in every person that is born from their father and mother passed down from Adam and Eve



We are also living on the battlefield. It is not a beach, not a golf course and not the mountains. It is the world we live in where we engage the enemy every day.

And the opposing army has a general, Satan himself.

Therefore, with the enemy within, the enemy around us (the world), and the commanding general, how will we ever win this war?

In summary from last time;

1. We are in a spiritual battle.
2. Our weapons are spiritual, not fleshly.
3. Put on every piece of the armor
4. Belt of truth wraps your body
5. Breastplate of righteousness protects your heart so you can live righteously
6. Leather sandals to go forward in the battle in peace with God
7. Shield where faith extinguishes Satan's negative attacks
8. Helmet that reminds you that you are safe and saved
9. Short sword where the Holy Spirit helps you wield the Word of God.

But there is more.

Every battle fought requires tactics, a scheme, a battle plan.

There were some pretty radical battle plans throughout history that won victories for the armies that used them.

Ex.

The Trojan Horse was used by the Greeks to get into the city Troy.

It was left on the beach as a gift but there were soldiers hidden inside.

Later on

When castles were built for protection, they came up with the idea of battering rams to break down the huge doors of the castles.

Catapults were also devised to hurl large boulders either against or over the walls.

Another tactic was the siege.

Surround a city and starve them out.

In our own war for independence, to smite the British troops, the order of Minute Men was created. Men who knew the territory and would ambush the unsuspecting British soldiers.

As you can see, the more radical the plan, the greater the success in the battle.

I want to give you a tactic to help you to win the war within that is more radical than the human mind could ever conceive.

And,

Some of you:

- Will not like it
- Won't understand it
- Won't even do it

But for those who are serious about winning the war within, you will engage it.

And it is radical.

So radical, it could only come from God.

This radical battle tactic is to "Crucify the Flesh."

Crucifixion takes place on a cross.

What is the purpose of the cross?

To kill!

When Pontius Pilate asked the mob what they wanted to do with Jesus, they yelled out, Crucify Him! Kill Him!

Remember;

Your Flesh is not your friend.

We already saw:

The Flesh:

1. Separates us from God
2. Promotes internal corruption
3. Impacts everyone (world war)
4. Out to destroy
5. It is spiritual death

Stop treating it like it's your best buddy and giving it everything it wants.

Therefore,

This battle plan:

- 1. Is for Christians only**

Rom 8:9 *However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*

You still have your Flesh but you are now redeemed: in a state of regeneration, a new creation!

Ie.

As Jesus said;

"You must be born again."

But the war is still real.

Seeing I still have my Flesh, sin nature, this is what I must do with it.

KILL THE FESH!

2. God wants us to be free from the Flesh

Rom 6:5 *For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,*
v.6 *knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;*

This is called Positional Truth. It is our legal standing with God but not yet experiential.

Now;

Let's go to battle with our Flesh, experientially.

Paul takes what God did positionally and makes it experiential.

Gal 2:20 *"I have been crucified with Christ;*

(Positionally), and it is no longer I who live, (experientially), but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

"crucified with Christ" killed in Christ

"the life which I now live in the flesh" his natural life on earth.

Your natural life on earth.

Ie.

I was killed in Christ and now I live in Christ.

KILL THE FLESH!

3. I have a new purpose in life

Col 3:2 *Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.*

v.3 *For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

Its is difficult to render ourselves dead when we love ourselves so much and we want only to please ourselves.

But wait!

If I change my focus, it is easier to do so.

So I set my mind on things above.

I become more God-conscious in my daily walk.

So how do I walk in victory over the Flesh?

KILL THE FLESH!

4. I have a new way to walk

Col 3:2 *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.*

"walk" *peripateo* –walk around,
peri - around; *pateo* – foot, walk

This is why:

v.17 *For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.*

Finally;

Jesus, Himself said You must die to yourself!

Mt 16:24 *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.*

v. 25 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

There is the victory!

Your victory for salvation is in the cross of Christ.

Your victory in your daily battles is in your own cross, should you pick it up, carry it, and let it kill your fleshly desires that lead you away from God.

Review;

1.This is for Christians only

Rom 8:9

2.God wants us to be free from the Flesh

Rom 6:5

3. I have a new purpose in life

Col 3:2

5. I have a new way to walk

Col 3:2

People fight a battle in order to win and live.

But in this spiritual warfare we fight to win by dying; dying to self.

- Emotional rule
- Opinion that dominates
- Prejudice & stubbornness
- Arrogance and pride
- Anything else that gets in the way of Christlikeness.

Closing thought:

I Pe 4:1 *Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,*
v.2 *so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.*