

Today we begin a new series that we can identify with. I say that because we all have an inner battle going on inside of us. It is a war between two foes, and they both want to conquer us.

But.

Before we enter the battlefield I want you to something that is of the most importance.

God placed the sun above you to warm you and give you light.

He surrounded you with air so you can breathe freely.

He brings the rain to refresh you and provide the food for your body.

Ie.

God provides for you, He cares for you because He has great love for you.

This is what we need to remember when the battle rages.

And know that you do not fight these battles alone.

So,

When anyone or any kingdom goes into battle, it is because they have an enemy.

Believe it or not, when you were born, this enemy was inside of you. (go figure)

As you grew, this enemy also grew in strength.

This enemy has a name, the Flesh.

The Flesh is another name for our sin nature.

This Flesh has caused many battles in the world and our lives:

- Jealousy
- Selfishness
- Low self-worth
- Death



## THE WAR WITHIN

- Divorce
- Self-destruction

It is a formidable enemy.

But, then one day something happened.

You heard about Jesus, His sacrifice for your sins, His invitation to walk with Him.

You believed, accepted and another power came to your rescue - the Holy Spirit.

Though the battle still rages, you do not have to be defeated. We will speak later about the resources we have in the battle.

But now,

Listen to what Jesus said;

**Lu 14:31** ... *what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand?*

Jesus understands the battles that we face. That's why He could use them as an analogy for our own lives.

You are at war with your Flesh. And to be honest, you do not have what it takes to defeat him, at least not in your own power.

Question:

Why is the Flesh our enemy?

I want to give you 5 reasons why the Flesh is not your friend and must be defeated.

And by the way,

You cannot make peace with him.

The Flesh:

### **1. Separates us from God**

Was born in the Garden

Gen 2:16-17 *The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;*

*v.17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."*

"surely die" *muth muth* – die die

In dying, die

They were immediately separated from God for a disease had begun to fester inside of them.

A disease that separated them from the holiness of God.

This disease changed their nature from innocence to corruption.

and would be inherent in every person born from them.

### **1. Promotes internal corruption**

Why do I feel so bad at times? Why do people do things that make my heart ache?

Why do I, at times, seem to work against myself?

**Rom 7:18** *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.*

**v.19** *For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.*

There is nothing good of his own. He has no natural goodness. The Flesh has corrupted Him as we saw from the Garden.

Now,

He wants to do good, but it's a battle.

You want to forgive, but it's a fight against yourself.

You want to make better choices but your Flesh is strong and it wants what it wants, in spite of any consequences.

The battle rages.

You see the danger but you walk closer and closer anyway. The alarms are going off but you don't heed them.

Your Flesh has become your counsel and leads you down the wrong path.

Thirdly;

### **3. Has universal impact**

The battle is really a "world war."

**Rom 5:12** *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—*

"death" *Thanatos* – separation

Does not mean annihilation or extinction

Physical – body from the soul

Spiritual – soul from God

As you can see: The Flesh

### **2. Is out to destroy**

These are the soldiers you are fighting!

Here they come, armed to the hilt!

Gal 5:19 Paul says they are evident.

They are not secret spies, they are on the front lines.

They are battling with you and you with them!

*immorality, impurity, sensuality,*

*v.20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,*

*v.21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these,*

now,

what happens when these things win the battle?

*v.21 I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

"practice" habitual, lifestyle,

Way of life

Finally;

### **3. It is spiritual death**

It separates us from God

**Rev 21:8** Casualties of the battle:

*But for the cowardly, (fearful to believe), and unbelieving, (heathen), and abominable, (to stink, disgusted), and murderers and immoral, ( pornos),*

## THE WAR WITHIN

*persons and sorcerers and idolaters, (image worshipper), and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (spiritual separation)*

Summary:

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

The good news

There is a way to win!

*NEXT TIME*

"How To Win The Battle"

Remember how we started:

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