

May 27, 2018



WINNING OR LOSING AT LIFE, Part 1

1 Timothy 6:12, "Fight the good fight of faith!"

1 Corinthians 9:26 (TLB), "I fight to win! I'm not just shadow-boxing."

TRUTH: For the child of God, life is a series of unending internal battles.

INSIGHT: Two battles in every life: 1) cosmic, between good and evil; 2) personal, between what's okay and what's best (Ephesians 6:12 TLB).

TRUTH: All Christians struggle in a war between the old sin nature and their new nature from being born again (Romans 7).

INSIGHT: The biggest battles ahead of you in 2018 are not with people but with your sin nature that wants to control you.

*Three primary battles consistent with every child of God:

I. THE BATTLE TO MAKE LIFE ALL ABOUT YOU

INSIGHT: Every time you win the selfishness battle, your life gets easier because there's less conflict (James 4:1-2 ICB).

TRUTH: The more selfish I am, the more I'll get irritated with those around me, even family (Philippians 2:3-4 TLB).

INSIGHT: You are incredibly valuable, but deeply flawed.

DEFINITION: Humility isn't thinking less of myself but thinking of myself less.

II. THE BATTLE TO LET GO

INSIGHT: The battle to let go is the battle between forgiveness and bitterness.

INSIGHT: You can't control what people do to you, but you can control your response (Hebrews 12:15 TLB; Ephesians 4:26).

INSIGHT: Anger is an emotional response to either fear, frustration, or pain.

TRUTH: Not all anger is sinful; all nursed anger is sinful.

TRUTH: All great marriages are a union of two great forgivers.

III. THE BATTLE BETWEEN WHAT'S EASY AND WHAT'S RIGHT (Galatians 5:17 GW).

INSIGHT: Fatigue increases the power of your old sin nature.

QUESTION: How do you get the energy to do the right thing when you're tired?

ANSWER: You think of the long-term benefits.

QUESTION: What's not right in your life that you need to get mad enough to change?

(Fill in the blank.)