

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.

The Three Battlegrounds
Internal

Romans 7:15-8:39

The Cost Of The Battle

Confusion

15 I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do the very thing I hate.

Bad Conscience

16 I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience shows that I agree that the law is good.

Compulsions

17 But I can't help myself, because it is sin inside me that makes me do these evil things.

Self Condemnation

18 I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned...

Conviction

18 ...No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right. I want to, but I can't.

19 When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway.

20 But if I am doing what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing it; the sin within me is doing it.

Capitulation

21 It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.

The Cause Of The Battle

22 I love God's law with all my heart.

23 But there is another law at work within me that is at war with my mind. This law wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.

Galatians 5:17 The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict.

The Course For Victory

24 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin?

25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

Remind Myself Daily What Jesus Did For Me

Romans 8:1 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

2 For the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin that leads to death.

3 The law of Moses could not save us, because of our sinful nature. But God put into effect a different plan to save us. He sent his own Son in a human body like ours, except that ours are sinful. God destroyed sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

Relinquish Control To The Holy Spirit

Romans 8: 4 He did this so that the requirement of the law would be fully accomplished for us who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.

6 If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace.

Realize That I Have The Ability To Say No

Romans 8:9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them are not Christians at all.)

12 So, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation whatsoever to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.

Galatians 5:16 So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

Refuse To Give Up

Romans 8:16 For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children.

17 And since we are his children, we will share his treasures - for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, is ours, too. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later.

Remember That God Will Never Stop Loving Me

Romans 8:37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away.

39 Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.