

FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE

Because your _____ is worth it.



The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10 (ESV)

● Jesus wants you to have abundant **life** while Satan wants to snuff **out** your life.

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. 1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

Satan wants to take you out of the **fight** or take the **fight** out of you.

God's Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world. 1 John 4:4 (NCV)

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:10-12 (NLT)

God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no weekend war that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels. Ephesians 6:10-12 (MSG)

Satan tells us its not a big deal and we stop **caring** about what we should care about.

Engaging in the battle means:

- We start caring about what we have been **apathetic** about.
- We do what we **may not want** to do because it's the necessary thing to do.

The church is **people** who gather together; it is not the **building** they gather in.

We **commit** ourselves to belong to a church.

They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. Acts 2:42 (MSG)

God designed our spiritual health to be developed in a committed **community**.

...Since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.

Romans 12:5 (NLT)

...submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21 (NLT)

We who believe are carefully joined together with Christ as parts of a beautiful, constantly growing temple for God. Ephesians 2:21 (TLB)

I don't want Satan to outwit us. After all, we are not ignorant about Satan's scheming. 2 Corinthians 2:11 (GWT)

We can't allow Satan to plant seeds:

● When things don't go our way we get **offended**.

Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves.

James 4:1 (MSG)

Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. God's righteousness doesn't grow from human anger. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life. James 1:19-21 (MSG)

● When we allow offenses we become **divided**.

Every kingdom divided against itself is ruined. A house divided against itself falls. Luke 11:17 (NLT)

● When experience isolation we get **discouraged**.

How to dig deep to be a loving church:

● We identify the real **enemy**.

● **People** are not your enemy.

● **Leadership** is not your enemy.

12 For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world...Ephesians 6:12 (TLB)

● We give others the **benefit** of the **doubt**.

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Ephesians 4:2 (NLT)

● We commit to loving each other **scripturally**.

We go to the **person**.

"If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him—... Matthew 18:15a (MSG)

We keep it between **us**.

...work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you've made a friend. Matthew 18:15b (MSG)

Ask for **help**.

If he won't listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. Matthew 18:16 (MSG)

● We seek to **understand** others.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)

● We open our heart to new opportunities to **love**.

Dear children, we must show love through actions that are sincere, not through empty words. 1 John 3:18

Let love be your highest goal! 1 Corinthians 14:1 (NLT)

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:35 (NLT)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?

- Do you live with an awareness of the spiritual battle you are in?
- Talk about the two points under the sub-heading: "Engaging in the battle means". What are some things we need to do that we don't necessarily want to do, that help us engage in the battle?
- How does allowing ourselves to be offended hurt us in the spiritual battle?
- Why is division so dangerous for our church (or any church)?
- When we have conflict with people how can we remind ourselves that people are not the enemy?
- What happens in us spiritually when people become our enemy?
- Why is the Matthew 18 principle so important? (Besides the fact Jesus said to do it)
- Why is it so easy to talk with others rather than the person we have issues with? How does the enemy use this against the church?
- What are some ways we can seek to understand others when there are issues between us?
- Why is it important to maintain an open heart for new opportunities to love? Why does the enemy try to get us to close our heart to new opportunities to love?

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