WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING FOR?

Pastor Rick Warren January 2-3, 2016

"Fight the good fight of faith!" 1 Timothy 6:12a (NASB) "I fight to win! I'm not just shadow-boxing." 1 Corinthians 9:26b (LB)

"We're NOT fighting against human beings. We are fighting against spiritual forces . . . and powers of darkness in the unseen spiritual world." Ephesians 6:12

THIS WAR IS BETWEEN ____

"I want to do God's will as far as my <u>new nature</u> is concerned, but there's something else deep within me: My <u>old nature</u> is <u>at war</u> with my mind and <u>wins</u> <u>the fight</u>. It makes me a slave to the sin <u>that's still within me</u>."

Romans 7:22-23

3 BATTLES YOU'LL FACE

THE BATTLE BETWEEN

"Do you know where your fights and arguments come from? They come from the <u>selfish desires</u> that make war <u>inside you</u>... Then when you don't get what you want, you quarrel and fight." James 4:1-2a (ICB)

"Don't be selfish . . . Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing." Philippians 2:3-4 (LB)

• THE BATTLE BETWEEN ___

"... Watch out that no <u>bitterness</u> takes root among you, for as it springs up <u>it causes deep trouble,</u> hurting many in their spiritual lives." Hebrews 12:15b (LB)

"If you get angry, <u>don't sin by holding on to it</u>. Never let the sun go down while you still angry." Ephesians 4:26

"You will be judged <u>in the same way that you</u> judge others. And the <u>forgiveness</u> you give to others will be given to you." Matthew 7:2 (ICB)

". . . We are <u>MORE THAN conquerors</u> through him who <u>loved us</u>." Romans 8:37 (NIV)

• THE BATTLE BETWEEN _

"What your corrupt nature wants is contrary to what your spiritual nature wants . . . They are opposed to each other. As a result, <u>you don't always do</u> what you intend to do." Galatians 5:17 (GW)

"Let us not get tired of doing <u>what is right</u>, for <u>AFTER A WHILE</u> we will reap <u>a harvest of blessing</u> IF we don't get discouraged and give up." Galatians 6:9 (LB)

The battle is often: _____

THE WEAPONS THAT WIN

"Though we live in the world, we <u>DO NOT fight in the same way</u> the world fights. <u>We fight with weapons that are different from those the world uses</u>. Our weapons have power from God . . ." 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 (NCV)

1st SECRET WEAPON: _

"In every battle <u>you will need faith as your shield</u> to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan." Ephesians 6:16 (NLT)

"Faith comes from hearing the Word of God." Romans 10:17

"Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

Ephesians 6:17b (NLT)

2nd SECRET WEAPON:

"We are in this fight <u>together.</u>"

Philippians 1:30a (LB)

"You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, Instead <u>you should meet together</u> and <u>encourage each other</u>."

Hebrews 10:25a (NCV)

"One standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer, and a <u>group of three is even better</u>." Ecclesiastes 4:12

3rd SECRET WEAPON:

"You belong to God . . . (so) <u>God's Spirit is in you</u>, and He is more powerful than the spirit that is in the world!" 1 John 4:4

"They did not conquer by their own strength and skill, but by Your mighty power and because you smiled on them and favored them."

Psalm 44:3 (LB)

"Prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long . . ." Ephesians 6:18a (Mes)

"Use <u>every piece</u> of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you <u>will still be standing firm</u>."

Ephesians 6:13

"<u>Accept God's salvation</u> as your <u>helmet</u>" Ephesians 6:17a (NCV)

"Every child of God defeats this evil world <u>by trusting Christ to give the</u> <u>victory.</u> And the ones <u>who win this battle</u> are the ones who believe that Jesus is the Son of God." 1 John 5:4-5

The Epitaph of Life Well-Lived:

 Paul: "I have FOUGHT the good fight, I have FINISHED the race, and I have KEPT the faith!"

 2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)