

Winning at Life series week 3 - "Tug of War"

The personal struggle between Spirit and flesh and how it affects the individual (YOU) and the whole (US)

God is enough

Love wins

Tithing is a good thing

Victory through faith

A Tug of War / Torn between one thing and another

Life can be described as a Tug of War

"A wrestling match... Yes you could describe life that way. So which side wins I ask? He smiled at me, the crinkled eyes, the crooked teeth. Love wins, Love always wins."

I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question? The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different. Romans 7:24-25 MSG

Winning the Tug of War affects us all

With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death. God went for the jugular when he sent his own Son. He didn't deal with the problem as something remote and unimportant. In his Son, Jesus, he personally took on the human condition, entered the disordered mess of struggling humanity in order to set it right once and for all. The law code, weakened as it always was by fractured human nature, could never have done that.

The law always ended up being used as a Band-Aid on sin instead of a deep healing of it. And now what the law code asked for but we couldn't deliver is accomplished as we, instead of redoubling our own efforts, simply embrace what the Spirit is doing in us. Romans 8:1-4

(5) Affects

1. God's solution is correct (winning the war on God's terms)
2. You got power (the power of the Holy Spirit)
3. The Spirit of Jesus is beside YOU (defender, comforter, counsellor)
4. Deep healing is coming (Don't get stuck on band-aids)
5. Pursuit/embrace the Spirit in YOU (focusing on self is the opposite)

Talk It Over

Getting ready for what's NEXT

Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God's action in them find that God's Spirit is in them—living and breathing God! Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. And God isn't pleased at being ignored. Romans 8: 5-8 MSG

Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed. Ecclesiastes 8:1 KJV

I wait quietly before God, for my victory comes from him. Psalm 62:1

Winning At Life Is A Tug Of War