

Sermon Doctrine

Spiritual warfare is the believer's battle to submit to Christ, mortify the flesh, and stand in His finished victory—declaring His lordship in a world enslaved by sin and deception.

Key Text – Ephesians 6:12-13

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.”

The battle is spiritual, invisible—but its effects are visible in institutions, ideologies, and temptations. This is not a war against people, but for people who are enslaved by lies.

Who Is At War? Two Kingdoms

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son. Col 1:13

Kingdom of Light: the kingdom of God

ruled by Jesus Christ the King; operates through love, hope, and faith, entered through faith in Jesus.

Kingdom of Darkness: ruled by Satan; operates through deceit, fear, and rebellion. All people are born as sinners here, doing the will of Satan. The focus is self worship, “you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Who is at war?



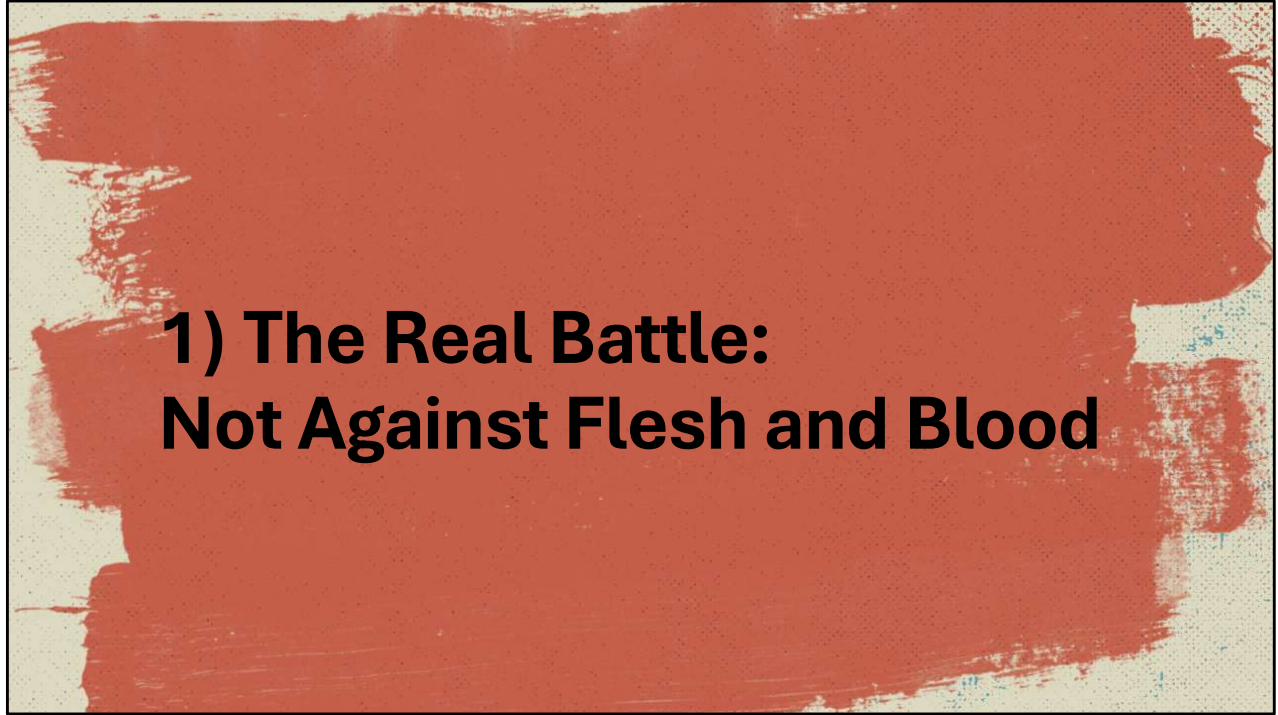
The Battlefields: Internal External

Brothers and sisters, spiritual warfare is not merely the realm of exorcisms, outward battles, or confrontations with evil spirits—it begins much closer to home. The true battlefields are twofold:

The internal battlefield – the war within your own heart: against sin, pride, fear, and unbelief.

The external battlefield – the witness of Christ through us in a world hostile to God: the cultural strongholds, false ideologies, and systems set up by Satan to blind the minds of unbelievers.

The aim of this sermon is not to stir up emotion but to equip the saints for the real battle. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal—they are divine, powerful, and already anchored in the victory of Jesus Christ.



Paul opens our eyes: your enemy is not your spouse, not your boss, not that politician, and not the person on the internet. Behind the visible conflict, there is a spiritual reality. There are rulers, forces, and powers that shape entire systems to deceive and enslave souls. Satan manipulates culture, entertainment, education, and government to drive people away from the knowledge of God.

Matthew 16:21-24 – Jesus & Peter

21 From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, *and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.* 22 Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, **“God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You.”** 23 But He turned and said to Peter, **“Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”** 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, **“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.”**

Here we see Jesus present the gospel, that he would suffer many things from the religious leaders, be killed, and resurrected. This must happen. Yet Peter, in his passion and love for Jesus, rebukes Him.

“God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You” – here Peter thinks he can defend Jesus, defend the new Messiah, and be strong and courageous enough to battle anything that comes along. But he is seeing it wrong.

PETER HAS HIS MIND SET ON HIS FLESH, and not in the SPIRIT. The battle is one of FAITH, not of strength to fight off PEOPLE from the faith, defending the faith with a sword.

Jesus rebukes Peter!

DENY HIMSELF – TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME

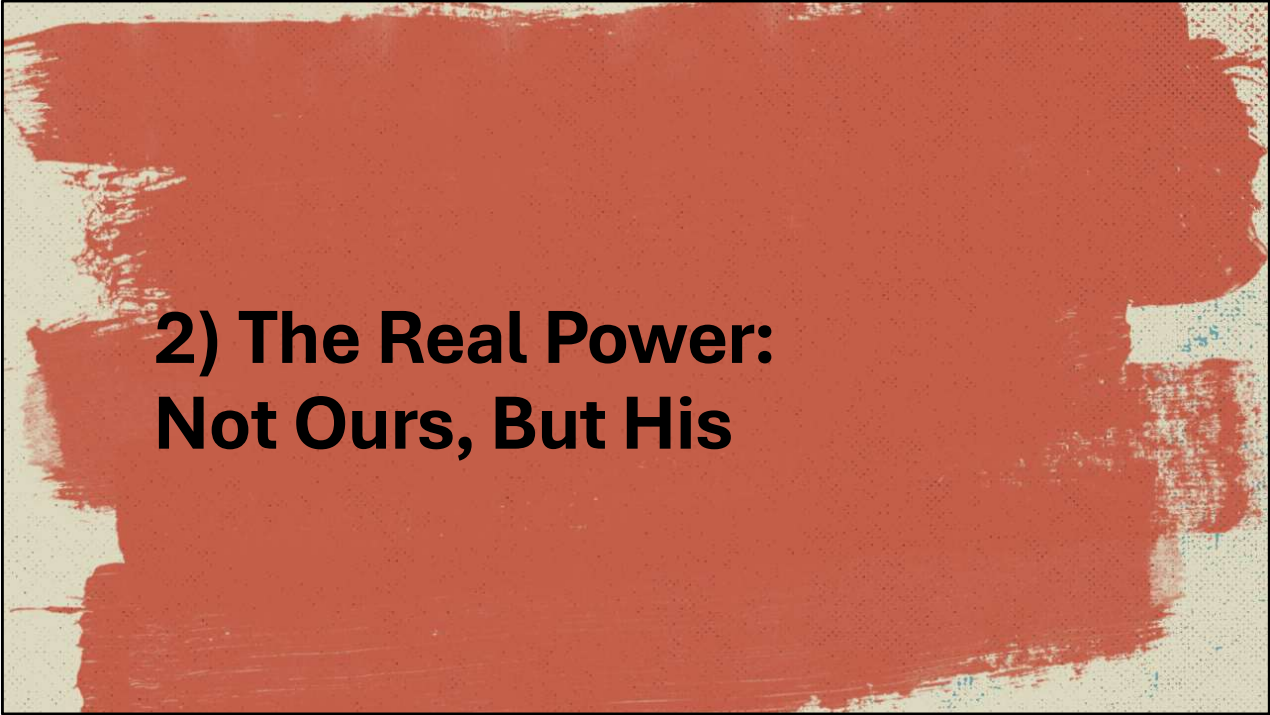
HERE IT IS – the call to die to self and your own ways, and follow Jesus.

The conflict is WITH OUR FLESH, our OLD NATURE, OUR WILL, OUR WAYS.

JESUS CALLS US TO DIE TO THAT!

We must learn to identify the source of conflict. Is it flesh? Or is it a principality working through culture, ideology, or temptation? Our battle is not personal—it's eternal.

WHEN WE EACH COME UNDER THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS – THE PRINCIPALITIES OF THE WORLD WILL END. JESUS HAS DEFATED SATAN – BUT WE EXPERIENCE THIS AS EACH PERSON COMES TO CHRIST!



2) The Real Power: Not Ours, But His

The weapons of God are not bullets and debates. They are truth, righteousness, prayer, humility, Scripture, and the power of the Holy Spirit. This is *apologetics for the soul*—not merely winning arguments but tearing down pride, false religion, and self-righteousness.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage battle according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are **destroying arguments** and **all arrogance** raised against **the knowledge of God**, and we are taking every thought captive to the **obedience of Christ.**”

The battlefield is the mind—ours and others’. This is where strongholds take root: pride, unbelief, deception, false religion, self-righteousness. We do not fight with human strength—our power is truth in love, prayer, and the Word.

THE FORTRESS IS THE HARD HEART – THE WALLS PEOPLE PUT UP TO KEEP THEM SAFE – BUT REALLY THESE ARE THEIR OWN PRISONS!

Illustration – How did Jesus defeat Satan in the wilderness? “IT IS WRITTEN!”
(Matthew 4:1-11)

John 8:31-32 – If you remain my disciple and IN MY WORD – you will know the TRUTH and the TRUTH will set you free!

You cannot use carnal tools (anger, mockery, self-effort) to defeat spiritual forces. This war is won with the Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17), not with sarcasm, memes, or muscle.

It is all good to take a stand against the enemy of Heaven – to battle on the front lines – but it starts with our heart and mind.

Not that we've chosen a good moral standard – but that the Word of God has so transformed our hearts, that our FRUIT is one of living in a way that destroys all arguments and arrogance and we are quick to give a testimony to the knowledge of God and His power to save and set free.

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3) The Real Enemy: Sin and the Flesh

The Battlefield – The Two Natures

Romans 7:14-25 – The Flesh

Romans 8:1-13 – The Spirit

Romans 7:22-23

“For I joyfully agree with the law of God in the inner person, but I see a different law in the parts of my body waging war against the law of my mind, and **making me a prisoner of the law of sin, the law which is in my body’s parts.**”

The greatest battlefield is within. Our biggest enemy is not a politician, ideology, or celebrity. It is our own flesh. Paul himself said, “Who will set me free?” (Rom. 7:24). The answer is Christ alone.

Paul shows us that the fiercest war rages within. The battlefield of the soul is where victory or defeat is experienced daily.

Illustration: David’s greatest downfall wasn’t Goliath—it was his own lust (2 Samuel 11). His sin led to a cascading collapse. The battlefield of the flesh must be fought in humility.

We are not to be like David fighting Goliath – that is a trap of works and self righteousness.

JESUS IS OUR DAVID! HE HAS DEFEATED GOLIATH!!!! The work is of faith in Jesus in our lives, and recognizing sin and our flesh is our first battle to bring to Jesus to obtain His victory.

Application: We must fight to mortify sin (Rom. 8:13),

Romans 8:13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

not just condemn it in others. Take the log out of your own eye so you may see clearly (Matt. 7:5).

Matthew 7:5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Romans 8:1-2

“Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus. **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.**”

But thanks be to God—in Christ, we are not condemned. There is victory over sin by the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS

“Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus. **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.**”



4) The Real Victory: Christ Has Won

The cross was a spiritual act of warfare, and a victory over ALL OF CREATION. Christ did not just die for you—He disarmed the powers that enslaved you!

The enemy is already defeated. We stand on a finished battlefield.

Colossians 2:13-15

When you were dead in your wrongdoings and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He made you alive together with Him**, having forgiven us all our wrongdoings, having canceled the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.**

This is not a future hope—it's a past triumph. Christ has disarmed the enemy. The power of Satan lies in sin and accusation (Rev. 12:10)—but the cross nullified both.

The victor was Jesus. Jesus has already defeated the rulers and authorities. His resurrection has made a public display against their authority! God triumphed over the rulers and authorities THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

AGAIN – I'll mention

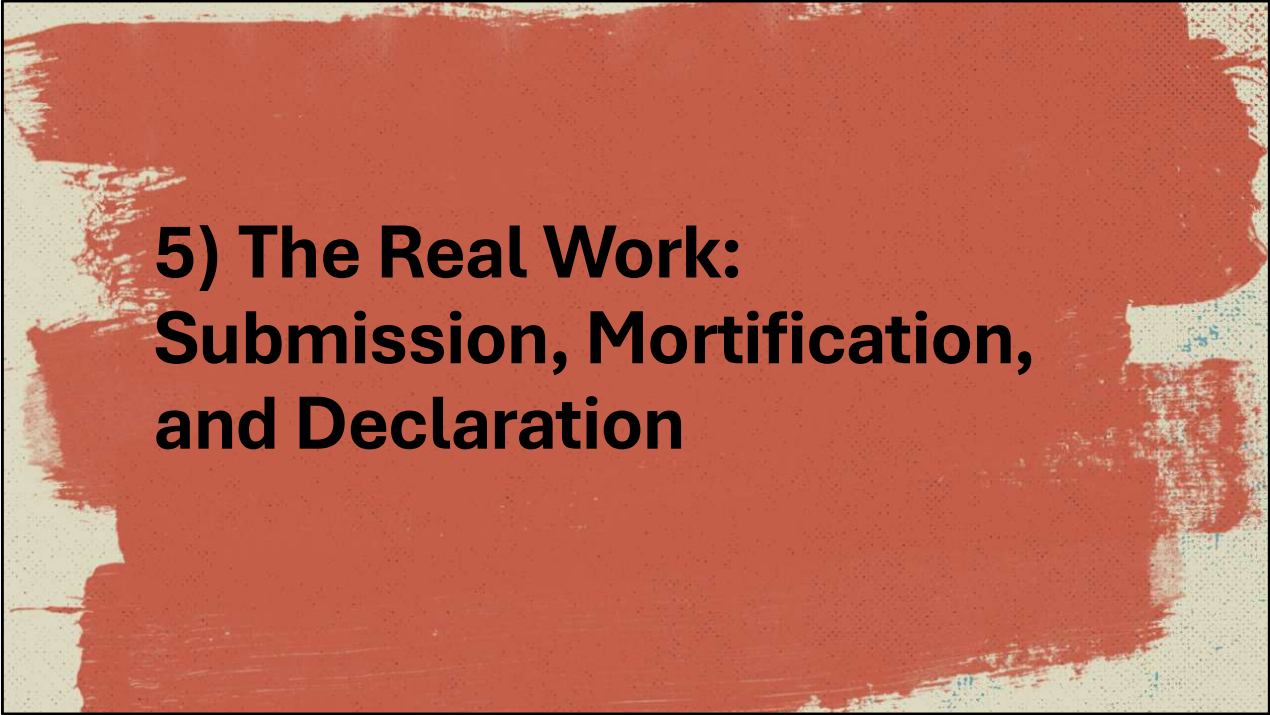
1 Corinthians 6:11 — “Such were some of you; but you were washed...” Our sins were real. But they are past tense. We are not striving for freedom—we are growing into what Christ has accomplished.

Let's take a look at Psalm 2

John 19:30

Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, **“It is finished!”** And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

When you witness or battle temptation or sins, you don't fight for victory. You stand in His VICTORY. "It is finished" is the foundation of all spiritual warfare.



5) The Real Work: Submission, Mortification, and Declaration

Our part in this warfare is not to strive in the flesh, but to mortify sin by the Spirit, and to believe and proclaim Christ. This is not passive faith—it's faith that fights by surrender.

John OWEN Quote, "Be killing sin, or it will be killing you,"

READ FROM THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS – PAGE 84

Romans 8:13

...if you are living in accord with the flesh, you are going to die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

John 6:29

This is the work of God, *that you believe* in Him whom He has sent.

Our “labor” is to believe, submit, and obey. Our warfare starts by dying to self. Then we boldly proclaim Christ’s Lordship to the world.

Gideon was called “mighty warrior” while hiding in fear (Judges 6). But when he obeyed God in weakness, God defeated the Midianites through 300 men. Not by might, but by God’s Spirit (cf. Zech. 4:6).

This is our work – to believe and continually stay HUMBLE, HUNGRY FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS – AND TEACHABLE – able to receive the Word of God and allowing it to transform us.

Hungry, Humble, Teachable is a difficult thing for the flesh to do! But the VICTORY has been one. DO YOU BELIEVE? Will you ENTER INTO Jesus? Will we die to ourself and let God do the work of giving us Faith in Jesus.

All the trials, all the tribulations – Jesus is interceding to the Father – asking the Father to orchestrate our lives in such a way that WE WOULD BELIEVE IN JESUS!

They HURT – but Victory begins in private surrender before it becomes public witness. The “battlefield” of your flesh must be dealt with before you wield truth in the world.

GOD CORRECTS THOSE HE LOVES! Otherwise we are illegitimate children.



6) The Real Mission: Ambassadors of Reconciliation

Though the world rages against God, we stand not as combatants, but as ambassadors. Our battle is not to crush but to call to repentance. We warn in love and plead with sinners to be reconciled.

The HOLY SPIRIT does the work! The Holy Spirit comes to CONVICT OF SIN, OF JUDGEMENT, AND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though **God were making an appeal through us**; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might **become the righteousness of God in Him.**”

We are not fighting people; we are pleading with them. The nations rage against God—but we stand for the nations as Christ’s ambassadors.

Steven, the first martyr, was stoned for telling the truth (Acts 7)—but he did so with love and truth. His last words were a prayer of forgiveness, echoing Christ. And of course we see in the end of Acts 7 that Saul, who would later become Paul, would witness this great act of faith. It would be a seed that would eventually grow in his field.

Listen, we can attack evil culture and pound our chests against the evil that is around, exposing it. Okay, sure.... But if that is the end goal, to just condemn it, then it’s just pride. — God has already condemned the world!

If we do so without the heart of reconciliation, we are just loud clangy cymbals.

We MUST testify to a better Kingdom! Any standing up against an evil culture must be met with the spirit of reconciliation.

We need to Speak the truth, but do so from love, holiness, and humility—with clean hands and a pure heart

Psalm 24:3-4

Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?

And who may stand in His holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood

And has not sworn deceitfully.



7) The Real Hope: Jesus Reigns – The War is Won

The battle may be fierce, but the outcome is certain. Jesus is reigning. His Kingdom has come, is coming, and will fully come. Satan's time is short.

Revelation 11:15

Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.'

Romans 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

This is the eschatological promise—Christ's dominion is total. Though Satan's influence still lingers, it is a dying empire.

We are not losing—we are conquering through Christ

(Rom. 8:37)

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

Daniel 2 – Daniel is given knowledge from God to interpret a dream for King Nebuchadnezzar

19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven; 20 Daniel said,

“Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever,
For wisdom and power belong to Him.

21 “It is He who changes the times and the epochs;
He removes kings and establishes kings;
He gives wisdom to wise men

And knowledge to men of understanding.

22 "It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things;
He knows what is in the darkness,
And the light dwells with Him.

23 "To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise,
For You have given me wisdom and power;
Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You,
For You have made known to us the king's matter."

He goes on to explain the dream, the statute, and what it means.

Verses 44-45

44 In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. 45 Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.

In verse 47 - The king answered Daniel and said, "Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery."

A stone, not cut by human hands, smashes all the world's kingdoms and becomes a mountain that fills the earth. This is the Kingdom of Christ, advancing through the Gospel.

Psalm 2 - Kingdom of Darkness

The kings of the earth take their stand
And the rulers take counsel together
Against the Lord and against His Anointed,
saying,
“Let us tear their fetters apart
And cast away their cords from us!”

From the time of Nebuchadnezzar, to Psalm 2..

This is what is going on in THIS WORLD, RIGHT NOW!

But JESUS is conquering each thing in EACH PERSON'S heart that rises up against God. Jesus is coming to pay for our sins, to buy us, and He shall be our master. We shall have cords binding us to Him.

Psalm 2 - Kingdom of God

He who sits in the heavens laughs,
The Lord scoffs at them.
Then He will speak to them in His anger
And terrify them in His fury, saying,
“But as for Me, I have installed My King
Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”

Psalm 2 - Kingdom of God

Now therefore, O kings, show discernment;
Take warning, O judges of the earth.
Worship the Lord with reverence
And rejoice with trembling.
Do homage to the Son, that He not become
angry, and you perish in the way,
For His wrath may soon be kindled.
How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

This is about TAKING REFUGE IN HIM! IN THE SPIRIT OF JESUS! HE IS OUR VICTORY!
JESUS HAS WON!

Ephesians 2:1-10

2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked **according to the course of this world**, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Ephesians 2:1-10

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us **with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**

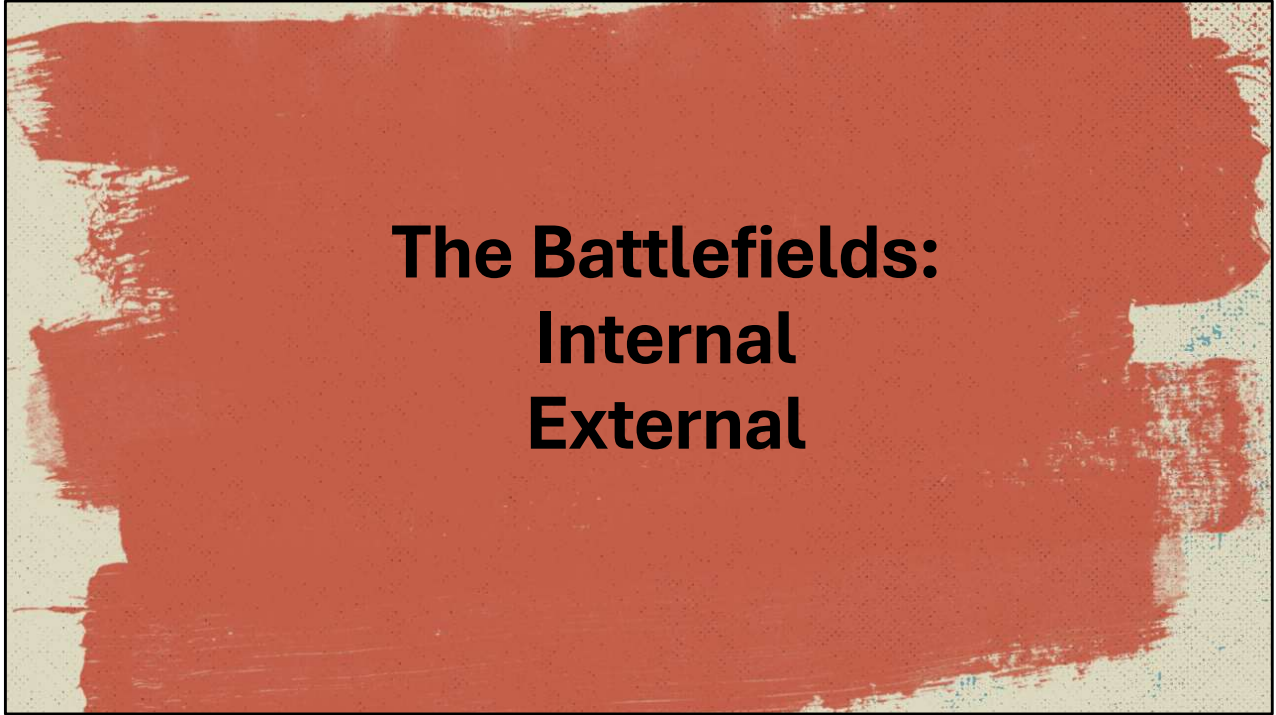
Ephesians 2:1-10

7 so that in the ages to come He might show the **surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.** 8 For by grace you have been saved **through faith;** and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For **we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Ephesians 3:8-10

8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to **preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ**, 9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; 10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known **through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.** 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out **in Christ Jesus our Lord**, 12 **in whom** we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

WORSHIP TEAM COME UP



INTERNAL – JESUS! (Discipleship / Sanctification)

EXTERNAL – JESUS! (Evangelism / Discipleship)

The battle is real. But so is the victory.

- Are you **fighting in your own strength**? Lay it down.
- Are you **blinded by sin**? Turn to Christ—He’s already overcome.
- Are you burdened by what you see in the world? Fight back—not with rage, but with truth and love.

Submit to Christ. Be made clean. Stand in holiness. Declare His Lordship. Call others to repentance and hope.

The battlefields are before you—within and without. But the King has already won.

Now, stand firm. THE VICTORY IS IN JESUS – IN JESUS – IN JESUS!

Let’s sing VICTORY IN JESUS!

Ephesians 3:14-21

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer