

STUDY GUIDE - Better Together Wk3

Key Scriptures: "No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier." 2 Timothy 2:4-5

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"

James 4:7-8 "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing"

Start Talking:

Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. Discuss some of the strongholds that can be pulled down by our mighty weapons. Specifically, what are our weapons?

Pastor Bobby said, "Pastors who compete, deplete their vision. They're miserable." Besides against the devil, is there a place for competition within Christianity? Yet, why do many Christians continually compete against each other?

Pastor Bobby said, "Church is not golf. It's baseball. When one wins, we all win." What drives isolation between churches?

Re-read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. Think about today's culture. What are some of the arguments, reasonings, theories and proud things that set themselves up against the true knowledge of God? Be specific. Are they becoming more emboldened and visible?

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Start Thinking

When Peter contradicted Jesus, Jesus didn't even speak to him. He said, "Get thee behind me Satan." Have you ever shot arrows of anger at someone who loves you but was unintentionally doing the work of Satan - spouse, child, or friend? Where does personal responsibility stop and being influenced by Satan begin? After all, God punished Adam and Eve after Eve was influenced by the devil. Discuss.

Why is it difficult for many Christians to identify that, when we oppose each other, that this is a ploy from the devil? Is it sometimes difficult to remember that we are at war against an invisible enemy, so we blame a visible one? Discuss.

Start Sharing:

Do you think that competition within the churches has helped the cause and witness of Christ more than harmed it? Share.

Are there some philosophies in today's world that you are tempted to embrace, although they are contrary to God's Word? What are they? Have you observed some Christians defending ideas that are not from God?

In what ways are Christians being thrown into the lions' den today? How are certain practices of our culture being intolerant towards Christians?

Start Praying:

"Lord, open our eyes to see who the real enemy is, and to resist having any camaraderie with him. Wake us up to the fact that this life is not supposed to be paradise, but it is a war zone. And encourage us by the truth that we have already won, and are more than conquerors."

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Start Doing:

How helpful is it to remember that when we pray, the angels go to war for us?

James 4:7-8 tells us to "resist the devil." In what practical ways can we resist the devil?

Pastor Bobby said, "We want people to come as they are, but not stay the way they are." How easy it to tell if someone is just being encouraged to stay in church the way they are, not feeling the need to experience real change?