



The Struggle is Real, but so is the Victory

Personal or group-based guide for additional study

Opening Question:

Share a time when you struggled with something but eventually overcame it. How did that experience shape you?

Key Takeaways:

1. The struggle with sin is real for all believers, even mature Christians like Paul.
2. Victory over sin requires the right spirit (Holy Spirit) and the right understanding.
3. We cannot overcome sin through our own willpower or flesh; we need God's help.
4. The struggle with sin will persist until we receive our new bodies in heaven.
5. Jesus is our rescuer and deliverer, providing the means for victory.

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor mentions that the struggle is not always with external forces, but often with ourselves. How have you experienced this internal struggle in your own life?
2. Paul describes feeling conflicted between what he wants to do and what he actually does (Romans 7:15-20). Can you relate to this? Share examples.
3. How does understanding that the struggle with sin is normal for believers impact your perspective on your own spiritual journey?
4. The sermon emphasizes the importance of relying on the Holy Spirit rather than our own strength. What practical steps can we take to "walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16) in our daily lives?
5. Discuss the difference between trying to overcome sin through willpower versus relying on God's power. How have you seen this play out in your own experiences?



6. The pastor mentions that some teachings claim Christians shouldn't struggle or suffer. How might this belief be harmful? How does a biblical understanding of struggle differ?

7. How does the hope of a future without struggle (in our new bodies) encourage you in your current battles with sin?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, practice identifying moments when you're relying on your own strength versus God's power. Journal about these experiences.
2. Choose one area of struggle in your life. Develop a plan to address it that incorporates prayer, Scripture, and accountability with other believers.
3. Memorize Galatians 5:16 ("Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh") as a reminder of how to approach your daily struggles.
4. Take time each day to consciously invite the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, words, and actions.
5. Share your struggles with a trusted Christian friend or mentor, and pray together for God's strength and wisdom.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His provision of the Holy Spirit and the victory we have in Christ. Ask for His help in walking by the Spirit and overcoming our daily struggles with sin.