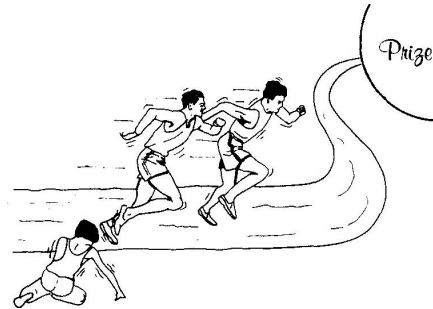


CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 7

LIVING IN VICTORY

The Bible tells us the Christian life is like running a race. There are many that run in a race, but only one receives the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 tells us to fight to win in the Christian life. When we say a person wins we can say he gets the victory. He defeats those who run against him. We see this in dog-team races or canoe races. We see it in weight-lifting. We see it in fighting. Whoever is able to do better than the other person wins the victory. Paul said,



"I have fought a good fight, I have finished the work I was to do. I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:7 (N.L.T.).

Paul won the victory. Many new Christians soon get discouraged because they think the Christian life is like a nice soft bed to lie upon. They think that all they have to do is to wait for heaven. When we trust Christ as our Saviour, we are saved from going to hell. We have also started a new life. In this new life there is suffering.

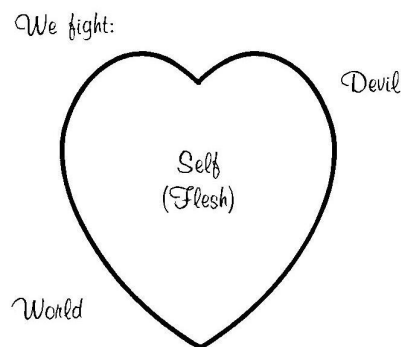
What kind of life does Philippians 1:29,30 say we have?

The Christian life that wins is a life that lives close to God. This new life is able to overcome sin and the devil by the power of Christ.

1. WHAT WE FIGHT

A. We fight the flesh.

We must remember our old self life wants us to sin. This self life is called "the flesh" in the Bible. The new life we receive from God wants us to be like the Lord Jesus Christ. We have two desires within us. One desire is to keep on sinning. The other desire is to be like Christ. So we see that we have a fight right inside of us. An old Indian chief once said, "We have two dogs in us. A white dog and a black dog. They want to fight each other." See Romans 7:14-25.



What do we fight?

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- The world.
- The devil.

B. We fight the world.

What happens in the new life? Philippians 1:29

Revelation 1:5,6 tells us the Lord Jesus will some day be Ruler of the whole world. There are some people who will help Him rule.

If we are to rule with Christ, what must we expect to happen to us? 2 Timothy 2:11,12

If the world hated Christ and made it hard for Him, what will the world do to us? John 15:20,21

In the new life we suffer for Christ. The world hates us and makes it hard for us like it did for Christ.

What do we fight?

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- The devil.

C. We fight the devil.

The devil did not want us to come to God in the first place. So he is working hard to take us away from God.

What is the devil like? 1 Peter 5:8

What do we fight?

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2. WHY WE FIGHT

We fight to

- win the victory and
- to receive a reward.

A. We fight for victory.

- We fight "the flesh" so it cannot rule our life.

What does the flesh do? 1 Peter 2:11

We fight against sin so that we may be more like Christ.

Read Ephesians 4:20-24.

What should we put away?

What should we put on?

When we put the old self away and put the new man on, we will have the victory over the flesh.

- We fight the world because the love of the world will take the place of the love of God in our life, 1 John 2:15-17.

We fight the world because _____ , _____ , _____ ,

and _____ come from the world.

What will happen to the world and its desires?

Why do we fight the world?

- We fight the devil because we belong to God. The devil is no longer our boss.

When we give ourselves to God and resist the devil, what will the devil do? James 4:7

Why do we fight the devil?

We fight the flesh because it does not rule us. We fight the world because the love of the world overcomes the love of God. We fight the devil because we belong to God and God rules us. We fight to win the victory.

B. We fight for a reward.

We fight to get a reward.

What shall we receive if we endure temptation? James 1:12

What does 2 Timothy 4:7,8 tell us that we Christians will receive?

What is another great promise God has given us? 2 Peter 3:13,14

If we endure tests we will receive a crown of life, and the crown of righteousness and will see the new heaven and new earth.

Why do we fight?

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3. HOW WE CAN FIGHT

Many times people are afraid to become Christians because they think they will not be able to stop sinning.

How can we keep from sinning? 2 Corinthians 2:14

We have everything we need to live a victorious life. There are seven things which we can use as we fight against the devil. These are: 1) God's help, 2) prayer, 3) our new life, 4) the Word of God, 5) to stay away from the things of the world, 6) God's weapons, and 7) the power of Christ.

A. We fight with God's help.

It is true, no person is strong enough to win victories over sin or over the devil. Someone must help us.

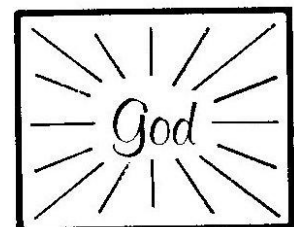
Who sets us free from sin? Romans 8:2

Who keeps us from the evil one? 2 Thessalonians 3:3

The Spirit of life, that is, the Holy Spirit has set us free from the power of sin and death. The Lord keeps us from the evil one.

B. We fight with prayer.

Prayer is one of the strongest things we have to fight with. It gives us the power we need to say "no" to temptation.



Prayer

What does Matthew 26:41 say?

Read Colossians 4:12. Epaphras prayed for others. What did he pray for in this verse?

Can this help you in your fight against sin?

We need to pray that we will not give in to temptation. Prayer will make us strong.

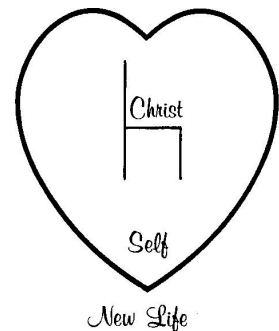
What can we use to fight against the devil?

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C. We fight with our new life.

Read Romans 6:1-10. If we can learn these truths and really believe them, we can have victory over "the flesh".

What can we know when we trust Christ as our Saviour? Romans 6:6



We remind ourselves of this every day. How should we think of ourselves? Romans 6:11

When we have a desire to do something sinful, we are to tell ourselves, "I am dead to the power of sin. I am now living for Christ", Galatians 2:20. We must believe that Jesus broke the power of sin when He died, Romans 6:10,11. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to really understand this.

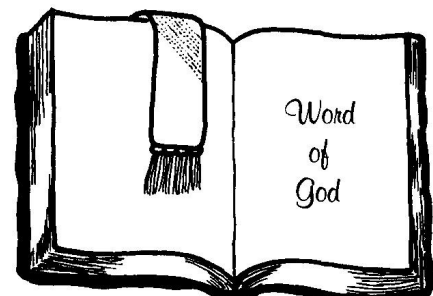
What can we use to fight against the devil?

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D. We fight with the Word of God.

We have something else that we can use to overcome sin in our life.

What is it? Psalm 119:9



In what way are we to use this? Psalm 119:11

What will it help us to do? Psalm 119:11 (Memorize it).

It is very important to memorize the Word of God. It is very important to think much about the Word of God and to obey it. When we know the Word of God well, we can use it against temptation.

E. We fight by staying away from the world.

The best way to fight the world is to stay away from it.

What should we not love? 1 John 2:15

What comes from the world? 1 John 2:16

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What should we resist or reject? Titus 2:12

We are looking for the coming again of Jesus Christ, Titus 2:13. To be ready for Him, we want to have a holy life. We are not interested in the pleasures of this world.

What can we use to fight against the devil?

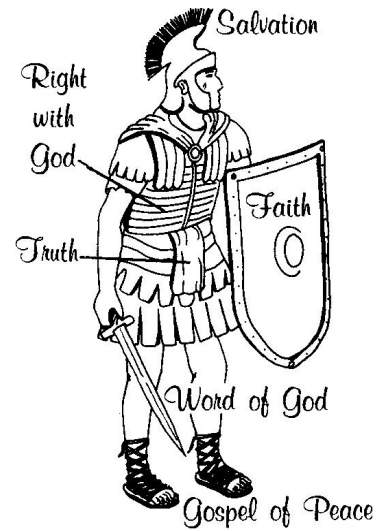
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F. We fight with God's weapons.

When a soldier goes to battle, he is given certain weapons to fight with. It is good for us to know that we have all the power of heaven to help us fight the devil, Matthew 28:18-20. The Christian is also given weapons to fight with.

What are these weapons? Ephesians 6:10-17

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Tell how each of these weapons can be used to fight the devil.

- Truth -
- Right with God -
- Gospel of peace -
- Faith -
- Salvation -
- Word of God -

G. We fight with the power of Jesus Christ.

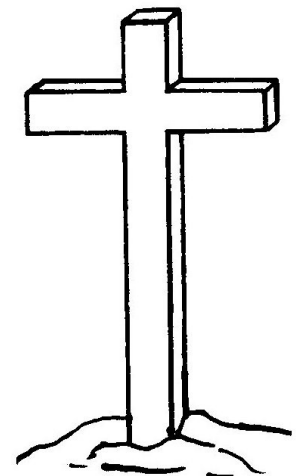
The devil will try to scare us. He wants us to think that he is strong enough to take us away from God. Nothing is stronger than God's love.

What can separate us from the love of God? Romans 8:34-39

Always remember, the devil lost the fight at the cross of Christ, Hebrews 2:14. The devil can have no victories over us as long as we live close to the Lord, James 4:7.

When the devil makes it hard for us, what does God promise us? Isaiah 41:10,13

What is the wonderful promise we have in Romans 8:37



What promise do we have in verse 39?

When the devil troubles us, God has promised to help us, give us strength and to hold us firm.

What can we use to fight against the devil?

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MEMORY VERSE

Memorize: Romans 8:37.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1. What do we fight?

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2. Why do we fight?

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3. What can we use to fight against the devil?

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WORDS TO LEARN

1. defeat - to overcome; to win; to get the better of someone or something.
2. reward - something given in return for good work or doing good; a prize.
3. truth - that which is true; right in every way.
4. victory - to win a race or game; to defeat or overcome an enemy; to overcome some hard thing.
5. weapon - something to fight with.

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