

## WEEK EIGHT

# THE FIGHT

*For our struggle is not against  
flesh and blood...  
Ephesians 6:11*

For the next week you will be studying about the spiritual battle you are engaged in and how to have victory over sin. Every person must fight the sinful desires that war against our souls (1 Peter 2:11). But God has given plans and power to ensure our victory.

### Day 50-Treating Sin Seriously \_\_\_\_\_

1. Read the following passages looking for God's thinking about sin: Matthew 5:29-30 and 18:6-7. What would you say is the first step in the fight against sin?
2. What does God feel about religion where sin is not treated seriously? Read Jeremiah 6:13-15.
3. Turn to Psalm 36:1-2. What is the problem with the man being described here? What attitude does he really need to have toward his sin? Also read Psalm 66:18.
4. Why do you think it is unlikely that you will ever have much victory over a particular sin in your life until you hate that sin?
5. Write down some sins that you have struggles with, and then write down why those sins need to be despised and hated. Write down the effects they have on you, others and God's plans.

### Day 51 - The Power of Repentance \_\_\_\_\_

1. Read 2 Corinthians 7:8-12. Paul describes here what happens when people take their sin seriously and have godly sorrow that leads to repentance.

2. What would be the difference in godly and worldly sorrow? Why does godly sorrow have such power and bring such results?
3. Using the diagram below, write down a sin that you struggle with and the ways godly sorrow will lead you to demonstrate the attitudes that Paul describes.
4. Retain this diagram and use it to help you make changes as you see other sins that need to be dealt with.

### GOD'S STEPS TO FREEDOM

(2 Corinthians 7:10-11)	<b>How To Change</b>
<b>Repentance Steps</b>	<b>Specific Steps</b>
Specific Sin	Example: <i>Fits of rage. Galatians 5:19-20</i>
Earnestness (Sincerity)	<i>I really intend to change and overcome. No excuses.</i>
Eagerness to Clear Yourself	<i>I will tell my closest friends and my family about my sin and my decision.</i>
Indignation (Towards your sin)	<i>I don't like it when I lose control. I hate my anger.</i>
Alarm (Urgency)	<i>I must stop now. I cannot let this get any further.</i>
Longing (Desire to be right with God)	<i>James 1. I want my relationship with God to be right.</i>
Concern (For those you have hurt)	<i>My anger scares my wife and my children, my friends and alienates my friends at work.</i>
Readiness to see justice done	<i>I will give up whatever I need to in order to permanently change.</i>

### Day 52-The Power of the Word \_\_\_\_\_

1. What role does the Word of God play in our fight against sin? Read Psalm 119:9-11, Matthew 4:1-11, John 8:31-34.
2. What attitude must one have toward God's Word in order to use it for victory over sin?
3. Look back at sins you listed in #5 on Day 50 and write down passages of Scripture that can help guard you against those sins. If you can't find what you need, ask someone for help.

### Day 53-The Power of Prayer \_\_\_\_\_

1. What role does prayer play in the fight against sin? Read Matthew 7:7-11, Ephesians 6:10-18 (esp. v. 18), Hebrews 4:14-16.
2. As you pray about sin you are wanting to defeat in your life, what thoughts do you need to have about God? See the above verses and Romans 8:31-32, 1 John 2:1-2 and 3:1-3.
3. What does Jesus' example teach us about the kinds of prayers we may have to pray to win victory in our lives? Mark 1:35 and Hebrews 5:7-10.
4. In what ways have you been praying about sin you want to overcome? Who have you asked to pray for you?

### Day 54 – The Power of Relationships \_\_\_\_\_

1. What role does the Bible teach that we are to play in helping each other to live righteously and stay out of sin? Read Galatians 6:1-2, Colossians 1:28-29, 4:12, Hebrews 3:12-13, James 5:16.
2. List at least three ways that you need your brothers or sisters to help you guard your heart and your life from sin.
3. What does it say about us if we don't want help in overcoming sin, but only want to work on it by ourselves?
4. If there is some struggle with sin that you have not shared with another disciple, make a decision to do that today.

## **Day55 - NoTemptationToo Great**\_\_\_\_\_

1. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. List the three promises God gives to us about overcoming sin in our lives. Why should it be such an encouragement to us to know that whatever temptation we face, it is common to man? Is there any temptation in your life that you have been reluctant to share with another Christian because you were afraid no one would understand?
2. You can see from this passage that we are not alone in our battle against sin. If you really believe that God has victory over Satan, you must not doubt the assurance of your victory over sin with God's help.
3. Read James 4:7-10. How would you describe the attitude that we are called to have here? What are some ways that you can practically come near to God?
4. How can you practically resist the devil when you face the temptation to:
  - a.) deceive?
  - b.) lust?
  - c.) have resentment?
  - d.) selfishly indulge?
  - e.) not care?
  - f.) speak unwholesomely?

## **Day56 – Never Give Up**\_\_\_\_\_

1. In the struggle against sin why do you think we might be tempted to give up?
2. Why is it worth it to never give up? Study Romans 6:15-16; 8:18; 1 Corinthians 15:56; Galatians 6:7-10; 2 Timothy 4:7-8.
3. Read James 1:12. What do you think it means to persevere under trial? How do you know if you have stood the test? Describe some

area in which you need to practice perseverance. Why will this challenge require perseverance?

4. Write down why you will never give up the fight against sin no matter how challenging it might become.
5. What decisions did you make this week about dealing with sin?