

The Battles Worth Fighting

“For The Win” Series – Part 03

Connect: If you were ruler of your own country what would be the first law you would introduce?

Hook: R.C. Horner was a Methodist minister in Canada during the late 19th century. He was part of the Pentecostal, holiness movement in that denomination and was known for his bold and demonstrative sermons. One evening, Rev. Horner was enthusiastically preaching at a revival meeting when his tie became wrapped around his hand. He concluded that the devil was trying to bind him in his preaching. So he tore off his tie, threw it on the ground, stomped on it, and said that ties were from the devil. From then on he taught that Christians ought never to wear ties, because they bound them in their Christian lives. Others disagreed, which led to quarrels, which led to division. Today in Canada, there is still a tieless sect of this group called the “Hornerites.”

It has been suggested that our nation today is experiencing great divisions (in race, politics, economics, etc.). The Old and the New Testament remind us that divisions and strife have been around since man left the Garden of Eden. It's in our fallen nature!

Pastor Brandon, in his third message in the “For the Win” series, stressed the following truth: *“God has given you everything you need for the battle, but you must decide each and every day to suit up with truth, faith, and righteousness!”* He speaks of a spiritual battle and God has equipped us for victory (the “Armor of God” found in Ephesians 6). Today in our lesson, we are going to address potential battles that occur in our RELATIONSHIPS and how we can find victory.

Book: James 4:1-12

Jas 4:1 What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you?

Jas 4:2 You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.

Jas 4:3 And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

Jas 4:4 You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.

Jas 4:5 What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the spirit God has placed within us is filled with envy?

Jas 4:6 But He gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, “God opposes the proud but favors the humble.”

Jas 4:7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Jas 4:8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

Jas 4:9 Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy.

Jas 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up in honor.

Jas 4:11 Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you.

Jas 4:12 God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?

Look:

In James 4:1, he asks, “*What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you?*” He goes on to say that the source of these relationship battles may have multiple sources! Let’s check them out and see how the amour of God can be applied.

1. The battle with **Self!** Look at James 4:1-3 again.

According to James what is the source of envy and jealousy?

Is it ever wrong to pray for our own desires? How can we know whether our desires line up with God’s desires?

Which part of the amour of God (Eph. 6) would help you to conquer envy and jealousy?

2. The battle with **Worldliness!** Look at James 4:4-5.

How do you define “worldliness”?

What battle with worldliness have you fought and won?

What is your answer to the question that James asked in verse 5?

Which part of the amour of God (Eph. 6) would help you to combat worldliness?

3. The battle with **Satan!** Look at James 4:6-8.

What does God oppose?

Why are we instructed to “resist the devil”? What actions can we take to resist and flee?

As you understand the amour of God, what would you use to resist the devil?

4. The battle to **Judge** others! Refer to James 4:11-12.

James says that when we judge others, we are judging the law of God. What does this mean to you?

Suppose that you try to judge and control your own selfishness, but you interact with a very self-centered person. What should you do?

How would you use the amour of God to prevent the judgment of others?

Took:

What conflict are you currently facing? Is there a way spiritually to deal with this conflict?

Which part of the amour of God have you not used in a while? Will you pick it up and get back into the battle?