

Life & Ministry of Jesus



“Come, Follow Me”

Currently done
virtually – On
Church website



Wednesday Evenings 7:00pm
September 16, 2020 - Ongoing

The Life & Ministry of Jesus

Session 3: The Battle for Your Heart & Soul

What's the Big Deal?

You were made for God. You are a spiritual being. You are being fought over. One side is B-A-D; the other side is GOOD! What is the battle about? Who gets to claim you as theirs! It's the battle for your heart and soul and it is going on right now, right here!

Is the Battle Real? Is Satan, the Enemy, Real?

(1) Jesus Acknowledges the Enemy Exists—that we are in a Spiritual Battle.

“And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being forty days tempted of the devil” (Luke 4:1-2).

“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Your name. And He [Jesus] said unto them, ‘I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you.’” (Luke 10:17-19. See also: Luke 22:31). Jesus even talked about Satan post-ascension! (Acts 26:18)

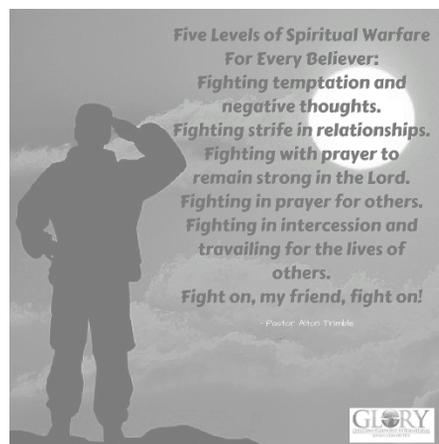
(2) Paul Warns us about our Enemy -- that we have Enemies in the Spiritual Realm.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12)

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ...(2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

(3) The Book of Revelation is all about this Spiritual Conflict! (Rev. 12:7-9).

(4) But...Here's the Rest of the Story...



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- ❑ **The Bible is a Book about God**, not the Enemy.
- ❑ **Satan, the Enemy, is Not our Biggest Problem**. (We face three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the Deceiver) Our primary problem: **We are our biggest issue!!** (Ephesians 2:1-3)
- ❑ **God Reigns, even over the Enemy**. (Col. 2:15).
- ❑ **The Enemy we Face is a Defeated Foe**. (Col. 2:15; Rev. 12:11).
- ❑ **Warfare is the Enemy's Attempt to Deceive and Divide Believers**. (1 Peter 5:8) (The enemy wants us to mess up, give up, get puffed up, split up or shut up.)
- ❑ **We are NOT Meant to be on the Defensive in this Battle**. *We move forward in the Power of the Word of God.* (Ephesians 6:11-20)
- ❑ **The Enemy Battles us because we are God's Witnesses to the World... because we Belong to Him.**
- ❑ **The Offensive Nature of this Battle Demands Evangelism and Discipleship – Intentionally taking the Light into the Darkness.**
- ❑ **One of the Enemy's Subtle Strategies is to Entice us to Operate in Our Own Ability** (1 Samuel 17:47).

**It is the thoughts and intents of the heart
that shape a person's life.**



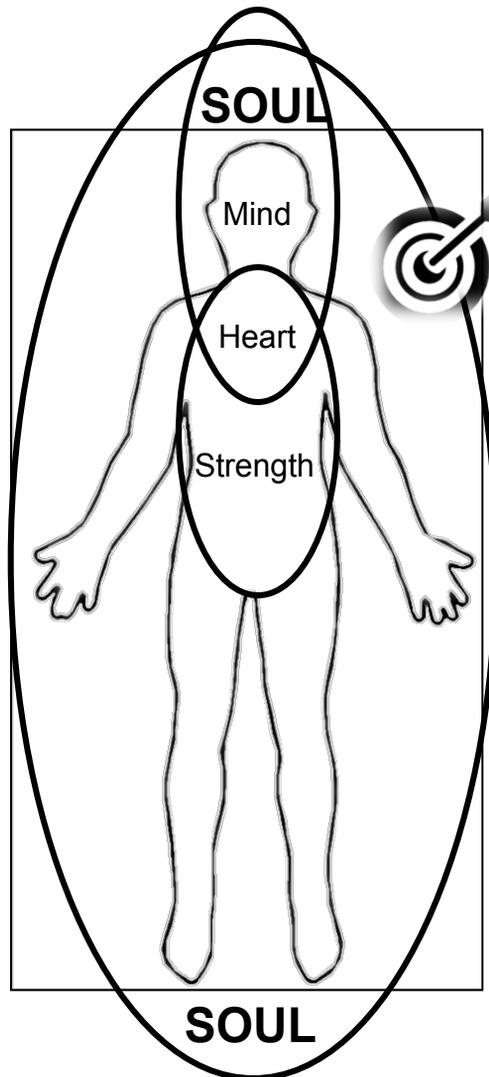
**Whoever or Whatever has Your Heart has
Your Life. It's that Simple!**

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“My heart matters to God. My heart has always mattered to Him...’**Above all else, guard your heart**’ (Prov. 4:23). It doesn’t say guard your heart because it is bad; it **says guard your heart because it is the wellspring of your life, because it is a treasure, because everything else depends on it.”**

“‘Above all else?’ Good grief...most of us don’t even do it once in a while.”
Eldredge



Anatomy of the Soul

Jesus said: “Hear O Israel, the Lord your God is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:29-30)

This is the Real,
Essential You! The
Parts that Matter
Forever!

Your heart and mind are infinitely greater than the organs in your body. They are vital parts of your soul. They determine your inner strength of desire, will and faith.

“The story of your life is the story of the long and brutal assault on your heart by the one who knows what you could be and fears it.”
-John Eldredge

What is one soul worth according to Jesus?
(Matthew 16:26; Mark 8:37)

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"An intimate encounter with Jesus is the most transforming experience of human existence. To know Him as He is, is to come home. To have His life, joy, love, and presence cannot be compared. A true knowledge of Jesus is our greatest need and our greatest happiness." ~ John Eldredge

YOUR HEART IS CENTRAL TO YOUR LIFE!

"It is simply diabolical, despicable, downright evil that the heart should be so misunderstood, maligned, feared, and dismissed. But there is our clue again. The war we are in would explain so great a loss. **This is the last thing the Enemy wants you to know. His plan from the beginning was to assault the heart,** just as the Wicked Witch did to the Tin Woodman. Make them so busy, they ignore the heart. Wound them so deeply, they don't want a heart. Twist their theology, so they despise the heart. Take away their courage. Destroy their creativity. Make intimacy with God impossible for them." ~ John Eldredge

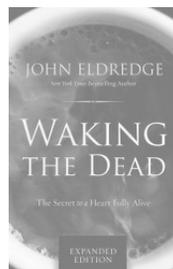
"We must fight for the life God intends for us, which is to say, **we must fight for our heart, for it is the wellspring of that life within us.**" ~ John Eldredge

"To find God, you must look with all **your heart.** To remain present to God, you must remain present to **your heart.** To hear his voice, you must listen with **your heart.** To love him, you must love with all **your heart.** You cannot be the person God meant you to be, and you cannot live the life he meant you to live, unless you live from **the heart.**" ~ John Eldredge

"The true story of every person in this world is not the story you see, the external story. **The true story of each person is the journey of his or her heart.**" ~ John Eldredge

"Most Christians are still living with an Old Testament view of their heart. Jeremiah 17:9 says, **'My heart is deceitfully wicked.'** No, it's not. Not after the work of Christ, because the promise of the new covenant is a new heart." ~ John Eldredge

"**God endowed you with a glory when he created you,** a glory so deep and mythic that all creation pales in comparison." ~ John Eldredge



*Attacks on your Heart
& Soul:*
...The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 1 John 2:16

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Scripture clearly teaches us that the real issues of life are spiritual and are really matters of the heart, the inner man. Maybe it's for this reason the word "heart" is found so many times in the Bible: 863 in the NASB, 963 in the KJV, and 791 in the NIV). The heart is a prominent concept of the Bible

According to the Bible, the heart is the center not only of spiritual activity, but of all the operations of human life. "Heart" and "soul" are used interchangeably (Deuteronomy 6:5; 26:16; Compare Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30 Mark 12:33), but this is not generally the case.

The heart is the "home of the personal life," and hence a man is designated, according to his heart: wise (1 Kings 3:12 , etc.), pure (Psalms 24:4; Matthew 5:8, etc.), upright and righteous (Genesis 20:5; Genesis 20:6; Psalms 11:2; 78:72), pious and good (Luke 8:15), etc. In these and such passages the word "soul" could not be substituted for "heart."

The heart is also the seat of the conscience (Romans 2:15). When indulging in sin (evil) (Genesis 8:21), it contaminates the whole life and character (Matthew 12:34;15:18; Compare Eccl 8:11; Psalms 73:7). Hence the heart must be changed, regenerated (Ezek. 36:26; 11:19; Psalms 51:10-14), before a man can willingly obey God.

Is the condition of my heart my greatest concern? It should be because it is so determinative of every aspect of life. It ultimately determines our love for God and for others. It determines who we are and what we do.

-The Heart Needs Guarding-

(1) We do not naturally think and look at life like God does.

(2) Like sheep, we are prone to wander from God (Isa. 53:6a). We want to live independently to control and direct our own affairs. We want to be in charge of our own destinies.

(3) Unguarded, the heart is not just deceitful, it is more deceitful than all else (Jer. 17:9a). We can't trust it because of its natural selfishness, self-centeredness, and self-protective ways and devices (Ps. 81:12-14; Jer. 17:9; 2:13).

(4) The heart cannot be understood by our own wisdom. Only God can reveal and lay bare our hearts to us (Jer. 17:10; 20:12, Pr. 17:3; Ps. 139:23).

(5) The heart is the wellspring of life; the fountain of attitudes, values, beliefs, aspirations, and pursuits (Pr. 4:23; Jer. 2:13; Jn. 4:13-14; Matt. 13:34; 15:18; 6:21).

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"I was there to shield, I was there to take their buffeting and to answer their charges, and I didn't tell you this at the first because you had Me with you. But I'm going away now. You're going to be on your own. And now they're going to be persecuting you for My sake, because of what you're going to be doing in My name." (Jesus, paraphrased)

Persecution is a Type of Purification for the Church as it Drives Us Back to Christ

Every revival and restoration in the church has been a rediscovery of some aspect of Christ in the process of answering this critical question: "Who Do You Say that I AM?"

In fact, three features are present in every awakening in the history of the Christian church. (1) a rediscovery of the "living Word," or the Scriptures and its authority; (2) a rediscovery of the living Christ and His supremacy; and (3) a rediscovery of the living Spirit and the Spirit's gifts and powers to manifest Christ in the context of that culture.

God has a history of taking seriously people who take the eternal Word seriously. Jesus Himself said that when He is lifted up, He will draw all people to Himself. *Jesus Manifesto* (loc. 223 of 3594 on Kindle reader)

How to Meet Challenges to Your Faith

Take Up the Whole Armor of God:

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can make your stand against the devil's schemes." (Ephesians 6:11)



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Praying the Armor of God

“Put on” the armor with this prayer based on Paul’s exhortation in Ephesians 6:10–18, using God’s Word, the sword of the Spirit, as we struggle, “not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (v. 12)

Equip me, Lord:

- **With the belt of truth** (v. 14). May your truth rule in my heart and be in my mind and on my lips today.
- **With the breastplate of righteousness** (v. 14). Apart from You there is no righteousness, but through Jesus I have been “born again” and made righteous in Your sight. May I live as a righteous person.
- **With feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace** (v. 15). May I reflect the Gospel in my words and actions, that through me, with my every encounter, others may be drawn one step closer to You.
- **With the shield of faith** (v.16). May I take You at Your word concerning promises about the present and future—promises of everlasting love, abundant life, and so much more.
- **With the helmet of salvation** (v. 17). Remind me that nothing can separate me from Your love and that I’ve been saved by grace. In Your grace, help me to say “no” to all ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live a self-controlled, upright, and godly life (Titus 2:12,13).
- **And with the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God** (v. 17). May Your Holy Spirit reign in my life and bring to my mind just the right Bible verses to be in my heart and on my lips. May I be “filled with the Spirit” and ready with Scripture as You were, Jesus, when the devil tempted You.
- **Finally, keep me in an attitude of prayer** (v. 18). Remind me to “pray in the Spirit on all occasions.” Cause me to be alert and always praying for the saints; to be joyful and to give thanks in everything (see 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

THIS TOOL IS MEANT TO BE SHARED. To download a copy visit navlink.org/armor
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