

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 11, 2014

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *The Art of War*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Can you think of any examples of people who were living out of control in one or more areas of their lives?

What were some consequences for them and others?

Despite all the consequences, why do you think people still live out-of-control lives?

2. Chris listed four principles for knowing your battlefield. Which of those caught your attention the most? Explain why.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend we heard about our need to be alert to the fact that we need to resist our enemy who prowls around seeking to devour us. How could the following passages help us in our motivation and confidence in standing firm against the devil?

Romans 16:20

1 John 4:4

James 4:7

John 8:44

What insight from these verses is most helpful to you in fighting the spiritual battle?

2. Chris took us through the account in Proverbs 7 of the foolish young man who was seduced by the aggressive married woman. In Proverbs 6, Solomon writes advice to his son on how to avoid falling for such a woman. How could you apply the advice he gives about avoiding sexual immorality in Proverbs 6:20-35 to other areas of your life where you might be tempted to sin?

What are some of the most significant indicators that show us we're losing self-control and are about to give in to temptation?

Which of these suggestions in this passage would be the most helpful for you to apply?

3. When it comes to being self-controlled, alert, and resisting the devil, we'll find a lot more success if we don't try to do them on our own or with just our own strength. What resources do you find in Galatians 5:16-26 that can help you experience God's power to be self-controlled, alert, and resistant?

What challenges do you face in tapping into God's power to live the Christian life?

How could John 15:4-5 help you understand how the fruit of the Spirit is produced in your life?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Looking back on this week's sermon and study, what's most important for you to remember?

2. Are there any areas of your life you are currently out of control in or close to being out of control for which you'd like prayer?

Can you think of a step you can take to help you move toward self-control in this area?

Prayer Requests:

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Romans 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. [NIV]

1 John 4:4

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. [NIV]

James 4:7

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [NIV]

John 8:44

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. [NIV]

What insight from these verses is most helpful to you in fighting the spiritual battle?

2. Chris took us through the account in Proverbs 7 of the foolish young man who was seduced by the aggressive married woman. In Proverbs 6, Solomon writes advice to his son on how to avoid falling for such a woman. How could you apply the advice he gives about avoiding sexual immorality in Proverbs 6:20-35 to other areas of your life where you might be tempted to sin?

Proverbs 6:20-35

My son, keep your father's command
and do not forsake your mother's teaching.
21 Bind them always on your heart;
fasten them around your neck.
22 When you walk, they will guide you;
when you sleep, they will watch over you;
when you awake, they will speak to you.
23 For this command is a lamp,
this teaching is a light,
and correction and instruction
are the way to life,
24 keeping you from your neighbor's wife,
from the smooth talk of a wayward woman.
25 Do not lust in your heart after her beauty
or let her captivate you with her eyes.
26 For a prostitute can be had for a loaf of bread,
but another man's wife preys on your very life.
27 Can a man scoop fire into his lap
without his clothes being burned?
28 Can a man walk on hot coals
without his feet being scorched?
29 So is he who sleeps with another man's wife;
no one who touches her will go unpunished.
30 People do not despise a thief if he steals
to satisfy his hunger when he is starving.
31 Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold,
though it costs him all the wealth of his house.
32 But a man who commits adultery has no sense;
whoever does so destroys himself.
33 Blows and disgrace are his lot,
and his shame will never be wiped away.
34 For jealousy arouses a husband's fury,
and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge.
35 He will not accept any compensation;
he will refuse a bribe, however great it is. [NIV]

What are some of the most significant indicators that show us we're losing self-control and are about to give in to temptation?

Which of these suggestions in this passage would be the most helpful for you to apply?

3. When it comes to being self-controlled, alert, and resisting the devil, we'll find a lot more success if we don't try to do them on our own or with just our own strength. What resources do you find in Galatians 5:16-26 that can help you experience God's power to be self-controlled, alert, and resistant?

Galatians 5:16-26

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever[a] you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. [NIV]

What challenges do you face in tapping into God's power to live the Christian life?

How could John 15:4-5 help you understand how the fruit of the Spirit is produced in your life?

John 15:4-5

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.[NIV]

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