

**BIG GOD BIG LIFE -
THE 5 FIGHTS YOU WILL NEED TO FIGHT.**

1. Welcome
2. Thank Leadership
3. Mention the Big God Big Life theme that we have been on.

Story....

Statistics

- I have done a bit of research and came across a site called www.persecutedchurch.com
- In this site they quoted the following
 - Approx 200 million Christians in 60 countries are denied basic human rights because of their faith in Jesus Christ.
 - According to Barrett & Johnson in their report on missionary research approx 176 000 Christians were martyred between 2008-2009
 - They say if the trend continues that by 2025 a average of 210 000 believers will lose their lives annually.
 - That is 17 500 monthly
 - 584 daily
 - 24 / hour
 - 2.5 people / minute
- So in light of the persecution of God and His people this morning I want to take the time to talk to you about the fights that you will need to encounter in order to take hold of this Big Life.
- Last Wednesday night when I lead the prayer meeting I made the statement that at times we get so busy doing church that we forget to be the church.
- We get so busy doing God's work that we lock God out.
- The enemy doesn't mind keeping us busy in the church where we are so busy that we fail to be the church.
- So often even I fall into this trap because I am so goal orientated that I fail to see all the casualties I have left behind all the people that I have walked over.

- To live this Big Life before a Big God is going to require a Big Fight.
- Nothing worth having comes easily.
- In the business world the higher the potential to earn the greater the risks are and the more energy is required.
- Ephesians 6:10-12 – our struggle / our war / our fight is against the powers and spiritual forces of evil and not against flesh and blood.

So this is why this morning I feel a burning desire to speak to you about the battles that you will encounter. Like a General stands before the troops just before going into war this morning I stand before you in an effort to encourage you to:

- ♣ STAND FIRM to
- ♣ TAKE HEART to
- ♣ KNOW WHOM YOU SERVE to
- ♣ BE COURAGES to
- ♣ FIGHT AND TAKE HOLD of this Big Life which I know you want for yourself, for you families and for those whom you love,

The Facts are:

- ♣ It is going to cost you – you are going to have to get into the fight.
- ♣ There is going to be a sacrifice on your part – you will be called to serve.
- ♣ You will face bouts of anxiety / fear and frustration but you are going to be asked to stand firm in the midst of adversity – to be patient with one another.

Bill Perkins in his book “Six battles every man must win” speaks intensely on the various fights we will encounter and this morning I want to bring to the forefront some of the exerts of this book which I feel is in season for some in our midst if not all.

1. YOU WILL NEED TO FIGHT FOR YOUR TRUE IDENTITY.

- Your true identity is wrapped up in what God thinks of you – in what He identifies you to be.
- There is a generation out there that has no clue of who they are.
- They have lacked father figures or parental guidance so they find themselves in gangs or with bad elements in order to find a sense of identity.
- You see within these groups they have a sense of belonging a sense that they have worth and are somebody in this world – you see everybody wants to feel like a somebody.
- Not all fights are worth fighting but some are – fighting for your true identity is one of those fights that need to be fought.
- You see when David was at his lowest and he was been ridiculed he didn’t retaliate because he knew who he was in God.
- When he had the opportunity to kill Saul he didn’t because he knew who he was and what promise God had given him.

- When you are in the fight for you identity there is a huge difference in standing firm because of your surety in God and been passive,
- Passivity will not quell the enemy nor will it protect you – later on when David remained passive when his son raped his daughter it caused huge family rifts and the kingdom being taken from him.
- Many today find their identity in what they do as a career, where they stay or what circumstances they find themselves in instead of finding it in God.
- Moses according to the world was identified as a murder - God remembers him as a deliverer.
- Joseph was identified as a slave who committed rape against his masters wife – God remembers him as a great statesman.
- Peter remembered by some as the denying coward – God remembers him as a Rock.
- Gideon in his moment of weakness was called out to be a valiant warrior.
- You see regardless of the name that you parents gave you, your identity is wrapped up in what God thinks of you and not in a name or social standing.

FIGHT FOR YOU IDENTITY BECAUSE YOU HAVE AN ENEMY THAT WILL TRY AND MAKE YOU OUT TO BE SOMETHING YOU ARE NOT IN ORDER TO ROB YOU OF YOUR FUTURE.

2. FIGHT FOR YOUR HOLINESS

- Holiness means to be separate – to be in a league of your own – head and shoulders above the rest to lead a pure life - a holy life.

1 Peter 9 -10

But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

- Fighting men know that personal holiness is a value worth having and fighting for – they will rather die with a bloodied cloak than a dirty one.
- The moment we encountered Christ and believed in Him we were regarded as holy / set apart and it was at this very moment that the enemy began doing what it took to destroy that holiness.

1 Peter 1:13 -16

So roll up your sleeves, put your mind in gear, be totally ready to receive the gift that's coming when Jesus arrives. Don't lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing. You didn't know any better then; you do now. As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. God said, "I am holy; you be holy."

3. FIGHT FOR THOSE CLOSEST TO YOU & TO FIGHT TO PRESERVE UNITY.

- For your wife, your kids, your family – FOR THE LOST!!
- They tell us that in today's generation professing Christians are just as likely to get divorced as unbelievers – so how are we meant to be the light or hope of the world.
- Bill Perkins accredits this trend to the passivity of men – men who roll over and play dead – men who allow the enemy to come in and destroy what is regarded as Holy to God.
- David fell into this trap when instead of him being on the front lines fighting with the rest of his men he was at home being passive.
- We all know how that ended – he committed adultery – in an effort to cover up his error he committed murder – later a child had to pay the price by dying
- The moment we stop to set up camp the distance between you and God on this journey of life becomes greater.
- I have become aware of the cry of men for more to come through those doors and the more I hear that the more I hear God say “You go fetch them, You go out and fight for them – they have no one else”
- We have a responsibility to them to the lost, hurt and shamed. We have good news to share with them.
- Jesus said to them they would be fishers of men. Day in and day out he hung around prostitutes, drunks – people that some of us would never associate with for the sake of our image – for the sake of what would the church say.
- If we say we love Him well then we got to love them to.
- We got to fight for them – if we don't who will? The Hindu or the Muslim will.
- God wants to populate heaven and there is a enemy out there lurking in the shadows that wants the same thing the only difference is that he wants to populate hell.
- There is a verse of scripture that says that the kingdom of heaven is taken hold of by fighting men. We got to gird up our loins and get into the fight because there is a soul out there that depends on our availability.

4. YOU NEED TO FIGHT & OVERCOME SETBACKS AND PAIN

To fight to stand strong and preserve.

Psalm34:17-20

Is anyone crying for help? God is listening, ready to rescue you.

¹⁸ If your heart is broken, you'll find God right there; if you're kicked in the gut, he'll help you catch your breath. ¹⁹ Disciples so often get into trouble; still, God is there every time.

²⁰ He's your bodyguard, shielding every bone; not even a finger gets broken.

- More often than not we are most vulnerable to sin during our periods of emotional or physical pain.

2 Samuel 23:9 -10

Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite was the next of the elite Three. He was with David when the Philistines poked fun at them at Pas Dammim. When the Philistines drew up for battle, Israel retreated. But Eleazar stood his ground and killed Philistines right and left until he was exhausted—but he never let go of his sword! A big win for God that day. The army then rejoined Eleazar, but all there was left to do was the cleanup.

- In the school of life you are bound to hit a crisis where you will be tempted to ignore it or snuff it out with food, work or alcohol when in actual fact it is time to draw closer to yourself & God and to face it, understand it and fight through it.
- Success in life is all about what you did with the opportunities God has brought across your path.
- Unfortunately for many of us our most defining moments or greatest opportunities come disguised in pain & heart ache and we fail to take hold of it & fight for it.
- What makes life so difficult is not always the pain we encounter but rather the passivity or our unwillingness not to fight through it.
- The faster we run away from our pain the harder we work at deadening it the more the problems grow.
- Instead we need to strive for the spirit of Eleazar – the spirit that while everyone else is running you decide to stand firm, resist the enemy and fight.

5. YOU NEED TO FIGHT FOR A STRONG FAITH.

1 Timothy 6:11 -12

But you, Timothy, man of God: Run for your life from all this. Pursue a righteous life—a life of wonder, faith, love, steadiness, courtesy. Run hard and fast in the faith. Seize the eternal life, the life you were called to, the life you so fervently embraced in the presence of so many witnesses.

Hebrews 11:6

It's impossible to please God apart from faith

So how do you fight for a stronger faith?

a) Rely on God's power in Christ.

- Know that you are a new person in Christ
- Paul say's in Gal 2:20 "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me"

- Know that the enemy is not scared of you – he is scared of Christ working through you.

b) Rely on the truth that He is present.

- Be wary on where you are emotionally
- Don't allow the truth of His presence to be determined by how you feel
- Take it by faith that as Psalm 139 say's – He knows your comings and goings when you sit and when you stand.
- Hebrews 13:5 He promises never to leave you.

c) Rely on His Promises.

- Believe that what he says will come to pass.
- Heb 10:23 "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."

So how do we rely on His promises - Start exercising your Spiritual Disciplines

- Like an army's success is dependent on the disciplines of its forces so is our success as believers dependent on our disciplines.
- So how do we exercise our spiritual disciplines
 - Start reading your Bible – faith comes by hearing the Word of God
 - Start praying and fasting – John 16:24 – ask and you will receive

Conclusion

Our season for passivity is over!! Our time to arise & be done with silence and passivity is upon us. The rally cry to take our stand and make our presence felt has gone out. Zulu warriors in their ritual dance stamp the ground hard with their feet and the moral behind it is that the earth must know their foot print. As a church it is time to let the earth know our footprint and to make our presence felt. It is time to go, go fetch your spears, your swords and shields as spoken about in Ephesians – go fetch you weapons of warfare and join the battle lines. Like I said in the beginning of my sermon that not all fights are worth fighting but this one is. The battle sirens are ringing and the enemy is already in formation – stand firm, take your place and fight.

We need you, we need you to get stuck in

- ✝ The service ministry – we need more greeters, more ushers , more host , people to serve tea and coffee
- ✝ Planetkidz – we need more hands on deck

We are calling will you enlist?

PRAY

