

Date:

Podcast Worksheet
Staying Upright in Battle

Scriptural Text:

Numbers 13:31b; Psalm 37:18-19; 55:12-14a; Jeremiah 32:27; Ephesians 5:3-7; Colossians 2:8; 1 Peter 5:8

Verses on hell: Job 10:21-22; Psalm 73:18-19; Proverbs 11:7; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Isaiah 14:11; 24:22; Ezekiel 32:24b; Zechariah 9:11; Matthew 18:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Peter 2:4a; Revelation 14:11

Ten choices that hasten our defeat in battle:

1. Not believing God: Doubting that his power and love are working for our benefit leads to defeat.
2. Trusting our abilities, not God's: We won't succeed looking at what we bring to the situation; we succeed only by looking at what God brings.
3. Lacking personal honesty: Our service is weakened when we justify our poor choices and allow ourselves to be self-deceived.
4. Allowing sin in our lives: Sin cuts us off from God's help.
5. Unforgiveness: Because offenses occur frequently, forgiving quickly keeps us healthy and strong.
6. Ignoring the basics: Corporate worship, tithing, regular fellowship with Christians, sharing our life with others, and spending daily time with the Lord keeps us upright in battle.
7. Judging God: Refusing to accept God's choices in our life will cause separation and weakness.
8. Having wrong expectations: It is unwise to expect we won't have problems.
9. Not policing our thought-life: Defeat comes when we indulge in lies, sinful thoughts, and judgment.
10. Not taking Satan seriously: He's always looking for ways to interfere.

Why we fight: We fight so that more people will avoid the horrible reality of hell and, instead, experience eternal life with God.

How we win: Submit to God, resist the devil, come near to God, purify your hearts, grieve, and humble yourself before God. (James 4:7-10)

Questions:

1. Describe a time when you were struggling to stay upright in the battle, serving God.

2. Which of the ten choices needs a little attention and adjustment in your life?

3. Do any of the basics need some attention? If so, what steps will you take? (See #6 above)

Prayer of Response:

Lord God, I realize I've let some things slide in my life. I haven't been as attentive to basic things as I should. Please forgive me. Help me get back on track, trusting you in all things, obeying your Word, and living as you ask me to live. In Jesus name, amen.

Commitment: After prayerful meditation on this podcast, I am going to _____