

May 30, 2017



Resiliency in Warfare

The famous evangelist Billy Sunday once said, "If you haven't been opposed by the devil lately you had better check because you might be going in the same direction"

Warfare is part of leadership and expansion. When Jesus said He would build His church He immediately connected it to warfare, "and the gates of hell will not overpower it" (Mt 16:16-18).

As we are looking to extend His Kingdom through missional ventures, church planting, and restoring difficult church situations (ancient ruins are mentioned 6 times in Isaiah one of which is echoed by Jesus at the beginning of His ministry Lk 4:18-21) leaders must realize there will be warfare.

Matthew Henry commented on the passage in Revelation in which the devil stands by the woman waiting to destroy her offspring (Revelation 12:1-4). *"Here we see that early prophecy eminently fulfilled in which God said he would put enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent, Gen 3:15. **You will observe, The attempts of Satan and his agents to prevent the increase of the church, by devouring her offspring as soon as it was born."***

Paul's Greatest Church Plant

The Apostle Paul spent more time planting the church at Ephesus than any of his other plants (3 years). Yet the church had gotten into such bad shape that he

C2C Events in June

Please Pray

Josh Alexander Ordination:

Josh Alexander will be set into eldership on Friday, June 2 in Herington KS.

Interchange Youth

Conference: Interchange Youth Conference will be June 22-25 in Kirksville.

had to send Timothy there approximately 10 years later to help straighten out the mess. You get an idea of the warfare Timothy was under trying to restore that church by how Paul writes to him.

- **1 Timothy 1:18** *This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight,*
- **1 Timothy 6:12** *NASB Fight the good fight of faith.*
- **2 Timothy 2:1-4** *NASB You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus... 3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.*

Success is Continuing to Fight

"Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the mouth....Then, like a rat, they stop in fear and freeze." Mike Tyson

Success isn't about avoiding trouble (Jesus guaranteed we would face it Jn 16:33), but staying faithful in the fight.

I remember reading Matt Chandler who gave a brief Biblical summary of key leaders in the Bible and what might be their epitaphs of success. These were sincere men of God who loved God and spent their lives in pursuit of His will.

- Moses spends his whole life with grumbling whiners and dies without getting to walk into the promise land.
- Samson suicide bombs the Philistines and when the dust settles he is dead and the Philistines still rule over Israel.
- David's son rapes his sister and leads a rebellion against David dethroning him for a season.
- Jeremiah ends up in exile with the rest of the country after repeatedly getting beaten for preaching what God commanded him to preach.
- John the Baptist is beheaded by a pervert who gives his head to a 15 year old stripper.
- Peter is killed reportedly crucified upside down.
- Paul is killed in Rome but only after he spends his life (with thorn intact, 2 Corinthians: 11) being beaten, rejected, lost at sea, and consistently dealing with people coming in behind him and destroying what he built.

All of our best made plans and attempts to follow God will be met with trouble. It isn't the trouble, but how we respond to it that pleases God. We stay in the fight.

Mike Tyson said something revealing about fighting, "Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the mouth." He was commenting on a fight in which the interviewer tried to get him to comment on his and the opponent's strategy approaching the fight. He went on to say, "Then, like a rat, they stop in fear and freeze." This leads to their defeat no matter how great their plan.

Continuing the fight is about discipline and not quitting. Paul sums it up well; stay in the fight.

- **1 Timothy 4:7-16** *But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, **discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness**; (8) for bodily **discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things**, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. (9) *It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance.* (10) **For it is for this we labor and strive**, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers. (11) *Prescribe and teach these things.**

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