

Live like you are winning the war!

Lesson III: Live like. . . .

Intro:

➤ → **Series: Live like. . . .**

- #1 - Live like you are dying!
- #2 - Live like you are saved!

→ **This lesson:**

- **Title:** Live like you are winning the war!
- **Purpose:**
 - remind you that you're fighting against evil, and you're winning
 - encourage you to remain steadfast, and to rejoice

➤ #1 **Reminder: You are in a spiritual war (fight), for your soul. — fight back, or lose it**

➔ **Eph. 6:11-12**

- **struggles:** fight, war
- **schemes:** deceptions, dirty tricks
- **against rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places:** wicked spiritual forces

➤ ➔ **1 Pet. 2:11**

- **fleshly lusts** (strong desires to sin) war against our souls
- **overcome with right attitude:** consider self as aliens (sojourners) and strangers (pilgrims)
 - **illus.: song, *This World Is Not My Home***
 - **vs. 1:** This world is not my home, I'm just a passing thru, My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue; The angels beckon me from heaven's open door, And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.
 - **vs. 3:** Just up in glory land we'll live eternally, The saints on every hand are shouting victory, Their songs of sweetest praise drift back from heaven's shore, And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

➤ ➔ **Satan's deceptions:**

- **lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and the pride of life**
 - **1 Jn. 2:16-17** all that is in the world, lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, boastful pride of life, from the world
 - **illus.: sin of Adam and Eve** — Satan deceived Eve with a false doctrine
 - **Satan vs. Eve:**
 - **Satan asked a question:** "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'"
 - way Satan brought up the subject
 - **Eve's response:** not eat or touch, of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
 - **Satan's deception:** "You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
 - **twisted the truth:** not die (physically at that second), be like God to know good and evil
 - **accused God of lying:** God lied, not die, not want you to be like Him
 - **Satan vs. Adam:**
 - Satan let Eve do his dirty work
 - Eve took it to Adam and he ate
 - Adam was not deceived like Eve (Gen. 3:13; 1 Tim. 2:14): no details given as to what happened between them, resulting in Adam sinning
 - **Application:**
 - **if we are deceived by Satan, or by someone who has been deceived** themselves, the result is the same — sin, punishment
 - **sin (1 Jn. 2:16):**
 - **lust of the eye:** saw the tree was good for food, a delight to the eyes
 - **lust of the flesh:** they touched it and ate it
 - **boastful pride of life:** tree and it's fruit was desirable to make one wise

➤ → **As a Christian, much of your struggle is with the servants of Satan. — those whom he's deceived**

- **2 Cor. 11:13-15** Satan's servants
 - Satan angel of light, his servants disguise themselves as servants of righteousness
- **2 Tim. 3:12-17** men who are deceiving and being deceived
 - **vs. 12** all Christians persecuted
 - **vs. 13** evil men, imposters, get worse and worse — deceiving and being deceived (e.g., Eve)
 - **vs. 14-17** what we must do — trust God's word, rely on it rather than men
- **2 Pet. 2:1-3** false teachers
 - secretly introduce destructive heresies, many will follow their sensuality, the way of the truth will be maligned; in their greed they will exploit you with false words

→ **What's this mean to you?**

- never forget you are in a fight for your soul — have no choice but to fight, or lose your soul
- Satan's already started the war - fight or else

➤ #2 Serving in the Lord's army. . . . — 3 things

➔ You must fight the good fight!

- **1 Tim. 1:18b-19a** fight the good fight, keeping faith, good conscience
- **1 Tim. 6:12** fight the good fight of faith, take hold of the eternal life

➤ ➔ Don't get entangled in everyday life, so you please the Lord!

- **2 Tim. 2:3-4** suffer hardship, good soldier of Christ Jesus, not entangles self in affairs of everyday life, please the one who enlisted him

➤ ➔ Put on the whole armor of God, and use it!

- **Eph. 6:10-18** be strong, put on whole armor, stand — use these things, offensively and defensively against evil
- **2 Cor. 10:3-4** do not war according to the flesh, weapons of our warfare are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses

➔ What's this mean to you?

- Whether you serve in the Lord's army or not is up to you!
 - fight the good fight
 - don't get entangled in everyday life, so you can please the Lord
 - put on the whole armor of God, and use it

➤ #3 As a Christian you are winning the war, even if you can't always tell it!

→ You are fighting in the Lord's army!

- **illus.: David and Goliath (1 Sam. 17)**
 - **Philistines entered Judah**, camped in Ephes-dammin
 - Israel stood on one mountain and Philistines on a facing mountain, valley in between
 - Goliath was their champion
 - six cubits and a span - depending on *which* type of cubit or what standard used for its size he was 9-11 feet tall, tallest in recorded history
 - Goliath challenged the Israelites every day (intimidated), twice a day (morning and evening) - kill him and they served Israel, he kill one of them and they serve Philistines
 - Saul and Israel were greatly afraid
 - **David convinces Saul to let him go** and fight Goliath — staking the future of Israel on a boy
 - David couldn't wear Saul's armor - he hadn't tested it, probably too big
 - David went to the brook and got five smooth stones, put them in his pouch, went out to fight
 - **Conversation before the fight:**
 - **Goliath:** "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" (And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.) "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field."
 - **David:** "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD'S and He will give you into our hands."
 - **Battle:**
 - David ran quickly to the battle line, he slung a stone that buried in Goliath's forehead
 - Goliath fell on his face, David cut off his head
 - Israel defeated the Philistines that day

→ The Lord always wins His battles — so you are winning the war against sin!

- **Rev. 17:14** these will wage war against the Lamb, the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings

➤ ● **You are seated in the heavenly places in Christ:**

- **Eph. 2:5-6** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

➤ → Rejoice, you are winning the war!

- **Lk. 10:20** (Jesus to 70 upon they're return) rejoice, your names are recorded in heaven
- **Book of life, record of the saved:**
 - **Your names** (Christians') are in the book of life.
 - **Phil. 4:3b** fellow workers, names are in the book of life.
 - **Jesus will confess you** before His father and the angels.
 - **Rev. 3:5** h who overcomes, clothed in white garments, Jesus not erase his name from the book of life, confess his name
 - **You will enter heaven, live with the Lord forever.**
 - **Rev. 21:22-22:5** written in Lamb's book of life, enter heaven (Rev. 21:27)

→ What's this mean to you?

- fight the good fight, be happy you're winning
 - **2 Tim. 4:7-8** fought the good fight, finished the course, kept the faith, crown of righteousness, all who have loved His appearing.

Conclusion:

➤ → Live like you are winning the war!

- You are in a spiritual war (fight), for your soul.
- Serving in the Lord's army. . . . — **3 things**
 - must fight the good fight
 - don't get entangled in everyday life, so you can please the Lord
 - put on the whole armor of God, and use it
- As a Christian you are winning the war, even if you can't always tell it! — **rejoice**

→ Inv.:

- if you are not a Christian, you've not started fighting in the war, the Lord's army - enlist today
- if you've been in the fight but not been faithful to the Lord. . . .
- inv.

Audio sermon notes:

- ➤ denotes where to proceed to the next PowerPoint slide.
- All Scriptures are NASB, unless otherwise noted.
- Sermon recorded 3/5/2006, Church of Christ, South Livingston Ave. In Lutz, FL, Allan McNabb, BibleStudyGuide.org.