



Sharing the Battle Within
Matthew 18:15–18

Series: The Battle Within

Text: Matt. 18:15–18

Title: Sharing the Battle Within

Date: Jan. 26, 2025

Lesson: 3

The Battle Within

- The Reality of the Battle
- The Need to Fight the Battle
- Sharing the Battle

I. The Prevention Strategy: _____ &

- Encouragement is one of the best ways to prevent sin.

*Heb. 3:13 – But **encourage** one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

- We need to keep reminding each other constantly of our truth and hope so we don’t believe lies.

*Heb. 10:24–25 – and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging** one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

- We can’t be encouraged by other Christians if we never gather with other Christians!

- We need the ability to be transparent and empathize with one another in our struggle with sin.

Rom. 12:15 – Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

- We need to come alongside each other in ALL circumstances, including struggling with sin.

1 Pet. 4:8 – Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

- If we genuinely love each other, we're not going to be offended by knowing someone else struggles with sin.

II. The Response to Sin: _____

- Jesus' explanation of how we should approach sin (Matt. 18)
 - Humility is required.
 - Woe upon those who cause others to stumble (sin).
 - We should cut out or flee from what causes us to sin.

Matt. 18:8–9 – “If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire. ⁹If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell.”

- When someone else sins, we seek to restore!

Matt. 18:12–14 – “What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? ¹³If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.”

- The process of restoration

Matt. 18:15–18 – “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

- We have to forgive someone who's been restored.

- Restoration is an act of love!

Gal. 6:1–2 – Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

- Confessing our sins to one another is for restoration.

Jas. 5:16 – Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

What do we do with these truths?

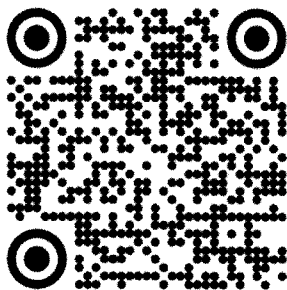
1. Take responsibility for _____ our brothers and sisters battle sin!

2. Take responsibility for _____ our brothers' and sisters' failures in that struggle!

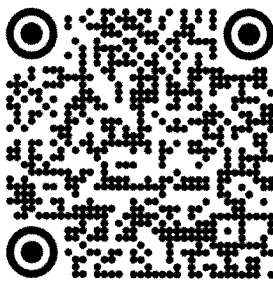
1 Tim. 1:15–16 – It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. ¹⁶Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it so hard to be transparent with each other about our own battle with sin? How can Scripture help us overcome that?
2. What are some specific ways we can encourage one another in our battle with sin?
3. Knowing we have different preferences and personalities, what are some different ways different kinds of Christians would appreciate empathy with their struggles (start by sharing your own)?
4. How does it change your mindset to see the church's response to sin more as 'restoration' instead of as 'discipline'? How would you approach each differently?
5. What's the difference between seeing someone else's struggle with sin as his/her problem vs. seeing it as your responsibility too? How is that healthy, and how can it become unhealthy if you take it too far?



*Meet
the Staff*



*Online
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*Weekly
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Blanks: Encouragement, Empathy, Restoration, helping, addressing