

WAH Part 5- A Battle to fight (Session worksheet)

A man must have a battle to fight, a great mission to his life that involves and yet transcends even home and family. He must have a cause to which he is devoted even unto death, for this is written into the fabric of his being. Your place in God's Battle and life mission is something that grows and becomes clearer over time. Read the Warning on page 173 of f. bk.

This week we are shifting from the healing of your masculine heart to the release of your heart into the Battle, The Adventure, and the Beauty to Rescue.

Chapter 8. 'The Enemy'

1. As a start, what cause gets you riled up, makes you want to pound your fists on the table?
2. Review the Trail Markers, dot points 1-6 f.bk. 164 and if you can comment on them.
3. Bly said 'the early death of a man's (internal warrior-his fierce side) keeps the boy in him from growing up. Is this so and why?
4. As a group, or by yourself, read the dispatch written by Sullivan Ballou, July 14, 1861 on page 165 of f.bk. Have you ever had a time when you felt something similar in your heart? This man had a sense of destiny and had no fear in facing the enemy. God wants to develop and release in us the qualities every warrior needs-including a keen awareness of the three enemies we will face!
5. The FLESH is described as 'the old man' our 'sinful nature'. How would you describe your 'flesh' and how it would like to sabotage your strength when it comes to the Battle, the Adventure, and the Beauty? Remember the 'flesh' is NOT the real you. Read lower part of page 180 of f.bk. Read in your own time Ezekiel 36:24-28 'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you'. Consider this, 'If you start living out your strength on a daily basis, in the details of your life, you will begin to discover your 'real' self.
Where are you currently deriving your sense of strength and power from? Is it how well you are doing at work or financially? Is it what you know-how smart you think you are? Does it come from what you think others think of you?
6. The WORLD. Take all the posers out there; put them together in an office, club or church and you get what the scripture calls 'the world'. The world of posers is shaken by the real man. They'll do whatever it takes to get you back in line. They will threaten you, bribe you, seduce you, undermine you!
Where have you been suckered by the world in the past? And where do you hear it seducing you these days?
Where do you feel strongly pulled to turn for a sense of validation as a man? What is calling to you, promising you that validation? Read warning on page 185 of f.bk. 'People should feel the weight of who we are, when we come out of hiding, continually apologising and posing.'
7. THE DEVIL. What conversations have you had in your head when things aren't quite as they should be with your woman. Like: 'There are plenty of other women out there who would love a guy like you? Why not check them out?'
Do you write off thoughts or struggles like this as a struggle with yourself?

Does Satan have any actual place in your thinking? What thoughts or occurrences have you attributed to him over the last week, month, and year? How about lust?

Chapter 9 ' The Strategy'

Before we were looking at finding our place in the battle after getting our heart back. Now our goal is to learn how to fight a spiritual war. Satan's strategy is Deception. He has three stages of attack.

1) I'm not here. 2) Intimidation. 3) Cut a deal.

Stage 1: I'm not here.

He often aims to jam communication lines. It will apply to your marriage, family and good friends and God. It may come in the form of confusion, doubt, discouragement or condemnation.

a). Is what you are thinking or feeling in a particular relationship correct? Does it happen regularly? Do you find yourself coming to conclusions about what the other person is thinking about you? Have they actually said it, or do you just 'sense' it? Satan is constantly putting his spin on things and we must be aware of his manoeuvrings. He is called the accuser of the brethren for a reason. His most crippling accusations are against our heart, our identity and our new name.

b). Think about a couple of recent circumstances when you have blown it. What are the feelings and thoughts that come to mind? Examples: I always do that. How could I be such an idiot.

c). What are the sentences about yourself you have been hearing for years or when you were a teenager? Examples: No one takes me seriously at work. My work mates think I'm a dill. No one will ever love me. I'll never amount to anything. Why am I so ugly? Why do I always stuff it up? We must stop making these agreements with the enemy! When we agree with him over the years it becomes a stronghold. Write down these agreements, name them and break them in the authority we have as sons of God. After we break these agreements, we have become too dangerous to be left alone and the battle is now likely to become ugly. We must stand on the truth as to who we are and resist his temptations. Write down what God has said about you, to you. In the Matrix, the hero claims his real name " I am Neo" not Mr. Anderson, and with that he delivers the winning blow.

Stage 2: Intimidation.

When we resist his lies about who we really are, he steps up his attack to a full scale assault, and all sorts of stuff can begin to happen in our lives. It can be a physical attack, an attack on our finances, spiritual doubt, greater discouragement and disbelief. He will also cause relational distress and conflict. Satan intimidates us, threatens us with consequences if we continue not to toe the line' and many of the above attacks may ensue. Satan appeals to the traitor's commitment to self preservation when he uses fear and intimidation. The bottom line is that if we continue to agree with God, bad health, financial ruin, relational breakdown may still happen. G.K. Chesterton said ' the less we are trying to save ourselves, the more effective warriors we will be.'

1. Can you write down, pinpoint, anything that has happened or going on in your life that is related to intimidation?

Stage 3: Cutting a Deal.

This is the final attack the enemy employs. After we have resisted deception and intimidation, he simply tries to get us to cut a deal. He wants to buy us off. It simply means that he will permit us to carry on on our christian way of life as long as we do not interfere with what he is doing. Most of

the church is being bought off by this strategy. Too many christians enlist for a battle or two, but soon have had enough and end up deserting. They then impulsively enlist for christian church duties believing they are still in the battle!

1. Where are you in the battle? Are you still in the front line or have you been bought off? Has the enemy offered you a 'deal' you can identify? Are you being persuaded to back off in some arena of your life, for some extra little pleasures of life on the side?

The Weapons of War

We really are in a war! Men have been taken out left and right. "Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you....be faithful even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life." Rev. 2:10.

Strategies:

1. No.1 requirement is intimacy with God. Do and use whatever means you need to keep the communication lines open with God.
2. Do not even think about going into battle alone. Don't try to take the masculine journey without at least one man by your side. We don't need church accountability groups, even though they are useful, we need fellow warriors, someone to watch our backs.
3. Can you name 2 guys who you would stand by your side in any conflict with the enemy?
4. Put on the armour of God. See how John does it on page 173 of Wild at Heart. For example: We have to actually live in 'truth', to put on 'truth'.

"The kingdom of heaven suffers violence," Jesus said, " and violent men take it by force." This is of course talking about spiritual warfare. If you are going to live in God's kingdom, Jesus said, it's going to take every ounce of passion and forcefulness you've got. Things are going to get fierce; that's why you were given a fierce heart.

5. Do you have something more important to do with your life than this?