

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series on Letters to New Christians. Today's topic: INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL BATTLES

1) Internal battles as followers of Jesus

- a. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 What type of conflict is Paul referring to in these verses?
- b. How did Paul describe this internal battle in his letter to Christians in Rome? Romans 7:15-25
- c. What is your reaction to the promise that every thought can be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ?
- d. Share a time when you faced an internal battle as a follower of Jesus.
- e. What encouragement do you find in the testimony of Paul recorded in 1 Corinthians 10:13?
- f. What other promises in the Scriptures remind us that followers of Jesus do not face internal battles alone?

2) External battles as followers of Jesus

- a. What external battles did Paul experience in his interaction with Christians in Corinth?
 - i. Personal attacks: 2 Corinthians 10:10
 - ii. False teachers: 2 Corinthians 11:3-4,13-15
- b. What is a natural human reaction when someone is attacking you, physically or verbally?
- c. How did Jesus respond when His enemies attacked him verbally? Mark 15:16-20,29-32
- d. What counsel did Jesus give about dealing with false teachers? Matthew 7:15-20, 24:24-26

- e. Share a time when Jesus confronted a false teacher in love and gave him an opportunity to repent.
- f. Share a time when Jesus confronted a false teacher in love and gave him an opportunity to repent.
- g. What counsel did Paul give about dealing with false teachers? 1 Timothy 6:3-5
- h. How can we know when to ignore false teachers and when to speak boldly against them?

3) Finding our strength in the Lord

- a. Whether our battles are internal or external, what promises in the Scriptures remind us that our strength and victory is found in the Lord Jesus Christ? Ephesians 6:10-12, etc.
- b. What lesson can we learn from Paul's testimony recorded in 2 Corinthians 11:24-27?
- c. What challenge was a constant reminder to Paul of his need to trust wholly in the Lord? 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- d. What experiences in your journey as a follower of Jesus have reminded you of your need to find your strength in the Lord, day by day?
- e. Share a time you found strength in the Lord.

