

SERMON

DATE: Saturday/Sunday, October 6-7, 2018

SERIES TITLE: WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO KNOW

SERMON TITLE: How to Handle Your Struggles

SCRIPTURE: James 4:1-12

[1] What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

[2] You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

[3] When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

[4] You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

[5] Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?

[6] But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

[7] Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

[8] Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

[9] Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

[10] Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

[11] Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

[12] There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

October 6-7, 2018

Title: How to Handle Your Struggles

1. We all struggle.

2. We all struggle with our old nature.

- We are at war within ourselves
- *Galatians 5:16-17* So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.
- This is a spiritual battle.

3. We must use spiritual weapons to fight spiritual battles.

- *Ephesians 6:12* For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
- Paul names our spiritual weapons while James shows us how to use them.
- Tools for your struggle:
 - ~ Submit to God
 - ~ Resist Satan
 - ~ Stay close to God
 - ~ Repent
 - ~ Take sin seriously
 - ~ Humble yourself before God
- Only God can solve your problem of sin and struggle.

Lagniappe

This past week we submitted our Annual Church Profile to our ministry partners at the Northshore Baptist Association. This report also goes to Louisiana Baptists and to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Like you, these ministry partners want to know the state of the church (ours and others) at this point in time.

Our Annual Church Profile reports key areas of ministry for the time period of September 1, 2017, through August 31, 2018.

These are some key metrics:

Average Worship Attendance - 2192. Our worship attendance over the past twelve months has been the largest in our history. I am thankful for our new worship center and its great space for worship. In the previous year we averaged 1951 in worship.

Average Connect Group Attendance -1397. Our small group Bible Study groups averaged 1397, which too, is a record. You know how much I consider this the key metric of the church. In a real sense, Connect Groups give you a gauge of the health of the church.

New Members for the twelve month period - 321. We had more people to formally join our church last year than any other.

Number of people desiring church membership by Baptist -131. I am thankful for so many people committing themselves to Christ and following Him in baptism. Please pray for many more to follow after Christ.

Budget giving for the calendar year 2017 - \$5,746,000. We are seeing significant increases in our current giving (in the 7% range). This is allowing us to move forward in our ministries to our community.

Next week, I hope to write more about where we are in giving to meet the ministries we have targeted. I also want to give you a report about completing our expansion and paying off our debt.

As always, I deeply appreciate your love for Christ and His church. Your reading, thinking, and praying about these areas is necessary for the health of the church.