

WINNING THE BATTLE WITHIN

20:20 VISION SPIRITUAL GROWTH GOAL:

“By 2020 we see 90% of church members active in cells, growing as disciples and disciple-makers”

Two Key Scriptures

Romans 8:12-13

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (ESV)

We aim to work through the cell groups to develop a healthy, vibrant and growing church of maturity.

Begin with yourself

- You cannot conquer anything until you conquer yourself.
- You can have great vision, great goals, great strategies and even great abilities, but you must begin by developing your own spiritual maturity and you win the battle in your own soul
- Otherwise the vision will come to nothing or count for nothing in the end.

The situation today

- Lack of emphasis on personal growth in the context of Christian community
- Do we set spiritual growth goals? Do we consciously confront areas in our lives that cry out for spiritual growth? Do we work with one another and help one another to grow spiritually? Are these things the central focus of our lives personally and in fellowship with others?
- Wrong emphasis on external appearance and achievements as a Christian
- Often those standards are not much different from worldly success or values

What is true spirituality?

- According to the Bible, to be “spiritual” means to have the Holy Spirit working in you, renewing you and shaping you to become like Jesus.
- This also involves us yielding to his movement in our hearts and surrendering to his impulses within.

- This brings about both internal and external change as we glorify God in how we live and behave.
- Spirituality is relational and it centres on love for God and love for our neighbour

What is our greatest battle?

- The battle of the flesh v the Spirit - the old life and the new life God has put within us
- It is by the Spirit we do battle against the flesh – and win!
- But we are still attracted to the old – why?
- Because we consider the old self as the true self and...
- Therefore have to fight this old self-centred orientation of the heart

Becoming God-centred

- Maturity is about becoming God-centred
- This comes from hungering after the living God
- It leads to focus on God’s glory and the well-being of others – at whatever cost to yourself
- This is called “love” and it operates in us through the powerful working of the Spirit

Examining your heart

- Ask “What is the deepest cry of my heart?” (Psalm 42:1-2, Psalm 27:4)
- Is it to know God, to become like him, and to represent him to the world?
- Or, is it more about your own happiness, success or fulfilment in life?

Winning the battle within

- Aspiration – aspire to the highest God has
- Decision – determine to reach for it
- Action – start today by dealing with that one thing God is speaking to you about

We are in it together.

- We are called to help one another in the battle against the flesh.
- This means spiritual connection in the cell groups
- Learning how to talk about the things that really matter
- Being skilled in how to guide one another into deeper, richer, more God-glorifying relationship with Jesus

SMALL GROUP SESSION

GROUP DISCUSSION ONE

How can we help one another develop a deeper relationship with Jesus through the cell group ministry? Think about:

1. What kind of spiritual relationships with one another make this possible?
2. What attitudes in us help or hinder these relationships?
3. What kinds of conversations promote spiritual growth in each other?

GROUP DISCUSSION TWO

What area or issue in my life personally is the Holy Spirit asking me to deal with at this time? Make sure you identify something in you that the Holy Spirit wants to change, not something in someone else that you believe should change.

Do this together with others in the group and help each other answer the following questions:

1. Am I growing/stagnant/move backward in this specific area?
2. What evidence can I give to support my answer to question 1?
3. What am I aiming for? Form a concrete picture in your mind of what victory would look like if you won this particular battle.
4. What can I do specifically, day-by-day and step by step, to move closer to this goal?