

## WHEN LIFE SEEMS LIKE IT'S A FIGHT

February 19, 2017 Ephesians 6:12 by Bob Branch

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### **BIG IDEA: When life feels like a fight, how do you get your equilibrium back?**

"We are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world" **Ephesians 6:12**

"Remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death." **James 1:13–15 NLT**

"We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead." **2 Corinthians 1:8–9**

#### **1. LOOK UP and be honest with yourself and God.**

"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." **1 Peter 5:7 NLT**

#### **2. SEVER YOUR ALLIANCE with sin by confessing it, renouncing it and turning from it.**

"When I refused to confess my sin,  
my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long.  
Day and night your hand was heavy on me.  
My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.  
Finally, I confessed all my sins to you  
and stopped trying to hide my guilt.

I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD."  
And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone." **Psalms 32:3-5**

a) **If we've sinned, we confess it to God as sin** (1 John 1:9; James 5:13-20)

b) **We turn from it back to the Lord; we change direction.**  
(Acts 3:19)

c) **We sever our agreement and cooperation with it out load.** (2 Cor. 4:2; Luke 14:33)

**"Walking in the light."**

"everything exposed by the light becomes visible" **Eph. 5:13**  
(Jn. 3:20; 1 Jn. 1:5-10)

#### **3. BREAK OFF (and bind away) the enemy's dark attack.**

"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you." **Luke 10:19** (9:1)

"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." **James 4:7**

#### **4. CLEAN UP any repercussions from the battle.**

"if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift." **Matthew 5:23-24** (Lk. 12:58; Prov. 6:2-5)

*"I'm so sorry for what I said (or did). I was wrong. Would you please forgive me?"*

**Step 8:** We've made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

**Step 9:** We've made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.