



# the Battle

WEEK TWO

03.17.24

FLESH

## Introduction

There's a battle being fought for you. It's happening right now. What kind of battle are we talking about? A spiritual one - and sometimes we don't even know we're in it. This may sound a little overdramatic, but it's a battle you need to fight because the stakes are high. During this series, we'll learn all about fighting and winning the battle for your soul together. In week two, Pastor John taught us about disordered desires and the regular tug of war it creates in us.

## Discussion

1. What are some strong desires in your life right now?
  - Are they for something specific or a sense of something in general?
  - How often do you think about them?
  - What kind of energy and focus are you devoting to them?
  - How do they make you feel?
2. While not all desires are inherently bad, disordered desires are those that replace Jesus as most important in our lives. The Bible typically calls these our "flesh." **Revisit and read Galatians 5:16-17.** One way to help identify disordered desires are the battles they wage inside us; we can usually feel it. Do you feel any of your desires from the first question fighting for Jesus' central spot in your life right now? Talk about what you're navigating and feeling – even if it's messy or unclear – with your group.
3. Now take it a step further. Can you identify two specific sides of this battle in you? One of Pastor John's examples was, "I want to experience a deeper walk with God AND I've got lots of fun hobbies that keep me really busy." Working to find the "tug of war" in your disordered desire can help clarify the healthier value that may be at risk for you.
4. **Revisit and read Romans 8:5-6.** Think back to last week's teaching. When we believe the lie, we begin living the lie. Similarly, when we live according to the flesh, we set our mind on what the flesh desires (death) rather than the Spirit (life and peace). What about your disordered desires is bringing "death" to your life right now? How would you find life and peace by surrendering to God's desires instead (even if it means sacrificing some comfort and preferences of your own)?
5. Read through the application points below. Then talk through what you need for the most pressing disordered desire in your life right now. What practical steps can you take this week? Who do you need to invite into this with you for support and accountability?

## Application

In Matthew 26:41, Jesus says to watch and pray because "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Your willpower won't cut it. The Holy Spirit's power will.

- **Watch.** Stay vigilant and attentive to what God is doing in and around you.
- **Pray.** Spend time with God to speak to and hear from him.
  - Prayer is where we align ourselves with his priorities.
  - Prayer is where we let God forgive us, cleanse us, and strengthen us.
  - Prayer is where God can make my life a radical protest of self-sacrificial, fully surrendered obedience to him.
- **Unwrap.** Remove the old stuff alone and together. Remember, isolation leads to devastation.
- **Consider purchasing and reading [Live No Lies](#).** This book by John Mark Comer is the basis for this series and provides a deep dive and additional synthesis on the topics we'll cover each week.