



Trinity's Desert Voice

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus."

(Romans 15:5)

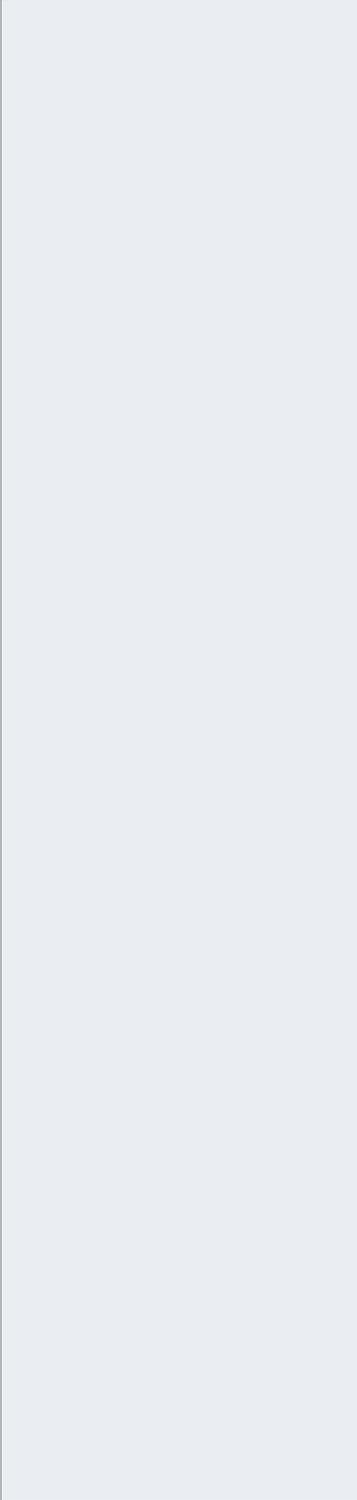
The Struggle Of Good And Evil

We are engaged in a colossal spiritual struggle between good and evil in our own lives. Every physical battle ever fought on countless fields diminishes by comparison to this conflict.

Every Christian finds out quickly in their own spiritual struggle that the enemy is fierce. World philosophy, the devil and our own selfish sinful desires don't wish to coexist with God's Word. For example, Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, to take up our cross and to follow Him (Matthew 16:24). As sinners we object, "Wait a minute! Deny self? We ought to be able to do whatever we want whenever we want to." Galatians 5:13 teaches us, "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love." Meanwhile, society, self and Satan stress that we should no longer have restraints placed upon any of our desires. Rather, we should be able to decide for ourselves what's right. Let's face it, as a result of sin, God's Word is controversial in this world and our personal lives.

Jesus characterized what this spiritual upheaval looks like along with its happy outcome. After His disciple, Simon Peter had acknowledged Jesus as the only Savior of the sinful world, Jesus declared, "I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:18). In other words, "Peter, you are right and before long you will see how tremendous the struggle between good and evil is with evil losing in the end."

The "gates of Hades" represents the foundational heart and strength of Satan's horrific might and kingdom. As yet, Satan has not given up on snatching every unsuspecting



prospect for tragic ruin. 1 Peter 5:8 cautions us, “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

However, victory is assured to God’s faithful. “And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To Him be the power for ever and ever. Amen” (1 Peter 5:10).

Pastor Smith