

WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP

The Invisible War
Rick Warren

“Others, refusing to accept freedom, died under torture in order to be raised to a better life. Some were mocked and whipped, and others were put in chains and taken off to prison. They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they were killed by the sword. They went around clothed in skins of sheep or goats—poor, persecuted, and mistreated. The world was not good enough for them! They wandered like refugees in the deserts and hills, living in caves and holes in the ground. What a record all of these have won by their faith! Yet they did not receive what God had promised, because God had decided on an even better plan for us. His purpose was that only in company with us would they be made perfect.” Hebrews 11:35-40 (GNT)

- Faith doesn't spare us from all pain!
- Some of God's promises will be fulfilled in eternity!
- We're runners in a historical relay race!

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.” Hebrews 12:1-4 (NLT)

1. _____
“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith.” Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)

2. _____
“Let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up.” Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)

WEIGHTS: _____

SINS: _____

3. _____
“And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.” Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)

4. _____
“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.” Hebrews 12:2 (NLT)

5. _____
“Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.” Hebrews 12:2 (NLT)

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

6. _____
“Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.” Hebrews 12:3-4 (NLT)

WHAT HAVE I STARTED THAT I NEED TO FINISH?

“Finish what you started a year ago . . . you were the first to begin doing it. Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have.” 2 Corinthians 8:10-11 (NLT)

“Don't throw it all away now. You were sure of yourselves then. It's still a sure thing! But you need to stick it out, staying with God's plan so you'll be there for the promised completion.” Hebrews 10:35-36 (MSG)

Next Steps

Visit PastorRick.com for more Bible teaching and to sign up for the daily devotional.

Did you pray and give your life to Jesus for the first time today? Email Rick@PastorRick.com for [free tools](#) to help you on your spiritual journey!

Help Daily Hope [reach more people](#) with the certain hope of Jesus! Give now at Donate.PastorRick.com

WINNING THE BATTLE INSIDE ME

The Invisible War
Rick Warren

Romans 7:15-25 (TLB)

THE COST OF THE BATTLE

1. _____
"I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I can't. I do what I don't want to—what I hate." vs. 15
2. _____
"I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience proves that I agree with these laws I am breaking." vs. 16
3. _____
"But I can't help myself because I'm no longer doing it. It is sin inside me that is stronger than I am, that makes me do these evil things." vs. 17
4. _____
"I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned." vs. 18
5. _____
"No matter which way I turn I can't make myself do right. I want to but I can't. When I want to do good, I don't; and when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway. Now if I am doing what I don't want to, it is plain where the trouble is: sin still has me in its evil grasp." vs. 18-20
6. _____
"It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong . . . In my mind I want to be God's willing servant, but instead I find myself still enslaved to sin." vs. 21, 23

THE CAUSE: _____

"I love to do God's will so far as my new nature is concerned; but there is something else deep within me, in my lower nature, that is at war with my mind and wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me." vs. 21, 23

"So you see how it is: my new life tells me to do right, but the old nature that is still inside me loves to sin. Oh, what a terrible predicament I'm in!" vs. 24

GOD'S BATTLE PLAN FOR MY VICTORY

1. _____
"Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 7:24-25 (NLT)

"Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to its sinful desires . . . Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life." Romans 6:12-13 (NLT)

"For the new spiritual principle of life 'in' Jesus Christ lifts me out of the old vicious circle of sin." Romans 8:2 (PHILLIPS)
2. _____
"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."
1 John 1:8 (NIV)
 - BEHIND EVERY SELF-DEFEAT ACT IS _____
 - TO STOP DEFEATING MYSELF, I MUST: _____"Then you will know the truth, the truth will set you free." John 8:32 (NIV)
3. _____
"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so God can heal you. When a believing person prays, great things happen." James 5:16 (NCV)

"Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves." Galatians 5:16 (NLT)

Next Step

Visit PastorRick.com for more Bible teaching and to sign up for the daily devotional.

SET FREE FROM ME

The Invisible War
Rick Warren

Romans 8

1. _____
"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit."
Romans 8:1-4 (NLT)
2. _____
"Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace." Romans 8:5-6 (NIV)

"The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God."
Romans 8:7-8 (NIV)
3. _____
"But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are now controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)"
Romans 8:9 (NLT)

"So, dear brothers, you have no obligations whatever to your old sinful nature to do what it begs you to do." Romans 8:12 (TLB)
4. _____
"Those who are led by God's Spirit are God's children. For the Spirit that God has given you does not make you slaves and cause you to be afraid; instead, the Spirit makes you God's children, and by the Spirit's power we cry out to God, 'Father! my Father!' God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children!" Romans 8:14-16 (GNT)
5. _____
"Since we are his children, we will possess the blessings he keeps for his people, and we will also possess with Christ what God has kept for him; for if we share Christ's suffering, we will also share his glory. I consider that what we suffer at this present time cannot be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed to us." Romans 8:17-18 (GNT)
6. _____
"Also, the Spirit helps us with our weakness. We do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself speaks to God for us, and even begs God for us with deep feelings that words cannot explain. God can see what is in people's hearts. . . the Spirit speaks to God for his people in the way God wants."
Romans 8:26-27 (NCV)

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 (NIV)

"What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?" Romans 8:31-32 (NLT)

"Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?" Romans 8:32 (NLT)
7. _____
"I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither fears for today, nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)

Next Steps

Visit PastorRick.com for more Bible teaching and to sign up for the daily devotional.

Did you pray and give your life to Jesus for the first time today? Email Rick@PastorRick.com for free tools to help you on your spiritual journey!

Help Daily Hope reach more people with the certain hope of Jesus! Give now at Donate.PastorRick.com

MAKING THE HARD CHANGES IN ME

The Invisible War
Rick Warren

WHY IS IT SO HARD TO CHANGE MYSELF?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

"Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. . . . Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a mighty foothold to the devil."
Ephesians 4:21-27 (NLT)

PRINCIPLES FOR PERSONAL CHANGE

1. _____
"You certainly heard about him, and his followers you were taught the truth that is in Jesus." Ephesians 4:21 (GNT)
"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)
2. _____
"Throw off your old evil nature—the old you that was a partner in your evil ways—rotten through and through, full of lust and shame." Ephesians 4:22 (TLB)
"Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."
Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV)

3. _____
"Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes." Ephesians 4:23 (NLT)
Think→ Feel→ Act
"This same attitude in yourselves which was in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 2:5 (AMP)
4. _____
"You must put on your new self, which is created in God's likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy." Ephesians 4:24 (GNT)
"As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him."
2 Corinthians 3:18 (TLB)
5. _____
"Put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another." Ephesians 4:25 (ESV)
"By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2 (NCV)
6. _____
"Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil." Ephesians 4:26-27 (NLT)

Next Steps

Visit PastorRick.com for more Bible teaching and to sign up for the daily devotional.

Did you pray and give your life to Jesus for the first time today? Email Rick@PastorRick.com for free tools to help you on your spiritual journey!

Has Daily Hope helped you? Share your story with Pastor Rick at Rick@PastorRick.com

Help Daily Hope reach more people with the certain hope of Jesus! Give now at Donate.PastorRick.com

WHY IS LIFE IN THIS WORLD SO HARD?

The Invisible War
Rick Warren

"Why is life so hard? Why do we suffer?" Job 7:1 (CEV)

I. THE CAUSE: _____

"Sin came into the world because of what one man did. And with sin came death."
Romans 5:12 (ERV)

"All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own." Isaiah 53:6 (NLT)

"No one can say, 'I am innocent; I have never done anything wrong.'"
Proverbs 20:9 (NCV)

3 KINDS OF REBELLION

- _____ = missing the mark; falling short, not measuring up
- _____ = going beyond the set boundary
- _____ = intention to hurt, damage, do evil

"I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover up my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin."
Psalm 32:5 (ESV)

II. THE DAMAGE: _____

1. NATURAL _____

"Creation was condemned to lose its purpose." Romans 8:20 (GNT)

"Creation is confused." (CEV)

"All of creation groans with pain." Romans 8:22 (GNT)

2. PHYSICAL _____

"Our physical body is becoming older and weaker." 2 Corinthians 4:16 (NCV)

"Everyone dies because all of us are related to Adam."
1 Corinthians 15:22 (TLB)

3. EMOTIONAL _____

"They are distressed, because they had been confident; they arrived, only to be disappointed." Job 6:20 (NIV)

4. RELATIONAL _____

"They suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves." Genesis 3:7 (NLT)

"I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." Genesis 3:10 (NIV)

5. FINANCIAL & VOCATIONAL _____

"Here is a terrible thing that I have seen in this world: people save up their money for a time when they may need it, and then lose it all in some bad deal and end up with nothing left to pass on to their children."

Ecclesiastes 5:13-14 (GNT)

"I came to hate life because everything done here under the sun is so troubling. Everything is meaningless . . . So I gave up in despair, questioning the value of all my hard work in this world." Ecclesiastes 2:17, 20 (NLT)

6. SPIRITUAL _____

"I am like a caravan, lost in the desert searching for water." Job 6:18 (CEV)

"They've refused for so long to deal with God that they've lost touch not only with God but with reality itself." Ephesians 4:18 (MSG)

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

- _____
"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33 (NIV)
- _____
"Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, 'I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.'" John 8:12 (NLT)

Next Step

Visit PastorRick.com for more Bible teaching and to sign up for the daily devotional.

BEING FAITHFUL IN A FAITHLESS WORLD

The Invisible War
Rick Warren

Jesus: "When the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on earth who have faith?"
Luke 18:8 (NLT)

GOD IS LOOKING

"For the eyes of the Lord search back and forth across the whole earth, looking for people whose hearts are perfect toward him, so that he can show his great power in helping them." 2 Chronicles 16:9 (TLB)

FAITHFUL PEOPLE

"Everyone talks about how loyal and faithful he is, but just try to find someone who really is!" Proverbs 20:6 (GNT)

"God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one." Psalm 53:2-3 (ESV)

FAITHFULNESS

"Every child of God can defeat the world, and our faith is what gives us this victory. No one can defeat the world without having faith in Jesus as the Son of God."
1 John 5:4-5 (CEV)

"A faithful person will be richly blessed." Proverbs 28:20 (NIV)

HOW CAN I BE FAITHFUL TO GOD?

1. _____
"Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones; whoever is dishonest in small matters will be dishonest in large ones." Luke 16:10 (GNT)

"And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you what belongs to you?" Luke 16:12 (GNT)

2. _____
"Each one of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."
1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV)

3. _____
"That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever." 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NLT)

"Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up." Galatians 6:9 (TLB)

4. _____
Jesus: "Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home. If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? . . . You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."
Luke 16:9-13 (NLT)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

5. _____
"Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, 'Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.'
Matthew 9:2 (NIV)

6. _____
"The things you learned from me in the presence of many witnesses you must pass on to trustworthy people who will be capable of teaching others."
2 Timothy 2:2 (NCB)

"Simon, Satan has asked to have you, to sift you like wheat, but I have pleaded in prayer for you that your faith should not completely fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen and build up the faith of your brothers." Luke 22:31-32 (TLB)

WHEN YOUR WORLD FALLS APART

The Invisible War
Rick Warren

JEREMIAH'S LAMENTATION AGAINST GOD

1.

"I am a man who has seen affliction, by the rod of the Lord's wrath. He has driven me away and made me walk in darkness rather than light; indeed he has turned his hand against me again and again, all day long. He has made my skin grow old and broken my bones. He has besieged me and surrounded me with bitterness and hardship. He has made me dwell in darkness like those long dead. He has walled me in so I cannot escape; he has weighed me down with chains. Even when I call out or cry for help, he shuts out my prayer. He has barred my way with blocks of stone; he has made my paths crooked." Lamentation 3:1-10 (NIV)
2.

"The thought of my pain and my homelessness is bitter poison. I think of it constantly, and my spirit is depressed. Yet hope returns when I remember this one thing: The Lord's unfailing love and mercy still continue, fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise. The Lord is all I have, so in him I put my hope."
Lamentation 3:19-26 (GNT)

"The Lord is merciful and will not reject us forever. He may bring us sorrow, but his love for us is sure and strong. He takes no pleasure in causing us grief or pain."
Lamentation 3:31-33 (GNT)
3.

"When life is heavy and hard to take, go off by yourself. Enter the silence. Bow in prayer. Don't ask questions: wait for hope to appear."
Lamentation 3:28-29 (MSG)

"The Lord is good to everyone who trusts in him, so it is best for us to wait in patience—to wait for him to save us." Lamentation 3:25-26 (GNT)
4.

"Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord."
Lamentation 3:40 (NIV)

5.

"My enemies . . . threw me into a pit and dropped stones on me. The water rose over my head, and I cried out, 'This is the end!' But I called on your name, Lord, from deep within the pit. You heard me when I cried, 'Listen to my pleading! Hear my cry for help!' Yes, you came when I called; you told me, 'Do not fear.'"
Lamentation 3:52-57 (NLT)
6.

"Restore us, O Lord, and bring us back to you again! Give us back the joys we once had!" Lamentation 5:21 (NLT)

Next Steps

Visit PastorRick.com for more Bible teaching and to sign up for the daily devotional.

Did you pray and give your life to Jesus for the first time today? Email Rick@PastorRick.com for [free tools](#) to help you on your spiritual journey!

Has Daily Hope helped you? Share your story with Pastor Rick at Rick@PastorRick.com

Help Daily Hope [reach more people](#) with the certain hope of Jesus! Give now at Donate.PastorRick.com

