

Don't Fear The Battle

Richelle Wright

The battles in my walk with Christ are not against what I see, but against what I do not see.

REAL God At a young age, I chose Jesus as my Lord and Savior, to be my forever Friend. I knew Him intimately and enjoyed learning through church, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and Bible lessons at home with my dad (a deacon in our church). Growing up, God was a big part of my family, but when I left home, I left Him behind.

REAL You Being the middle daughter of a military dad and a binge-drinking mom, I overachieved because I needed to be seen and accepted, to outperform everyone else. I always heard that my ancestors prayed over me—my Dad's family history is saturated with preachers, pastors, evangelists and prophets. I thought I was free to do what I wanted to because God was on my side. I began a life of controlling and manipulating others for personal gain, to get recognition. I hurt myself as I hurt others.

REAL Problems Life in the military fit me; I wore a uniform to conform to a set of standards and to look perfect on the outside. I had one of the best jobs in the operations field: I worked directly for the commanding officer. I excelled in the art of Strategy. I loved it so much, I tailored it to my personal life; I found new ways to control people—it was my "secret thing" and I reveled in it. I hid how calculating and competitive I was. At work I achieved great things, but personally there was a frustratingly needy void: I was hollow and miserable. Every 2-3 years, I could start over in a new duty station, but emptiness followed me. Satisfying my fleshly desires became spiritual bondage. The false gods of Self-worship enslaved me.

POSITION - When I returned to my childhood Savior (Christ), and fully surrendered my life to Him, I experienced true freedom. I repented of my past, renounced the false gods I had served, received the love of Christ and walked in His grace. I experienced sweet joy and healing.

POWER - *We overcome Satan by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony.* God's power will prevail, but we have to come out of darkness and bondage into His marvelous Light. God doesn't waste anything! He used my sinful past to encourage others who struggle with the same thing—I have overcome! (He did it!)

PROCESS - I struggled to come clean and tell Him everything, what I did; the lust for control by competition, manipulating and judging; fleshly cravings and sexual desires; and my selfish need to be wanted. After confessing my sins, I applied the Word to my life in a practical ways. I have experienced victory and joy in living.

PURPOSE - God used my past mistakes and poor choices to shape my character, working out even my bad for my good. I see new truth about my family heritage and my place: my ancestors prayed *me* through the rough times knowing all God's children have a proving process. Now, I wear the mantle to pray for my family's future generations. God has called me to intercede for others.

REAL Solutions God's Word says that *He will never leave or forsake you.* But, I admit, I left Him. Once I returned and was restored. In order for the Holy Spirit to grow stronger inside of me, I had to purposefully change my lifestyle (be intentional). I stopped listening to certain music, stopped watching suggestive shows and movies, and stopped using language that didn't honor God. My thoughts changed, so my prayers changed too. In Warfare Prayer—and with forgiving—I found victory. The more immersed I am in His Word, the less I want to conform to society's plan for me. After living in His grace, I never want to go back to my old life.

RESOURCES

The Holy Bible, (an acronym for "Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.") A concordance for research, to help you really understand His Word. (*Strong's Concordance* with Hebrew and Greek Lexicon) A book that helped me to understand God's grace is called *The Cure: What If God Isn't Who You Think He Is and Neither Are You?* By John Lynch, Bruce McNicol, Bill Thrall. John Ortberg's *Soul Keeping* and Kyle Idleman's *Gods at War: Defeating the Idols that Battle for Your Heart* challenged me to walk a surrendered life.

CONTACT INFO Email: wrightrichellem@gmail.com