



PART 4: SLAVERY OF FREEDOM

INTRODUCTION

As we start a brand new year it's exciting, but there's also something that feels unsettling. There's a tension going on inside of us that's emotionally and spiritually exhausting. Every day can feel like a battle to stay faithful to God, because we *are* in a battle. There is a war going on...it's a war on lies. It's not so much that we *tell* lies, but that we *live* them. But God gives us a strategy to recognize and resist the enemy and experience victory every day!

KEY SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:1-3

Romans 7:24-25

Galatians 5:24

Romans 8:37

Romans 7:18-19

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Over the last few weeks we've talked about the first enemy of your soul, the devil. But, this week, Pastor Will began talking about the second enemy of your soul- the flesh. Which enemy are you more familiar with? Which one do you think culture accepts, and even promotes at times?
2. The self/flesh has become the new authority of our culture, not God. We hear things like "follow your heart," "you do you," and "speak your truth," all the time...especially when it comes to seeking pleasure instead of happiness. When have you used these statements to justify your desires and actions?
3. In Ephesians 2:1-3, Paul writes specifically about gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. When have you seen the devil's lies influence the way you see your desires?
4. Have you asked God to reveal your deepest desires? Do you know what they are?
5. Pastor Will said that giving in to the desires of your flesh does not lead to freedom, but to slavery. Where do you need to reevaluate your desires and decisions? How can this group help you align your desires to God's?
6. Read Romans 8:37. When you feel discouraged by your desires and decisions, how will you remind yourself of God's truth this week?

MOVING FORWARD

Application Prayer: Father, show me where my flesh (sinful nature) is sabotaging my life. I surrender and crucify it to you today.