

WEEK TWENTY-SEVEN, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapter 1, “The Battle and the Victory,” *Reclaiming Surrendered Ground*

We are in the midst of a year-long (really a life-long) process of capturing and living out the directive of the Great Commission to Make Disciples. One fourth of Bellevue’s Vision is Make Disciples. One of the ways we can measure our effectiveness in that process is if we are “multiplying disciple makers.” Jesus’ strategy for reaching the world was focused: make disciples who will make disciples. He had no plan B.

In the second phase of our disciple-making journey, we have been focusing on maturity. We have become more disciplined through studying Whitney’s *Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life*. We now begin a new study, *Reclaiming Surrendered Ground* (referred to as *RSG* from this point forward). *RSG* is one of the books Brother Steve is most likely to refer to individuals who desire to walk in spiritual freedom.

- *RSG* has fifteen chapters. They are all valuable. However, we have chosen to emphasize nine of them.
- There are several weeks when the assignment is to cover two chapters. When that occurs, we have encouraged you and your group to study and **discuss one chapter** and then (**only if group members have time**) to read the other chapter. Understandably, most weeks, your group members will only have time to study the one chapter scheduled for discussion that week.

THE BATTLE AND THE VICTORY, Chapter 1

Spiritual warfare can be a complex subject for which there really are no answers (this side of Heaven). However, in some ways the issue is, like the gospel, a simple one. My approach for *RSG* is simple and easy to remember:

- **Realize you are in a spiritual battle,**
- **Repent of sin,**
- **Resist Satan and his demons, and**
- **Renew your heart.** (3 of these 4 points come from Dr. Rogers’ excellent booklet, *How to Break Satan’s Strongholds in Your Life*.)

Realize that you are in a spiritual battle. This is where we begin. There is a spiritual battle that is raging. There is a spirit world that is just as real, if not more real, than the physical world. We need to be sensitive to that.

The following questions are given to aid you as you lead the discussion this week and apply the truths from Chapter 1. It is not imperative for you to use these questions or to cover all of them.

- 1. Before you read the first chapter of *RSG*, what were your thoughts or beliefs on spiritual warfare?**
- 2. Did your thoughts or beliefs change after reading the first chapter of *RSG*? In particular, what did you think about Logan's testimony of going from "a doubter to a believer" in spiritual warfare (Page 29)?**
- 3. Discuss Logan's statement, "Your profession level of belief probably is a theoretical or theological statement of dogma: it agrees with your religion. But your true belief is revealed by what you do under pressure. Most of us, during times of pressure, will not consider that a spiritual battle may be underway in our lives. . . Members of Christian families, and sometimes entire families are being wiped out left and right. It's not because they don't have the power or resources for victory, but because many of God's people don't take the enemy and his work seriously, much less recognize his attacks and try to resist him" (Page 22).**
- 4. Logan writes, "The effect of Satan's attacks on families can be devastating, particularly if he can get to the father as God's appointed authority and spiritual protector in the home. When a father yields to sin and opens his life to the enemy's temptation and control, he also clears the way for Satan to reach into his family and attack (his wife) and children. Or, if he cannot get to dad, the enemy will often attack the wife and mother, which also affects her husband and children" (Page 28). Describe what it means to protect your family from someone that wants to physically harm them. To what lengths would you go? How important is it to protect them spiritually? To what lengths would you go in that area?**

Our verses next week are James 4:7-8.