

Basic Training Bible Ministries

presents

Learning to Love the Battle

Tulsa Oklahoma Conference
Heritage Bible Church, Catoosa, OK Aug 27–29, 2021

Learning to Love the Battle

Introduction

Gene & Nan agreed to come speak to Coach Roger Sirmon's team of NOAH (Northeast Oklahoma Association of Homeschools) cross country runners.

Session 1—Friday, Aug 27, 6:30PM

Rom 8:28 God works all things (including the battle) together for good for those who love God

Loving the Battle is easy to say if you are not involved in the battle.

God has already provided everything you need for your battle.

Glenn Cunningham told his crying sister that God had allowed him to go through the fire for a reason, and that some day he would find out what that reason was. He later found that the answer was not in all of the trophies he had won, but in the fact that God had made him hurt so he could sympathize with others that hurt. Glenn & Ruth started a Youth Ranch for troubled teens.

Whatever you are going through is not an accident.

Why should we love the battle?

1. Because God is faithful and can turn our suffering into victory and our cursing into blessing.
 - After selling him into slavery, Joseph told his brothers that they intended it for evil, but God intended it for good...Gen 50:20
 - Jacob—heel-catcher, supplanter, deceiver / chiseler → Israel—contend / prevail w God
2. We can love the battle because nothing can touch us without God's permission
 - God had placed 3 hedges around Job: 1) him 2) his house and 3) all that he had
 - Satan was not permitted to touch Job or anything in his life until God allowed...Job 1:12
 - Read Man's Search for Meaning by Viktor E. Frankl
 - Anyone can find happiness if they have a sense of purpose in their life
3. We can learn to love the battle because God's grace and truth is sufficient for our every need.
 - In response to Paul's "thorn", God told him "My grace is sufficient for you"...2 Cor 12:9
 - My God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus...Phil 4:19

Every failure that teaches us humility is infinitely superior to any victory that makes you arrogant

While the world defines victory as success, God defines victory as unconditional surrender.

In every heart, there is a throne and a cross, and we choose which we will take...A.W. Tozer
If any man desires to follow Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross...

Genesis begins with a wedding in a garden and ends with a coffin in Egypt.

Ruth begins with 3 dead men and 3 widows and ends with the lineage of the king of kings
Elimelech—my God is king Naomi—pleasant
Mahlon—weepy, crying Chilion—wimpy, sickly Orpah—returned to Moab
Ruth—chose to go with Naomi and be a servant in the land of Israel

Ruth 1:15-18 And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." 16 But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." 18 And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Ruth married Boaz and they had a son named Obed "servant", father of Jesse, father of David

Humility won the battle for Ruth

1. As sinners, we owe God humility
2. As creatures standing before our creator, we owe God humility
3. As a saint, God has given us everything we have.

Session 2—Friday, Aug 27, 7:45PM (men only)

Round pens are used to train animals such as horses. God allows us to go around and around. Eventually we figure out that 1) we are not getting away and 2) there's a reason you are there. The horse will eventually turn and face the trainer as if asking, "What do you want with me?" If the trainer then walks away, the horse will follow.

Ruth chose to surrender to God in humility, and God placed her in the lineage of Jesus Christ.

If things in your life are not going right, you have to figure out who is in charge.

You have to learn the difference between goals and desires

- Desires are things you want, but can't make happen because of dependencies
- Goals are something you choose to do

Goal: Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart...Ps 37:4

- "delight" is a love term; choose to fall in love with the Lord
- Like Ruth, let everything else go and trust God to take care of everything

God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt on eagles' wings

Mary & Martha host Jesus & disciples in their home in Bethany...Luke 10:38-42

- Martha had a desire to serve, but it was unfulfilling
 - Using a name twice in Hebrew either meant exaltation or disappointment
 - Serving God can become nothing more than us fulfilling a desire
- Mary had a goal & chose the necessary part, which was listening to the Word of God
 - Mary chose to fall in love with the Lord and listen to His Word
- When our desire becomes superior to our focus on the Lord, we have made it an idol

Paul's story...Phil 3

- Paul's lineage consisted of Hebrews of Hebrews in devotion to the law
- A Pharisee with a "doctorate" in the law of Moses
- A young man who was a member of the Sanhedrin (elders in the Jewish court)
- Paul's goal: so that he might know Him, Paul counted it all as dung / refuse

Session 3—Saturday, Aug 28, 9:30AM

Watched a Basic Training Bible Ministries video; watch here <https://basictraining.org/our-videos/>

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you have a part to play; this class is on finding your niche.

Recommended books:

- Do Hard Things: a teenage rebellion against low expectations by Alex & Brett Harris
- Jesus Freaks by D.C. Talk
- The Wolverine Way by Douglas Chadwick
- The Military Guide to Armageddon by Col. David J. Giammona, Troy Anderson

There is a spiritual war going on.

Prayer

Simplicity + intensity leads to victory. If we need to get back to basics, it's because we left them.

Samurai saying: Advanced techniques are the basics mastered.

Jesus always spoke in very simple terms, regardless of how deep it was.

Ancestral mathematics: 2 parents, 4 grandparents, ...2,048 ninth great grandparents (400 years)

- Think of the struggles they went through and were protected or you would not be here
- How many of them prayed for what you would become
- God has a plan for your life which far exceeds any desires you might have

Paul's physical body analogy includes the ear—listening is a ministry

- Momentary light affliction...II Cor 4:17

Jesus promised that the last will be first, and the first will be last...Mt 20:16

Will my life have a victory song?

You don't love the battle because it's fun / victorious / glorious / free of tough times.

We love the battle by living life / facing / enduring with the rock-solid conviction that

- Our heavenly father loves us and will never allow anything to touch us that can harm us
 - Tom Horn (early American pioneer): "You can't hurt a Christian"
 - Satan could not get through the 3 hedges around Job until he was given permission
 - Maasai use Boma thorn barriers to protect lives & possessions from lions
 - Satan is seeking to devour Job & his family like a roaring lion...I P 5:8
- God has an eternal purpose
- God's grace is more than sufficient for me
- God causes all things to work together for good for those who love Him...Rom 8:28
- We already know we are going to win
- Loving the battle is just trusting the plan, the purpose, and the power of God

Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called...Eph 4:1

- Do you know your calling (purpose / destiny / plan of God for your life)?
- Make your calling sure, and you will never stumble...II Peter 1:10

- If you a believer in Jesus Christ, God has a plan for your life
 - You are equipped for a task He designed for you before the world began
- Do what you do as unto the Lord and He will take care of the rest

Ruth was a picture of humility

- False humility is pride dressed up as humility

Paul was a man with a goal; he had priorities

Finding your unique niche will give you a victory song

There are 7 beginnings in the Bible

Anna (grace and favor of God) served God with fasting and prayer in the temple...Luke 2:36

- Do you know what your name means?
- What is your identity?
- Anna was from the tribe of Asher—the tribe of blessing / happiness with God
 - In the beatitudes, Jesus said, Asher—blessed / happy (Hebrew) are those...
 - Asher was famous for beautiful women
 - She was married for 7 years before God took him as part of His plan for Anna
 - She chose to spend her life rejoicing and praising God
 - Rejoice in the Lord always...Phil 4:4
 - God inhabits the praise of His people...Ps 22:3
 - Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you...I Thess 5:16-18
 - Do these 3 things because this is God's will for you
 - If you do not, you quench the Spirit and despise the Word...:19-20
 - Anna devoted herself to unknown, unsung tasks
 - She likely prayed for the people who came into the temple
 - We can pray for people who come into our periphery
 - Prophecy 1)foretelling future and/or 2) forthtelling /proclaiming the Word

Simplicity: let little children come to me...for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven...Mt 19:14

- Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven...Mt 18:4

Paul had a victory song; how can I find my niche?

Confirming your calling and election (God's purpose for your life)...II Peter 1:5 ff

Faith→virtue (praise)→ knowledge (Bible study)→self-control→ perseverance→
godliness (act like Jesus)→brotherly kindness→love (see I Cor 14)

- If these things are yours and increase, you will not be ineffective nor unfruitful...:8
- If you do these things, you will never stumble...:10

We are climbing Jacob's ladder...

Session 4—Saturday, Aug 28, 10:45AM

Read Jesus Freaks so you can learn what to pray about.

- Never make bargains with the enemy
- Nations are dealing with the devil

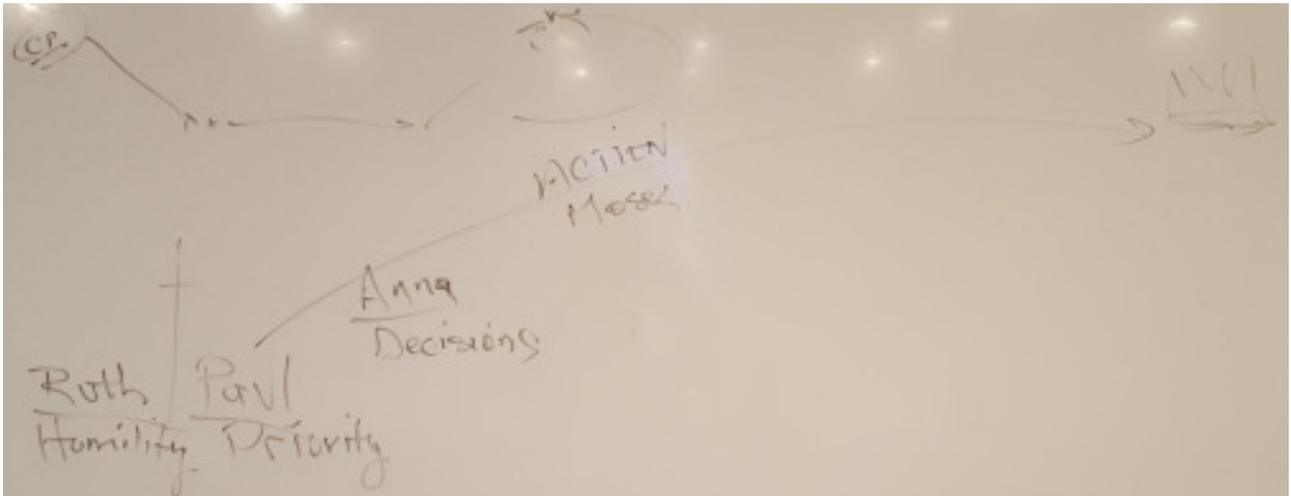
The reason II Peter 1:2

- God subtracts all of our sins
- God adds the righteousness of the life of Jesus Christ
 - Christ is the fulfillment of the law to everyone who believes...Rom 10:4
- God multiplies His grace and peace to us...II Peter 1:2
- The only thing we can add to God's plan for our lives is diligence
 - **σπουδάζω**-spoudazo—study / be diligent / endeavor...II Tim 2:15

Faith→virtue (praise)→ knowledge (Bible study)→self-control (applying God's Word)→ perseverance→ godliness (act like Jesus)→brotherly kindness→love

- Without love, it all profits nothing...I Cor 14
- Love can light the fire of divine passion
- If you don't have these things, you are out of line with the plan of God for your life

Grace incurs a debt of gratitude



Paul understood the difference between goals and desires

- Setting goals are within our control
- Acquiring desires are not within our control
- Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart...Ps 35:4

You need long range goals (crown)

- Read **The Wolverine Way** by Douglas Chadwick
- Our identity determines what we do
 - Start with your name, find out about your heritage, then live up to who you are

God created us with a purpose

- What is the military commander's intent? What is God's plan for my life?
- Before I called you, before you were born I knew you...Jer 1:5, I Peter 4:19

God's grace brings us salvation and teaches us to take action...Titus 2:11

- You must win the battle within before you can defeat the enemy without

Moses was a bold man of action in God's plan...Heb 11:23

1. He started with history and ancestry—who were the heroes of the faith?
2. His identity was not the son of Pharaoh...Acts 7
3. He focused on eternity...Heb 11:25
4. Priority...:26
5. Simplicity—faith of a little child
6. Tenacity...:28
7. God designed us to live in **community**—marriage, fam, local church, neighbors

What things has God been convicting me to do that I have not done?

Obedience to tyrants is a fight against God and resistance to tyrants is obedience to God.

Repentance is used more often of believers who have gone astray

Ruth Cunningham's piano music is available from bryan@elmore.com

Session 5—Saturday, Aug 28, 1PM

Winning the victory, the race run, and the battle won

Victory songs

- Children of Israel, after crossing the Red Sea...Ex 15
- Deborah, Barak, and Jael after defeating Sisera's forces...Judges 4-5
- Trust, pray, rejoice and give thanks for the victory God will bring

Jacob's ladder

Ruth

Anna—got to see the birth of Messiah

Moses—got things done

Paul at the end of his race ...II Tim 4:6

- Eyes on the goal...Phil 3:14
- Being poured out as a drink offering; Paul was about to be beheaded

You should never boast after victory; be humble in victory and gracious in defeat

Rewards—giving a cup of cold water in His name...Mark 9:41

Lay up treasures in heaven...Mt 6:19-21

- Your heavenly treasures should be your priority

You must be actively involved in a local church to be in the will of God

Never stop trusting, praying, and praising!

Moses & Elijah spoke to Jesus about His coming departure

For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain...Phill 1:21

Paul longed to go home to heaven; we should have that same desire as a little child.

There is only one winner in a race, but we are competing against self for our prize...I Cor 9:24

Punches that don't connect wear boxers out more than those that do...I Cor 9:26

Don't get disqualified from winning the crown of righteousness for loving His appearance

Crowns we can win

1. Imperishable crown for exercising spiritual discipline & applying WoG...I Cor 9:24-27
2. Crown of life for enduring the trials of life in faith; trust God...James 1:12
3. Crown of joy for those who share the gospel...Phill 4:1, I Thess 2:19
4. Crown of righteousness for those who love His appearing...II Tim 4:8
5. Crown of glory for faithfulness in shepherding...I Peter 5:4

Stairstep

1. Attitude—Ruth chose to humble herself
 - God resists proud, gives grace to humble; humble yourselves...I Peter 5:5-6
 - The essence of the old sin nature is arrogance and opposite of humility
2. Priorities—Ours are either spiritual (focused on others) or carnal (on self)... I Cor 3:1-3

The essence of the old sin nature is carnal

3. Actions—good or evil with results of blessing or cursing...Heb 6-8

You can only love the battle if you are battle worthy.

Success is doing the right thing for the right reason in the right way.

Be prepared to have nothing

Guard your heart with all diligence..

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths...Prov 3:5-6

Session 6—Sunday, Aug 29, 10:45AM

All scripture is God breathed...II Tim 3:16

Jacob is traveling from Beer-Sheba (“well of the oath”) to Bethel (house of God)...Gen 28
He uses a stone for a pillow and dreams of a ladder with angels ascending & descending
God promises to be with him and care for him. Jacob says he did not know God was there.
Ladder can also be translated staircase.

John 1

Based on his OT understanding, Nathaniel calls Jesus the Son of God and the King of Israel.
Jesus tells Nathaniel that he will see the angels ascending & descending upon the Son of Man.
Jacob (first to see ladder) was a deceiver, full of guile. Nathaniel has no guile. Jesus is the ladder.

Deuteronomy 18:15

- Deut is 5 messages Moses spoke to Children of Israel before entering Promised Land
- Listen to the prophet The Lord will raise up a prophet like me from your midst
- Peter quotes this passage in Acts 23

Psalm 2

Psalm 110:1-2

Prov 30:4

The **ישועה** (Yeshua / Joshua)-salvation / deliverance of the Lord

- Moses to Children of Israel—stand still and see the salvation of the Lord
- Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord II Chron 20:17

Kingdom...Dan 7:9-13

For unto us a child is born...Isaiah 9:6-7

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself....Luke 24:27

I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father, except through me...John 14:6

- Only a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord would make such a statement...C.S. Lewis
- Jesus is the Way
- Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him...Ps 2:12

Climbing the ladder:

1. Humility 2. Priorities 3. Wise decisions 4. Good actions 5. Results and blessings

What do believers see when they die?

Contrasting Mt. Sinai with Mt. Zion...Heb 12:18-24

- Mt Sinai represents the law they were about to receive which could only condemn you (lightnings, fire, death...) :18-21
 - The law was written to identify sinners...Rom 3:23
- Mt. Zion—where you put your faith in Jesus Christ
 - One ancient custom was for the people of a village to come out to meet visitors of great importance
 - When Samuel came to Bethlehem to anoint David king, the elders trembled at his coming...I Sam 16:4
 - Villagers poured out to meet Jesus and throw down branches at his triumphal entry
 - Delegates of increasing importance came out to greet visitors until they finally arrived at the city
 - To live is Christ, to die is gain...Phill 1:21
 - Your death should be the greatest moment of your life
 - The Lord inhabits the praises of His people...Ps 22:3

What do believers see when they die? Heb 12:22-24

- You are come unto Mt. Zion (angelic escort), to city of living God, heavenly Jerusalem
- To an innumerable company of angels, who come out to welcome you
- To the general assembly (OT saints), who come out to greet you
- To the church of the firstborn (Jesus), written in heaven, including believers in the church age
- God the judge; we have been imputed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ
 - Press on for the high calling in JC...Phill 3:12
- To the spirits of just men made perfect
- To Jesus the mediator of the new covenant and to the blood which makes righteous (Abel's demanded justice)

See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more *shall not* we *escape*, if we turn away from him that speaks from heaven :12:25

The Lord is with me like a mighty champion...Jer 20:11

Jesus conquered death and the grave