

# **Commitment to Christ and the Battle**

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## I. Introduction.

A. The Christian life is warfare, so we must encourage each other to finish the race.

B. Pitfalls are avoidable. (I Corinthians 10:13)

## II. God is in control of our lives.

A. We are not a victim of circumstances.

B. We believe this objectively through the Bible and subjectively through experience.

C. The Bible is real because it is so true to life.

D. The alternative to believing that God is in control is bitterness.

E. God even uses evil for good. (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28)

F. God's promise is that He will correct us when we drift off course (Isaiah 30:21), but some decisions are more permanent.

## III. The Bible is a sufficient authority for every basic issue in life.

A. The alternative is confusion.

B. Jesus taught as one having authority. (Mark 1:20)

C. There is a difference between having authority and being authoritarian. (I Peter 4:10-13)

D. Satan's program for the church is to counterfeit the truth. (II Corinthians 11:2-4, 13-15; I Corinthians 1:17)

## IV. The individual is valuable.

A. God put each person in the body where He put them. (I Corinthians 12)

B. The thrust of society today is to depersonalize the individual, but God recognizes each person.

C. The alternative is despair.

D. We are involved in an exciting process of growth, but God has us exactly where we ought to be if we are in the process. (Philippians 1:6)

E. The “adopted” sons have a special place in God’s family. We are God’s children and have an advocate with the Father when we sin. (John 1:42, I John 1:9)

V. The lifestyle of the believer is to be a servant.

A. The alternative is interpersonal conflict.

B. God intends for us to be a disciple and be involved in the problems of other believers. (John 13)

C. Jesus humbled Himself, and we are to have the same attitude. (Philippians 2:5)

D. Serving is being available.

E. Everybody is to be a disciple maker. One’s gift goes beyond this.

**Application questions:**

1. How does an understanding of God’s control help one in the face of suffering?

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2. What role does the Bible play in your life? How can you encourage this discipline further?

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3. How can you serve your community in a greater way? Explain.

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