**Reading:** Galatians 5

**Singing:** 447:1, 3 – 335 -- 356 – 451:3-4

**Intro**: *Welcome to the strife!*

**Two Distinguishing Marks of True conversion (2)**

I. The evidence of spiritual life II. The presence of spiritual battle.

**II. True conversion is a spiritual battle**

A. Besides *vital evidence of spiritual life*, the battle is also an evidence

 1. What were the *vital evidences* of spiritual life?

 2. Why is the *spiritual battle* taking place in a true believer?

 a. Galatians 5 refers to the *flesh and the Spirit lusting*

 ● lusting is *desiring*

 b. this reality is reason why a believer is *never finished converting*

● What are some examples of this internal battle?

● Doesn’t everyone battle with conscience? (Rom. 2:15)

 3. Comfort: *in this battle, the believer will can’t be fully conquered*

 a. Romans 8:37 *Nay, in all these things we are more than*

 *conquerors through Him that loved us*

**Conclusion:** Do you have the right Biblical view of conversion?

A. Are we imagining conversion as *an event* or *happening?*

B. Do we define conversion as *a fight?* 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:3

 1. Biblical conversion it far removed from typical Christianity today

 a. today’s Christians are focused on *comfort and ease*

 b. early Christians were focused on *fighting to conquer for the King*

 2. Biblical conversion is *daily and universal fight*

a. against *self – world – Satan*

C. Have we identified what our main enemy is?

 1. Rule one in warfare: *know your enemy/enemies*

 2. Our main enemy is *the inside traitor* (Romans 7:7-25)

a. God calls us to *mortify* this traitor (Rom. 8:13)

● very good reasons to do so

b. What and how do we mortify *deeds of body*?

 c. What sweet fruits does such a life bring?

 ● Romans 8:13 (ye shall live)

 - not *new life*

 - but *new quality of spiritual life*

D. Have we identified our ultimate weapon in this battle?

 1. Paul identifies it as the *fighting the good fight of faith* (1 Tim. 6:12)

 a. all heroes in Hebr. 11 fought the *fight of faith* (Heb. 11:5 12:1)

b. without faith it is impossible to fight and without assurance of

 faith it is impossible to fight well and confident

2. Labor then for *increase of faith and liveliness of this faith*

**Thoughts to Ponder**

The call of a Christian is not a call to enjoy happiness

but to fight for holiness.

There is peace with God but constant war with sin in true believers.

For the Christian this world is not an arm-chair but an arena.