

APRIL NEWSLETTER



Thy Will Ministries

Growing season

When Pete or I are out of the area, the goal is for the ministry to flourish. It is reassuring and inspiring to see those in the congregation step up and fill positions, allowing ministry to continue. Helping our Apache family succeed in serving and ministering gives us great joy! By preparing lessons and providing materials, our Apache teachers are set up for success. Your funds allow us to purchase items our Apache cooks request, and you help us set the Apache women up to succeed in serving those God brings to the church. By praying, you equip us all with abilities and opportunities to serve our Lord and share the love of Christ with those around us. Whatever way you give to this ministry, God connects us all for the betterment of His Kingdom, and we are all blessed!



Battles

The spiritual battles our Apache friends face when they are pursuing, obeying, and serving God are unlike any we have personally experienced. Witnessing them persevere and overcome is only possible through our Lord Jesus Christ. There isn't always a lot of talk about how to determine a spiritual battle. One thing is certain: we all face them whether we recognize them or not. Over the years, we have heard a variety of definitions of spiritual battles, but the following is a great one.

It's when you find yourself lacking peace, consumed with clouds of confusion, facing storm after storm, struggling with temptation in ways you've never considered, and overwhelmed with despair, darkness, and fear, that you can be sure you're being spiritually attacked. See it for what it is. Otherwise, you'll try to fight your battles in ways you are not supposed to... giving into the flesh, instead of living life in the spirit. And that's not the path of victory.

Spiritual battles are real and difficult--you can't see your attacker. And one of the goals of Satan is to keep you from recognizing him; even better, he wants you to think that he doesn't exist. You must be alert, always grounded in God's word, because the enemy will cunningly draw you further and further from God, one step at a time, and you won't even realize it's happening. You'll increasingly find your daily struggles intensified to a greater degree than normal. But don't think Jesus isn't aware. He may be resting in the boat, but that's because he knows his position of prayer and praise.

He knows the battle is already won, and that's where your faith needs to be as well. You can't do this alone. You don't have this handled. You've got to remain in God's word and completely rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. You'll win this battle because Jesus has overcome the grave and won the war, but you'll win it through only one way... on your knees.

Although spiritual battles are not always battles, we welcome, they can be an indication of our journey with the Lord. If life is always running smoothly, we must ask ourselves, "Am I making a difference for the Kingdom? Am I being a threat to the enemy?" I've never understood how someone could explain the life of a Christian as one of boredom. If we are truly living radically for God, it is one of excitement and adventure.

Our love, Pete and Kim

