

## *Advance in God's Battle*

*2 Timothy 4:1-8*

*June 10, 2012*

**What will it take to advance in the next 20 years?**

**1) Advance God's Word through the culture 4:1-5**

**2) Fight the good fight 4:6-8**

***Advance, Advance, Advance in God's Battle!***

### **Message Based Discussion Questions**

1) What were you doing 20 years ago this month?

#### **Digging deeper:**

- 2) Read through the descriptions and note the passages of "Spiritual Warfare" below. How have you seen the principles to be true?
- 3) Look through the principles on "Crowns" below. What does it take to be motivated to seek those? Is that motivation right? What prevents believers from seeking them?

#### **Implementing this message to life:**

- 4) How do you fit in the next 20 years of the life of Grace? (Contact the Connections Team if you need help!)
- 5) How will you ensure you keep advancing spiritually for the next 20 years?

## **Descriptions of Spiritual Warfare**

- 1) It's an inward battle Rom. 7:23
- 2) It has spiritual weapons 2 Cor. 10:4
- 3) The enemy is invisible Eph. 6:12
- 4) We are all called to fight 1 Tim. 1:18
- 5) It requires active decisions 1 Tim. 6:12
- 6) It requires pure motives 2 Tim 2:4, 21

## **Doctrine of Crowns**

- 1) Crowns will be given after the Rapture 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Cor. 5:10
- 2) Words used for crowns
  - a) stephanos crown, a reward for winning
  - b) diadema a crown for a king, used for the second highest decoration in the Roman army
  - c) The Latin Corona was the highest decoration in the army
- 3) Crown of Life is awarded to the believer who advances through life to spiritual maturity Rev. 2:10; Js. 1:12
- 4) Crown of Righteousness is awarded to the believer who has attained spiritual maturity and maintained it until death 2 Tim. 4:7-8
- 5) Crown of Glory is awarded to pastors and elders who faithfully study and communicate Bible doctrine to their congregation 1 Pet. 5:4; 1 Thess. 2:19-20; Phil. 4:1
- 6) The highest decoration: The Order of the Morning Star is awarded to those very few who will make Christ their number one priority and advance beyond the point of spiritual maturity Rev. 2:26,28; 22:16; 2 Pet. 1:19
- 7) The advancing believer sets his priorities in order 2 Tim. 2:4-5
- 8) Believers are warned regarding their crowns Rev. 3:11