
Essential Christianity: Life in The War Zone

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, March 10, 2019*

1 John 5:18-20

We Live in a War Zone

¹⁹ **We know that we are from God**, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

“Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live.” *Galatians 1:4, NLT*

“For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” *Ephesians 6:12, NLT*

1. Life Has Pain

“But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.” *Philippians 3:20, NLT*

We Live with The Illusion That America Is
A Safe Place, A Refuge

2. You Don't Have to Have More Pain Than Your Share

Generally: The Less Stupid Stuff I Do

the Less Pain I Experience

Paradox: The More I Stand for Jesus I Become A Target,
But the More Power and Peace I Have to Overcome the Enemy

The Best Way to Describe a Believer: Under Construction

¹⁸ **We know that** everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but **he who was born of God protects him**, and the evil one does not touch him.

No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God." **1 John 3:9, ESV** *see vs 8-10*

How to Deal with Sin:

Stop – Grieve – Confess

– Change the Behavior

"My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, **we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father**. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous." **1 John 2:1, NLT**

Living in Wisdom

²⁰ **And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding**, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life." **1 John 5:18–20, ESV**

I May Be A Sinner, But I Am A Loved Sinner

Our Understanding Comes from Knowing the Word of God, Which Allows Us to Understand the Ways of God, Which Enables Us to Understand the Will of God

“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, **for my power is made perfect in weakness.**” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” **2 Corinthians 12:9, ESV**

Stop Asking for A Miracle,
Start Living as A Miracle