



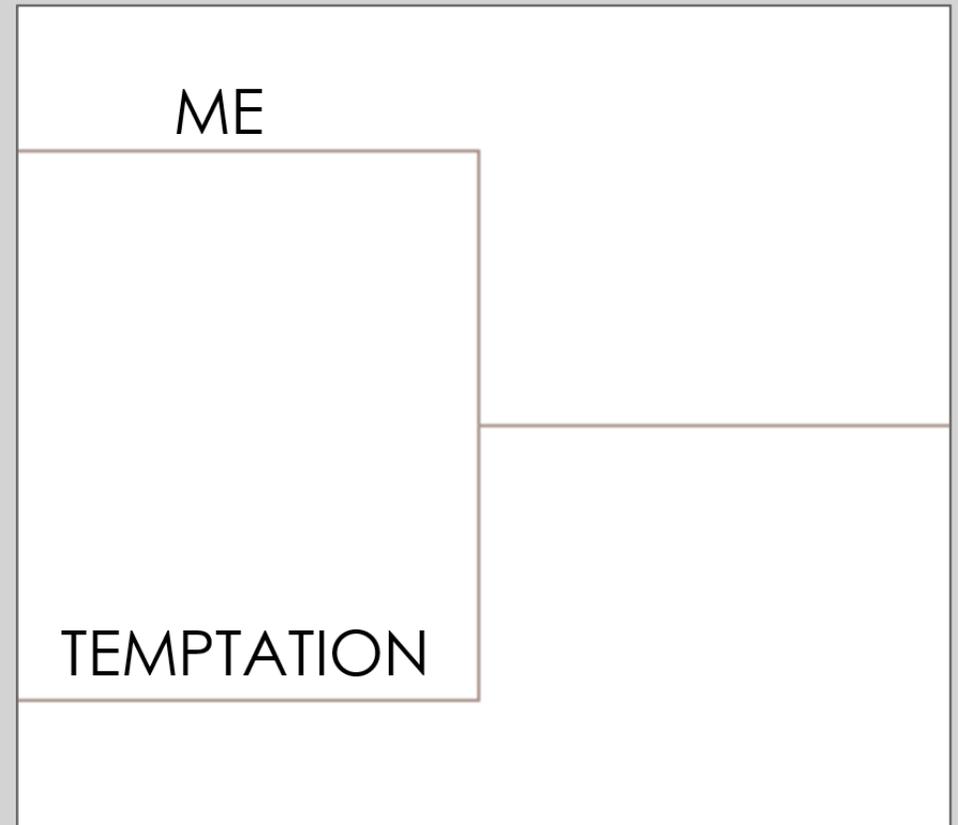
NCAA DIVISION I BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT BRACKET



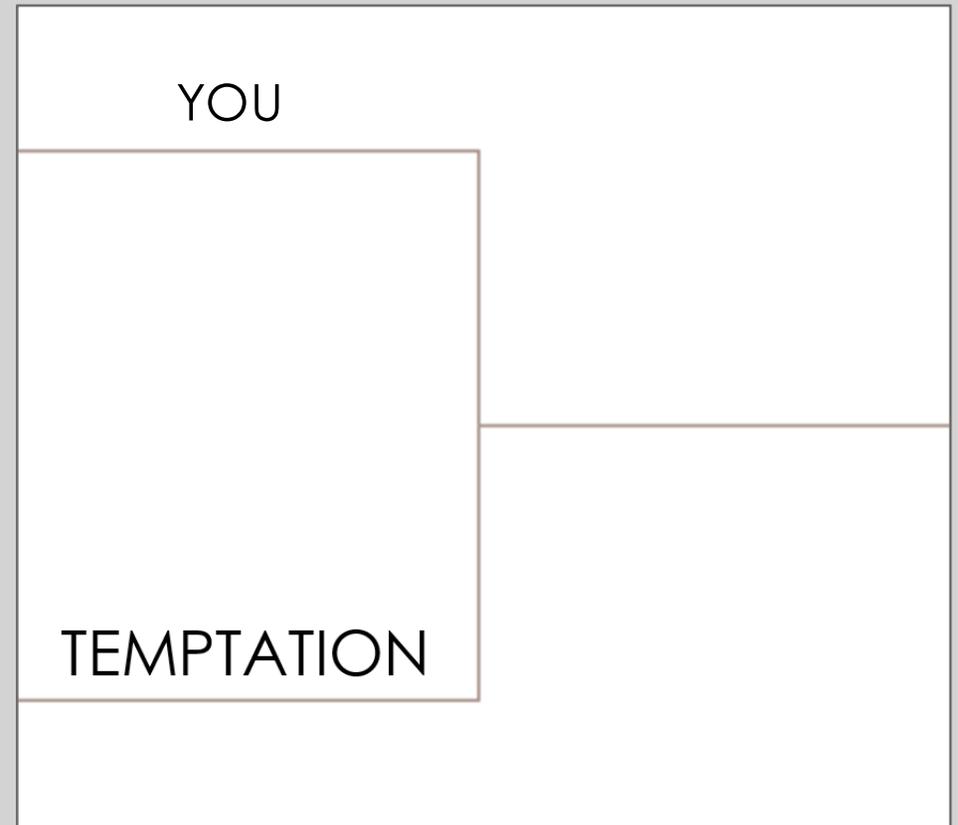
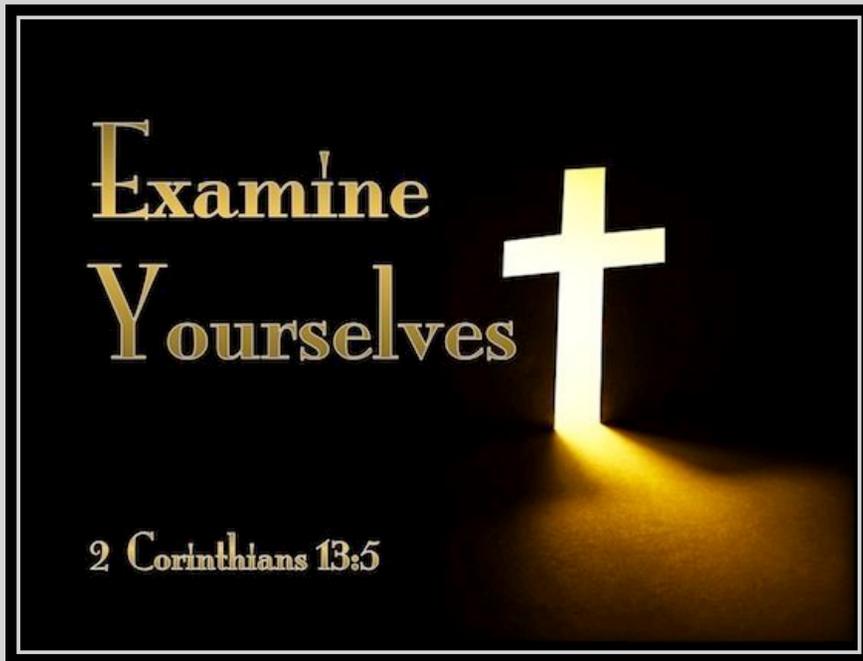
NCAA DIVISION I BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT BRACKET



How's my bracket ?



How's your bracket ?



WE'RE TRAVELING THROUGH LION COUNTRY !

1 Pet. 5:8-9 “Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion**, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”

- On the move
- Prowling
- Hungry
- Searching

... and he wants YOU!



WE'RE TRAVELING THROUGH LION COUNTRY !

Satan tempts us in similar ways to how Jesus was tempted

Heb 4:15 – “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, **but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.**”

1. Will use our feelings, emotions and passions to confuse us



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Gen 3: 6 – “So when the woman **saw** that the tree was **good for food**, that it was **pleasant to the eyes**, and a tree **desirable to make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”

Free cheese
is always available
in mouse traps.

WE'RE TRAVELING THROUGH LION COUNTRY !

Satan tempts us in similar ways to how Jesus was tempted

1. Will use our feelings, emotions and passions to confuse us
2. **Will dangle the glitter of today to keep our eyes off the glory of tomorrow**



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1. Will use our feelings, emotions and passions to confuse us
2. Will dangle the glitter of today to keep our eyes off the glory of tomorrow
3. **Will use the theology of the day to turn our heart away from the word of God**



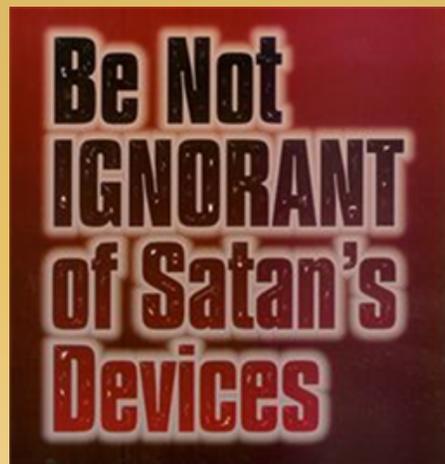
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Matt 7:15 – false prophet (ravenous wolf) in sheep's clothing

2 Cor. 11:14 – Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light



**Be Not
IGNORANT
of Satan's
Devices**

WE'RE TRAVELING THROUGH LION COUNTRY !

...But, we CAN make it safely

1. Be alert!



WE'RE TRAVELING THROUGH LION COUNTRY !

1. Be alert!

*Sometimes the lion is
hard to see*

Heb 12:1 "... the sin that so **easily entangles** us."

Eph 5:15 – "See then that you **walk circumspectly, not as fools** but as wise."

1 Thes. 5:6 – "Therefore, let us not sleep as others do, but let us watch and **be sober.**"

Rev 3:2 – "**Be watchful**, and strengthen the things that remain..."

2 Pet 3:17 – "...**beware** lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked."



WE'RE TRAVELING THROUGH LION COUNTRY !

...But, we CAN make it safely

1. Be alert!
2. Watch for those who are falling behind!



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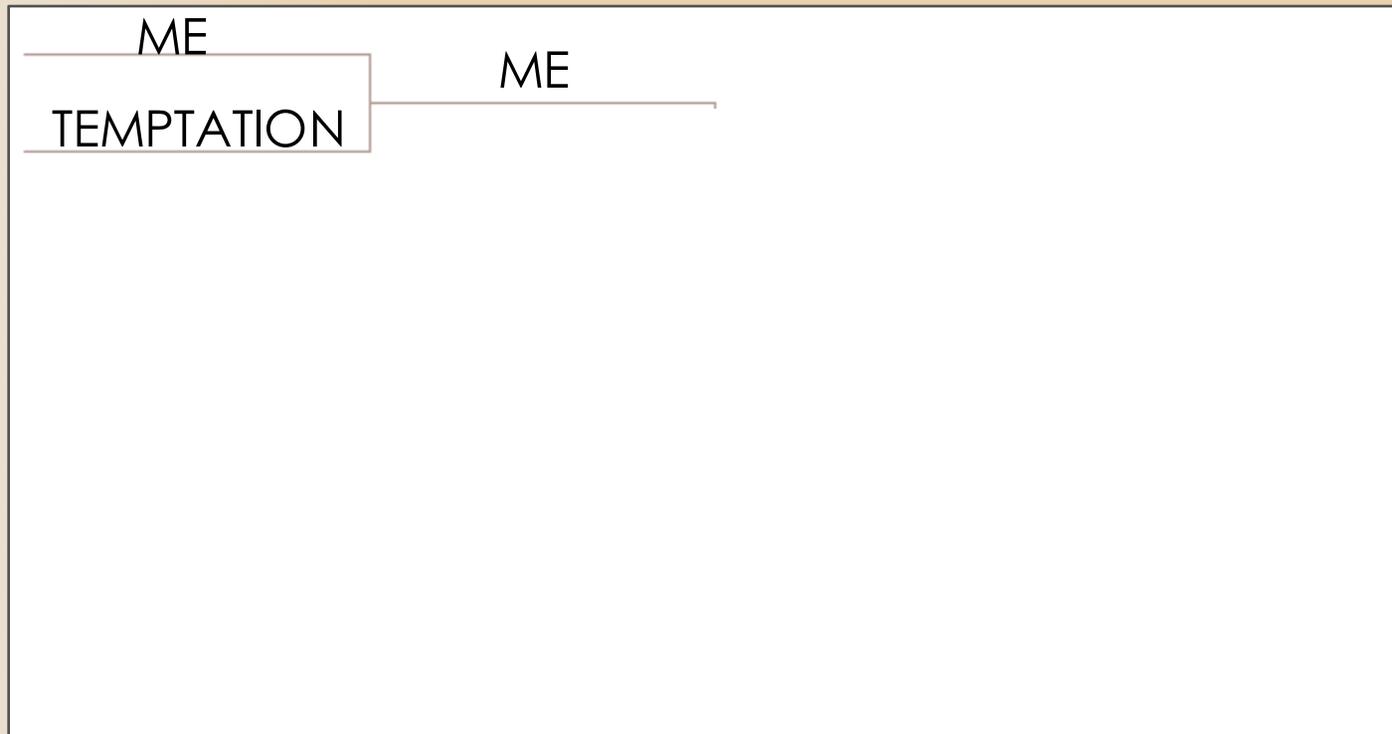
WE'RE TRAVELING THROUGH LION COUNTRY !

...But, we CAN make it safely

1. Be alert!
2. Watch for those who are falling behind!
3. Don't stop until the destination is reached!



THE BATTLE



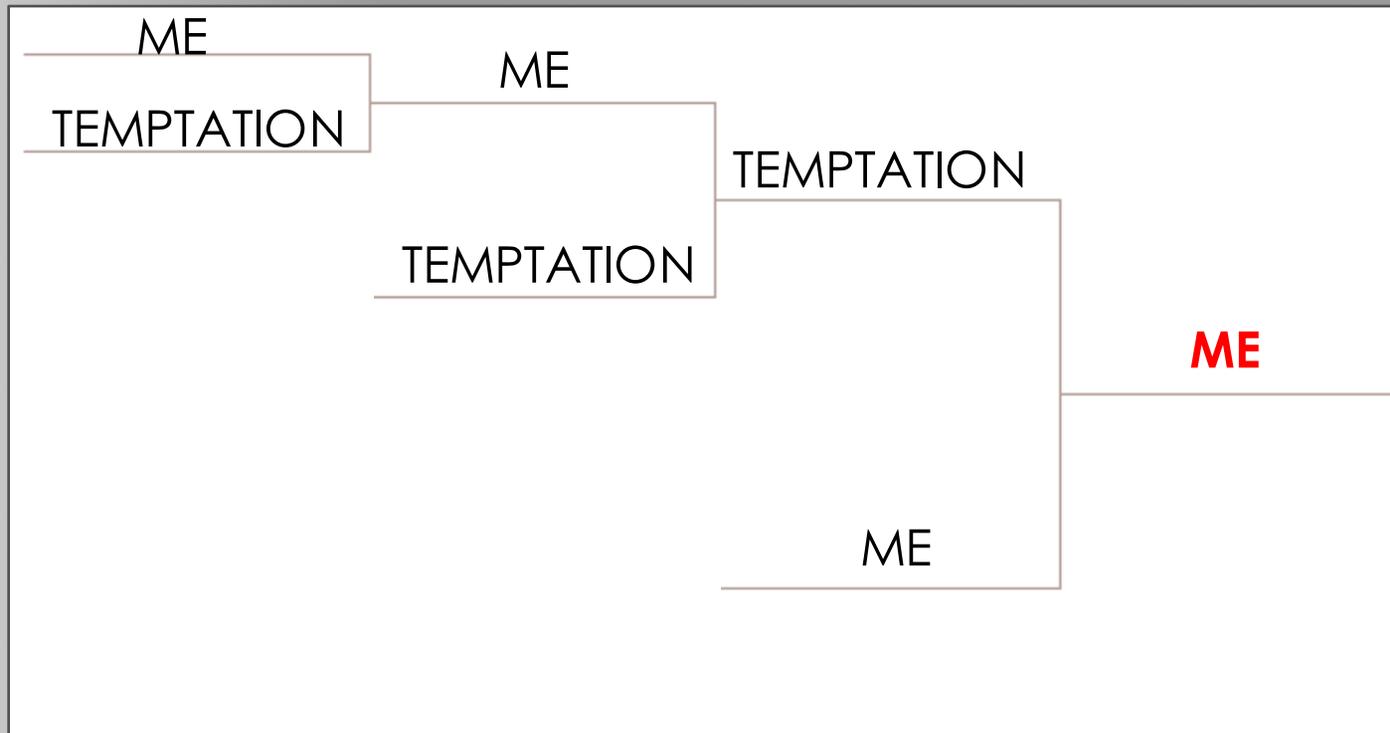
COMPARISON TO MARCH MADNESS

Differences:

- ❖ We may play the same opponent repeatedly!

We fight the same battle over and over!

THE ONGOING BATTLE



COMPARISON TO MARCH MADNESS

Differences:

- ❖ We may play the same opponent repeatedly!
- ❖ We play multiple opponents at the same time!

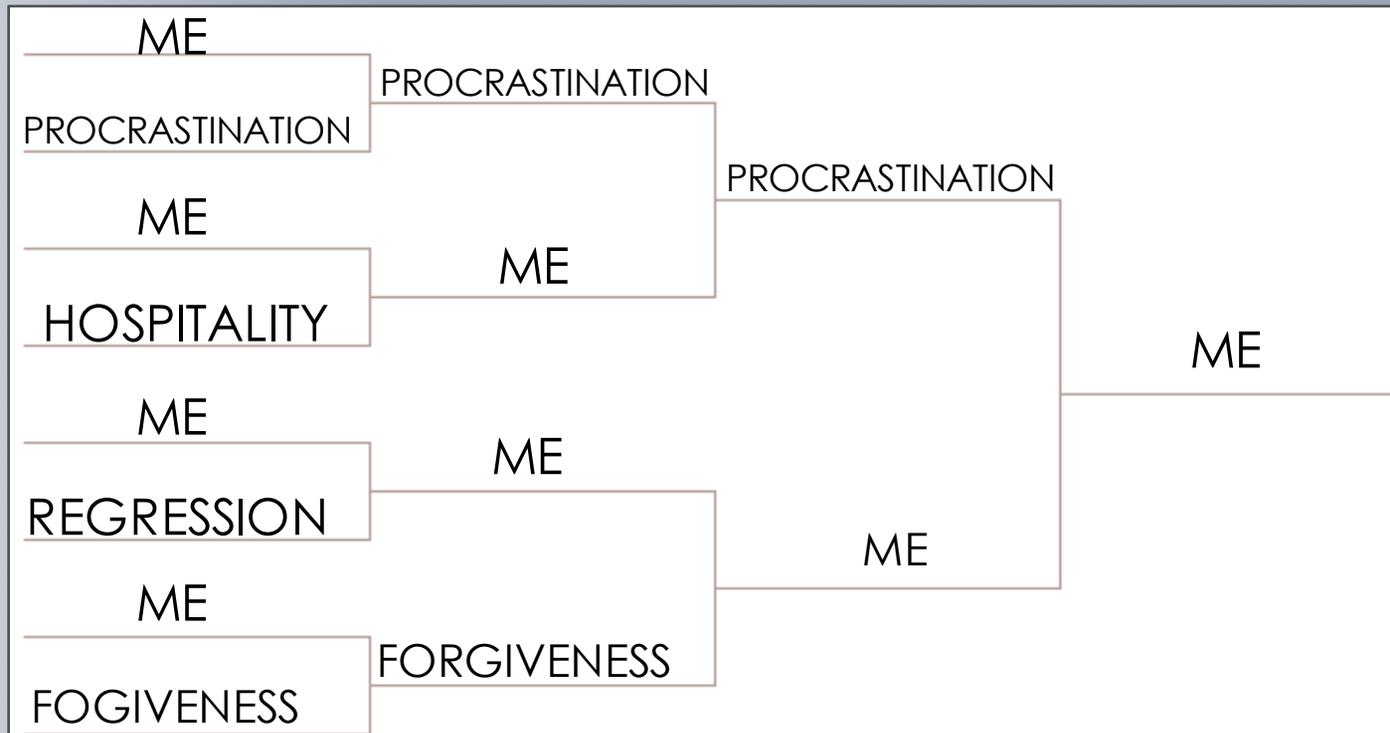
We fight multiple battles at the same time!

THE SIMULTANEOUS BATTLES



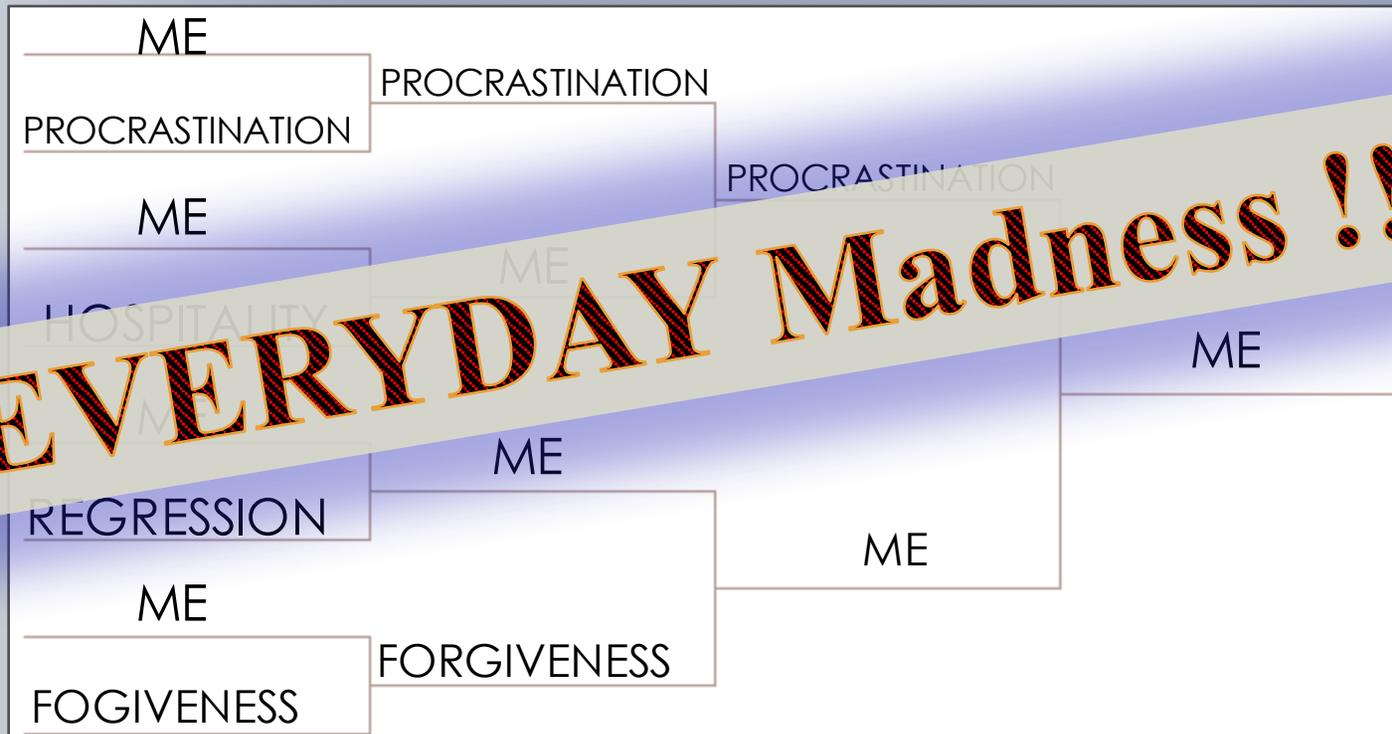
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THE SIMULTANEOUS BATTLES



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THE SIMULTANEOUS BATTLES



COMPARISON TO MARCH MADNESS

Differences:

- ❖ We may play the same opponent repeatedly!
- ❖ We play multiple opponents at the same time!

Similarities:

- ✓ We play seeded battles
 - ✓ My 1 vs. 16 may be your 8 vs. 9

WE PLAY SEEDED BATTLES

As an example, substance abuse may be a 1 vs. 16 battle for you, but for someone close to you, it may be a 8 vs. 9

Heroin use is part of a larger substance abuse problem.

Nearly all people who used heroin also used at least 1 other drug.

Most used at least **3** other drugs.

Heroin is a highly addictive opioid drug with a high risk of overdose and **death** for users.

People who are addicted to...



ALCOHOL

are

2x



MARIJUANA

are

3x



COCAINE

are

15x



Rx OPIOID PAINKILLERS

are

40x

...more likely to be addicted to heroin.

THE ONGOING BATTLE OF...

THE ONGOING BATTLE OF...

ME

DOING the
MINIMUM



THE ONGOING BATTLE OF...

ME

DOING the
MINIMUM



Christians are made for good works



Eph 2:10 – “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Titus 2:14 – “...His own special people, zealous for good works.”

2 Chron 16:9 – “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”

ROOM IN GOD'S KINGDOM, #620

Vs. 1 – the small, kindly things can cheer another

Vs. 2 – even a cup of cold water may renew someone's hope
- don't wait to be told, nor by sorrow driven to do it!

Vs. 3 – He wants loyal and true workers who will distinguish themselves from the shirkers

Chorus – all workers have a place there is work that we ALL can do!

- ✓ We do what we can, big or small
- ✓ We take initiative to do it
- ✓ God is looking for workers
- ✓ This is all God's PLANNED work
- ✓ There's plenty of work to go around



Christianity is a DAILY religion

Matt 6:11 – “Give us this day our **daily** bread.”

Lk 9:23 – “Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow Me.”

Heb 3:13 – “...but exhort one another **daily**, while it is called “*Today*,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

Acts 5:42 – “And **daily** in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

Acts 17:11 – “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures **daily** to find out whether these things were so.”



NOW
 LATER

Making Christianity a DAILY religion

- Invite Lord into your life every day – read, pray
- Keep priorities in line
- Use your faith – do what you can!
- Get off the fence:
 - 1 Kings 18:21 – “Elijah came near to all the people and said, **“How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.”** But the people did not answer him a word.”
 - Josh 24:15 – “...**choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.** But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
 - Rev 3:15 – “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; **I wish that you were cold or hot.**”

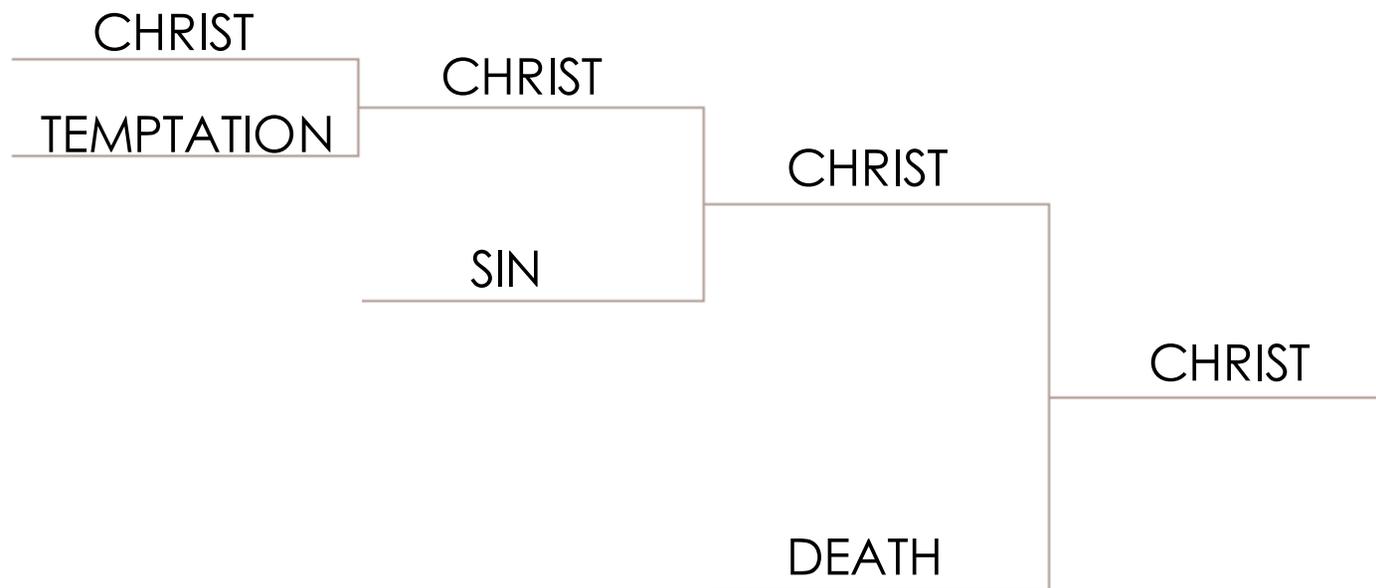




your unique
gifts & talents

Do you know them? Are you using them?

THE BRACKET THAT GIVES US HOPE !



I SERVE A RISEN SAVIOR



MATTHEW 28:1-6

