



The battle for freedom Ours and our community's

I woke yesterday morning, well, really happy and burdened at the same time. I awoke thinking of freedom for obvious reasons. What I mean is that I woke up with a great sense of thankfulness for the men and women who have fought for my/our ability to live free. While at the same time I had a feeling of urgency by the need for me/us as a church to be engaged in the fight for the spiritual freedom of our community.

I was keenly aware that the spiritual battle is not won in the flesh or by means that make sense in the natural. We can't win the fight against the spiritual blindness and bondage in our community by taking a swipe at the darkness. We fight the darkness by exposing it to the Light.

Yet exposing the Light to our community isn't about walking up to someone and telling them how they are living in darkness. No, it happens when we allow the Light to become so bright in us that the community can't help but be drawn to it/Him.

During Sunday's message by Max Lucado, I was impressed so strongly by his illustration of our

little lights coming together to create a much more powerful bonfire. As Christians we all reflect the Light and have a measure of effectiveness, but he described how when we come together as the church (for us that's primarily Sunday & Small groups) we create a bonfire that is greater and much more impacting that we could ever do separately. We are greater and stronger together.

As I read national trends about the church I find myself concerned - and not only for the church nationally but for WellSpring also.

The concern I have is our approach to being together regularly. Your spiritual life and growth as well as the battle for our community's spiritual freedom, is being significantly impacted by several mindsets.

Some have devalued the need for church so much so that we prioritize it less and less in our schedules. It becomes something we do when it is convenient.

Along similar lines yet slightly different is that life is busy and we have started to believe that Sunday is the only day I have to... (fill in the blank).

When our life is so full that we can't make it to church in order to fan the flame of Jesus within us, then our life is too full.

The truth is that if the real enemy of the fight (satan) can keep you apart from fellow soldiers, then it is exponentially easier for him to snuff out your little individual light. So the devil uses every scheme he knows to get you to buy into the lie that there is little to no value in gathering.

Yet, the Lord tells us not to stop coming together and to give it even more priority the closer it gets to His return.

Have you fallen prey to the devil's ploy? If so, take courage and make a course correction today. Decide to reprioritize meeting together, while asking the Lord to build in you and our church community a bonfire that is unquenchable.

When you honor the Lord and prioritize His will, you will always have more time and be more productive than if you had "saved" that time for your own purposes.

Fighting to win,
Pastor Scott