

The Results of Battle Plan Living

Let me begin this with a prayer from my heart:

Heavenly Father, I seek Your wisdom and Your direction, precious Holy Spirit, as I attempt to relate to readers the type of life that followers of Your "Battle Plan" can expect as they live out the mandate from You, Lord, in Your mission of Luke 4: 18 or Your charge of Luke 9: 23. Help me to express clearly how You, Lord, have taken me from a tarpit of sinful living to walking in the meadows of peace and joy in this life. Let my thoughts in this writing be Your thoughts, Lord, so that anyone who reads this can see that they can walk as I have walked, experiencing Your strength, Your direction, and Your victory. This is my prayer in Your matchless Name ... the Name of Jesus. Amen

INTRODUCTION:

As the author of our "Battle Plan" web piece and the Director of Battle Plan Ministry, I'm often asked, "Bill, how did you come to a place of victory, having been so deeply into habitual sexual sin for so many years, where you can walk so confidently in purity and sobriety?" Well, I'm going to attempt to answer that question with the expressed purpose of showing any reader or seeker of righteous living that this road that God has led me to walk can be walked by anyone who applies the principles of "The Battle Plan," as God led me to write at this Internet location: <http://www.battleplanministries.org/thebattleplan>.

This is not rocket science. What I'm about to relate can be shared by anyone who's willing to follow in Christ's footsteps and His admonition from Luke 9: 23, as I prayed above.

Luke 9: 23 ²³ Then He said to them all: "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me."

It's really that simple; but SIMPLE is not necessarily easy. It took me about seven years of discipleship, which included mentoring, Bible study/memory, abiding and honest fellowship with other believers, and accountability [especially to other brothers in Christ] to come to a place where I could walk-the-walk of victory in Christ on a daily basis. As Vince Lombardi, the Hall of Fame pro football coach of the legendary Green Bay Packers once said, "Practice doesn't make perfect; perfect practice makes perfect."

Well, most certainly I'm not perfect; and I would never intend to be characterized in that way. But coach Lombardi's point is well taken. We can never expect to be Christlike if we don't practice a Christlike walk. And one cannot become proficient in any skill set without doing what it takes to practice and perfect those skills. So, would you like to walk skillfully and powerfully in a Spirit-led walk that is free from habitual sexual sin [or any type of habitual sin, for that matter]? Well, I maintain that the "Battle Plan" lifestyle is the direction to which you should aspire. And I'm about to relate to you the results of such a life direction and habitual walk.

Assurance of Salvation

Sometime after being mentored by a Godly/wise Christian leader in our church and being inspired/motivated to put God's word deeply into my heart (Joshua 1: 8; Psalm 119: 9-11), I came to the realization that I knew, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that I was forever saved. And this may be one of the most gratifying outcomes of living in the true discipleship of Christ or what I call "**Battle Plan living.**"

The Apostle John, who had experienced many years of walking in the Spirit of God, wrote specifically to the church about this assurance in 1John 5: 11-15 ... [NIV] ...

¹John 5: ¹¹ **And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.** ¹² **He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.** ¹³ **I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.** ¹⁴ **This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.** ¹⁵ **And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him.**

When one reads/ponders this passage, the reader is impressed with the confidence of a mature disciple of Christ who has experience in the daily filling of God's Spirit and knowing that God's way is the only way. The Apostle seems to bubble over with that kind of excitement in the passage above, being driven to share this confidence with others, even in his waning years.

Now I don't pretend to be an Apostle; and I haven't walked physically with Christ, as did John. I didn't experience the crucifixion of Christ first-hand or see His empty tomb, as did John. But I have been to the foot of the cross on April 13, 1983, when I was taken there by God's Spirit; and I have responded by receiving Christ as my Savior and Lord. I have experienced the life changing power of Christ, just like the Apostle Paul [see [Acts 9](#)], raising me from the depths of depravity to a place of service for Christ. I have experienced the forgiveness of Christ for one who denied Christ, just like the Apostle Peter, to be renewed by Christ's love (see [John 21: 15-19](#)).

The "Battle Plan," which is essentially my testimony of discipleship, and the life I've lived under its scope, has given me the same confidence of purpose and direction – i.e., the assurance of salvation – which was experienced by men of faith like John, Peter, and Paul. When one walks [IN the Spirit](#) with God going ahead, as He promises in [Deut. 31: 8](#), knowing that God will never leave me nor forsake that one ([Deut. 31: 6](#)), he or she will **KNOW** that He is saved and that the trust that one has given over to Christ is being reciprocated with God's strength ([2Cor. 12: 9](#)) and His direction ([Proverbs 3: 5,6](#)).

Living a "Battle Plan" life, is knowing that you know that you know ... that Jesus Christ is Your Savior and Lord; and it is a life that becomes fruitful for God's Kingdom and for His glory.

Fruitful Living

Our Lord, in speaking to His disciples, made it very clear what he expected from the lives of those who would follow Him. We read it in [John 15](#), where Christ was trying to reassure His disciples just before He was to go to the cross. He said, ... [[John 15: 4-8](#) – NIV] ...

John 15: 4 "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

The word picture here is clear. One must abide in – or be totally plugged into – a relationship with Christ to live a fruitful life. And I maintain that this is what "Battle Plan" living is all about.

When one lives, as I've experienced, the rigors of the Battle Plan lifestyle, the outcome will be the fruitfulness that Paul described in [Galatians 5: 22 - 25](#) [NIV].

Gal. 5: 22 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** ²³ **gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.** ²⁴ **Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.** ²⁵ **Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.**

Keeping “step with the Spirit” is Battle Plan living; and it produces those fruit of the Spirit described above, which are the antithesis of the fruit of the flesh, listed by Paul just prior to this passage above. Read of what rejection of Battle Plan living can (and will likely) produce:

Gal. 5: 19 **The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;** ²⁰ **idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions** ²¹ **and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.** [NIV]

So, as you read this, which list do you want to be reflective of your life? If it's the latter, I maintain that you are either denying or rejecting Battle Plan living. But if you aspire to the former, you can expect Spirit-driven fruitfulness to be the outcome of your life as you live and practice a Battle Plan lifestyle.

And you will note that the last of the fruit listed is **SELF CONTROL**, which I believe was listed last by Paul because it is the most difficult and all-inclusive of the fruit of the Spirit. Personally, it is my interpretation that one cannot have true temperance (another translation of “self control”) until one has matured in all of the other eight fruit listed. And this is an outcome that will be refined and prayerfully realized as one becomes a Battle Plan Warrior.

Fully Armed for Battle

Yes, our life in this world is warfare. In case you haven't noticed (admittedly snide comment), life is spiritual warfare like that described in [Ephesians 6: 12](#) [NIV] ...

Eph. 6: 12 **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

... and if you are not prepared and fully armed for this warfare, you are going to be easy prey for an enemy with a vast array of weapons, as well as for the weakness of your own flesh. The passage above was written by the Apostle Paul to warn believers that they must be prepared and fully armed for battle. [Eph. 6: 10-13](#), into which the above verse fits, describes this charge. [NIV]

¹⁰**Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.** ¹¹**Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.** ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³**Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.**

What follows is Paul's description of the “full armor of God,” which he maintains is essential to be able to live in this world and deal with our enemies of Satan and our own flesh. And I maintain that “Battle Plan living” is one way to achieve full-armor protection as well to carry the one weapon we have against our enemy, ... the **Sword of the Spirit** ([Eph. 6: 17](#)), which is God's word. I'll not go into a full exposition of God's full armor here, though I would encourage any

Battle Plan seeker to study this in depth. My contention here is that the living out of “The Battle Plan” is a way to build up one’s full armor and to be a prepared and skillful warrior in this warfare that we call life. Battle Plan living is walking in the confidence of Romans 8: 31b ... [NIV] ...

Rom. 8: 31 ... If God is for us, who can be against us?

Or it’s being lifted to strength by the truth of Isaiah 41: 10 ...

Is. 41: 10 So, do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Now I would think that any believer would want to be able to be strong in the face of Satan, our common foe, who is most certainly stronger than are we. But we need to walk in confidence and trust the truth of 1John 4: 4, which states ...

1John 4: 4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them [i.e., spirits of evil], because the One [God’s Spirit] Who is in you is greater than the one [Satan] who is in the world.

And so, if that’s the confidence that you would like to have as you walk with God, I maintain you can find that in Battle Plan living.

Now, I do want to emphasize one component of Ephesians 6 warfare strategy that is expected to result when one lives out the Battle Plan philosophy or lifestyle; and that is becoming an expert Christian swordsperson.

A Practiced and Sharpened Sword of the Spirit

Paul’s discussion in Ephesians 6: 13-18 makes it very clear that having a ready, sharpened, and practiced Spirit Sword is essential in spiritual warfare with the enemy. As “The Battle Plan” piece, which you should have read, illustrated, this was most powerfully personified by Jesus himself (in Matthew 4 and Luke 4) as he went to battle against Satan in the wilderness.

Satan actually had the gall (not showing much intelligence in my estimation) to use God’s word against the Living Word Himself. And three times Jesus vanquished the enemy with piercing slashes of God’s Sword of the Spirit by invoking God’s word against Satan. And that is what is clearly taught and lived out in the Battle Plan lifestyle.

One cannot go through life and expect to have spiritual success and not have God’s word deeply implanted in that warrior’s heart/mind. It would be like confronting an enemy, reaching into one’s scabbard, and discovering that there is no sword available to fight the enemy. Or it could be like trying to go to battle with a sword where its blade is dulled or by ignoring sword practice before going to war. “The Battle Plan” demands that a Christian warrior carry a sharpened, ready, and practiced Spirit-sword into life’s battles. And when one does, they can expect the success promised by Joshua 1: 8. [NIV]

Joshua 1: 8 Do not let this Book of the Law [i.e., God’s word] depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

And that's a result that can be expected from a "Battle Plan Warrior," and one I would hope you are experiencing in your life. But beyond being able to fight the battles of life successfully, I would hope that you are also experiencing the peace and joy that comes from being a Battle Plan "lifer."

Tranquility in Trials

Mature believers know that trials are going to come their way. That was clearly stated to Job in his book of troubles.

Job 5: 7 **Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward. [NIV]**

Jesus said it too, [John 16: 33b] **"In this world you will have trouble."** But He followed that with this positive declaration, **"But take heart! I have overcome the world."**

And that "overcomer" attitude is the attitude of one who learns from "The Battle Plan" and believes that we can experience peace and joy no matter what life throws at us. It is the living experience of the peace expressed in [Phil. 4: 7](#) or the joy that is lived out of an expression of confidence like that of [James 1: 2](#), "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ..." the kind of joy that we'd all like to have as we're confronted by life's problems, trials, or tribulations.

It's like Habakkuk of old, who came to God in the midst of horrible things going on all around him; about which he could not understand (sound familiar?). And he had the old "Why, us, Lord?" mentality. Well, after interacting with God for some time, old "Habby" learned a new attitude, which was expressed in [Habakkuk 3: 17-18](#) [NIV].

Hab. 3: 17 **Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,
¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD , I will be joyful in God my Savior.**

Yes, that is the mindset of a Battle Plan warrior, who has been delivered from the rigors of habitual sin; and now he/she sees that trials are the caldron where a character of Godliness is forged. Battle Plan living results in the clear and mature understanding that our suffering in temptation or trial is for a reason. The Apostle Peter had it nailed.

¹Peter 4: 12 **Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.**

And ...

¹Peter 5: 10 **And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.**

Or as Paul taught ... which the one living out the Battle Plan internalizes ...

1 Cor. 10: 13 **No temptation [also correctly translated “test, trial, or tribulation”] has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.**

We weak ones, who have been humbled by the trials of life ... we Battle Plan warriors, who know from Whom our strength comes – from God’s grace – live with a degree of peace and joy in the face of life’s challenges, because we can draw on the strength of our Savior, ... the ultimate Overcomer!

2Cor. 12: 9 **But He [Jesus] 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 about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

And taking this attitude of strength to face of the challenges of life, the one who lives a Battle Plan life will develop a real internal magnet to help others come out from the tarpits of life up to the mountaintop of glory.

Passion for Ministry

I believe that mature Christians, who have come to live out the Battle Plan lifestyle, especially those who’ve dealt with habitual sin, will be drawn – through deep empathy – to help others see that Christ’s mission, expressed in [Luke 4: 18](#) [see below], is a very real hope and can be experienced by all who’ve been oppressed and imprisoned by their own habitual sin. That’s what Jesus said was His mission in life.

Luke 4: 18 " **He [i.e., God the Father] has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ... [and] ... ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."**

May I get personal here? When one has been as deeply into habitual sexual sin, as was I before I received Christ, and that one experiences the freedom and self control that Christ has available for believers who are willing to humble themselves and receive His grace, ... that freedom, which only comes from obedience to His word and His way, drives one to help others find that same freedom.

Now I’m not saying that all who are delivered, healed, and redeemed into full fellowship with Christ from habitual sexual sin will become ministers of the gospel, called to reach out and help others with the same problems. God’s design is His plan, not Bill Berry’s. But I am saying that it should not be surprising that one, like myself, who has experienced the difference and the joy of walking in freedom from the oppression of habitual sin, would want to do all he could, using the gifts that Christ has endowed me, to help others find the same freedom.

And that is what drives so many Battle Plan warriors into action to help others.

Conclulsion

So, there you have it. Hopefully you've read my "Battle Plan" for victory over habitual sin, ... which is actually just a compilation of the biblical plan for healing, restoration, and or renewal from sin in Christ from His word. [Again, the Battle Plan is available at <http://www.battleplanministries.org/thebattleplan>] Perhaps, after you've read that plan, you asked yourself, "Okay that's how Bill Berry says one can be set free from this hell I've been in; ... but will it be worth it? What kind of life can I expect when I pay the price of obedience and surrender that's necessary to walk in freedom?" Your bottom-line question probably is: **Is this Battle Plan living worth it?**

Well, what I've written above is a summary of that lifestyle, ... the result of Battle Plan living. And so, now you must choose. It's always a matter of choice, isn't it?

You're going to have to choose whether you want to go back and dive into those tarpits of sin, ... wallowing in the sensual pleasures of habitual or recurring sin; or will you choose to live the Battle Plan lifesytle and find the freedom, strength, and self-control that will lead to peace and joy ... a life that can even be sustained in the worst of challenges.

I've tried to describe herein, having experienced both of these ways of life, that Christ's way is far superior. The Battle Plan lifestyle is the "**GOOD LIFE!**" But if you want to believe the lies of the enemy and go back and play in the tarpits of habitual sin, ... that will be your choice. I've painted truth from God's word here, the rest is going to be up to you.

I bring this to you as a brother in Christ, who has been where you are and is likely now where you'd like to be. Again ... your choice!

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