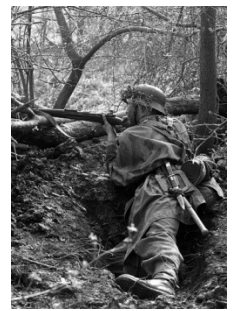




## Battle - Week 8

### 5 Stones



Main Thought: To be victorious, we must learn to battle through tough times, and determine now during the good times, that when the battle arrives we will not only stand our ground, but with confidence attack.

During World War II, allied forces did all they could to gather every available man to fight in the Battle of the Bulge. One unit consisting of clerks and office workers was quickly converted to infantry and assigned to a section of a road that was expected to be under fire within hours. The men were ordered to dig foxholes from which to fight. One man, who had spent years at a typewriter, tried his best but made little progress in the stone-hard ground. Finally, he approached his lieutenant and said, "Sir, wouldn't it be easier if we just attacked and made them dig the foxholes?" (Taken from Success One Day at a Time by John Maxwell)

I love it! Attack and make them dig the foxholes! How often do we in tough times sit back and wait for things to happen? If we are in dire situations, wouldn't it be better to attack and face defeat instead of sitting and waiting to be defeated?

I grew up in Northern Indiana, so I developed a love for the Chicago Bears football team. In the past few years, although they have an explosive return man (Devon Hester) on special teams, I have thoroughly enjoyed watching the Bears defense make a mess of most NFL teams. Their defense is tough and hard-hitting! However, recently I have watched the Miami Dolphins and their multi-weapon offense (Wildcat!) shred some pretty tough defenses. Even though I like watching hard hitting defensive plays, I have to admit that the Miami offense has given me a new passion for the offense. The Miami Dolphins offense reminds me not to live in a foxhole!

The word we are focusing on is "battle." This means we are going to not dig foxholes and just try to keep teams from scoring, or allow the world's negative vibe send us hiding like cowards. We are going to charge forward in battle, we are going to attack. When others are playing safe and hiding in their foxholes of life, we are going to move forward and accomplish our goals with an aggressive advancement.

When others are sitting around, we are volunteering.

When some prefer to stay in the back, we will move to the front.

When others won't give advice for fear of failure, we will courageously speak up.

Here's the problem, it's easier to not battle than it is to battle. Written by an unknown author listen to this message called, "It's Easier."

It's easier to settle for average than strive for achievement.

It's easier to be saturated with complacency than stirred with compassion.

It's easier to be skeptical than successful.

It's easier to question than conquer.

It's easier to rationalize your disappointments than realize your dreams.

It's easier to belch the baloney than bring home the bacon.

(Story of David and Goliath) David understood that digging a fox hole was not the answer to victory. With confidence of previous victories in battle over lions, bears, and other predators wanting to take his sheep, he chooses to run into battle. With an aggressive attitude, confidence and only one weapon – a sling, he ran towards his battle. No defensive weapons in hand, no shield, or armor. Offensively minded he didn't wait for his opponent to come to him, David ran to battle!

### FOCUS

The word is battle. To be victorious, we must learn to battle through tough times, and determine now during the good times, that when the battle arrives we will not only stand our ground, but with confidence attack.

### DO HARD THINGS:

What things have you been avoiding, not wanting to face? What is that you know you need to deal with? For some it's learning to get your homework done on time or simply doing what your parents asked you to do the first time. For adults it may be sticking to the rules you gave your children and disciplining them when they break those rules. For others the battle may be tougher - pornography, addictions, alcoholism, or relationship problems.

Spiritually, instead of allowing Satan to kick you around, why not run into battle by waking each day reading God's Word, spending time in prayer and seeking God? Our battle is not against other people; our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities and rulers of this spiritual world. In other words, the battle is spiritual! That's why Ephesians 6 in the Bible tells us to put on spiritual armor and take up weapons of offense! Put on your spiritual armor today, spend time in prayer, and then go battle!