

# Beyond the Battle

## Freedom Fighters: Free from Fear

### Introduction – Dead or Alive?

2 Timothy 2:3-4

*TO BE A SOLDIER MEANS YOU WILL SACRIFICE IT ALL FOR THE CAUSE.  
TO BE EFFECTIVE AS A SOLDIER, YOU MUST FACE YOUR OWN FEAR OF DEATH*

### The Jesus Revolution Confronts Death

#### A. The Battlefield of 1<sup>st</sup> Century Palestine

- Fact # 1: Romans \_\_\_\_\_
- Fact # 2: Messiah Movements \_\_\_\_\_
- Fact # 3: Crucifixion is used to \_\_\_\_\_ revolutionaries
- Fact # 4: The Cross = \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Jesus' Invitation to Join the Revolution

Following Jesus begins with the question, "Are you willing to die as what will appear to be a \_\_\_\_\_?"

Mark 8:34-35

#### C. Insurrection? Resurrection

##### A. Personal Transformations

- Peter and the disciples - the cowards turned \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 2:14-47; Acts 4:13; Acts 5:41-42
- Five hundred willing to testify - the fearful turned \_\_\_\_\_  
I Corinthians 15:6
- James and his brothers - the sceptics turned \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark 3:21, 31-32; Acts 1:14, 15:13; I Cor. 15:7  
Gal. 1:19; James 1:1; Jude 1:1
- Paul - the ultimate antagonist turned unyielding \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 7:57-8:3; 9:1-30; II Corinthians 12:1-10; Galatians 1:13-24

### **SUMMARY – IMMEDIATE IMPACT OF THE RESURRECTION**

- Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- For those that fully trust and obey God, death is not the \_\_\_\_\_ but the \_\_\_\_\_ of something better
- We don't need to be \_\_\_\_\_ of death

Hebrews 2:14,15

### Lessons from Freedom Fighters (freed to live and love)

1. Paul - When God's \_\_\_\_\_ flows through your life, no suffering can quench your \_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 8:35-39, II Corinthians 7:4)
2. Early Christians - When God's \_\_\_\_\_ consumes your life, your \_\_\_\_\_ will exceed your wildest imagination
3. Fellow Meeting Housers – \_\_\_\_\_ can be a freedom fighter

### Conclusion – Is It In You?

Galatians 2:20

### **Home Church Questions**

#### Warming Up...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, convicted, or encouraged you. When in the past have you most been afraid?
2. React and discuss: "Our culture is a paradox. On one hand we obsessively watch death for entertainment and on the other we avoid at all costs facing our own aging and death."

#### Look to the Book...

3. On a piece of paper list the normal fears that confront Christ-followers today and keep them from living out all God wants for them. Read Psalm 118:5-7; Matthew 28:9-11 and Acts 18:9-11. In what ways can the presence of the risen Christ replace these fears with confidence? Review your list and discuss how Jesus would respond to each of these fears. What would he say to a person feeling these things?
4. Read Philippians 1:19-26. React to this statement, "Although he was in prison, Paul was free on the inside. Today we have all the freedoms we want, but remain imprisoned by fear." Do you think most Christians can honestly say Phil. 1:21? Why or why not?

#### So What?...

5. What fears in your life need to be replaced with the confidence of Jesus' presence living in you? Read Psalm 23 one verse at a time and allow time for prayer between each verse as you invite the risen Christ to be your good shepherd.

Tim Day @ THE MEETING HOUSE – APRIL 4/11, 2004