

## Within and Without

When a person thinks of opposition, there are really only two locations that opposition can arise from- outside and inside. Paul described this in 2 Corinthians 7:4-6.

“For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without *were* fightings, within *were* fears.” *2 Corinthians 7:5*.

**Outside Battles-** We argue, fight, yell, and war with people around us. Relationships are damaged. Marriages end in divorce. Neighborhoods are wrecked. Chaos reigns in cities.

What is the key for victory for our Outside Battles? One word- Love!

“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.” *Matthew 7:12*

When we love folks enough to treat them as we want to be treated wars stop.

**Inside Battles-** We harbor sin in our hearts. We do not trust people. We stay bitter and do not forgive those who hurt us. We live in a continual state of confusion.

What is the key for victory for our Inside Battles? One word- Love!

“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” *Matthew 19:19*

When we can love and make peace within our selves then we can truly love others.

None of these Battles can be won on our own, though. It takes a divine intervention of love through Jesus Christ to make it happen.

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.” *1 John 4:7-11*