

**June 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>**

**This is War pt1: Raise the Standard**

In this lesson you will learn three ways to follow God's standard in your life.

**Intro:** The kingdom of God is not a playground or a place of leisure on which to be entertained. It is a battlefield, and a place of enlistment into the army of God. Contend for the faith. Contend means to; fight for, to war with, and to struggle with persistence. We are in a war. God has a standard for which you were born, called, and destined to achieve. Don't lower that standard because it seems unattainable in the here and now. Fight hard and strive consistently to uphold the standard of character God has for his children.

**I. Resist**

- A. Resist means; to protect against, to withstand, to weather, to combat, and to endure. James 4:7- resistance requires surrender to God. The key to successfully resisting is choosing the right environments, the right friends, and the right relationships. Your destiny is connected to your purity. Purity sees past the present pleasures, and realizes the importance of the fulfillment of future purpose.

**II. Repent**

- A. Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of action. It is a changing from the inside out. God's longsuffering (2 Pet 3:9) as well as His kindness (Rom 2:4) leads us to repentance. It is impossible to truly and fully change your mind without that causing a change in your actions. In the bible, repentance results in a change of behavior. God gives us a repentant heart and the empowering grace to walk out the actions of repentance.

**III. Refocus**

- A. Refocus means; to adjust the focus of one's lens or one's eyes, to focus attention or resources on something new or different. Adam and Eve fixed their eyes on the one forbidden tree. The longer we fix our eyes, ears, and hearts on what we cannot have, the more likely we are to take it. Adjust your focus on Christ and His Word. Inundate your eyes, ears, and your heart with His presence. He will bring you lasting satisfaction.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What areas in your life do you need to resist the flesh and surrender to the Lord?
2. In what ways do you need to repent and turn back to God?
3. How can you refocus your desires on God's standard for your life?