

BATTLEZONE VICTORIES



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My wife and I have been senior Pastors of a Faith Summit Church for several years and involved in church and ministry life for over thirty years. I can say from my limited experience in the Christian circles I've been around that discipleship is nearly non-existent. I believe pastors should teach the Bible line upon line—I am also convinced that relationship is imperative for discipleship.

On a personal level, I have been blessed to be raised with a strong faith background. This heritage is a precious gift from God. However one of the potential traps if you're not watchful is that you can't be transparent. After all, how can you "confess" your problems and "confess" your faith at the same time? I asked the Lord while in brokenness several years ago, "how can I be in faith and transparent at the same time?" The Holy Spirit prompted this response, "Your transparency with Me is the evidence of your faith and trust in Me."

Along my journey, a flaming missile of rejection and shame from the adversary got past my armor. It happens often in church life but unfortunately I didn't know how handle it. Worst of all I had no mentoring relationships and didn't reach out to the trusted relationships I did have. I became disillusioned for a couple of years. As a result, I would not be honest with myself or allow myself the freedom to feel the pain and rejection of what I went through. I couldn't (or didn't) reach out for help.

Finally, I started to reach out. In my journey back to restoration I entered into my first BattleZONE Training Course. This accelerated God's healing process in me like few other Christian disciplines can. Bible reading, prayer, and fasting, etc. all have their high place of priority in our relationship with God. So do transparent, authentic relationships and this is the one we neglect, ignore or flat out rebel against. I believe this relationship environment is what prepares the heart for the Word of God to penetrate and thus bring true transformation.

For me personally, one of the direct results of BattleZONE was the diligent seeking out of God ordained relationships. I can thankfully say that my wife and I now have pastors over us and a spiritual covering for the church; we also now have other mentors and peer relationships. There is not one thing about my life that my mentors do not know. The devil has no dirty little secret on me. My wife and I can literally feel the safety, wisdom and victory that come with a multitude of counsel and submission to God-joined relationships.

Pastors are gatekeeper and influencers, and we must open the door for genuine discipleship within our churches. If we do, the people will flourish as "every joint supplies...every part does its share," and it will cause growth in the Body.

Whether you are in church leadership or a newer Christian you have perhaps your greatest opportunity to break through in more ways imaginable by your participation in this BattleZONE Training Course. Give it all you have and may God bless your journey and work in you mightily as you work out your salvation.

Keep reaching forward,