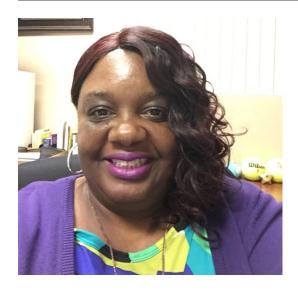
CHOOSE YOUR BATTLES?



"Choose your battles." No thanks. I choose not to because I will trust what David declared to his enemy in 1 Samuel 17:47 during one of his battles, "...the battle is the Lord's..." More appropriately choose how we will respond to the battle, choose our posture, choose our position, and choose to be prepared (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Oftentimes our flesh is our biggest enemy; the battle **within us**, our thought pattern, not caring for our souls, not spending time in God's presence. We **are sinful, flawed, imperfect people**, but through our faith alone in Jesus Christ alone, we are God's people. The battle keeps us on our knees and depending on The Holy Spirit and His power. Christ has secured our salvation with redemption through His blood. We are still Christians. Hallelujah!

We need to be reminded daily that we have three enemies: The World, The Flesh (Self), and The Devil.

- 1. <u>1 John 2:15</u>, "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." **The World**
- James 1:14, "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust." – The Flesh
- 3. <u>2 Corinthians 2:11</u>, "so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes." **The Devil**.

We are not immune from the battle of spiritual warfare. The enemy will use our thinking to do a number on us and deceive us to perceive others from our hurt and pain. He will use anything and anyone, even people who are closest to us.

<u>John 10:10</u>, "The thief comes only to **steal** and **kill** and **destroy**;" in other words, **the devil is a hitman.** But..."I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly." **Jesus is The Godman.**

When we are at war to display the love and characteristics of Christ or when we are not experiencing this from our sisters and brothers, let's choose our posture, position, and prepare for the battle. "Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16

Sandra Robinson considers her life as "hidden in Christ with God" (Col. 3:3). She currently serves on OCBF staff as Director of Membership Services and has been a member 21 years. Sandra has served in various ministry capacities for over half her life and had the most God awe experience of being part of a start-up church. She mostly enjoys a peaceful life; she is an avid tennis "watcher," absolutely loves spending time with family-four older brothers, one younger sister, their kids and grandkids, as well as hanging out with her closest sister-friends.

Sandra has a background in commercial banking and project management. She is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary and is on her first year journey to complete her Doctorate of Ministry.