Once upon a time a young Cherokee Indian boy received a beautiful drum as a gift. When his best friend saw it, he asked if he could play with it, but the boy felt torn. He didn’t want to share his new present, so he angrily told his friend, “No!” His friend grabbed the drum and ran away. The boy sat down on a rock by the stream to contemplate his dilemma. He hated the fact that his friend had taken his drum, but it seemed too precious to share. In his quandary, he went to his grandfather for advice.

The old Cherokee Grandfather said to his grandson, “Let me tell you a story”.

I too, at times, have felt a great hatred toward those that have taken so much, with no sorrow for what they do. But hate wears you down, and does not hurt your enemy. It is like taking poison and wishing your enemy would die. I have struggled with these feelings many times.”

He continued, “It is as if there are two wolves inside me. The first one is good, and is full of love, peace, compassion, generosity, friendship, faith, generous and does no harm. He lives in harmony with all around him, and does not take offense when no offense was intended. He will only fight when it is right to do so, and in the right way.

Good
Genesis 1:25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Love
Psalm 45:7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.

Peace
Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Compassion
Psalm 86:15 But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

Generosity
Corinthians 9:11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Friendship
Job 29:4 Oh, for the days when I was in my prime, when God’s intimate friendship blessed my house,

Faith
Thessalonians 3:2 And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith.

Generous
Proverbs 11:25 A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.
But the other wolf, ah! He is envious, full of bitterness, malice, jealousy, covetousness, arrogance, superiority and greed. The littlest thing will set him into a fit of temper. He fights everyone, all the time, for no reason. He cannot think because his anger and hate are so great. It is helpless anger, for his anger will change nothing.

Envy
Proverbs 24:1 Do not envy wicked men, do not desire their company;
Bitterness
21:25 Another man dies in bitterness of soul, never having enjoyed anything good.
Malice
Ephesians 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.
Jealousy
Corinthians 3:3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?
Covetousness
Exodus 20:17 You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor especially their new drum...
Arrogance
Psalm 10:2 In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises.
Superiority
Daniel 8:25 He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.
Greed
Colossians 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

The grandfather added that these two wolves rage against each other inside of everybody, with each wolf winning at different points in time. Sometimes, it is hard to live with these two wolves inside of you, for both of them try to dominate your spirit.”

The thought of these two wolves inside of him concerned the grandson, so he looked intently into his Grandfather’s eyes and asked, "Which one wins, Grandfather?"

The Grandfather smiled and quietly said, "The one you feed."

In the Christian worldview, those two wolves are Satan and Christ. God gives us free will, and that means we can feed whichever one of these two we choose. We can feed evil, or we can feed good.

We feed Satan when we pursue our self-centered interests, demand justice for ourselves, pour ourselves into our work, obsess over our weight, watch immoral TV shows and movies, abuse substances, practice sexual immorality, compare ourselves with others, and generally allow anger, jealousy, bitterness, and any form of malice to rule our hearts. There is no half way. We begin sliding down the slippery slope with every act of evil born in our hearts. There is nowhere to go but down as this “wolf” gets stronger.

We feed Christ when we give ourselves over to God, accept the humility of the cross, serve others, love others, worship God, read the Bible, pray often, practice simplicity, and generally allow him to rule over our hearts. Living for God and loving him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength feeds Christ within us, and that causes us to live for him and love him even more. There is nowhere to go but up, heavenward in fact, as this “wolf” gets stronger.

Which wolf have you fed today?