

## The Good Fight of Faith

### Int.

1. Aim: To show the things involved in fighting the good fight.
2. 1 Tim. 6:12 "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."
  - a. Christians are involved in a great conflict: A battle against the powers of darkness.
  - b. Compared to Soldiers in an army with the responsibility to "...fight the good fight of faith" (I Tim. 6:12).
  - c. Paul "fought the good fight" (I I Tim. 4:7). Responsibility of every Christian:
3. "Fight" literally means, "to contend with an adversary" "conflict or contention" -- The enemy must be engaged (I Pet. 5:8).
4. There are a number of reasons why the conflict is called the "good fight." When we contend with the adversary and overcome then it has been a good fight!!
5. In this lesson, we want to look at some of the things we must fight.

### Discussion

#### I. WE MUST FIGHT AGAINST TEMPTATIONS.

- A. Temptation come upon us every day
  1. Temptation = means enticement, lure, bait, snare
  2. Jas. 1:2-5 "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." Divers = various

3. I Pet.1:6 NKJV "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,"

B. There must be a constant struggle to keep the body in subjection

1. I Cor. 9:27 "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."
2. When one feels secure, then he is in danger. If there is no struggle, one has been deceived.

C. Must look for way of escape -

1. I Cor. 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."
2. Way of escape = exit -- a way out
3. Way to avoid yielding to the temptation
4. This is one of the ways to fight temptation

D. Able to fight temptation by knowing what is involved in it

1. Jas. 1:14-16
2. Arises from within.
3. Knowing that help is available.

## **II. WE MUST FIGHT WORLDLINESS.**

### A. Ever present pressure to conform

1. Rom. 12:1,2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."
2. Christian has been delivered from the world, must not let it mold his life.
3. Not conformed to world = be like or live like
4. 1 Jn. 2:15-16 -- the things of the world include:
  - a. Lust of the Flesh
  - b. Lust of the Eyes
  - c. Pride of Life

### B. There is no place for compromise: No middle of the road.

- ### C. Must resolve not to look back (see Lk. 9:62). Development of closer relation with the Lord enables to fight. "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

### **III. WE MUST FIGHT AGAINST WORRY, DISCOURAGEMENT**

#### A. Worry is a problem we must overcome

1. "Anxious thought" not to control life of the disciple (Matt. 6:25-35).
2. Lack of trust in God responsible for that which destroys so many:
3. Worry about Every day cares of life.
4. We fight worry by seeking first Kingdom of God - Mt. 6:33
5. We have not been given a spirit of fear (I I Tim. 1:7).
6. Christ gives victory over the grave; therefore, do not have to fear death (I Cor. 15).
7. More than conquerors - Rom.8:37. "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."
8. Fear or worry is the greatest robber which one faces in life.

#### B. DISCOURAGEMENT

1. All need to be admonished, "Be strong and of good courage" (Josh. 1:6).
2. Easy to fall victim to discouragement. Think the task is impossible, little progress, little concern of others.
3. Discouragement is the first step to defeat. (I Illus., I srael discouraged by report of ten spies- Num. 13:31-33).
4. Can have courage because of the One who is on our side
5. I John 4:4 "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

#### **IV. WE MUST FIGHT FALSE DOCTRINE.**

##### A. False doctrine is found on every hand

1. II Pet. 2:1 NKJV "But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction."
2. 1 Jn. 4:1 "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."
3. There will always be false teachers spreading their false doctrines that we must fight against.

##### B. We must contend for the faith - Jude 3 ASV "Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints."

1. Stand up for that which is right
2. Not ashamed of the Gospel - Rom. 1:16

##### C. Knowledge of the truth is the weapon against error John 8:32

## **V. THE FIGHT IS THE "GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH."**

- A. Through faith we overcome the world, temptation (I John 5:4). "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."
- B. Faith Overcomes:
1. Through faith we fight temptations by finding the escape
  2. Faith in God's word helps us to overcome worldliness
  3. Faith overcomes worry and discouragement
  4. Faith enables us to withstand false doctrine. We contend for the faith which was once for all delivered unto us.
- C. Put on the Whole Armor of God
1. Eph. 6:10-18
  2. Be strong - stand against the wiles of the devil
  3. Pieces of armor:
    - a. Loins girt with truth
    - b. Breastplate of righteousness
    - c. Feet shod with preparation of Gospel of peace
    - d. Shield of faith
    - e. Helmet of Salvation
    - f. Prayer unto God.
- D. When we fight the good fight of faith in this way we will win the battle, we will be victorious.
1. 1 Tim. 6:11-12
  2. Lay hold on eternal life

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Are you a “fighting Christian?”
2. Can you say, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course....”?
3. If we do so, will one day hear, “well done thou good and faithful servant...”

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