

## **“The Fight of Faith”**

**10/13/19**

**“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses” (1 Tim. 6:12).**

**God’s Word tells us to fight the good fight of faith.**

**We are called to be spiritual warriors in God’s kingdom, soldiers in the army of God.**

---

**The Bible has much to say about faith...**

**Faith can be weak or strong,**

**Every believer is to *live and walk* by faith and not by sight,**

**Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith,**

**Faith is nurtured and strengthened by hearing the Word of God.**

**The final end of our faith is the salvation of our souls.**

**And faith is the God-given means by which we obtain the things God has promised us.**

**We don't *think* the promises down, or *will* the promises down, or somehow *twist God's arm* to send the promises down...**

**We "faith" the promises down by praying to the God of the promises.**

**We're told that through faith the OT saints, "...*obtained promises...*" (Heb. 11:33 NKJV).**

- **In short, the entire Christian life begins and ends with faith.**
- 

**And the best definition of faith in all the Word of God is found in Hebrews:**

**"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen" (Heb. 11:1 NKJV).**

**Two key words are here regarding faith:**

**First, Faith is called a *substance*—"the *substance* of things we're hoping for..."**

***Substance* is from a Greek word meaning "title deed."**

**So the first part of this verse could read, “Faith is the title deed to what you’re hoping for.”**

**If God has given you faith for something it produces the same confidence as a title deed does.**

**ILLUS: If I were to hand you today the title deed to my car, it may not be in your driveway yet,**

**you may not be sitting in it yet,**

**or driving it yet,**

**but it’s as good as done—you are confident the car is yours because you hold the title deed.**

**Faith that is standing on the promises of God is the *substance*, the title deed to what you’re asking for.**

- It may not have appeared in your life yet, you may not see it yet, but if your faith is grounded in the promises of God it’s only a matter of time before the *unseen IS seen!***

**That’s why we’re told to “walk by faith and not by sight!”**

---

Then the second half of the verse says that faith “Is the *evidence* of things not yet seen” (11:1b).

The word “evidence” means “inner conviction.”

Faith places within us a deep inner certainty that what we are believing God for is going to be answered.

John put it this way, “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him” (1 John 5:14-15 NKJV).

The *confidence* that “He hears us” is the *evidence* that what we’re asking for is coming, though for now it is invisible.

---

Now, all these things about faith come into play in the *fight of faith* our text talked about—“*Fight the good fight of faith...*”

In life there are all kinds of fights—fist fights, verbal fights, bad fights, unfair fights, domestic fights, political fights—

But the fight of faith is called a “good fight.”

Paul the Apostle summed up his life with the words,

**“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7 NIV).**

**His *fight* was a good one, his *race* was a finished one, and his *faith* was a kept one.**

---

**Now, why is the fight of faith called a “good fight”?**

**What makes it a good fight?**

**First,**

**I. It is the Lord’s fight**

**Paul had not been a soldier in some earthly army, but was in a heavenly one—the Lord’s army.**

**He had entered into the Lord’s battle, which was and is the battle between good and evil.**

**Paul’s whole life was dedicated to delivering souls from Satan’s grip and exposing the works of darkness.**

**But this wasn’t Paul’s original idea....it’s what Jesus called him to do!**

**And Jesus calls every one of His children to the same battle—the Lord’s battle—the GOOD FIGHT!**

---

**You see, Jesus came to earth to engage in a battle with the arch-foe of all mankind—Satan and his demonic forces.**

**The Bible teaches that earth came under siege when Adam fell.**

**First, death entered the human race through his disobedience:**

**“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned...” (Ro. 5:12 NIV).**

**And with death came sickness, disease, and hopeless despair as the entire world fell under the control of the devil.**

**John the Apostle writes, “We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one” (1 John 5:19 NIV).**

---

**So when Jesus began His earthly ministry it was not so that He could walk around saying poetic, “feel good” things to everybody.**

**He came as a warrior, a soldier, heaven's anointed General to do battle with a renegade, monstrous devil!**

---

**For instance, we see that at the launch of His ministry, Jesus entered his own hometown synagogue to teach.**

**And the very first thing to happen was that demons began to cry out of a man for mercy:**

**They begged Him, "Let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"**

**25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" 26 And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him" (Mark 1:23-26 NKJV).**

**Here we see Jesus's ministry was immediately marked by warfare with the devil.**

**From then on everywhere He went it was the same story—He cast demons out of tormented people, sickness and diseases were cured, and people in hopeless despair found new life.**

**It was the good fight!**

**So...The good fight of faith is when you step into the Lord's battle and fight the devil alongside Him, and that's what makes it a good fight!**

---

**A second characteristic of the good fight of faith is:**

**II. We have skin in the game**

**ILLUS: Think of a football game. There are a total of 22 players on the field, 11 for each team.**

**They all play different positions and they all experience adversity and attack.**

**But the one carrying the football is attacked worst of all.**

**The opposing team doesn't care if the ball carrier *himself* crosses the goal line, they care if the **BALL** crosses the line!**

**As soon as he drops the football or the play is over, the attack against him stops.**

---

**It's the same with those fighting the good fight!**

**When you're carrying the gospel ball, running it toward the goal line, and you're about to make a touchdown with souls being saved, and the Jesus team is about to win, you will get personally attacked because you're the one carrying the ball!**

**So the enemy will try to stop a person, a church, or a ministry any way he can.**

**He'll send discouragement, disappointment, trouble at home, persecution, weariness, betrayals...*anything to stop you!***

**And this is when trying times are the worst times to quit trying!**

**For sure—in the good fight you *WILL* have skin in the game.**

---

**So...The good fight is (1.) the Lord's fight, (2.) the good fight is personal, and third...**

**III. The battle is already won!**

**We may lost some fights but the victory is assured, the war is already won!**

**When Jesus shed His blood on the Cross, it wiped away every claim Satan had against us.**

**The Bible says, "We owed a (great sin) debt—But God forgave us that debt. He took it away and nailed it to the cross. 15 He defeated the rulers and powers of the spiritual world. With the cross he won the victory over them and led them away, as defeated and powerless prisoners for the whole world to see" (Col 2:13-15 ERV).**

**Then and there on the Cross of Calvary, the war was won!**

**So—"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us!" (Ro. 8:37 ESV)**

---

