



Fight the Good Fight of Faith
Sunday November 03, 2024

Let's begin by reading three Scripture texts for the message we wish to bring to us today:

1 Timothy 6:12

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.

The word "fight" is used twice and there are two different Greek words that are used, that are translated with the same English word "fight".

Fight (the first word) has three aspects to it.

(a) **to compete** for a prize as in a game.

(b) **to contend** with an adversary, or with difficulties and dangers.

(c) **to endeavor** to accomplish something or to obtain something.

Here it is referring to the "what", the action we must take: **compete, contend, endeavor**

Fight (the second word after the word "good") has the idea of:

an assembly, the place of contest, the arena, stadium

a contest, battle, game

Here the focus is on "where" this action must happen. It happens in the arena, stadium, or realm of FAITH.

We are **competing, contending and endeavoring** in an arena where the contest, battle and game is about FAITH. It is not about who can run the fastest, or who can jump the highest or longest, or who can throw the farthest. In this arena, it is about FAITH.

Ephesians 6:16

above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

"above all" is rendered in other versions as "most of all", "in all circumstances", "at all times", "in addition to all", "in every battle".

The shield of faith is the most important piece of our spiritual armor. Because the Scriptures state "above all" or most important of all use the shield of faith.

1 Peter 5:8-9



8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Today we bring a simple message of encouragement to us: Fight the good fight of faith.

The fight of faith is a fight where we use our faith in God to go against the enemy.

The fight of faith is a spiritual fight against a spiritual enemy and that is fought in the spiritual realm. This is not a fight using physical strength. This is not a fight of intellect. This is not a fight of human influence. This is a fight where we use our FAITH IN GOD! A fight of faith.

The Bible calls this a “good fight”. Fight the “good fight” of faith. Why is this called a “good fight”?

A good fight is a fight that is worth fighting for. There are some “fights” or “battles” that are not worth our time and effort. But the “fight of faith” is a fight that is worth fighting.

A good fight is also a fight that we win! The outcome has already been determined. God will always cause us to triumph (2 Corinthians 2:14)! God gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Remember, a fight may take time. There may be several “rounds” like in a boxing match.

WHY THIS FIGHT OF FAITH?

There is an enemy who wants to rob us of our faith in God and what faith in God can bring into our lives in this life and in the life to come.

Think of how important faith is in the believer’s life (we can definitely add to this short list):

- Faith is how we please God (Hebrews 11:6). Whatever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23) and displeases God.
- Faith is what receives from God (James 1:5; Matthew 21:22). If we lose our faith we cannot receive from God.
- Faith is how we walk with God (2 Corinthians 5:7). If we lose our faith we cannot journey with God into His plans and purposes.



- Faith is how we overcome (1 John 5:4). If we lose faith, we end up living defeated lives.
- Faith is how we quench every fiery dart of the wicked one (Ephesians 6:17). If we lose faith, we get hit by the fiery darts of the wicked one and suffer injuries.
- Faith is how we minister to others (Galatians 3:5; James 5:14-15). If we lose faith how are we to minister to others?
- Faith is how we lay hold on eternal life (1 Timothy 6:12). God has given us the free gift of eternal life. But we need to have a firm grip on it. We need to make a tight hold of eternal life through faith. If we lose our faith we lose our grip on God's free gift of eternal life.

HOW THE ENEMY WORKS TO WEAKEN OR ROB US OF FAITH IN GOD

Faith comes by hearing God's Word (Romans 10:17) and knowing God through His Word.

The enemy comes to rob us of the Word of God through any of these ways:

- **Distractions that keep us from the Word of God.** We become too busy, sometimes even doing good and legitimate things and have not time to feed on the Word of God personally. We must intentionally take time to read, meditate and declare the Word of God.
- **Lies, deceptions, questions, doubts and unbelief that cause us to doubt the Word.** Some of us may read the Bible and listen to messages. But immediately the enemy sows lies, doubts and questions. He challenges "Did God really say that you can have eternal life through faith in Jesus?". "Did God really say you have been healed by the stripes of Jesus?". "Did God really say that He will bless you in all the works of your hands?"....and on and on. We stand on the fact that God's Word is truth and God cannot lie. His Word is forever settled in heaven.
- **Difficult circumstances that challenge our faith in the Word.** As soon as we hear the promises of God, we begin to face some problems that seem to challenge God's promises. These problems challenge our faith in God and His Word. The devil comes along and says "If God's Word is really true why then are you facing these problems?". "If God's Word is true, why is it not happening just as He said?". But **we know that the Promises of God triumph over the problems of our life**. That is the whole reason why God has given us His promises – to help us overcome the problems through faith in God.



- **Neutralizing God's Word through wrong theology.** Sometimes people, perhaps sincere, well-meaning people explain away the promises of God and leave us in a place of unbelief. And the devil uses their kind explanations to rob us of faith in God.

They change the "past tense" of God's Word to "future tense". God's Word says that "by His stripes you **were healed**" (1 Peter 2:24). God's Word says: "He **has delivered** us from the power of darkness" (Colossians 1:13). God's Word says: "who **has blessed** us with every spiritual blessing" (Ephesians 1:3). Instead of seeing this as a finished work they say may be sometime in the future God will do it, when He has already completed it.

They change the "I am" of who God is, to "I was". God said: "**I am** the Lord who heals you". They say 'well He used to do that in Bible times, but not anymore'.

They change the "I will" of God's Word to "I might". God said: "**I will** take sickness out of your midst...**I will** fulfill the number of your days" (Exodus 23:25-26). They say 'well, maybe it is not God's will for you..'.

They change the "whoever" and "whatever" of God's Word to "maybe not you" or "maybe not this". The Bible says "**whoever says** to the mountain be removed and does not doubt...it will be done. And **whatever things** you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them" (Mark 11:23-24)

They change the "all" of God's Word to "some, maybe few". His Word says He "forgives **all** our sins and heals **all** our diseases" (Psalm 103:3).

Never allow the enemy to rob you of your faith!

Your faith in God is precious! Protect it! Guard it!

HOW TO FIGHT THE FIGHT OF FAITH?

All the three Scripture texts we read at the beginning call us to act. We see the action we are called to take.

"**Fight** the good fight of faith..."

"**Take** the shield of faith..."

"**Resist** him, steadfast in the faith..."

Fight. Take. Resist. All are verbs. Things we must do as we engage in conflict.



Based on what we see in Scripture, we can lay these practices that will help us fight the good fight of faith daily:

Feed your faith with the Word

Our faith is birthed, nurtured and strengthened through the Word of God. Read the Word. Meditate in the Word. Read God's promises over different areas of your life and walk with God: personal spiritual life, victory, health, finances, future, family, children, ministry, etc.

Speak your faith in the Word

The Lord Jesus taught us that one way to exercise faith and to put our faith to work is to speak our faith. Speak words that express our faith in God and His Word (Mark 11:22-23). Speak and declare God's promises over different areas of your life and walk with God: personal spiritual life, victory, health, finances, future, family, children, ministry, etc.

Example: Jesus resisted temptation by speaking the Word. During His life and ministry He spoke the Scriptures. He spoke what the Father had taught Him.

Act your faith in the Word

Do things that are aligned to and agree with God's Word and express your faith in God.

WHAT TO FIGHT FOR?

Fight the good fight of faith for God's promises in every area of your life. Your healing. Your family. Your finances. Your peace and joy. Your life of victory. Jesus paid a great price for you to have these.

Fight the good fight of faith for God's call, purpose and plan for your life. The enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy. Don't let him steal and destroy God's plans for your life.

Contend for what is yours. Fight the good fight of faith.

SUMMARY

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

2 Corinthians 6:2

For He says: "IN AN ACCEPTABLE TIME I HAVE HEARD YOU, AND IN THE DAY OF SALVATION I HAVE HELPED YOU." Behold, **now** is the accepted (approved, pleasing, favorable) time; behold, **now** is the day of salvation.



God's time for salvation is "NOW". Salvation (Greek 'soteria') in the Bible is forgiveness, healing, deliverance, wholeness, rescue, safety. God's approved, pleasing and favorable time for your salvation is "now". God's timing for your forgiveness is 'now'. God's timing for your healing is 'now'. God's timing for your deliverance is 'now'. Let's expect, receive and experience God's saving, healing, delivering, power now.

When Jesus began His earthly ministry, He announced the beginning of "the acceptable year of the Lord". This was beginning of the favorable, appointed, approved and pleasing time for God's work to save, heal, and deliver. In Jesus' ministry healings and deliverances happened immediately. We are still in that "acceptable year of the Lord". Let's expect to receive now!

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



Fight the Good Fight of Faith
Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**Fight the Good Fight of Faith
Sunday November 03, 2024**

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *1 Timothy 6:12; Ephesians 6:16; 1 Peter 5:8-9*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to share their learning. Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

#1, Discuss the various aspects of the call to "fight the good fight of faith".

What does this mean? Why is this important?

#2, Discuss how the devil attempts to weaken or rob us of our faith in God?

#3, Discuss how we practically "fight the good fight of faith". Share some life experiences.



Each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key insights and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.*

Close by thanking God together.



Fight the Good Fight of Faith Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide



USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

In this encouraging sermon we learn about the good fight of faith. Why is it important to fight the fight of faith. We learn how the enemy attempts to weaken or rob us of our faith in God. We learn how to fight the fight of faith and what we should fight for. A simple, yet very important message for every believer in Jesus.

KEYWORDS

Faith, good fight of faith, shield of faith, resist the enemy, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Biblical definitions, Hebrew and Greek words and their meanings are drawn from the following resources:

Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.



Fight the Good Fight of Faith
Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

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