

It Is Written

*A weekly publication of the
Junction Highway church of Christ in Kerrville, TX.
Vol. 3 February 14, 2021 No. 7*

“Fight The Good Fight Of Faith”

By Jarrod M. Jacobs

Many forget the fact that being a Christian is a struggle, a real fight. Many “Christians” portray an attitude that says since they have been faithful for a time, they will now rest on their laurels and wait for God to “take them home.” Sadly, these people are deceiving themselves. This will not happen. The apostle Paul told Timothy, “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” (I Tim. 6:12). While we want to enjoy times of peace and calm, let us not forget that the life of a Christian is one of fighting and turmoil against Satan (II Cor. 10:4-5). Since this is true, let us look to the Bible and find what will help us “fight the good fight of faith.”

Humility

There is no question that if we wish to please God, we must be humble. Jesus taught that only by being as humble as a child can we hope for a home in Heaven (Matt. 18:3-4). Similarly, Peter wrote, “Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” (I Pet. 5:5-6). God inspired Peter to teach that it is not up to us to exalt ourselves, but God will exalt His faithful. Solomon teaches that “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18). Also, “...before honour is humility” (Prov. 15:33; 18:12). How humble are we?

Prayer

Prayer is desperately needed if we wish to fight the good fight of faith. Throughout the Bible, we read of those great faith heroes who spent time in prayer. Daniel certainly stands out as a great example of a faithful and prayerful person (Dan. 6:10). When he knew that he could lose his life for praying to God, he continued to pray! He did not give in! Jesus also taught men the importance of prayer in Luke 18:1-8. He taught that “men ought always to pray, and not to faint” (Lk. 18:1). Paul echoed Christ on this subject. He declared to the brethren to “pray without ceasing” (I Thess. 5:17). Prayer is essential if we want to please God. We must talk to God regularly if we hope to have the strength to fight against Satan.

Devotion To Christ

If we are going to fight the good fight of faith, we need to be devoted to the cause of Christ! The word devotion means “a strong attachment to apply time or oneself completely to some purpose or cause” (Webster’s). The apostle Paul stands out as a great example of devotion. Please read his words in II Corinthians 12:15. He wrote, “And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.” His devotion to Christ and other Christians was amazing. He told the Corinthians that he would gladly “spend” his time, strength, and life for their well-being. He would also “be spent” for them. This means he would exhaust himself in his labors to get souls to Heaven by teaching God’s word. As we think about fighting the good fight of faith, we need to be like the apostle Paul and be a devoted people, committed totally to Christ!

Reading The Bible

When we don’t read and study our Bibles, we will fail in “the good fight of faith.” Paul teaches, “Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ,” and “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (Eph. 3:4; II Tim. 2:15). Reading the Bible provides spiritual food for our souls (Heb. 5:12-14; I Pet. 2:2).

We understand that if a soldier does not eat, he will die. Likewise, when a soldier of the cross does not “eat” the spiritual bread and drink the water of life, he will die spiritually (Jn. 4:10; 6:35, 48). Let us work to take advantage of our opportunities to read and study God’s word daily. If we do not read and study God’s word daily,

we have our priorities in the wrong place! The Bible says, "Blessed is he that readeth" (Rev. 1:3). What should a man's attitude be toward God's word? "His delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night" (Ps. 1:2). Let us strengthen and fill up our souls on the word of God so we will be able to fight the good fight of faith!

Don't Let The Devil Run Your Life.

Many today are allowing Satan to run their lives! One way this happens is when people know the truth but do nothing about it. Many think that they can put off believing in the Lord, repenting of their sins, and being baptized for the remission of sins for another day (II Cor. 6:2; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38). Yet, when we choose not to make a decision, the decision is made! Satan sees the smallest opportunity and will seize that opportunity to discourage us from becoming a Christian if he has the chance.

Wouldn't it be great to know what defeats Satan? Wouldn't it be great to know what we can do to keep Satan from running our lives? We can know, and in fact, it has been revealed what we can do. In addition to the above items we have studied, let's make sure and, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded" (Jas. 4:7-8). Obeying these things is key to defeating Satan.

Conclusion

Let us not give up in this fight. There are too many soldiers of the cross falling due to Satan's "fiery darts" (Eph. 6:16). "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9). Let us never forget to "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life" (I Tim. 6:12).

Thoughts About True Freedom

By R.L. Whiteside (1869-1951)

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn. 8:31-32).

People who long for freedom usually know little of what it is nor do they know how to obtain it. An illustration or two may help us see what freedom is. A machine runs free when all parts move as the designer intended. A living thing is free when it moves unhampered in the element, or surroundings, in which God intended it to live. A fish in water, not in a net or otherwise confined, is free; for there is where God intended it to live. Out of its element, it is not free. Contrary to speculative theology, man's natural element is righteousness. That is the element in which the creator intended that he should live and in which he is placed. He is not free anywhere else any more than a fish is free on dry land. By sin man, each man brings himself into bondage. Adam's sin did not bring you into bondage to sin; you did that yourself. "Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin" (Jn. 8:34). While living in sin, men are under the most servile slavery, from which there is only one way to escape. "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17-18). Obedience to the truth is the Lord's way of making us free from the bondage of sin. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (Jn. 8:36). But Jesus forces freedom on no one.

"For better or for worse"

By Kyle Campbell

These familiar words form a part of just about every wedding ceremony I have ever attended. Living with someone all of your life takes true devotion and commitment. In 1816, the preside of Yale was complaining because the divorce rate was 1% in the state of Connecticut. How we long for those days! However, in the days of easy divorce, the words of the Lord are still true (Matthew 19:9).

If you cannot imagine yourself living with your current boyfriend or girlfriend for the rest of your life, you have no business getting married! Financial problems, family problems, and health problems can really take a toll on a couple. Husbands must love their wives (Ephesians 5:25) and wives must submit to their husbands (Ephesians 5:22). Only then will God's plan truly work in the way He intended. Divorce is one of the hardest emotional processes you will ever go through, so please choose wisely!