

Well Done Good and Faithful Church – Fighting the Good Fight

April 24, 2022

1 Tim. 6: 11-12

Introductory thoughts: What is the Nature of the Fight? It is real, you are in the battle already. The fight is: our sinfulness, Satan and his schemes, the outside world who hates truths, sluggish and lifeless Christians, apathetic churches, church members with idolatrous habits, church culture wanting to please people and not Christ, and fights against church leadership. Paul exhorting the churches of Lystra and Iconium of the tribulations suffered, Acts 14:22. Persecutions come to those who desire to live godly, 2 Tim. 3:12. Take up your cross and follow Christ, Matt. 10:38. Paul instructs us to put on the armor of God, be strong, Eph. 6:10-12.

****The battle is in us (sin) and in our church (from inside and outside).**

What are the Weapons of our Fight?

- 1) **Separation:** V11, context: fleeing false teaching. Christ is Lord of your life. Lev. 20:26, Israel was to be separate. Our witness is worthless if we look like the world.
- 2) **Identification:** V11, “you, O man of God,” a calling, a responsibility to God alone for the church. Keep the heart’s compass facing heavenward. We are children of God, Rom. 8:16-17. We have freedom from corruption (sin), Rom.8:21. A tremendous glory is coming, Rom. 8:29. We’ve received the Spirit of His Son. Jesus calls to the Father from within us, Gal. 4:6-7.
- 3) **Evasion:** V11, “flee” and pursue. Put off the old man and put on the new one formed in Christ. **Put off:** 2 Tim. 2:22, Eph. 4:22, Col. 3:9. **Put on:** Rom.13:14, Eph. 4:24, Col. 3:12, Eph. 6:11, 14, 15.
- 4) **Manifestation:** V11, “righteousness,” in a legal, heavenly status, it is justification. Paul gives an earthly meaning. These are a virtue list, examples 2 Tim.2:23-25, 2 Pet.1:5-7. Filled with knowledge and discernment which produce fruits of righteousness, Phil. 1:9-11. James 1:22, “be doers,” of the word of God. The implanted word, v21, is one that has become our nature.
- 5) **Orientation:** V11, “godliness,” a reverence for God. Translated as “fear” in Pro. 1:7, Is. 33:6. Godliness speaks of covenant loyalty and personal worship, Rom. 12:1-2, Acts 10:2. Only true teaching produces godliness with contentment, 1 Tim. 6:6. It is a life oriented around worship and faith in God.
- 6) **Determination:** V11, “faith, love, steadfastness,” evidence of an orientation towards God. Paul uses faith, love, and hope in 1 Thess.5:8. 2 Tim.3:10, **faith** (believing God), **longsuffering** (avoiding bitterness), **love** (as the aim of the stewardship of God in love, 1 Tim.1:5), **perseverance** (determination). Keep going, keep doing. Take it one day at a time. Live today in faith, love, and steadfastness.
- 7) **Relaxation:** V11, pursue “gentleness,” meekness, mildness. The purpose is to facilitate repentance and restoration. Give a chance for those to repent and come back. 1 Pet. 3:4, a wife to put on a gentle spirit instead of a nagging, aggressive one. Gentleness implies an overarching trust in God’s sovereignty, because you trust in God’s power to change someone.
- 8) **Concentration:** V12, “take hold of eternal life,” to get a tight grip on the future life to come. Phil 3:20, citizenship in heaven. Col. 3:2, “things above.” Rom. 8:24-25, heaven is coming.
- 9) **Origination:** V12, “to which you were called,” same as Rom. 8:30, “called.” God beckoned us, He called us. He opened our eyes from blindness, 2 Cor.4:6. He made us to drink, Jn.4. Salvation is a monergistic work of God. A great weapon because God chose us & called us.

10) **Commemoration:** V12, “in the presence of many witnesses,” a celebration of God’s work. Paul telling Timothy to look back to the day He publicly proclaimed Christ at his baptism and remember the love he had on that day and to continue in it.

Further Discussion and Application

How can gentleness be the way that someone who is sinning finds their way back and comes to repentance? How does a gentle spirit rest upon the Lord and His word to bring about the change in others and not from our words or passion? How do we apply this to our families, our own growth, and our spouses? How can we gently love? How does that show our trust in God?

Turn your thoughts towards heaven. Read Rev. 21. What is coming to those who have faith and salvation in Christ? How can that be a focus that helps us get through each day and to love others?

Looking back to the day you realized Christ had changed you and granted you salvation and repentance. How has that day stuck with you during your life and been a reminder of what Christ did for you through His work on the cross? How has your obedience increased with the knowledge of the Lord and the Scriptures you have gained? What areas do you need to focus on again and continue to grow?

Looking at the weapons you have available in the fight you are in, which ones do you have a good grasp on and why? Which ones will you commit to strengthening? What things might you have to let go of to better grasp the truths of these promises? For example, are you concentrating on problems and worries in life instead of your future in heaven?

James 1:22, tells us to be doers of the word, not hearers only, deceiving ourselves. Are you obeying the Lord by being oriented to godliness and righteousness? How does the word of God orient our heart and keep us from self-deception? Fleeing our old, sinful man and pursuing righteousness helps us “rightly” order our lives. What needs to be put off in your life? What needs to be put on?