

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

"Fight the Good Fight of Faith." Taken from the Apostle Paul's letter to Timothy in 2 Tim 4:6 -7, in other words--fight to win! United we stand, divided we fall! "A house divided against itself will not stand." These words were inspired by Jesus, the Christ of Nazareth.

(FIGHT TO WIN)

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There is no question, this nation has become more and more divided during the past three years. This did not begin with the election of Donald J Trump as president, but it has certainly escalated under his administration.

The left, has been pitting us against each other for a while, especially during the last Obama administration. Political leaders on the left have tried dividing us by race, creed, skin color, religion, and now sexual orientation or gender "choices." The more victim groups, the better it is, to pit us against each other. So our liberal democrats can see our nations institutions collapse. Is this division real or a perception ? It seems when we get away from either coast, especially Hollywood, and Washington, DC and the media centers, we find a different reality.

Regular folks, like many of us in the middle of the country, see the great things about our nation.= faith, = family, = and patriotism, just doing the right things are what motivate us, knowing politics has always been a blood sport. In years past we knew how to agree to disagree without being disagreeable; but not anymore. The left has established a narrative that they are smarter than we are, so we are just supposed to submit to their plans as to how to live our lives. We have been blessed to see and know our future and the left plans for us is scary!

We learned a lot during the Democrat presidential debates, about what the candidates want to do. They all want to give free healthcare benefits to illegal immigrants. [which American citizens have to pay for their own]. They propose "free" college, forgiveness of student debt [which others have paid off their own debt], open borders, and abortion right up to birth, maybe even after birth. We don't want to forget, Beto O'Rourke, who let the cat out of the bag when he was a candidate: said,"hell yes, we're going to take your guns!" he boasted. We don't want to forget

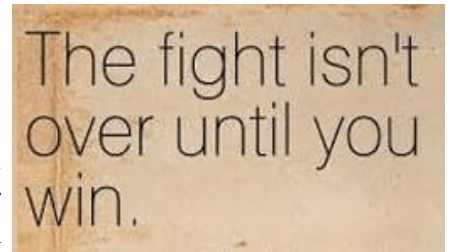
"climate change," or global warming, global cooling, or whatever its called now. Every liberal

Democrat candidate is on board with these scams. We are to let their liberal ways destroy us, destroy our country and economy to save us. We're not smart enough to know what's best.

The left thinks conservatives are all racists, homophobic, climate deniers and everything that's wrong in the country. [in fact] America "Is" the problem in the world" in many of their eyes. That's not how the majority of Americans see the country. We know America is still the greatest nation on the planet. We must not believe the media when they tell us we're hopelessly divided. That is a lie! We know our work is cut out for us. To do nothing is not an option. The freedoms we enjoy are at greater risk today than at any point in our lifetime. Winston Churchill said, "Sometimes doing your best is not good enough. Sometimes you must Do what is required."Something to think about?

In Apostle Paul last testament he said"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." (2 Tim 4:6-7). God made us fighting creatures, even thou He commands us to live in peace. Notice with me a few other verses to back that statement up Heb. 12:14, "Follow peace with all men." As God's called and chosen we should strive for peaceable relations with all people, at all times This is especially needful when some are defecting from the faith and when nerves are frayed, Again Apostle Paul says, in 1Thess 5: 13, "Be at peace among yourselves" (I Thess, 5:13).

This is no incidental insertion! The number one



problem among street corner and group filled Churches is the problem of getting along with one another. Every church believer has enough of the human nature in them to divide and wreck any church. Only as empowered by the Holy Spirit can we develop the love-forbearance- kindness and forgiveness that are indispensable for peace. God admonishes us again, in Romans 14: 19, "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for Peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

We should make every effort to maintain peace and harmony in every thing we do. We should strive to build up others in God's most holy faith. God is doing a work in the life of each one of us, It is for that reason we should be characterized as having lives of practical righteousness by dispositions of peace and harmony. We are to have a mind—set on joy in the Holy Spirit, by having the fruits of the Holy Spirit active in our lives.

God intends that we fight! But He does not want us to fight other people and especially not His own called brethren. God wants us to take note of Paul letter in Eph 6:10-12. He begins with "**Finally**" My brethren." Finally may be rendered, from now on, or henceforth. Our spiritual battle is from now on until the Lord returns. Eph 6: verse 10, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to Stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against Principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in high places!" (Eph. 6:10-12).

We have enemies, vicious, clever, murderous enemies. They are spirit beings, demons who are fighting us on a spiritual front. They are assaulting us, causing doubt, division, and discouragement.



Nothing gives **Satan and the demons** more pleasure than to divert our energy and attention away from the spiritual fight and to see us get involved in a battle against other brethren, God has called, jealousy, envy, and hard feelings greatly please Satan. God intends for us to fight, but

not on our own strength. We have to put on the whole armor of God He supplies the tools and means for us to battle against the devil and his demons.

The day we were baptized, the enemy Satan and his army of demons set out to kill us spiritually. They are relentless in this pursuit. Therefore God admonishes us to use His protective armor and to fight! The weapons of God's warfare are seen in Eph 6, "Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of Peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints" (Eph 6:14-18). One of our most powerful weapons is the sword God has given us. That is the Word of God. The truth and understanding of God's ways. Besides all this as Christ called, we must pray for one another and help one another in this all-out struggle for eternal life.

Looking now to the second battle front: Up to this point we know the devil is our enemy. We have to fight him and the demons. In Romans 12: 2 we read, 'Be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.'" We are to notice! Christians are to keep from being conformed to this world. And that's not easy to do! The society around us and its worldly attitude on ways of doing things, its trends, styles, government policies ideologies, religious and educational philosophies — Are all lumped into one gigantic "pressure cooker" which the Bible refers to as "this world." The world is like a gigantic press trying to squeeze us, conform us into its patterns.

God's called are told, "Come out of her, My people" (Rev. 18:4). There is only one way for us to keep from being crushed and conformed by this world. We have to fight for it! Satan's world never' ceases in pressuring us into going and doing the wrong ways. It is continually reaches out for you and me. Its constantly putting pressure on us through the media of television, radio, advertisements, books, magazines, and associations with other people. Satan's sinful world is also reaching out to influence our children.

We need to fight for our family as well as for our own life! There is a war going on, a war in which we can be made a slave. If we don't fight, we will not win.

Looking now at the third battle front: We not only have to fight the devil and his demons, but fight to resist the pulls and pressures of this world and its loose ways, we also have to fight another very powerful and insidious enemy. That enemy is your own human nature!



...human nature

This is how the Apostle Paul describes this third warring enemy. "I find then a law [a working principle], that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: but I see another law in my members, warring against the law in my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members" (Romans 7 :21-23).

There is a war going on inside every called out one. A fight against human nature! Human nature resists us in our efforts to do good. It is a pull in the opposite direction, trying to pull us into the way of sin - warring against our being called! Paul further explains this battle in Galatians 5: 17, "For the flesh lusts against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh: and these [two] are contrary the one to the other: so that you cannot [it is difficult to] do the things that you would."

When we were called and being worked with, we received some of God's Holy Spirit. That spirit imparted to us the divine nature of God. But we are still flesh. And we are still human. We are still filled with some nature of man called — human nature. The Holy Spirit and the flesh are contrary-enmity is constantly present. There is an antagonism between the things of God and the things of the flesh. They actually thrust themselves one against the other. In other words, there is a constant war going on Our human nature never gives up, pulling on us trying to maintain our bondage to sin and our divine nature leading showing the way through the laws of God. We must fight our

human nature! We must resist the pulls of the flesh! And it is a daily battle.

But there is some good news! Lets now check out the principles of warfare. The day we were baptized we were drafted into a war — a spiritual war. On that day God made available to us the equipment with which to fight on the three battle fronts, the demons, the world, and our human nature—the war started! But it is difficult for us to recognize that we are truly in a war and we to often fail to conduct ourselves like the called soldiers we should be. God gives important principles for his soldiers. Notice what II Tim 2: 3 says, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." Here is one of the first principles a soldier must learn. He must be willing to "endure hardness." Look at our men in war with their battle uniform on. They have to be willing to slosh through mud, endure desert heat, fight insects and jungle rot, and put up with uncomfortable sleeping conditions and canned food.

What if a soldier had the attitude? "I'll fight for my country if I can have my three hot meals a day, sleep on a box spring and mattress, sit by a warm fire and stuffed easy chair at night. and I don't mind the unpleasant shooting as long as it's not in the rain or under muddy conditions and, I can't stand blood, nor can I afford to miss my favorite TV programs on Sunday night! Such statements are laughable, when you think of them coming from a soldier. But what about our-self? are we willing to endure hardness? or do we say, 'I'm willing to be a soldier for Christ, as long as everything goes all right?" As a soldier of Jesus Christ we must be willing to *endure hardness*, go

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through trials and still keep fighting the enemy. We must recognize that there will be obstacles to hurdle, problems to overcome. But the question is—are we made for this! YES! With God's help we can conquer!

Observe another principle in warfare found in II Tim. 2:4. "No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please Him who enlisted him as a soldier." Since the devil knows this principle of warfare, it is his purpose to see to it that we become concerned with the affairs of this life. He would like to see us bog down - getting our minds on our finances, our relatives, or some little problems. Satan would love to see us relaxing in our

fight for eternal life. We can't get our minds off the warfare and onto the affairs of this life, or we will surely be eliminated! [Reward goes to the winners!](#)



In the churches of God we hear a lot about overcoming. But do we get the real meaning of this term? Both the Greek word used in the New Testament and the English word "overcome," used in the Old Testament means "to conquer." Now notice Jesus Christ's statement in Revelation 2:26. "And he that overcomes [conquers, subdues], and keeps My Works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations." Who gets power over the nations? Who will rule with Christ in His Kingdom? Who receives the prize? Does it go to the losers? NO! "To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with Me in My Throne, even as I also overcame [conquered], and am set down with My Father in His throne" (Rev. 3:21).

Who gets to sit with Christ on His throne? To whom does this reward go to? It goes to the conquerors the ones who win in this spiritual warfare. Have you ever seen a boxing match, wrestling match, football game, basket ball game or other sporting event, where the cup or, prize or crown went to the loser? Losers just don't win! If we lose in this fight, it will mean that we have been conquered by Satan and the demons! Christ makes a statement in Revelation 21:7, that we need to pay attention to! "He that over-comes [conquers, wins] shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son" (Rev 21:7). Note the prize, the grand prize goes to the conquerors. This inheritance of all things is a joint inheritance with Jesus the Christ, who is the great conqueror! Jesus Christ was the greatest warrior that ever lived, He met Satan the devil on a spiritual battle front, unparalleled in history. He conquered, and went up against His own human nature time and again and came out the victor every time. He resisted this world, fighting against its pressures all of His life. He was victorious! But He did none of these things on His own strength. He Himself said that by Himself and of Himself, He could do nothing in John 5:30. He knew that He had to have God's instruments of warfare and God's help. This

same help is available to us, you and me. But we must recognize we are in a war. We must recognize it is a fight for eternal life and the reward goes to the winners. Losers get nothing.

Today our battle front is on a spiritual plane, as described earlier. But it is interesting to note that all of God's great men were warriors. Some of them were fighters on a physical plane, but they also had to fight the spiritual fight of faith. Joshua had to fight his way into the land of Canaan. David had to fight in order to preserve his kingdom. Samson fought. Even Abraham was a fighter (Gen. 14:15) tells us, "And he [Abraham] divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah," Notice verse 20, here in Genesis 14, "And blessed be the most High God, which has delivered your enemies into your [Abraham] hand." God put Abraham's enemy's into his hands!

But God has called us, not to fight other human beings, but to fight the spiritual fight of faith. And how do we get into God's kingdom? Do we fall in? Do we slide in? Read with me Matt 11:12, "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of Heaven suffers violence [margin: is gotten by force] and the violent take it by force [or, it is gotten by men of driving force]."

Read the comment from the Expository Dictionary on this verse. *"Those who are possessed of eagerness and zeal, instead of giving up to the opposition, press their way into the kingdom." We should see it is a fight, a press, a driving effort to get into God's kingdom! God made man to conquer. Even a noted psychologist understands this about human nature. He said, "We humans are engineered as goal-seeking instruments. " We are just built that way. When we have no personal goal that means something to us, we are apt to find life itself purposeless. We are built to conquer the environment, solve problems and achieve goals and, we find no real happiness or satisfaction in life without doing this. People who say that life is not worthwhile are really saying that they themselves have no personal goals that are worthwhile."*

Man loves things that are challenging - things he must overcome. Notice sports! Would people go hunting, if all animals were tame? Would golfing be interesting if every swing were a hole-in-one? NO, We are attracted by the adventure of accomplishment - the adventure of overcoming the challenge it brings. Right

