



Sunday April 17, 2016
Fight The Good Fight Of Faith

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.

some key words that we will stress on: Fight, good fight, faith, lay hold, confessed, good confession

Fight

Fight - this means we are in spiritual conflict

Fight - this means there are enemies that we fight against. We know we fight against demonic powers. Paul also identifies earlier in 1 Timothy 6, that there are false doctrines that we need to stand up against.

Fight - this also means that there are weapons God has given us which we must know how to use and actually use these weapons. God's Word, the name of Jesus, our authority, our faith, dependence on the Holy Spirit and so on. We must know how to fight. Sometimes we want an nice warm, cozy Christian life. But the Christian life is a 'fight' and we have no choice but to engage.

battle weary

Sometimes it is possible that we can get tired of fighting - we get weary. When the battle is long, drawn out.

So we need to learn to rest, refresh and renew ourselves in the Lord. (Isaiah 40:28-30)

We also need to learn to be there for each other in spiritual battle.

good fight

good as in *being valuable, of value*.

It is a good fight because this is a fight worth fighting.

It is a good fight because this is a fight which we know we are going to win (2 Corinthians 2:14).

Faith

This fight has to do with our faith.

The enemies are working at destroying our faith. That is what they are after.



They want to rob us of what we believe. Their weapons are designed to destroy our faith

It is also a fight we fight with our faith. We resist the enemy standing steadfast in the faith (1 Peter 5:8,9; Ephesians 6:17).

Lay hold on eternal life

This is interesting. Eternal life is something (a)given to us freely by God (Romans 6:23) and (b)something we already have - He who has the Son has life (1 John 5:11,12)....and yet we are told to "lay hold on", meaning *to seize, take hold of*.

Eternal life is freely given to us by God. We are already possessors of eternal life...and yet we need to fight the good fight of faith to lay hold of this and keep it in our possession.

This is true of every other blessing that God gives to us. Every blessing from heaven is freely given to us and we are already possessors of every blessing (Ephesians 1:3)....and yet we have to fight the good fight of faith to lay hold of these, make it ours and keep it in our possession.

to which you were also called

We have been called to be possessors of eternal life, called to be possessors of the blessings of God.

and have confessed the good confession before many witnesses

our faith has to do with our confession.

we confess what we believe and what we are laying hold of.