

It is Time to Get Your Fight Back!

The VISION Newsletter / November 2020

Pastor E. Keith Hassell

1 Timothy 6:12 (NKJV) *“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.”*

We are engaged in a war. It is a war between light and darkness, good and evil, right and wrong, the truth and the lie, and the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. The apostle Peter said, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”* (1 Peter 5:8 NKJV) The apostle Paul declared, *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”* (Ephesians 6:10–13 NKJV)

This war is composed of multiple battles. Battles determine whether we take ground, hold ground, or lose ground. Individual battles determine the course of the war. Each battle is composed of multiple individual fights. Each soldier is engaged in their own “fight” on the battlefield. These individual “fights” together determine the course of the battle which in turn determines the course of the war. The course of the war determines the outcome of either victory or defeat. How are you doing in YOUR fight?

Paul tells Timothy to fight the “good fight”. First, the fight is “good” by virtue of its *Commander*, Jesus Christ. He is the King of Glory, the LORD of hosts (LORD of Armies): *“Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. ⁸ Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle. ⁹ Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. ¹⁰ Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah”* (Psalm 24:7–10 NKJV)

Second, the fight is “good” by virtue of its *calling*. We are called to be soldiers in God’s righteous and holy army. Paul said, *“No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”¹¹*

Third, the fight is “good” by virtue of its *commission*: *“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”²² Our assignment is the *conversion* and *discipleship* of the lost. We are called to deliver souls out of the kingdom of darkness by liberating them with the truth of the gospel.*

Fourth, the fight is “good” by virtue of its *character*. We are on the side of what is good and the One who is good. We are to use good to defeat evil: *“Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore ‘if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”²³*

¹ 2 Timothy 2:4 (NKJV)

² Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)

³ Romans 12:17–21 (NKJV)

Fifth, the fight is “good” by virtue of its *commitment*. We must accept and endure the hardships of the fight with unwavering commitment: *“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 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.”⁴* We are to be committed to the battles regardless of the hardships or the cost involved.

Sixth, the fight is “good” by virtue of the *courage* required. The Lord told Joshua, *“Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.”⁵* Courage is not the absence of fear; it is the ability to do what is required in the face fear. Martin Luther’s courage to stand for the truth in the face of death sparked the Reformation. With courage he declared: *“If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at the moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved and to be steady on all the battle front besides, is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.”*

Seventh, the fight is “good” by virtue of its *crown*. The “good fight” is the one we *win!* At the end of his life Paul said, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”⁶*

The good fight is a fight of *faith*. We are overcomers by virtue of our faith and the resulting new birth. As born-again children of God, we have the spiritual DNA of an overcomer: *“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that overcomes the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”⁷*

We are overcomers because we do not quit. We fight until we *overcome!* We overcome by virtue of the Overcomer who lives inside of us: *“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”⁸* Since Jesus has overcome the world, we are assured of victory if we do not quit!

We are overcomers because the LORD fights our battles: *“The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the Lord.”⁹* We are overcomers because we place our trust in God who overcomes.

The war is real. The battle is raging. The stakes are high. Will you run? Will you hide? Will you disengage? Will you quit? Or...will you FIGHT? Will you say, “Enough is enough! I will not run! I will not hide! I will not disengage! I will not quit! I will get up and suit up in God’s armor. I will pick up my sword—God’s word—and the shield of faith. I am more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus! I will engage the enemy of my soul in battle. My God is with me. My God is for me. I’m getting my FIGHT back! I will win this battle because Jesus Christ has already won the war!” Isn’t it time to get your FIGHT back?

Copyright 2020 Edward Keith Hassell. All Rights Reserved.

⁴ 2 Timothy 2:3–4 (NKJV)

⁵ Joshua 1:6 (NKJV)

⁶ 2 Timothy 4:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ 1 John 5:4–5 (NKJV)

⁸ 1 John 4:4 (NKJV)

⁹ Proverbs 21:31 (NKJV)