

1 Timothy #20

September 14, 2025

Series: Body Essentials: Imperatives for Church and Leaders

Today's Message: Fight the Good Fight of Faith with Eternity in Your Grasp, pt 1; 1 Timothy 6:12

To the Church. This past week one of our young men was martyred for his stand for Christ and the gospel. His voice was cutting through the darkness of godless immorality, and the world hated it because as Jesus said, "Men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil." Charlie Kirk decided that if he, as a Christian, stood for Truth, and if he would courageously **fight the good fight for the faith**, others would join him in the fight for Truth, then the Truth of God would indeed become the turning point of our country for good. Truth is the hinge that opens the door of righteousness. For 12 years, He **stretched out his neck** boldly for the faith of Christ and intersected the moral decline and degradation of this great country with the truth of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ. He said in an interview, "I want to be remembered for...for courage for my faith."

Looking back on his life it seems to come down this this, having believed the gospel, and having witnessed the power of God in his life, and the light the gospel of Jesus Christ brings to the darkness, Charlie Kirk decided to daily follow Jesus. Will this be your defining moment? Will you choose to follow Jesus and fight the good fight of the faith with no turning back?

(Jack Farnsley: I have decided to follow Jesus)

In 1 Timothy 6:12 Paul is exhorting Timothy to commit to fight the good fight of the faith. Timothy didn't have to figure out what that meant, he had Paul's example of what fighting the good fight of the faith was to look like. So, let's look at this and see what *is* the good fight, what are the characteristics of the good fight, and what is holding you back from entering into the good fight of the faith. Next week we will learn the connection between fighting the good fight and taking hold of eternity.

I) What is the meaning of "fight the good fight of the faith"?

- A) Let's look at the words
- 1) **Fight**: The Greek word is where we get our word "agony" or "agonize."
 - (a) It is used in both military and athletic contexts to describe the continuous concentration, discipline, conviction and effort needed to win; relentless in pursuit of victory. Never cease to fight for the good fight; never cease to agonize for the victory of faith that overcomes the world!
 - 2) **Good fight**: *Good* meaning beautiful, noble, or excellent. *Fight* in this case is more definitive concerning the fight. It is a good fight against the powers of this dark world, against the spiritual conflicts with Satan's kingdom.
 - (a) We are to engage in a good (noble, excellent) fight which is against evil.
 - 3) **Of the faith**: This *faith* refers to the body of Christian Truth, the contents of the Word of God, the "faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." A fight for Truth.
- B) What does it mean to fight the good fight of the faith?
- 1) It is a spiritual fight against dark spiritual forces, using spiritual weapons and spiritual armor. It can't be fought in the flesh.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world (like guns and violence). On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."
 - (i) Our weapons are divine in origin and power: *the faith* that is, the Truth as listed in A.3)
 - (b) Ephesians 6:12-13, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the whole armor of God (the faith), so that in the day of evil, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand!"
 - 2) Behind every opposition to the light of the Truth of God, is not the soul of a person, but dark powers.

- (a) When Peter opposed Jesus concerning the cross, Jesus addressed Satan, not Peter. (Mt.16:22-23)
- 3) We are in a ceaseless battle for Truth. We are to remain armored up!
 - (a) When partaking in entertainment, watching the news, interacting with people. Always armor up.

II) What are the characteristics and realities of the good fight of the faith?

- A) It is a *good* fight.
 - 1) It is **Good**: It is a beautiful, noble fight because the *virtues* listed in 6:11 are engaged every moment.
 - (a) Therefore, there the instrumentalities are righteousness and goodness, faith and love, endurance and gentleness are being used!
 - 2) It is **Defined**: **a**) It is a *good fight* for the gospel (the cross of Christ for the salvation of sinners); **b**) for justification and sanctification; **c**) the good fight for biblically morality and against wickedness and immorality; **d**) a fight for purity (personally and in the Church); **e**) a fight for keeping to the Truth; **f**) a good fight against evil; **g**) a good fight to encourage and comfort one another to stand firm in the faith; **h**) it is a defense of hard truth such as the doctrine of hell and judgment (**Asaph—Ps. 73:1-20**)
 - 3) It is **Redemptive**: The *virtues* have divine power to tear down strongholds and give us courage to walk into the fires to rescue the perishing.
 - (a) Romans 12:14: “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”
 - (b) Luke 6:27-28: “But I tell you who hear Me: Love your enemies do good to those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”
 - (c) Because it is righteous and good its goal is the redemption of sinners, not their harm.
 - (i) Sinners are blind and captive. They are captives that *good fighters* want to see Christ set free!
 - (a) **2 Timothy 2:25-26**: “Those who oppose him (*the good fighter*) he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the **devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.**”
 - 4) It has **Purpose**: It is a *good fight* that brings focus, hope and purpose to Christians who are weak, aimless, tired, doubting, and discouraged and have lost their courage to remain in the fight.
 - (a) To bring clarity of purpose to Christians who have lost their hold on an eternal perspective.
 - (i) We will look at this in more detail next week. But 6:12b, c is the fuel for the *good fighter*!
 - (b) Listen to what CK said at a conference for college students. He gave them vision with a purpose:
 - (i) “You are commanded to do something productive with your life. To go, give, produce, and to risk. And then to go sow into other people. That is a Biblical idea that has made the world a profoundly better place.”
 - 5) That is one aspect of the good fight: to offer a biblical purpose to the weak to strengthen them.
 - 6) It is **Hard** but **Rewarded**:
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 4:17: “But our light and momentary troubles are working for us to produce a glory that far outweighs them all.”
 - (b) John 16:33: Jesus said, “I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

III) What is holding you back from committing yourself to fighting the good fight of the faith?

- A) Things that hold you back:
 - 1) You can’t fight the good fight if you are encumbered by sinful habits and practices.
 - (a) Put off sinful practices. Rip them off like you would a garment. See Eph. 4:22-29; Col. 3:5-9
 - (b) Put on the virtues we’ve studied (1 Tim. 6:11). Put them into constant practice.
 - (i) Philippians 2:14-16a: Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life...”
 - 2) You can’t fight the good fight if you are encumbered by a love of the world and the things you have.
 - (a) 1 John 2:15: “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.” (You can’t serve two masters, Matt. 6:24)
- B) What will you change in your daily practices to be of the right mind to fight the good fight of the faith?
 - 1) Today, Christian brother and sister, will you decide to follow Jesus? No turning back.