

Fight the Good

Fight of Faith

By: David A. Sargent

“Αγωνιζου Τον Καλον Αγωνα Της Πιστεως”

Is from: 1 Timothy 6:12a, “Fight the good fight of faith...”

It is taken from the Textus Receptus Greek New Testament.

This study is about the Christian warfare and fight we find ourselves in day by day and moment by moment; week to week and year in and year out. The fight has been long and many soldiers are dropping; and some are running and leaving ranks. In these last days we need some men that will step up to the battle; Stand your ground; and FIGHT the good fight!

2 Timothy 2:1, “Thou therefore, my son, **be strong** in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to **faithful men**, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore **endure hardness, as a good soldier** of Jesus Christ. No man that **warreth** entangleth himself with **the affairs of this life**; that he may **please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier**. And **if a man also strive for masteries**, yet is **he not crowned**, except he **strive lawfully**.”

2 Corinthians 10:2, “But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. **For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.” This fight is going on INSIDE the Christian. You are not fighting other people in these things:**

1. We do not war after the flesh
2. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal
3. (The weapons of our warfare are) mighty through God
4. Pulling down of strong holds

5. Casting down imaginations
6. Every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God
7. Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ
8. A readiness to revenge all disobedience **WHEN YOUR** obedience is fulfilled

Notice that warring after the flesh does not mean we are not to fight our flesh and carnal mind. It means to fight **WITH** the flesh other peoples flesh. Notice that our weapons are not carnal like a sword the draws blood or in the more modern terms not guns and ammo. This must fit in to the parameters with the Pauline epistles and where there is a parallel passage like this:

Galatians 5:13-26, “For, brethren, ye have been **called unto liberty**; only **use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh**, but by love serve one another. For all **the law is fulfilled in one word**, even in this; Thou shalt **love** thy neighbour as thyself. But **if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another**. This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the **lust of the flesh**. For **the flesh lusteth against the Spirit**, and **the Spirit against the flesh**: and **these are contrary the one to the other**: **so that ye cannot do the things that ye would**. But **if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law**. Now the **works of the flesh** are manifest, which **are these**; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things **shall not inherit the kingdom of God**. But **the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: **against such there is no law**. And **they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts**. **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit**. Let us **not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another**.”

This is also parallel with the fight described in Romans 7:14-25, “For we know that **the law is spiritual**: but **I am carnal, sold under sin**. For **that which I do I allow not**: for **what I would, that do I not**; but **what I hate, that do I**. If then I do that which I would not, **I consent unto the law that it is good**. Now then **it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me**. For **I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing**: for **to will is present with me**; but **how to perform that which is good I find not**. For **the good that I would I do not**: but **the evil which I would not, that I do**. Now if I do that I would not, **it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me**. I find then a law, 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 of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members**. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver **me from the body of this death**? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then **with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin**.”

What is a bit confusing about all this is that the tripartite nature (1 Thessalonians 5:23) is all through this in pronouns and is also explained in the passage if you believe what you read here. The fight is between the outward man or the flesh and the inward man (Ephesians 3:16-19) or the spirit and the battle ground is I myself the soul and the mind of that soul which is the conscious mind which is the conscience. The fight on the side of the flesh seems to have a mind of its own and it does; it is the carnal mind or the workings of the brain. Because this is a Christian and not a lost person this mind that should be in you is the mind of Christ that is in you but it is in your born again spirit. When you are told in Philippians 2:5, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:" it is talking about allowing the mind of Christ that IS in your spirit to be IN you: your soul which is the conscience YOU inside. You are not aware consciously of your spirit and that is why you are not consciously aware of sitting in heavenly places because THAT is spiritual and is the connection between you and the Lord. This is the relationship of the born again spirit in you because your spirit joined with God's Spirit in that birth of your dead spirit giving you eternal life: 1 Corinthians 6:17, "But **he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit**." Notice it did not say "one Spirit" but "one spirit" your spirit because when your spirit is born of God it does not become God it gets God's nature of eternal life. It is therefore LIKE God's Spirit; but it is YOUR spirit and the connection between YOU and Jesus Christ who is sitting at the right hand of God. You are seated with him because of the Spirit of Christ which IS eternal life. This life was invested into YOU and raised up your spirit giving IT eternal life and the mind that is in that spirit is the mind of Christ. Notice that when you are born again that it is your spirit that is born: John 3:5, "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. **That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit**. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." Notice that it did NOT say: "that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit" it said: "that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" because YOUR spirit got BORN AGAIN. God's Spirit did NOT get born again! When you are joined unto the Lord: God's Spirit is joined with your spirit and it is born again.

The Spirit of God communes (Ephesians 2:18) with your spirit (Romans 8:16) and this is the new man inside which is your spirit that then communes with your soul (Hebrews 4:12). The outer body of flesh has become the temple of the Lord (1 Corinthians 3:16-17) and YOU the soul is the priest inside the temple (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The Lord in the heavens is the High Priest and is behind the veil in the third heaven always before the Lord God Almighty interceding for us in the spirit and in the Spirit (Ephesians 3:16-19). The connection between the Holy Spirit and our living spirit (2 Corinthians 4:13) is a synonymous connection (Romans 8:9-16). That although they are not the same identically; they are connected in such a way that they are inseparable (1 Corinthians 2:10-14) because God imparted to us eternal life and this life can never end like God's Spirit and therefore we have total communion with God in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:6). This connection that is imparted to us is of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4) that gave

us that new life in our spirit (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15 with 1 John 3:9; 1 John 5:4; 1 John 5:18 and with John 3:5-7).

Notice this continuity in the Scriptures: John 4:23-24, “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father **in spirit** and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. **God is a Spirit**: and they that worship him **must** worship him **in spirit** and in truth.” And then in John 6:63, “**It is the spirit that quickeneth**; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**” And again in Acts 6:10, “And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.” The spirit was man’s spirit not the Holy Spirit; even though the Holy Spirit was speaking through Stephen’s spirit. It was still Stephen’s spirit by which he spake. The connection is so strong if you did not pay attention to the words of the Bible you could not tell them apart. Then again when they stoned Stephen it was his spirit that he asked the Lord Jesus to receive and not God’s Spirit: Acts 7:59, “And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, **receive my spirit.**” And then in Romans 1:3, “Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, **according to the spirit of holiness**, by the resurrection from the dead:” is this saying that the Holy Spirit is the spirit of holiness? OR is there something that was in Christ that was also a spirit that was never dead and never died? Furthermore this case of the spirit verses the Spirit can be seen all throughout the gospels when referring to the Lord Jesus Christ. So what it looks like is that in the Lord Jesus Christ God procreated in the incarnation a complete human being with body, soul & spirit that is being totally human and then that houses the totality of the Godhead in Spirit; but not in the spirit of the man. The fact is the spirit of the man Christ Jesus never died; because He never sinned. When sin came ON him at Calvary; it did not enter into His spirit and it did not enter into his soul. It was on his flesh and on his soul. The spirit remained without sin on or in. At the death of Christ his spirit went up to God the Father; His body was placed in a grave and His soul went to Hell Fire, yet without pains of hell because His soul was not sinful or full of sin; it was like the scapegoat and carried the sins of the world ON him into Hell to be dropped off THERE in the fire. This is why the Bible says: Isaiah 53:10, “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when **thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin**, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.” And furthermore in Psalms 16:10, “For **thou wilt not leave my soul in hell**; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.” And Acts 2:27, “Because **thou wilt not leave my soul in hell**, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.” And all this with the interpretive passage: Acts 13:33-35, “**God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again**; as it is also **written in the second psalm**, Thou art my Son, **this day have I begotten thee**. And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to **corruption**, he said on this wise, I will give you **the sure mercies of David**. Wherefore he saith also **in another psalm**, **Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.**” So the body laid in a grave and did not see corruption and the soul of the

Lord went to Hell. His body is the lamb of God and His soul was the scapegoat. So the Lord DID go to Hell Fire and cross over the great gulf to Abrahams bosom and took paradise up and out of the center of the earth when He rose from the dead at His physical resurrection. (Matthew 27:52-53) The body was in the tomb when His soul entered back into it and when that body breathed; the spirit entered back into that body and He arose from the dead and was the first born from the dead. This is NOT being born again and never spoken of as being born again. (Galatians 4:29) This is the first born FROM the dead (Colossians 1:18) or the resurrection FROM the dead (Romans 1:4). The born again phrase is always about a dead spirit getting born again and only during the church age. It is NEVER during the Old Testament and NEVER after the resurrection of the church from the dead at the “rapture”. Biblical usage is always the mandate for Christian usage of words, terms, or phrases. Born again is NOT to be confused with reborn as the term reborn is a pagan word used to mean reincarnation which is a lie. The Bible NEVER uses this term for anyone.

Our warfare is therefore fought in prayer inside (Ephesians 6:18 and context) and the battleground is the mind (Ephesians 4:22-27) in the soul which is the YOU inside which you can get from the process of deduction in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. The conscious awareness of YOU is that very place where the war is fought (Romans 7:23). If there is NO fight either you are NOT saved; or you have been shelved by the Lord; but even then there will be some semblance of a fight; even if it is a fight between morality and a guilty conscience; but then what separates that from a lost man. This is not the same fight I am talking about but it is similar. The lost man has a dead spirit (Romans 7:6) and therefore cannot fight this spiritual battle (1 Corinthians 2:14). Christians that are fighting a morality battle between the clothing they wear or an outward show of things are not fighting the Christian warfare. They are preoccupied with the affairs of this life and not fighting the good fight of faith.

2 Timothy 4:5, “But **watch** thou in all things, **endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry**. 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: Henceforth **there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and **not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.**”

This brings us to the end of the fight: there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness unto all them also that love his appearing. So we are going to give the crowns that can be gained at the Judgment Seat of Christ among other things. These crowns are made from the gold, silver and precious stones after the purging in fire to purge out the wood, hay and stubble. The crowns are given for what we have done here; but they are also given in order for us to reign with him in the thousand years reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. This would mean that EVERY Christian would get at least ONE crown which one would more than likely be the crown of suffering. What a rotten testimony that would be to just have that one crown and none of the crowns of service. This judgment is the judgment of sons and servants. Christians are sons of God; and are supposed to be

servants too. Sons will be chastened of the Lord and suffer and every son that is born of God is in the body of Christ has suffered WITH Him in His body at Calvary. Nevertheless the rest of the crowns are for service of some kind or another.



1. Crown of righteousness for loving His appearing: 2 Timothy 4:5
2. Crown of rejoicing for people saved under us: 1 Thessalonians 2:19
3. Crown of life for enduring temptation: James 1:12
4. Crown of glory for being ensamples to the flock: 1 Peter 5:3-4
5. Crown of incorruptibility: for striveth for the mastery: 1 Corinthians 9:25
6. Crown of joy for working together in the ministry: Philippians 4:1-3
7. Crown of suffering: for suffering: 2 Timothy 2:11-13

The seventh crown is listed as reigning with Him and the type of suffering is not given as it is any and all the Christian's suffering inclusive. The suffering for the sons of God include:

1. Suffering WITH Christ: Romans 8:17 - All Christians (2 Corinthians 1:5-7 & Philippians 3:10).
2. Suffering FOR Christ: Philippians 1:29 – Not all Christians (Galatians 6:12).
3. Suffering FOR righteousness: 1 Peter 3:14-17 – Not all Christians (2 Timothy 3:12).
4. Suffering FOR being a son of God: Hebrews 12:5-8 – ALL Christians.
5. Suffering LOSS at the Judgment Seat: 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 – All Christians.
6. Suffering to be defrauded or suffering wrongly: 1 Corinthians 6:7 & 2 Corinthians 7:12 – NOT all Christians.
7. Suffering temptation: 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:2, 12.

The Judgment Seat of Christ will be a time of rewards and the suffering of loss:

1 Corinthians 3:11-15, “For **other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be **made manifest**: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be **revealed by fire**; and **the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is**. If any man's **work abide** which he **hath built thereupon**, he **shall receive a reward**. If any man's **work shall be burned**, he shall **suffer loss**: but he **himself shall be saved**; yet so as by fire.”**

1. Gold
2. Silver
3. Precious stones

4. Wood
5. Hey
6. Stubble
7. Fire

(See my studies on the Judgment Seat of Christ for the details above.)

Romans 8:18, “For I reckon that **the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**”

Hebrews 2:10, “For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, **to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.**”

Hebrews 5:8-9, “Though he were a Son, **yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;**”

Hebrews 9:24-28, “For **Christ is not entered** into the holy places **made with hands**, which are **the figures of the true**; but into **heaven itself**, now to appear in the presence of God for us: **Nor yet that he should offer himself often**, as the high priest entereth into the holy place **every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself**. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So **Christ was once offered** to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

1 Timothy 6:6-12, “But **godliness with contentment is great gain**. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And **having food and raiment let us be therewith content**. But they that will be rich fall into **temptation and a snare**, and into **many foolish and hurtful lusts**, which **drown men in destruction and perdition**. For the **love of money is the root of all evil**: which while **some coveted after, they have erred from the faith**, and **pierced themselves through with many sorrows**. But thou, **O man of God, flee these things**; and follow after **righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.**”

The End