Fighting the Good Fight of the Faith

1 Tim 4: 11 - 12
Fighting

• To strive vigorously to achieve something or prevent something from happening

• Good or bad depends on:
  – What we fight for?
  – How do we fight?
Fighting the Good Fight of the Faith

1. What are we fighting against?
2. Why we should put up with the fight?
3. How can we fight successfully?
What are we fighting against?

• Threats to our faith in Jesus
  – Doubt and Unbelief
• Anything against the worship of God
  – Heresy
  – Fleshly desires
  – Worldliness
  – Apathy
  – Devil
Heresy

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared”

1 Tim 4: 1 – 2
Fleshly desires

“For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please”

Galatians 5:7
Worldliness

“Whoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

James 4:4

"If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." "The world is crucified to me, and I unto the world."

1 John 2:15
Apathy

• Indifference and unconcern about spiritual things
• Removes God from the priority of our lives
• Destroys the acceptability of worship
SOME FELL UPON A ROCK

SOME FELL AMONG THORNS

SOME FELL ON GOOD GROUND

SOME FELL BY THE WAYSIDE
Devil

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

Ephesians 6:12
Why Fight the Good Fight?

• It is good
  – Noble cause
  – Fought with weapons that are good

• It Glorifies God
It Glorifies God

“In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

- 1 Peter 1:6-7
Why Fight the Good Fight?

• It is good
  – Noble cause
  – Fought with weapons that are good

• It Glorifies God

• That we may lay hold of eternal life
Lay hold of eternal life

“Work out your Salvation with fear and trembling”

Phil 2:12
“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

- Matt 7: 21 - 23
How to fight successfully?

• Flee from evil
  – 1 Tim 6: 3 – 11
  – False Teachings
  – The love of money
False Teachings

“Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.”  - 1 Tim 1: 6 -7

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,”  

-1 Tim 4: 1-2
False Teachings

“If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ ... has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels ... imagining that godliness is a means of gain.” - 1 Tim 6:3-5

“Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” for by professing it some have swerved from the faith.”

-1 Tim 6: 20-21
How to fight successfully?

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  – 1 Tim 6: 3 – 11
  – False Teachings
  – The love of money

• Pursue: Righteousness, Godliness, Faith, Love, Steadfastness, Gentleness
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• Fight with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ
Fight with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ

“Take care, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end.”

Hebrews 3:12-13
Fight with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Hebrews 10:23-25
Fighting the Good Fight of the Faith

1. We fight to maintain our faith

2. The fight is for:
   – greater good of sharing the gospel
   – glorifies God
   – that we may lay hold of eternal life

3. We fight successfully:
   – Flee evil
   – pursue God
   – fight with fellow comrades