

Fight the Good Fight
Digging Deeper
John Lohmar
Director of Life Groups



Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1 NIV

Life is full of battles. That's just the way it is.

We battle our fears, our anger, our shame, and our addictions.

We battle our injuries, our illnesses, our disabilities and our limitations.

We fight for our marriage, our family, our friends and our country.

We fight for freedom, equality, social justice and fair play.

We fight battles within us and battles around us all day long each and every day, from the moment we enter this world to the moment we depart.

And what keeps us steady and moving forward in the midst of all of these battles?

Well, I think Mother Theresa said it best:

"There's nothing more calming in difficult moments than knowing there's someone fighting with you."

It is our faith in God and our belief that He is with us that gives us the confidence we need to get through whatever battle we face in life (Deuteronomy 20:4, Romans 8:31).

It is our faith in God that gives us hope and assures us that things will turn out alright, even if we don't know exactly what that will look like (Hebrews 11:1).

It is our faith in God that keeps us from becoming weary and spurs us on

to do good (Galatians 6:9).

It is our faith in God that enables us to see beyond our current struggles and press on to do what is right and win the prize of eternal life (Philippians 3:14, 1 Timothy 6:12).

God wants us to be bold and courageous in the battles we face (Hebrews 10:35), relying on His presence and focusing on his promises to fight the good fight and finish the race (2 Timothy 4:7).

He lays out the plans He has for our life to keep us pursuing what we know in our heart we were called to do (Jeremiah 29:11).

He equips us with exactly what we need to fight the battle we're in (Ephesians 6:10-18).

And He brings others alongside us to strengthen, encourage and care for us as we go through the battle (Proverbs 17:7, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

With God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26), but there are things we must do to strengthen our faith in Him and fight the good fight.

We must be willing to ***let go*** of our past and our present circumstances and put our gaze firmly on His promises (2 Corinthians 4:18).

We must change our mindset and ***choose*** to live by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). That faith, when tested, produces perseverance, and that perseverance leads to victories that enable us to see future struggles as opportunities to change our life for the better (James 1:2).

We must ***be stubborn*** in holding onto God's word and His promises and not settle for disappointment or accept defeat (Matthew 24:35, Hebrews 10:23).

We must ***celebrate*** the victories we have achieved through the power of the Holy Spirit within us, as well as the sacrifices we have made along the way (Proverbs 17:22, Isaiah 55:12-13).

And we must ***seek out*** our squad, that small cluster of people who support us, encourage us, pick us up when we get knocked down and help us build up our faith and fight on (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Dwight Moody once said "David was the last one we would have chosen to fight the giant, but he was chosen of God."

Many of the battles we find ourselves in are of our own or someone else's choosing. And they often don't end well. But sometimes, God chooses us for a fight that we need to be in; a fight that strengthens us, helps us grow, or brings hope, healing and light to a fallen world. We may not think we should be in it. We may not believe we're up to it. We may not even want to do it. But God knows we're the one to fight the good fight and will bring us the victory if we place our faith and hope in Him and let Him lead us in battle.

Are you ready to do that?

Reflect

It is our faith in God and our belief that He is with us that gives us the confidence we need to get through whatever battle we face in life.

Pray

Heavenly Father, give us the strength, the courage and the wisdom we need to fight the good fight. Be with us in the battle. Pick us up when we're weary and push us forward when we hesitate or start to run away. Show us what you want us to do and help us see why you need us to do it. Above all, remind us that you will never abandon us, you will always give us what we need for the fight, and will celebrate the victory with us when it's over.

Amen

Discuss

Why do you think people sometimes struggle to keep the faith and fight the good fight?

How have you struggled and which of the things mentioned in this message will help you build up your faith?

It's been said that God doesn't give the hardest battles to his toughest soldiers, He creates the toughest soldiers through life's hardest battles. How have the battles you've been through strengthened you?

Adolf Hitler, of all people, once said something incredibly insightful about faith. He said "It is always more difficult to fight against faith than to fight against knowledge." Do you rely more on logic and reason or on your faith when you're in a tough fight?