

HEROES OF
FAITH

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT



“Fight the good fight of faith;
take hold of the eternal life to which you were called,
and for which you made the good confession in the
presence of many witnesses.”

1 Timothy 6:12



"Life begins when you get out of the grandstand into
the game."

Col. P. L. Debevoise

(Nat. Secretary of Salvation Army in 40's)



Stephanas

Changing the Course of your Family



Background to 1 Corinthians

- Church in Corinth was having issues with division.
- The Church was struggling over moral issues and sexual misconduct.
- Church had written Paul a letter asking for help.
- The letter was delivered to Paul at Ephesus by Stephanas and 2 others to. They filled Paul in on the meaning of the letter.
- This group brought Paul's response back to Corinth (1 Corinthians).



1 Corinthians 16

¹⁵ Now I urge you, brothers *and sisters*: you know the household of Stephanas, that they are the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to ministry to the saints;

¹⁶ / *urge* that you also be subject to such as these and to everyone who helps in the work and labors.

¹⁷ I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, because they have supplied what was lacking on your part.

¹⁸ For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.



Who is Stephanas?

- Stephanas was a 1st generation Christian.
 - “...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” - Joshua 24:15
- First believer in Achaia [his entire region]
- An outsider in the church where God placed him.
- He changed the course of his family by turning to Christ!



Changing the Course of your Family



1. In Christ, curses have been broken

- Blessing and Curses are concepts found both in the OT and NT
- If you are a Christian, your curses were placed on Christ at the cross.
- Too many Christians are living with curses that Christ died to break, and they keep calling them by the names of coincidence, genetics, family traits, or bad luck.



1. In Christ, curses have been broken

¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole."

¹⁴ He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. - **Galatians 3:13-14**



2. Be active in your Faith, not in your fears

"Now I urge you, brothers *and sisters*. you know the household of Stephanas... that they have devoted themselves to ministry to the saints" - 1 Corinthians 16:15

- "ministry" – a calling of appointment to serve



2. Be active in your Faith, not in your fears

"God worketh in you; therefore you can work – otherwise it would be impossible..."

God worketh in you; therefore you must work; you must be workers together with him."

- John Wesley

Sermon 'On Working Out Our Salvation'



2. Be active in your Faith, not in your fears

⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God." - **Romans 8:5-8**



2. Be active in your Faith, not in your fears

- Focus on the things that you need to be doing...not your fears.
- If you do the things daily God has called you to do... one day you'll find our old life won't fit anymore.



2. Be active in your Faith, not in your fears

The "if" promises...

- If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land; - **Isaiah 1:19**
- And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you. - **Luke 17:6**
- Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. - **Galatians 6:9**



2. Be active in your Faith, not in your fears

“Having disarmed principalities and powers, Jesus made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in the cross.” - **Colossians 2:15**



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