

“Fight, Fight, Fight”

Summary

In this powerful message, we're reminded of God's unwavering choice of us as His representatives. The story of Ephraim, highlighted in Psalm 78, serves as both a warning and an inspiration. Despite being blessed and equipped, Ephraim turned back in the day of battle. This narrative challenges us to examine our own faith and commitment. Are we, like Ephraim, well-equipped but lacking in courage? The message emphasizes that God's choice of us is contrary to human reason, echoing the selections of David and Jesus' disciples. We're called to recognize that our strength lies not in our abilities, but in our knowledge of who God is - our provider, all-powerful, and passionate. This understanding empowers us to stand firm in spiritual battles, reminding us that 'Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world' (1 John 4:4). The call to 'Fight! Fight! Fight!' resonates as a rallying cry for our spiritual journey, encouraging us to persevere in prayer, worship, and living out Kingdom principles.

Main Points – Fight, Fight, Fight

Title: Fighting the Good Fight of Faith: God's Chosen Warriors

Sermon Summary: This sermon encourages believers to persevere in their faith, reminding them that God has chosen them for a purpose despite their weaknesses. It contrasts the tribe of Ephraim, who turned back in battle, with true warriors of faith who stand firm. Dr. Wyns emphasizes that knowing who God is—His provision, power, and passion—enables us to face challenges and fight the good fight of faith.

Key Points:

- God chooses people contrary to human reasoning
- Believers are chosen by God for His strength and steadfastness to be made known
- Knowledge of who God is provides strength to persevere
- Christians are called to be warriors, not quitters
- The blessing of God is more powerful than the curses of the enemy
- Slackness in spiritual disciplines limits our power and purpose
- Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world

Scripture Reference:

- Psalm 78 (primary focus)
- 1 John 4:4
- 2 Timothy 4:7

- 1 Timothy 6:12

Stories:

- The blessing of Ephraim by Jacob (Genesis 48)
- David's selection as king (1 Samuel 16)
- The defeat of Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
- Daniel in the lions' den (Daniel 6)
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3)
- The iron bedstead of Og, king of Bashan (Deuteronomy 3:11)
- The sword of Goliath on display (1 Samuel 21:9)
- The parable of the deceitful bow (slack bowstring)

Small Group Study Guide – Fight, Fight, Fight

Small Group Guide: "Fight the Good Fight of Faith"

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. God chooses us despite our perceived inadequacies or past mistakes.
2. Knowing who God is gives us strength to persevere in difficult times.
3. We are called to fight the good fight of faith, not retreat or give up.
4. God's blessing is meant to flow through us to others, not just for our own benefit.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions that "God's choice of a person is contrary to human reason." How have you seen this play out in your own life or in biblical examples?
2. Reflect on Psalm 78:19: "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?" How does this question relate to challenges you're facing right now?
3. Dr. Wyns contrasts religion with spirituality. How would you describe the difference based on your own experiences?
4. The sermon talks about "slackness in our bowstrings." In what areas of your spiritual life do you feel you might have become slack or complacent?
5. How does understanding God as our provider, all-powerful, and passionate impact our ability to face challenges?
6. The speaker emphasizes 1 John 4:4. How can we practically apply this verse in our daily lives, especially when facing spiritual battles?

Practical Applications:

1. Identify one area in your life where you feel God is calling you to "fight" rather than retreat. What specific steps can you take this week to engage in that battle?
2. Spend time meditating on 1 John 4:4 each day this week. Journal about how this verse encourages you in your current circumstances.
3. Choose one spiritual discipline (prayer, Bible study, worship, giving, witnessing) that you feel has become "slack" in your life. Create a plan to strengthen it over the next month.

4. Reflect on how God has blessed you. Then, identify one way you can be a channel of that blessing to someone else this week.

5. Write a letter to yourself from God's perspective, emphasizing His choice of you and His purpose for your life, based on the themes from this sermon.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for choosing each person in the group. Ask for His strength to fight the good fight of faith and to be channels of His blessing to others.

Discussion Questions – Fight, Fight, Fight

How does understanding God as our provider, all-powerful, and passionate impact our ability to face challenges and spiritual battles?

In what ways might we be like the Ephraimites, well-equipped but turning back in the day of battle? How can we avoid this?

What does it mean to 'fight the good fight of faith' in our daily lives, and how can we apply this concept practically?

How does God's choice of unlikely individuals (like David) challenge our perceptions of qualification for spiritual service?

What is the difference between being 'religious' and being 'spiritual' according to the sermon, and how does this distinction affect our relationship with God?

How can we ensure our 'bowstrings' (prayer, worship, giving, witness) don't become slack in our spiritual lives?

What does it mean to be 'blessed to be a blessing,' and how can we live this out in our communities?

How does the concept of God preparing 'a table in the wilderness' relate to our times of difficulty or scarcity?

In what ways might we be limiting God in our lives, as the Israelites did according to Psalm 78:41?

How can we cultivate steadfastness in our faith, especially when facing adversity or spiritual attacks?

Scriptures – Fight, Fight, Fight

Here are the [scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon](#), along with some relevant verses for the main themes:

Explicit references:

1. Psalm 139:5-6
2. Genesis 48 (alluded to, not explicitly cited)
3. 1 Chronicles 12:30
4. 1 Corinthians 15:58
5. 2 Timothy 4:7
6. 1 Timothy 6:12
7. Daniel 11:32
8. John 15:16
9. Ephesians 6:10-17 (alluded to, not explicitly cited)
10. Psalm 78 (multiple verses, including 1, 4, 9, 12-16, 24-25, 35, 37, 38, 41, 57, 60, 67, 70)
11. 1 Samuel 4 (alluded to, not explicitly cited)
12. Joshua 17:17
13. 1 John 4:4
14. Galatians 2:20 (alluded to, "I live by the faith of the Son of God...")

Devotional – Fight, Fight, Fight

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:

Day 1: Chosen for a Purpose

Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Devotional: God's choice of us is not based on our qualifications, but on His love and purpose. Just as He chose David, the least in his family, He has chosen you. Reflect on the truth that you are "chosen by our loving Lord to be his personal representative." How does this change your perspective on your life and calling? Today, embrace your identity as God's chosen one, and look for opportunities to represent Him in your daily interactions.

Day 2: Standing Firm in Faith

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:58 and Ephesians 6:10-18

Devotional: The sermon emphasizes the importance of standing firm and not turning back in the face of challenges. Paul encourages us to be "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." Consider areas in your life where you might be tempted to give up or turn back. How can you apply the armor of God to stand firm? Remember, "God gives victory" - our role is to stand in faith and persevere.

Day 3: God's Provision in the Wilderness

Reading: Psalm 78:12-29

Devotional: The Israelites asked, "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?" The answer is a resounding yes! God's provision is not limited by our circumstances. Reflect on times when God has provided for you in unexpected ways. Where in your life do you need to trust God's provision right now? Take time to thank Him for His faithfulness and ask for the faith to see His provision in your "wilderness" experiences.

Day 4: The Good Fight of Faith

Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8 and 1 Timothy 6:11-16

Devotional: Paul encourages us to "fight the good fight of faith." This is not a physical battle, but a spiritual one. We are called to stand firm in faith, persevere in doing good, and maintain our integrity in the face of challenges. What "battles" are you facing in your faith journey? How can you apply Paul's example of finishing the race and keeping the faith to your current situation? Remember, in Christ, you are "more than a conqueror."

Day 5: Greater is He

Reading: 1 John 4:4 and Romans 8:31-39

Devotional: "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." This powerful truth reminds us of the indwelling presence of Jesus in our lives. Meditate on the three aspects highlighted in the sermon: the Person (He), the Power (greater), and the Present (is). How does knowing that Jesus is present in you right now change your approach to your challenges? Take time to declare God's greatness over every area of your life, knowing that nothing can separate you from His love.