

Fight the Good Fight of Faith

1 Timothy 6:11-12 | Pastor Bruce | Hope City Church

CENTRAL QUESTION

What are you actually fighting for?

I. Follow After Righteousness

Key Text: 1 Timothy 6:11

- Paul tells Timothy to flee certain things and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness
- Our own righteousness can't earn favor with God
- Jesus raised the standard in Matthew. Hatred counts as murder. Lust counts as adultery. This shows we need his righteousness, not our own

II. Fight the Good Fight of Faith

Key Text: 1 Timothy 6:12

- Paul's charge to Timothy: fight the good fight of faith
- Lay hold on eternal life
- Hold to the profession made before many witnesses

III. Why Paul Wrote This to Timothy

- Timothy was Paul's spiritual son, and Paul knew his own death was coming
- Timothy was serving in Ephesus, a significant and prosperous Roman city that was religiously pluralistic, with many gods and belief systems competing for attention
- The Ephesian church was dealing with false teaching and people using godliness as a way to get rich

IV. Things to Run From, Things to Run Toward, Things to Fight For

- Not everything is worth fighting for
- Some things you flee. Some things you pursue. Some things you fight to keep

V. Following Jesus Is Not Passive

Key Text: 2 Samuel 23

- Pushback against a faith that avoids confrontation just to be inclusive
- Illustration: the Philistines raided Israel's harvest every year until someone finally stood and fought back

- Examples of cultural passivity, including prayer and the Ten Commandments being removed from schools
- We are saved by grace, not works, but discipleship still requires endurance
- We don't fight for our salvation. We fight to keep walking in it

VI. Fighting the Wrong Battles

- Common wrong reasons people fight: to be noticed, to protect their reputation, to be proved right, arguing with strangers online, chasing promotions and possessions
- Illustration: old Western movies got cowboy gun belts historically wrong, but we believed it because Hollywood told us
- The same thing happens when we believe lies instead of truth
- We need the Holy Spirit's power to tell the difference

VII. Not Every Fight Is Worth Fighting

- Paul doesn't say fight every fight or answer every critic
- Some battles drain you. Save your strength for what actually matters

VIII. The Fights Worth Fighting

- To remain faithful to Jesus
- To believe when circumstances say otherwise
- To obey when culture pushes back
- To forgive when the flesh wants revenge
- To pray when you feel nothing
- To worship and praise when you don't feel like it
- Illustration: playing worship music on the job site even while frustrated with contractors
- Worship God for who he is, not only for what he does

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

1. What are you actually fighting for right now?
2. Are you spending your energy on battles that don't matter, like being right or being noticed?
3. Where in your life have you been passive instead of standing firm?
4. Do you worship God for who he is, even when your circumstances haven't changed?
5. What's one thing God is calling you to fight for this week, whether that's your faith, your family, or your prayer life?

Scripture References: 1 Timothy 6:11-12 | Matthew 5 | 2 Samuel 23