

Intro: Lord of the Rings. Fighting against the Darkness. Enemy. Dark Lord. Gandalf. Aragorn. When you have someone powerful fighting with you, it makes the fight much easier to join and more doable.

Thesis: "We can fight in faith knowing that Jesus fights with us"

I. Fight with Hope

- A. **Flee temptations and distraction and Pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness. **All things that Jesus is working in us. He's at work in us.**
- B. **Fruit of the Spirit.** Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Self-control.
- C. **It's a Fight of Faith and Hope.** Based on promises of God. Eternal life. Not your own strength, or effort, or resolve, or power, or motivation, or guilt, or shame, or insecurity. Based on the Gospel.
- D. **The Gospel.** Jesus life, death and resurrection and return. He's coming back. He's victorious.
- E. **This is the Good Confession.** Jesus is King. He's the Truth. Savior.

ILLUSTRATION: Jesus and Pilate. John 18-19.

- F. **We are more than conquerors.** He's at work in us by grace (v.21). Not alone. We've already won. Sin is defeated. One day vanquished forever. Lost its power in us. We don't have to give in.

APPLICATION: Hope to get better. People who are stuck in cycles of sin. Habits. Pet sins. Addictions. They're powerless. Not getting better. It's the hope of the gospel and Jesus's power and plan that can help us. And we don't have to fight alone.

II. Fight with Praise

- A. **Follow your King.** He's the blessed and only sovereign. King of kings. Lord of lords.
- B. **He's immortal.** Never dies. And He's giving us New Life (v.13)
- C. **Lives in the light.** Imperishable light. **We must fight in the light. 1 John 1:4-9.**
- D. **He will receive honor and eternal dominion.**
 - 1. He receives glory and honor for every temptation that is not succumbed
 - 2. He receives glory and honor for every sin that is repented of.
 - 3. He receives glory and honor every time a believer worships and gives thanks for his grace.
 - 4. He receives glory and honor every time a believer obeys or reaches a level of deliverance.
 - 5. He receives glory and honor every time a believer enjoys, delights or rests in Him more.
 - 6. He receives glory and honor every time a new believer comes to saving faith in Him.
 - 7. He will receive glory and honor from every sinner saved by grace in heaven.
- E. **It's going to happen. And it is happening.** Join us in the fight.

ILLUSTRATION: Shadowboxing. Preparing to fight. Drills. Routine. Mundane. Ordinary.

APPLICATION:

CONCLUSION: Where is our fight? Our Fight is not with flesh and blood.

- 1. **World - Culture.** What does it look like to fight against culture? At some point there needs to be a line drawn. Busyness. Youth Sports.
- 2. **Devil - Invasive or intrusive thoughts.** Where did that come from?
- 3. **Flesh - Sinful nature.** Our own sinful and evil inclinations. Our own pride. Self-righteousness and