

Message Notes – April 12, 2020

Faith over Fear – I’m Winning this Fight!

(Pastor Jordan Jacobs)

I. The Good Fight of Faith

A. A Good Fight is a Fight You Win!

1. **1 Timothy 6:12 (NKJV)** Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
 - a. The Fight of Faith
 - i. Christianity is not passive, it is active.
 - ii. Christianity does not hold ground, it takes ground.
 - iii. Christianity does not retreat, it advances.
 - iv. Christianity is often called a race because there is nothing passive about it.
 - b. Jesus, the Fighter
 - i. Jesus fought religion and the devil throughout His earthly ministry.
 - ii. He healed the sick, cast out demons, and delivered the captive.
 - iii. Jesus was in Hell for three days and was then born again and broke out.
 - iv. We are to follow His example as a fight.
2. **1 Timothy 6:12 (TPT)** So fight with faith for the winner’s prize! Lay your hands upon eternal life, for this is your calling—celebrating in faith before the multitude of witnesses!
 - a. You will have to fight to fulfill the calling of God on your life.
 - b. There will always be opposition to your calling and you must fight for it.
 - c. Each of us has a “mission” to fulfill and when we all carry out our individual missions we are carrying out the “Great Co-Mission.”

“Great faith is the product of great fights. Great testimonies are the outcome of great tests. Great triumphs can only come out of great trials.”
— Smith Wigglesworth

B. What We Have Been Given

1. **Ephesians 6:10 (NLT)** A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.
 - a. Notice, it is His might and His armor, not our own.
 - b. There would be no need for armor if there was not a battle.
 - c. We do not fight for victory, we fight from a position of victory.
 - d. The church has gone soft.

- i. Before our salvation we would not put up with foolishness, but have made the mistake of thinking that we, as Christians, are to do so.
 - ii. We are not to fight with people. We are to walk in love with them and turn the other cheek. We are not to treat the devil, the world or our flesh that way.
 - ii. **Matthew 11:12 (NKJV)** And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.
2. **1 Corinthians 9:25-27 (NKJV)** And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.
- a. The devil does not fight fair. He is the king of the sucker-punch.
 - b. The devil does not use the front door to enter, he uses the back door and deception.
 - c. The devil does not come in and tell you he is the devil, he will come in as what you have always longed for.
 - d. **(TPT)** A true athlete will be disciplined in every respect, practicing constant self-control in order to win a laurel wreath that quickly withers. But we run our race to win a victor's crown that will last forever. For that reason, I don't run just for exercise or box like one throwing aimless punches, but I train like a champion athlete. I subdue my body and get it under my control, so that after preaching the good news to others I myself won't be disqualified.

II. How You Win the Fight of Faith

A. Guard Your Heart

- 1. **Proverbs 4:23 (AMPC)** Keep *and* guard your heart with all vigilance *and* above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.
 - a. We are to trust in the Lord with all our hearts.
 - b. It is the heart with which we believe and it is the heart that is one of the areas of attack for the devil.
- 2. **Proverbs 3:5 (TPT)** Trust in the Lord completely, and do not rely on your own opinions. With all your heart rely on him to guide you, and he will lead you in every decision you make.

B. Guard Your Mind

- 1. The mind is often called the "Battleground." If the devil can affect your thoughts he can affect your life.
- 2. **Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV)** For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you.
- 3. You must think it before you see it.

C. Guard Your Mouth

- 1. **Proverbs 18:21 (MSG)** Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose.
 - a. You must watch what you say. It you do not want it to come to pass...do not say it!

- b. Do not say, "I will win this fight" only when you *feel* like it. Say it for it to happen.
2. "Our fight is a fight of words." – E.W. Kenyon

D. Stay With It!

1. Proverbs 24:15-16
 - a. **(NKJV)** Do not lie in wait, O wicked *man*, against the dwelling of the righteous; Do not plunder his resting place; For a righteous *man* may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.
 - b. **(MSG)** Don't interfere with good people's lives; don't try to get the best of them. No matter how many times you trip them up, God-loyal people don't stay down long; Soon they're up on their feet, while the wicked end up flat on their faces.
2. **Romans 8:11 (TPT)** Yes, God raised Jesus to life! And since God's Spirit of Resurrection lives in you, he will also raise your dying body to life by the same Spirit that breathes life into you!
3. **2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NLT)** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.