

# FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

## Lesson 1 | We Are at War

The Bible doesn't portray the Christian life as an academic exercise, a set of religious duties, or some kind of social club. The Bible portrays the Christian life as a war where the stakes are life and death. While we will study the Bible, and engage in the spiritual disciplines, and while we do need fellowship, we must keep in mind that the whole time we are doing those things spiritual bullets are flying by our head.

**Christians must see themselves as \_\_\_\_\_**

- 1. Being a Soldier Means There Is a \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 3:1-7, 15)**  
This battle in Scripture begins in Genesis 3 when Satan boldly contradicts God's Word. When Satan succeeded, God warns in Genesis 3:15 that the serpent's children and the woman's children will be locked in a perpetual battle. Those who follow Satan are at war with those who still follow God.
- 2. Being a Soldier Means There Are \_\_\_\_\_ Attacks (Eph 6:11)**  
The battle that we face has no breaks. Ephesians warns us that we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of wickedness. Sadly, many people get exhausted by this constant onslaught, and some have served faithfully for years before finally giving up because they felt things were too hard.
- 3. Being a Soldier Means There Are Real \_\_\_\_\_ (John 17:12; 2 Peter 2:7-8; 1 Corinthians 9:27)**  
As we will see at the end of the series, God is going to win this war and He will win it decisively. But we need to be careful that God's ultimate victory doesn't mean we don't take our enemy seriously. Whether it's Judas, or Lot, or Demas, Satan will win victories along the way.

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**Christians must rely on their \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Timothy 2:1)**

Paul begins his instructions to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:1-4 with a call to be strong, but what is interesting is where Paul instructs Timothy to look for strength: the grace of Jesus Christ. Jesus is our leader and captain, but He's more than that. He not only tells us what to do, He gives us the power to do it.

**Christians must see themselves as part of an army (2 Tim 2:2)**

For a while the U.S. Army ran an ad campaign about being "an army of one." But an army is, by definition, a group of soldiers. If you tried to single-handedly take on an entire country, you would lose horribly. Sadly, many Christians view themselves as an army of one. They are trying to fight the good fight, yet they don't think they need the help of others and they don't try to help others. Paul was clear to Timothy, however, that when he fights he is not fighting alone.

**Christians must be ready to pay the \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Tim 2:3-4)**

Paul next called on to Timothy to be willing to endure hardness as a soldier of Jesus. This is the main point of Paul's analogy of war – being a soldier will require a lot of sacrifice, hardship, and even suffering. Soldiers in the middle of a war must keep a strong focus on what is required of them or they will become casualties. Similarly, it can be all too easy to become consumed with these matters so that we aren't focused on our role of fighting in the war going on all around us.

**Christians must sacrifice to \_\_\_\_\_ their captain (2 Tim 2:4)**

The greatest honor for any soldier is to be recognized by their leader for their service. To be honored by the emperor, or the king, or the president is the highest commendation that can be received. As believers, our great desire is that we serve our Captain in such a way that at the end of our fight we hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Our suffering and hardship and struggle are ultimately done with a person in mind; we want to please Christ. Ultimate success looks like obedience that honors and pleases Christ.

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