

Fighting the Good Fight of Faith

1 Timothy 6:12: Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

We're always going to be in a faith fight, fighting off doubt, unbelief, fear and all the tormenting thoughts Satan brings to our mind, as well as everything else Satan brings to destroy our lives.

2 Corinthians 10:4,5: (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Philippians 4:8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

Any thought that comes to your mind that brings doubt, fear or unbelief needs to be cast down immediately, and not permitted to linger. Satan is your enemy and you should treat him like he is. Don't give him any place, or open the door to where he can get in and attack you. If you give him any place, he's coming in to steal, kill and destroy (Ephesians 4:27; 1 Peter 5:8,9; John 10:10; 1 John 5:18).

When I was in Bible school, I got behind on my school tuition. The only reason I was there was because I believed the Lord told me to go. At the time, it was a pretty big step of faith for me. The financial pressure was on and the thoughts kept coming to me from the devil that I'm gong to be expelled from school. So, I kept quoting financial scriptures to myself as often as possible during the day, as well as during the night. I'd get up out of bed when I couldn't sleep, and just keep thanking God and praising Him that all my bills were paid. I continually quoted Philippians 4:19 and Malachi 3:10-12:

Philippians 4:19: But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Malachi 3:10-12: Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

I went to the administration office one Friday to find out where I stood with them. I was already past the grace period, and at the point where they were going to expel me from school and I'd have to reapply the next year. As I walked across the parking lot, James 1:1-8 came to my attention. The Holy Spirit was trying to help me by bringing the Word back to my remembrance.

These words came out of my mouth: ***“You can’t wonder why you don’t have the money and be in faith. Wondering is wavering. And a person that wonders or wavers isn’t going to receive anything of the Lord.”***

You may get some people who feel sorry for you to help, but eventually, that runs out. You’ve got to stand on God's promises, fight the good fight of faith by holding fast to your confession of faith, maintain your praise and joy, and cut out other things in your life that are nonproductive. Then, take that time and put it in the Word.

If your faith is going to work, it’s going to have to be strong, and it’s going to have to be fed on God's Word every day. This isn’t just going to happen by you listening to tapes and CD’s of preachers preaching. As good as doing that is, it can’t make you strong in itself. You, yourself, have got to get into the Word on a daily basis and do everything you know the Word of God teaches you to do.

You can’t live in sin, or have sin in your life, and get God’s Word to work. We have a covenant with God that if we will do our part, He’ll do His part, as we read in Deuteronomy 28:1-14 (over).

Deuteronomy 28:1-14:¹And it shall come to pass, IF thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this

day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: ²And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, IF thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. ³Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. ⁴Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. ⁵Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. ⁶Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. ⁷The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. ⁸The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. ⁹The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, IF thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. ¹⁰And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee. ¹¹And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee. ¹²The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. ¹³And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; IF that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to DO them: ¹⁴And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

1 John 3:20-23: For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

1 Peter 3:7: Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Not doing the Word of God and *sinning* are two things that will hinder your prayers from being answered. They will keep the blessings of God from manifesting, and they will keep you from receiving healing, and financial blessings. The person who will be a doer of the Word of God and

who will obey God and not do anything to grieve the Holy Spirit places themselves in a position to receive from God.

We have a new covenant with God through Jesus Christ; it's a legal contract that we have with God. And, if we don't do what God told us to do in His Word, we limit and hinder God from fulfilling His promises and being a blessing in our life. It's God's desire that we prosper financially, and live in divine health with no sickness and no diseases. When that's not happening in our life, there is somewhere we're messing up, and we need to find out what and where that is taking place. Then, make the correction. If it's sin, repent, turn away from it and don't do it again.

When a believer is sinning and doing wrong, their conscience is going to bother them. If our heart condemns us, there's a reason for it. In the area of finances, a person has to **tithe** *faithfully, regularly, and consistently*. The only financial guarantee we have is God. He plainly told us that if we'll tithe and keep His commandments, His blessings would overtake us. There is no getting around tithing. As long as you don't tithe, you will always struggle. You cannot rob God and do better, as a believer (Malachi 3:8-10). Stealing is always wrong. And when you faithfully tithe and stay out of sin, you always have a clear and clean conscience. It's then that your faith is unhindered and will move mountains and receive from God. But as long as a person procrastinates in doing what they know they need to do by telling themselves that it's not that important, they keep themselves deceived. These people are unsuccessful in fighting the good fight of faith.

I want to encourage you to do the Word, obey God, live sin-free and receive all the abundant life that God has provided for you, and for all of us.

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

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