

# Let's WIN the Fight of our lives!

## Part 1 of 2



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*All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.*

**Key words:** *fight, battle, war, victory, overcomer, overcome, soldier.*

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**Summary:** *Paul said, “I have fought the good fight” at the end of his life. What was he talking about? Do you realize you’re in the fight of your life? Are we even aware and conscious of the ongoing battle, day by day? Do we practically see and hear the enemy’s barrage coming in -- or are we so asleep that we feel everything’s OK? Are you a soldier in Christ’s army fighting the enemy? I hope this to be a wake-up call to get in the fight much more that we’ve been called to fight.*

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**Hello everyone. Have you ever been in a firefight? (Story on the video of Veteran who talked about being in the rear gun turret of B-29 Flying Fortress bomber). A real battle** with bullets snapping past you and mines blowing up around you, and mortar shells coming in? Most of us have not, in the physical world unless we’re a veteran from recent wars. And yet – you and I are supposed to be very aware that as God’s children, we’re in a constant war with Satan and his kingdom.

I give this sermon because I saw myself slipping in zeal and devotion to God and suspect it’s a pretty widespread phenomenon.

Do you see that? Are we even aware of the spiritual battles happening all around us? But you’re not alone. Our King of kings is supposed to be living actively in us, living out his resurrected life in us and He – if we let it happen – is supposed to be fighting against the enemies of God’s way and we are supposed to be following his lead.

**Some of you don’t like the metaphor of being a soldier.** Maybe it sounds too violent and rough, and you’re not a “fighting kind of man or

woman”. Let me remind you that this is all through the Bible. Some of you dislike the hymn “Onward Christian Soldiers” or “Battle Hymn of the Republic”. Why? \*\*\*

**MEN and women of God were fighters.**

- Abraham (Genesis 14:13-17) – defeated a rising empire
- Moses – was a known commander in Egypt
- Joshua and Caleb
- Jael (Judges 4:20-22) sank a tent peg in the enemy’s head.
- DEBORAH (Judges 4,5) led Israel’s army when Barak was weak.
- Gideon (Judges 6,7,8) and his 300 men – they certainly were fighters.
- David alone faced Goliath.
- Esther – put her life on the line and made a stand for her people.
- Peter, Paul, and disciples all bravely stood up for their God.

**Hello, holy children of the Highest** and members of the household of Abba, and brothers and sisters of the Messiah! Greetings! I’m Philip Shields, host and founder of Light on the Rock. I hope you get a lot out of today’s sermon. **Please tell others about this website and these sermons** if they are blessing you. Today we’re talking about winning the FIGHT of your life. I hope you will feel free to leave comments as well please and to let us know how these messages are impacting you.

You’ve been called out of this world into a high, high calling and to a cause greater than yourself. Any cause that is that great and that different, especially from GOD – will involve being so committed to it that you’re willing to fight for it.

So ARE we called to be warriors for God? Against whom do we fight? WHAT are we fighting? WHY is this important? And how is it accomplished? We’ll cover all that and more in today’s and the next sermon, part 2.

**Scripture is clear: we’ve been called to fight**

**Paul speaks clearly of putting on the whole armor of God** and standing in the power of HIS might (**Ephesians 6:10-19**) against the Devil and sin and our carnal thoughts we still get. We’re *not* out there fighting people – but *Satan’s* influence and his thoughts and ways.

He speaks often to Timothy to encourage him to see he’s in a war!

**1 Timothy 6:11-12**

“But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

12 ***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.”

**1 Timothy 1:18-20** Holman Bible/Apologetics

“Timothy, my child, I am giving you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies previously made about you, so that by them **you may strongly engage in BATTLE**, 19 having faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and have suffered the shipwreck of their faith.”

That phrase “strongly engage in BATTLE” is translated various ways:

NKJV – “that you may wage the good warfare”

CJB, NIV, NET – “that you may fight the good fight”

He says some rejected the notion of battle and their faith was shipwrecked!

So you see the same Paul who spoke of having the righteousness of God given to us, also says we must be in a good fight, strongly engaging in battle. So are you engaged in the fight? Are you even *aware* of such a battle you're in?

We believe in God's grace, yes - but grace brings with it a great responsibility. We were purchased and redeemed by God through Christ's blood. So now we are happy to do what he says to us.

**2 Timothy 2:3-5**

“You therefore must endure hardship **as a good SOLDIER of Jesus Christ**. 4 No one **engaged in WARFARE** entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who **enlisted him as a SOLDIER**.”

We're in Christ's army now. I'm hoping as we review these scriptures you are feeling the fire of God lighting up inside your heart to want to fight sin and Satan as well as everything he stands for with a far greater intensity than before!

**2 Corinthians 10:30-5**

“For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not WAR according to the flesh**.

4 **For the weapons of our WARFARE** are not carnal but **mighty in GOD** for pulling down *strongholds*,

5 *casting* down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, ***bringing EVERY THOUGHT into CAPTIVITY to the obedience of Christ***"

We need to get battle-seasoned so that when the real tough persecution comes, we have learned to fight the thoughts of being abandoned by God. And we will be strong.

**(In the video, I discussed 27-year old Christian -- Meriam Ibrahim, a pregnant Sudanese, sentenced to 100 lashes and death for marrying a Christian... more on the video version. Every time she was threatened with 100 lashes, her response was "I am a Christian, and I will always be a Christian believing in Christ." Would we have had the courage she had? I suggest you Google her story.)**

Just before Christ returns, and perhaps it could happen by 2030, who knows - religious persecution will heat up like never before – and I mean starting even before the Great Tribulation as they persecute us for believing in God and his word, and haul us to jail and beatings for standing up for Christ (Luke 21:12-19).

Satan does not want you in God's kingdom and he is doing everything in his power to discourage you, to defeat you, to make you sin, to make you feel destroyed. He uses people to do that. But they're not the real enemy. They're just vessels he infects and uses. But we've got to see we're in a real fight and must surely FEEL and recognize the real fight we're in.

My title: "Let's WIN the fight of our lives". **And keep in mind you have been called to a high calling, to a cause greater than yourself.** Greater than anything on this planet. We've been called to help start up a whole new world to lead. This has to mean something to us! It's worth fighting for.

And this means fighting anything that tries to distract you and make you lose out from your high purpose in your life.

### **WHY is this so important?**

**WHY do we need to learn about the FIGHT we're supposed to be in?**

**Because our Father must know where our loyalties lie and how far we will go – like for Abraham.** Remember God said, "Now I know...". If we fight sin and OBEY our Commander Yeshua (Jesus) – that shows him a lot. That means we've come under HIS authority and are rejecting the authority of Satan. We were called OUT of Satan's world. Fighting sin shows we really mean it.

**When we pray and study God's word and learn of God's way, do we OBEY what we're shown? Or do we walk away, forgetting what God's word showed us? (James 1:22-25)**

*At baptism we professed to have repented of our sins and accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Master and Savior. He was now Lord of our life. But IS he still?*

**John 14:15**

**"If you love Me, KEEP My commandments."**

**John 14:21**

**"He who has My commandments and KEEPS them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."**

So the only way we can claim to belong to Christ, to love the Messiah, is to prove it by letting Him live his obedient life again in us. Now we all fail from time to time. I do – you do – but we have to repent and get back into the fight and this time ask the Messiah convict us of sin and to turn faster to him.

God says that those who claim to know Jesus must walk as he walked and live as he lived. HOW? MUCH more on that in part 2, but certainly it includes letting the resurrected Yeshua have dominion over our lives. We have to "LET this mind be in you, which was in Jesus" (**Philippians 2:5**). We're turning our backs on being *conformed* to the world and now instead we're let God *transform* our hearts and minds.

**We should all be witnesses of the resurrection of Christ. HOW?** By moving aside and letting the Messiah's life clearly, and evidently, transform us from the inside out from what we used to be to something so different now. We can't claim to even "know" him – Paul's greatest goal – without being like him.

**1 John 2:3-6**

**"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**

**5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."**

**To keep all the commandments takes FIGHTING thoughts and temptations to break God's commandments – whether it's on sabbath keeping, our thoughts, our lusts – whatever!** If we aren't vigorously fighting sin, bad attitudes we get into, temptations we need to resist, and fighting against going the way of the world, then how can GOD know we're really 100% for the Kingdom's way?

### **Possible Protection from Times of worst Trouble**

**Here's another thought:** Jesus says several times that those who are worthy may be allowed to escape the coming times of worst trouble. That implies if we're not worthy in God's eyes, he's going to have to do some further refining to transform us into the gold and silver he wants us to be, spiritually speaking.

#### **Luke 21:34-36**

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, **and cares of this life**, and *that Day come on you unexpectedly*.

35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 **Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted WORTHY TO ESCAPE all these things that will come to pass**, and to stand before the Son of Man."

And notice what our Savior says to the last 2 churches of Revelation 3. They both represent end-time believers because to one, Christ says he's coming soon, and to the other he says he's here, knocking at their doors. But notice the statements about delivering them from the hour of trouble, the Great Tribulation coming:

Here's what is promised to the Philadelphian group. This is Yeshua speaking:

#### **Revelation 3:10-11**

***"Because* you have kept My command to persevere, **I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world**, to test those who dwell on the earth.**

11 **Behold, *I am coming quickly!* Hold fast what you have**, that no one may take your crown."

Laodiceans, meantime, the last of the 7 churches, are told to buy from Christ "gold refined in the fire" because God's Son sees them as miserable, poor, blind and naked spiritually -- (Note: more comments in the video) but they don't seem to recognize their true spiritual state.

#### **Revelation 3:17-19 HOLMAN Bible**

"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

“The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Originator of God’s creation says: 15 ‘I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot.

**16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of My mouth.**

17 Because you say, ‘I’m rich; I have become wealthy, and need nothing,’ and **you don’t know that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked,**

18 I advise you to **buy from Me GOLD REFINED IN THE FIRE** so that you may be rich, **and white clothes** so that you may be dressed and your shameful nakedness not be exposed, and ointment to spread on your eyes so that you may see.”

And to both churches – and to all the 7 churches, the admonition and reminder is given that rewards go to the overcomers; to those who have victory! The reward is not salvation – that’s by GRACE – but what you’ll be *doing* for eternity is based on our works, and how much we overcome. And overcoming will mean we’re in the fight of our lives, to win!

So we certainly want to be praying often that we be counted worthy to escape the things which are coming soon, perhaps as early as 2030 I believe is possible.

And we need to be fighting sin so much that we *are* changing, we ARE putting on God’s white clothing of HIS righteousness that he gives us to put on, and we are praying for him to open our eyes to see.

Then, those who ***overcome, who gain the victory***, are the ones given rewards. But overcoming involves a fight against what you’re trying to overcome. We’ll discuss much more in part 2 on that. Here are some scriptures on overcoming, all from HOLMAN Apologetics Study Bible:

**To Laodicea: Revelation 3:20-21 Christ speaking:**

“Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and have dinner with him, and he with Me.

21 The **victor: I will give him the right to sit with Me on My throne**, just as I also won the victory and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

**Revelation 3:12 to the Philadelphia people of God:**

**“The victor: I will make him a pillar in the sanctuary of My God, and he will never go out again. I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God—the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God—and My new name”.**

**Revelation 2:26 To Thyatira people of God**

**“The victor and the one who keeps My works to the end: I will give him authority over the nations—”**

**AGAINST WHOM WE FIGHT**

I’ve been saying repeatedly now in recent sermons that our fight is not against any human so much as it is against Satan and his demons. That’s clearly stated **in Ephesians 6:12**. *We don’t wrestle against flesh and blood* but against spiritual powers in high places – EVIL spirit demons led by the Adversary, Satan. So don’t hate people for any evil they do; they’re simply following orders from their leader – Satan. Yeshua said “You are of your father the Devil”, remember (**John 8:44**).

Any HUMAN we may be fighting is more likely just our own self – the remaining carnal nature still in us. But our main enemy is Satan – but are you conscious every hour, every day of being in a WAR against his ways and thoughts?

***Need help defeating Satan***

***First let me say this: if ANY of you think you can defeat Satan by yourself – you vs. Satan – you’re dreaming! Let me say that again: you, by yourself, cannot defeat Satan. Cannot.***

**But if you learn to be IN Christ, and Christ in you and me, then absolutely YES, Yeshua in you crushes demonic activity. The Son of God makes evil spirits tremble when HE shows up for your fight!**

Here are some good scriptures to read about how terrified demons are of Christ: In **Luke 8:20-33** demons begged him not to punish them before their time and not to send them to “the abyss” or “the Deep”. And in **Luke 4:33-36** -again, they obviously knew Yeshua was God’s son and were terrified of him.

**This is such an important point to grasp. If you’re trying to fight sin, temptation, bad attitudes, etc. without a conscious calling out to God to fight for you, with you – you’re missing it!**



There was a time when Christ's disciples were sent out and when they came back, they were so thrilled to tell Yeshua that even demons had to obey them! But notice an important phrase they had to include- and a phrase WE must learn deeply:

**Luke 10:17-20**

Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "**Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.**"

18 And He said to them, "**I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.**

19 Behold, **I** give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

**OUR BATTLES ARE BY THE POWER OF GOD**

**Did you catch the phrase?** The demons were subject to them -- **IN HIS NAME**. That's the power we have to war against and to defeat Satan and his thoughts. *By the way, when Christ speaks of trampling serpents and scorpions, he's using a graphic metaphor to point to Satan and his demons; they are what the serpents and scorpions represent! Jesus wasn't suddenly changing the topic from Satan to serpents.*

Yeshua promised those who believe, will "in my name cast out demons..."  
**Mark 16:17**

Even in the broader scheme of the world and USA – demons are highly active. More than usual. It's demonic activity that we are seeing, far more than just bad people acting up as they loot, riot, burn and destroy. Satan is the one who comes "to steal, kill and destroy", remember (**John 10:10**), whereas our leader Yeshua has come that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

So don't fear the evil spirit world but do understand -- you need the power of God – His SPIRIT active in you – to have authority over them.

**Even a powerful holy angel sent to Daniel** with a message from God was blocked for 3 weeks on the way by a high-ranking demon. Only when the arch-angel Michael came to the good angel's side, did the demonic power step aside. And then after giving Daniel the message, he said he had to go back and fight

the demonic powers over Persia – and he said Greece too – before he could get back to God's kingdom.

**Daniel 10:12-14**

Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

**13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.**

*14 Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."*

So imagine that: powerful invisible battles are going on that we can't see – between good angels and the fallen angels. Even powerful holy angels have a hard time at times so we mere mortals need extra strength and firepower – and we CAN have it!

**Ephesians 6:10**

“Finally, my brethren, be strong **IN THE LORD** and in the **power of HIS might**.

**11 Put on the WHOLE armor of GOD, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”**

We are to FIGHT, yes, but not by or in OUR power but in the power of HIS might. Activate GOD in you. You do that by constant communion and communication with God in prayer and study and meditating on his word. I must give a full sermon on the armor. But do we even pick up our sword each morning and keep it on? Our sword of the spirit is the Word of God. We defeat Satan by God's Holy Spirit flowing in us as we deep dive into God's word.

**Ephesians 6:17**

“And take the helmet of salvation, **and the SWORD of the Spirit, which is the WORD OF GOD**”.

**And “the word of God is sharper than a 2-edged sword – Hebrews 4:12.** Do we *live with God's SWORD of the Spirit and his word* always a big

part of us, every single day, always attached to us? Or most days we never pick up our sword, God's words. Which is it? How can we fight without the sword!?

*Are we seeing a theme here? It's not by our might our power but by God's spirit and by God's grace that we will do God's work and level mountains!*  
**(Zechariah 4:6-7)**

I'm learning to have much more quiet around me unless I'm listening to God's word. But cut out songs that do not elevate God. I cut out listening to too much news and politics. Listen to God's word instead.

How will Satan's attacks evidence themselves? No, you're not likely to see a literal demon fighting you. He's more subtle than that. He will speak and do things and threaten us through the people he works with.

Sometimes those people are even friends and relatives! We have to recognize this. Remember Yeshua even castigated Peter when Peter told Christ he wouldn't die. Yeshua's response to Peter was... do you remember? Let's read it.

***Mark 8:31-33***

And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

32 He spoke this word openly. *Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.*

33 But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, ***He rebuked PETER, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan!*** For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

*Yeshua recognized who was really speaking at that moment. It was not Peter -- but Satan. So be on guard any time, any one is not speaking Bible truth!*

So as I speak of fighting the good fight today, I'm REALLY speaking about **letting Christ's power** and might -- by God's spirit in us -- BE the power by which we demolish Satan and his attacks against us. We have to get Christ the Son of God in the fight – **“for He who is in you, is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).**

So we are in the fight of our lives – and the main point of this sermon was to wake us all up to be much more COGNIZANT and aware of all that! I really don't feel like many Believers live their lives like they're actually in BATTLE.

Some of Satan's biggest tools include – apathy or discouragement, despair, worry, cares of this world. He encourages us to just want to “throw in the towel” and give up.

So you and I have been called to come out of Satan's world and wholeheartedly *want* to be part of the Kingdom of God and to be ruled by His kingdom. If we stick close to Christ – that's the big key – we will win our war.

**1 Corinthians 15:57**

**“But thanks be to GOD, *who gives us the VICTORY THROUGH our Lord Jesus Christ.*”**

Our life now in Christ means we're coming under him, obeying him, following his orders, and living within his law – even as we rejoice in his GRACE for salvation!

Let's remember what Yeshua says to some who do preach in his name, heal in his name, but apparently didn't think THEY had to change. “Calling on the name of the Lord” means coming under his governance, obeying him, changing – and not just claiming to be a Christian. We have to be living the Kingdom's way of life.

**Matthew 7:21-23**

**“*Not* everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but **he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**”**

22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

23 **And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'** (“iniquity” KJV means lawlessness)

I'll end part 1 here... and we'll continue with part 2 next time, on HOW we are to win our battles against Satan.

Thank you for coming to your website. Until next time, this is Philip Shields, your brother and friend in Christ, signing off.

Closing prayer.

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