

Fighting the good fight

Message 6: [Under your wings series](#)

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Introduction

What does it mean to fight the good fight – which is a fight of faith? The best way to explain it is with a personal testimony.

6 months ago I lost my job or rather I quit my job following a direct command from the Lord as I begun to describe to you in message 5 of this [Under your wings series](#).

This was an unbelievable command from the Lord which required all my faith - perhaps like Abraham who was asked to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. The Lord had never asked me to do something like this in all my 20 years, BUT I obeyed. I lay on the altar together with job and died.

Now, I knew the story of Abraham and how God so to speak brought his son Isaac back to life, so I reasoned that the Lord would also bring me back to life and I would find another job quickly – perhaps in about 1 month?

Wrong, it took over 6 months for the Lord's purposes for me to be fulfilled. During that time, I had to fight the good fight for my faith because the enemy went into overdrive and sent fiery darts of doubt into my mind.

At one point I was not sure I had heard the Lord right:

- As the bills came, and the savings got depleted.
- as the credit rating took a hit because the credit card usage had increased significantly.
- as the rent became due and there seemed to be no way of paying it.
- as the depression finally set in...

Eventually a part of me started wondering why I had quit the job. They had after offered to keep my high salary, BUT only if I bowed to them and took a slightly lower position - like a certain temptation of the Christ which I will tell you about...

How did I overcome? More importantly, what lessons can you learn to overcome when your own fight of faith comes?

Part 1: What battle?

Before you can fight the good fight of faith, you must realise first that you are in a battle.

According to Psalm 91, which the Lord has been using to teach us during this season is that the battle is akin to guerrilla warfare. The scriptures describe the fight and God's faithfulness thus:

"Surely He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly plague. He will cover you with His feathers; under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day," Psalms 91:3-5 BSB

So first, if you are wondering why we must fight, it is because we have an enemy who is laying traps for us - the snare of the fowler.

Then the same enemy is sending diseases our way - the deadly plague.

As if that's not enough, they are also sending fiery darts - terrors of the night and arrows that fly by day.

This is an enemy who is not resting, **day and night they want to destroy you!**

Thank God who protects us even when we are not fully aware BUT that said and done, we too must do something – hence the good fight.

Part 2: What is the good fight?

The good fight of faith according to the revelation I received for this message at its core is a fight to protect yourself from the SNARE which the enemy lays in regards to the love of money. It is unusual strategy so to help you understand it, let me build it up by first showing you what the scriptures say about this good fight:

“Those who want to be rich, however, fall into temptation and become ensnared by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. By craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

But you, O man of God, flee from these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made the good confession before many witnesses.” 1 Timothy 6:9-12 BSB

So we see in these verses that the good fight is a fight where you resist the fiery darts of temptations and sin which the enemy sends your way so that you can hold onto what Jesus has stored for you – eternal life, the eternal life which the enemy wants to rob from you.

We also see in this fight that the primarily weapon the enemy uses is the snare of the love of money.

The enemy uses this ancient weapon -because he knows if he can snare you with the love of money, he can cause you to sin in other sins which grow from this root for example:

- **Pride** including feeling you achieved it all by yourself.
- **Gluttony** including for food.
- **Greed** including for power and positions.
- **Sexual immorality** due to the ease with which others are drawn to those with money.
- And all other things which snare many rich folk and those who love money.

This is the same ancient strategy which the enemy used when he tempted Jesus about money and the attendant power it gives:

“Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. “All this I will give You,” he said, “if You will fall down and worship me.”” Matthew 4:8-9 BSB

Do you see the connection? If somehow the enemy can lure you to love the “glory of this world” which is usually great wealth – then he has won, for he has caused you to worship him and thus from the snare of the love of money, he entraps you with all sorts of other evils and thus he has won – and that is why you are to fight the good fight by resisting these things starting with the love of money!

Remember, if the enemy tempted our Lord with the love for money, he will tempt us his followers the same way.

This is infact the same temptation the enemy laid for me during my 6-month ordeal as I narrated at the start. My former employers made me an offer – they said they would not change my pay, I simply needed to “bow” – so speak to accept a lower position. Thank God I saw the trap because If I had taken the lower position, I would have lost everything – by committing career suicide. I praise God who gave

me courage to leave and suffer for the sake of Christ rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of this world.

I am narrating this testimony because as you can guess by now that the Lord delivered me from my powerful enemy and that's why I know he is good and faithful, but more importantly, he used the 6-month period to train me for war - the war against fear that the enemy uses to snare many of us!

When I was fighting the good fight of faith, what weapons did I use to survive?

Part 3: What weapons do you use to fight the good fight ?

To survive in the good fight of faith you do not use your own wisdom. If you do, you will fail. You use God's weapons which are mighty for pulling down strongholds. Psalms 91 as we saw earlier says God's "faithfulness is a shield and a rampart."

This gives you a clue that it is faith which protects you and the Bible describes this weapon of faith as follows:

"In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times, with every kind of prayer and petition. To this end, stay alert with all perseverance in your prayers for all the saints." Ephesians 6:16-18 BSB

The shield of faith is built up by hearing the word of God. In my case, during my ordeal, I had to literally "eat the word of God" because as Jesus told the enemy during his temptations: *"man shall not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4 (NIV).*

Knowing God's word protects your mind from the enemy's attack - because:

- when the enemy says: "you are broke" You respond with: "God's word says: *"weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning."* Psalms 30: 5.
- when the enemy then says: "God's word says blessed are the poor..." you can counter with: "His word also says: *"And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?"* Matthew 6: 30 (NLT).
- When the enemy says: "you are being punished for your past sins" the Lord sends you a word of prophesy to finally rescue you: *"The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"* Zechariah 3:2 (NIV).

For every dart the enemy sends, you must counter it with the word of God and so fighting the good fight requires you to know a Bible verse for what God says about a situation you are in so you can resist the enemy.

During my journey of faith when I fought the good fight, I as an example spent about 16 days memorizing each of the verses of psalm 91 (1 verse per day). Day by day I picked one verse and spent the day meditating on it. This is what helped me believe in every word of God! Hallelujah!

Conclusion

So, fighting the good fight in summary is this:

Whether we like it or not, we have an enemy. He is fighting us all the time. He lays traps - temptations (the fowler's snare) and then he also sends us fiery darts by day and by night - casting fear and doubt and all sorts of spiritual warfare, to cause us to lose faith.

A primary weapon or an atomic bomb if you like that the enemy uses in the fight is the love of money. He uses money because the love of money is the root for all kinds of evil. He tried to snare our Lord Jesus with it, and he will do it to us. Knowing this is a key to being able to fight the good fight. You resist the enemy by fleeing from the love of money.

Faithfulness is critical as the shield of God by which you can put out the enemy's fiery darts. This shield of faith comes through hearing the word of God, and then praying in the Spirit with all sorts of prayers, all the while trusting in God's faithfulness and his hand of salvation. You also trust that God is protecting you and helping you to see the traps of the enemy and above all he not leaving you in the battle on your own – he is covering you under his wings so it is a controlled battle, in fact like training and you can rest knowing that he sees the end from the beginning, that he is supplying you with armour that the enemy can't stand and once you know all this from the scriptures, you can continue to fight the good fight - and win, until the day of Christ, when you receive the reward of eternal life.

The message of Jesus.

As I was wrapping up this message, the Lord Jesus who sent me to you gave me a final message for you. He told me to tell you:

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1: 12 (NLT).

The Lord Jesus is saying that if you persevere despite the enemy's darts and you take up your faithfulness as a shield, believing in him, you will receive the right to become children of God. This is the good news which my God, has commissioned me to preach to you so that in believing it you may: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near." This Kingdom was previously hidden by your enemy Satan but now it is manifest and if you put your faith in Christ, you will be called a son of God.

Do you believe this?

If so, I would love for you to become part of God's family, so please pray this prayer to become a Christian:

"God of heaven, I confess that I am a sinner and have been one since birth, but I have heard that you can make me new, and you sent your son Jesus to die for me. He rose again and it is he who can give me his Holy Spirit. Please forgive me and welcome me into your Kingdom, teach me how to follow you. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Lots of love, your brother in the Lord and a slave of Jesus the Christ.

Lord Jesus, come, Maranatha!

Amen.