

The Fight of FAITH

1 Peter 2:11-12

Romans 7:18-25; 2 Timothy 4:1-8



16 February 2025

The Times We Live In (Luke 21:34-36)

- Paul commands us, "Imitate me just as I imitate Christ." (1 Cor 11:1)
- We are commanded to be an EXAMPLE to each other. (1 Timothy 4:12)
- Christ is our Example. (John 13:15; 1 John 2:6; 1 Peter 2:21)
- IN ORDER TO BE AN EXAMPLE ONE MUST BE SEEN!
- If everyone in the church followed YOUR example what kind of church would we be in giving, faithfulness, praying, worshiping, studying, etc.?
- NOT TO BE AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS IS SIN.

Goals for 2025 - ⑥ Meet More Together (Hebrews 10:24-27)

- Immediate context.
- Today's application.

Quick Review (1 Peter 2:1-10)

- (v. 1) Lay aside all sin. (Hebrews 12:1-2)
- (vv. 2-3) Crave the Word since you have "tasted" the graciousness of the Lord.
- (v. 4) You (pl.) are a spiritual house – the Church.
- (v. 5) You are "holy priests".
- (v. 9) You are . . .
 - ① Chosen by God.
 - ② ROYAL Priests.
 - ③ God's "peculiar" (SPECIAL) people.
 - ④ Called out to proclaim His praises.
- (v. 10) Not a people but now the people of God.
- (v. 10) You have obtained MERCY (Passive voice, Perfect tense).
 - Passive voice: Something given to or done to us.
 - Perfect Tense: Given ONCE! Not to be repeated!
 - YET, we are commanded to approach God's throne continually to "obtain mercy" (Hebrews 4:16)

A Call to a DIFFICULT Walk

- ALL of God's people are called to be like . . .
 - STAR Athletes - 1 Cor 9:24-27; Acts 20:24; 2 Tim 2:5; Philip 3:13-14; Heb 12:1-2.
 - HARD Workers - 1 Corinthians 15:58; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Tim 2:6, 15.

- GOOD Soldiers - 2 Tim2:4-5, 7; 1Tim 1:18; 6:12; Eph 6:10-18; 2 Cor 10:3-5
- The Christian life is NOT EASY! - Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 14:28.

What Is the Fight of Faith? (2 Timothy 4:7; 1 Timothy 6:11-12)

- Simply put: OBEDIENCE - see 1 Peter 1:13-16; 1 John 3:3-10

Obedience and the Elect (1 Peter 1:1-2)

- (Acts 6:7) Priests who became saved, were obedient to the faith
- (Romans 1:5) "for obedience to the faith"
- (Romans 15:18) "to make the Gentiles obedient"
- (Romans 16:26) "according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith"
- REPENTANCE - To sorrow for disobedience, to confess disobedience, and to return to obeying the written Word of God - HIS LAW/commandments. Anything less is NOT repentance.
 - (Mark 1:14-15) Christ emphasized repentance when He preached the Gospel.
 - (Mark 2:17) Christ came to call sinners to repentance (obedience)
 - (Luke 13:1-5) Christ taught that those who did not continually repent would perish.
 - (Luke 24:48) Christ commissioned His church to emphasize repentance when preaching.
 - (Acts 20:21) Paul testified , "Repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus"
 - (Acts 26:20) Repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.
 - (2 Peter 3:9) God is longsuffering because His goal is for all of His elect will come to repentance.
 - Christ commanded all seven CHURCHES to repent in His letter. (Revelation 2:5, 16, 22; 3:3, 19)
- ★ (Hebrews 5:9) Christ became the Author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. (See 1 Peter 4:17; Gal 3:1; 5:7; 2 Thess 1:8)

Beloved, I Beg You . . . (1 Peter 2:11)

- "Beloved" – LOVED! — Recipients of God's great unconditional love.
 - ★ Romans 8:38-39! Ephesians 2:4-7; 1 John 4:9-10, 19
 - ★ That LOVE comes with DUTY! (Matthew 22:36-37; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10; 1 John 5:3)
- "Beloved" – LOVED! – By Peter! (1 John 3:16; 1 John 5:1-2)
- "beg" is **parakaleo** (parakaleo) – "to urge"; "to exhort"; "to admonish".
 - ★ "to beseech" as in Romans 12:1 – In view of all of God's mercies and love *then . . . GIVE YOUR TOTAL SELF!*

Strangers, Foreigners, Sojourners, Pilgrims (1 Peter 2:11)

- Christians are STRANGERS and PILGRIMS in this world!
 - STRANGERS: Our citizenship is NOT here, but heaven. (Philippians 3:20-21) Christians are to look, sound, and be strange to the people of the world. (1 John 3:1; John 15:18-19, 21; 16:1-3; 1 Peter 4:3-4)
 - PILGRIMS: Christians are only “passing through” on a journey to a better place - heaven. (Hebrews 11:13-16)
 - ★ (Psalm 43:3; 25:4-5; 119:105) Christians use the Word of God as their map and light to navigate their way.
 - ★ PROVERBS 3:5-6!
 - ★ Christians do not conform themselves to the world. (Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4)
 - ★ We are to pass through this wilderness in fear. (1 Peter 1:17; 2:17; 3:15) If we fear God, we will not fear anything else.

Abstain (1 Peter 2:11)

- “abstain” is ἀπέχωμαι *apechomai* - “to keep away from”; “to distant oneself”.
 - ★ (Job 1:1) “to shun” or “to eschew” - to turn away from; to avoid; to stay clear of.
 - ★ (1 Timothy 6:9-11) Christians are to ABSTAIN from LUSTS of the flesh, but we are to “PURSUE righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and humility (meekness)”.
 - ★ (1 Thessalonians 5:22) Abstain from every form of evil. (1 John 2:15-17)
- “fleshly lusts” –
 - “lusts” is ἐπιθυμία (*epithumia*) – DESIRES!!!!
 - ☆ Romans 8:5-9, 12-14; 13:14; Galatians 5:16-17.
 - “flesh” – the deeds of the FLESH are listed for us in Gal 5:19-21.
 - ★ Peter would never “beg” his readers to abstain unless they had the ability. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

IT’S WAR! (1 Peter 2:11)

- “war” – is a military term – στρατεύομαι *strateuomai* {strat-yoo'-om-ah-ee} – which carries the meaning of a military campaign – not a military battle!
 - ★ In a military campaign many battles are fought. **Some battles are lost, some are won.** A campaign normally involves a long period of time.
- Our enemies: The Devil (1 Peter 5:8); the World (1 John 5:19); and the worst of ALL: ____ ____ ____ _____. (Ephesians 2:1-3)
- The Holy Spirit has warned us that the battle between our flesh and the Spirit within us is WAR! (Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 7:7-25)
 - ★ **WAR IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!** ASK ANYONE WHO IS HAS BEEN TO WAR!

- We are commanded to “mortify; put to death” the deeds of the flesh. (Col 3:5)
- (2 Timothy 2:3-4) Enduring the hardships of a soldier. Separated from the world fighting the fight of FAITH to please the ONE who enlisted us.
- (Ephesians 6:10-18) Each day we are to:
 - (v. 10) Be filled with the Spirit - to be strong in the Lord and power of HIS might. (Ephesians 5:8)
 - (vv. 11, 13) Put on the WHOLE armor of God, so that we will be able (each day) to stand against the (daily) wiles of the devil and his demons.
 - (v. 12) One cannot fight these enemies in their own strength and flesh.
 - (vv. 14-18) Our battle gear: TRUTH, RIGHTEOUSNESS, the GOSPEL of PEACE, FAITH, our HOPE in our salvation, the WORD, and PRAYER. Leave anyone of these out each day and you will not be able to STAND.
- Soldiers long for the war to end. (Romans 8:23)

Live Soberly, Righteously, and Godly 1 Peter 2:12; Titus 2:11-14)

- “have your conduct honorable” – “honorable” also translate as “excellent”; “honest”; “beautiful by reason of purity of heart and life”; “morally good”; “noble”; “praiseworthy”.
- (1 Timothy 4:12) Paul tells Timothy, “Be an example to believers in word, conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
- (1 Peter 1:13-16) We are to be “holy in all our conduct” because God is HOLY.
- (Titus 2:11-14) The grace given to us tells us to live daily “denying ungodliness and worldly (fleshly) lusts, soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age . . .”
- (v. 12) Christians have been, are being, and will continually be identified as “evil doers”. (Remember Isaiah 5:20) Despite this we live lives “fully pleasing” to our LORD.

Fighting the Fight

- ① UNDERSTAND that we are in enemy territory. The devil, the world, and own lust and desires are fighting against us.
- ② FIGHT the fight of faith! (2 Timothy 2:3-4)
 - Be SOBER ➤ Be VIGILANT ➤ WATCH ➤ PRAY
- ③ STAND in the power and WHOLE armor of GOD (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- ④ LIVE in the Spirit! Be FILLED with the Spirit (Gal 5:16, 25; Eph 5:18)
- ⑤ PRESS ON - the battle is not finished until God calls us home. (Philippians 3:11-12; 2 Timothy 4:7)
- ⑥ Until the end FIGHT to please our Commander. (2 Timothy 2:3-4)
- ⑦ GROAN for the battle be over! (Romans 8:23)
- ⑧ We MUST BE AN EXAMPLE to each other. (1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Cor 11:1)