

# FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

MAY 10, 2026

1. There are things that are important to us
  - a. Things we are **willing to fight for**
  - b. Things we will sacrifice for
    - i. Both tooth and nail
    - ii. To **protect**
    - iii. To **preserve**
2. On the news, whenever a hurricane happens
  - a. People risk their lives
    - i. They won't leave their homes
    - ii. To protect their possessions
  - b. Tornado's the same kind of mindset
    - i. Protect what is theirs
3. Think of **your children**
  - a. What you **wouldn't** do to protect them
    - i. You make sure they see a doctor when they are hurt
    - ii. You may go hungry but you make sure they have food
    - iii. Don't let them stay out too late at night
4. You protect your health
  - a. Things you would do to preserve your health
    - i. Diet,
    - ii. The gym,
    - iii. Find out you have cancer – travel to another state for best treatment
      1. Even stay there for months for treatment
5. Go into debt
  - a. Save your house
  - b. Save your car
  - c. Your vacation
  - d. Your reputation
  - e. Your pets
  - f. Even your health
6. **HOW ABOUT YOUR FAITH?**
  - a. What are you willing to do to protect your faith

- b. To fight for your faith
- c. To preserve your faith

### ILLUSTRATION

I like to fish although I haven't gone since last year and then only a few times.

- a. But I have known fisherman who wouldn't miss getting up at 4 in the morning
  - i. to go on a fishing trip
- b. but they **wouldn't** dream of getting up at 4 in the morning
  - i. to read their Bible and pray!
- c. When it comes to the spiritual
  - i. we would prefer **not** to do too much!
  - ii. We tend to be spiritually lazy.

### Romans 10:17

*"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."*

- 7. How in the world **can you grow in your faith**
  - a. if you are not constantly
  - b. in the Word of God
- 8. There is **nothing** in this world **more important**
  - a. than your relationship with God
- 9. **Nothing** worth fighting for
  - a. more than your relationship with God
- 10. And yet, we either quit or postpone our time with God **so easily**
  - a. When things get tough
  - b. When tragedy or calamity hits
  - c. Or when we just get so busy with other things
    - i. Our meeting time with God
    - ii. gets squeezed out

### ILLUSTRATION

Wilma didn't get much of a head start in life. A bout with polio left her left leg crooked and her foot twisted inward so she had to wear leg braces. After seven years of painful therapy, she could walk without her braces. At age 12 Wilma tried out for a girls basketball team, but didn't make it.

Determined, she practiced with a girlfriend and two boys every day. The next year she made the team. When a college track coach saw her during a game, he talked her into letting him train her as a runner. By age 14 she had outrun the fastest sprinters in the U.S. In 1956 Wilma

made the U.S. Olympic team, but showed poorly. That bitter disappointment motivated her to work harder for the 1960 Olympics in Rome--and there Wilma.....Wilma Rudolph won three gold medals, the most a woman had ever won.

- **Sticking with something generally yields good results.**

**The Bible provides us numerous examples  
of people who had to fight through adversity  
in their battle for faith**

1. Abraham had to **fight for his faith** when he was asked to sacrifice his son on the alter
  - a. The son God promised him
  - b. That he miraculously had when he was 100 and his wife, Sarah was 90
  - c. But he fought through his emotions and is remembered for his faith
2. Job had to **fight for his faith** when he was stripped of everything
  - a. Family
  - b. Livelihood,
  - c. His health
  - d. Even his friends constantly berating him
  - e. Telling him it was his fault for all this calamity
  - f. God rewarded him for his faith
    - i. He was doubly blessed in the latter part of his life
3. When a giant man-of-war **challenged** the entire nation of Israel
  - a. The king was in hiding
  - b. The army was totally discouraged
  - c. Cowering in fear
  - d. Gave up hope
  - e. But **one man kept the faith - DAVID**

**1 Samuel 17:45-47**

*“David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”*

4. When the Hebrew race was threatened to be exterminated by the Persian government
  - a. One Hebrew woman (Esther) risked her life

- b. To save her people

**Esther 4:16**

*“Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”*

- 5. The Apostle Paul as he **spread the message of Christ** around the world

**2 Corinthians 11:21–28**

*“To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that! What anyone else dares to boast about—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast about. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham’s descendants? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.”*

- 6. THESE PEOPLE RISKED EVERYTHING – **even their lives**

- a. They fought through
  - i. Adversity,
  - ii. Emotions
  - iii. Criticism
  - iv. Even the prospect of death

**V. THEY FOUGHT FOR THEIR FAITH**

**Hebrews 11:32–40**

*“And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.*

**These were all commended for their faith**, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.”

## 7. JESUS FOUGHT FOR HIS FAITH

**Mark 1:35** “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”

**Luke 5:16** “But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”

**Luke 22:41–44**

“He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.”

## 8. **ONE THING TO NOTE** is that it is very easy to start off in a race

- a. The real challenge is
- b. how you finish the race.
- c. I could probably outrun
  - i. an Olympic Marathon runner
  - ii. for the first 40 yards
- d. But **I’d be a goner** for anything longer than that

## 9. It’s easy for **new Christians** to start off excited

- a. Reading their Bibles a lot
- b. Hungry to learn
- c. Fired up about
  - i. going to church
- d. Getting with other Christians
  - i. outside of church

## 10. The **true test** is when the newness wears off

- a. Life falls back into a **routine**.

### **ILLUSTRATION.**

Someone wrote: Don’t Float; Swim Hard. Recently I read a true story entitled Glenda’s Long Swim in "The Incredible Series." Glenda and Robert Lennon were four miles off the coast of Florida fishing alone from their yacht.

Glenda decided to take a swim and soon found the current had carried her too far out from the boat. Her husband, hearing her cries, without thinking dove in and swam to her, but then realized they were both being carried out. He was a champion swimmer, but she was not.

They made a plan. He would swim against the tide to keep the boat in view until the tide ceased and he could reach the boat. She should save her strength and just float with the tide and he would come and get her. He fought the tide for six hours and just as the boat was about to disappear on the horizon the tide turned and his strokes carried him to the boat exhausted. The sun had set. His searching was futile—he could not find his wife. The next day on one last effort of search, the search party found his wife—twenty miles out and still alive. It was an incredible story.

Christians who just float never stay in the same place. They drift away from the boat and that boat for us is Christ. He alone is our salvation. We must never stand still, the tide of temptation is too strong and it will carry us away!

### **Hebrews 2:1–3**

*We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.*

11. Drifting spiritually – you don't even notice
  - a. It's a slow
  - b. Gradual process
  - c. **Starts by** missing your time with God
    - i. Maybe once or twice in a week
    - ii. Over time you no longer **feel bad** about missing QT
      1. Sleep becomes more important
    - iii. Prayers become **rote** (almost mechanical)
      1. **No feeling** or emotion in them
  - d. **Missing** church
    - i. By setting priorities
    - ii. Work over worship
    - iii. Football games over fellowship
    - iv. Thinking about lunch instead of Lord's supper
  - e. **Giving financially** to church is a burden
    - i. Rather than a privilege

### **Ephesians 5:13–14**

*“But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: “**Wake up, O sleeper**, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”*

12. This is where we really need one another.
  - a. This is where the **power of the church** comes into play

- b. It's through our relationships
  - i. That we can **protect** each other
  - ii. From that **gradual drifting** from our faith

**Hebrews 3:12–14**

*“See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.”*

13. This sermon **isn’t** just about Abraham, Job, David, Nehemiah, Esther or Paul.

**IT’S REALLY ABOUT YOU**

1. Have you been fighting the good fight?
  - a. **What** battles have **you** been fighting?
  - b. **Are you** winning?
  - c. **Are you** coasting?
  - d. **Have you** given up and just going through the motions?
2. **Are you** like the Israelites
  - a. Who are waiting around for a DAVID
    - i. To take on the giants
    - ii. The **enemies** of God
3. Are the Heroes of the Faith -
  - a. Something of the past?
  - b. People to look back on in the history books

**4. THERE ARE GIANTS ALL AROUND US**

- a. Who are defying the principles of morality
  - b. Defying the existence of God
  - c. Labelling Christians as people needing a crutch to lean on
    - i. An excuse for being different
5. Or will **you be like the Apostle Paul** who said nearing the end of his life:

**2 Timothy 4:7**

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”*

6. He definitely fought the good fight during his lifetime
7. What will be said of you?

I want to end with this scripture:

**Isaiah 40:29–31**

*“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.  
Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;  
but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.”*