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The Fight, chapter 4

Spiritual Warfare

“...there is another *warfare* of far greater importance than any war that was ever waged by man. It is a warfare which concerns not two or three nations only — but every Christian man and woman born into the world. The warfare I speak of, is the *spiritual* warfare. It is the fight which everyone who would be saved, must fight about his soul.” p. 83

Spiritual Warfare

“...This warfare...is a thing of which many know nothing.”

“It has its hand-to-hand conflicts — and its wounds. It has its watchings — and fatigues. It has its sieges — and assaults. It has its victories — and its defeats. Above all, it has *consequences* which are solemn, tremendous and most peculiar.”

“In earthly warfare, the consequences to nations are often temporary and remediable. In the spiritual warfare, it is very different. Of that warfare, the *consequences*, when the fight is over, are unchangeable and eternal.” –p. 84

Spiritual Warfare

"Fight the good fight of faith."

- 1 Timothy 6:12

Three Major Thoughts

- True Christianity is a ***Fight***
- True Christianity is the fight of ***Faith***
- True Christianity is a ***Good*** fight

True Christianity is a fight

“The *true* Christian is called to be a *soldier*, and must behave as such from the day of his conversion to the day of his death. He is not meant to live a life of pious ease, indolence and security. He must never imagine for a moment, that he can sleep and doze along the way to Heaven, like one traveling in an easy carriage. If he takes his standard of Christianity from the people of this world, he may be content with such vain notions — but he will find no countenance for them in the Word of God.” – p. 84-85

True
Christianity is
a fight



"Never mistake a parade soldier...for one forged in combat"

- LTC McClernand Butler (3/395/99th Div)

True
Christianity is
a fight

- Monergism
- Synergism

True Christianity is a fight

“The unalterableness of our union with Christ, on the account of the faithfulness of the covenant of grace, is that which doth and shall eventually secure it. But yet our own diligent endeavour is such an indispensable means for that end as that without it, it will never be brought about.”

-John Owen, Commentary on Hebrews

“It must be remembered that while the subject is passive with respect to that divine act of grace whereby he is regenerated, after he is regenerated he cooperates with the Holy Ghost in the work of sanctification. The Holy Ghost gives the grace, and prompts and directs in its exercise, and the soul exercises it. Thus while sanctification is a grace, it is also a duty; and the soul is both bound and encouraged to use with diligence, in dependence upon the Holy Spirit, all the means for its spiritual renovation, and to form those habits resisting evil and of right action in which sanctification so largely consists.” – A.A. Hodge

True
Christianity is
a fight

“Two natures beat within my breast
The one is foul, the one is blessed
The one I love, the one I hate.
The one I feed will dominate.”

– *Anonymous*

True Christianity is a fight

"**Fight** the good fight of faith, **lay hold** on eternal life."

-1 Timothy 6:12

"**Endure** hardship, as a *good soldier* of Jesus Christ."

-2 Timothy 2:3

"**Put on** the *full armor* of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore **put on** the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, to **stand!**"

- Ephesians 6:11-13

"**Be on your guard; stand firm** in the faith; be men of courage; be strong!"

-1 Corinthians 16:13

"**War** a good warfare; holding faith, and a good conscience."

-1 Timothy 1:18, 19)

True Christianity is a fight

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their ***Captain in the well fought fight;***
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
All are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O may ***Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,***
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave, again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

True Christianity is a fight

Soldiers of Christ, arise,
And put your armor on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies,
Through His eternal Son;
Strong in the Lord of Hosts,
And in His mighty pow'r,
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts
Is more than conqueror.

From strength to strength go on;
Wrestle, and fight, and pray;
Tread all the powers of darkness down,
And win the well-fought day:
Still let the Spirit cry
In all His soldiers, "Come!"
Till Christ the Lord descend from high,
And take the conquerors home.

With whom
do we fight?

With whom
do we fight?

With whom do we **not** fight?

With whom
do we fight?

Flesh

World

Devil

With whom
do we fight?

*“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this **world**, following the **prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our **flesh**, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind”. -Ephesians 2: 1-4*

With whom
do we fight?

Flesh

"I keep my body under control," cries Paul, "and bring it into subjection." - 1 Corinthians 9: 27

"I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity." – Romans 7: 23

"O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" -Romans 7: 24

"Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." – Galatians 5: 24

"Mortify your members which are upon the earth" - Colossians 3:5

With whom
do we fight?

World

"The friendship of the world is enmity with God. Whoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

– James 4:4

"If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

– 1 John 2:15

"The world is crucified to me, and I unto the world."

– Galatians 6:14

"Whoever is born of God, overcomes the world." -1 John 5:4

"Be not conformed to this world"

- Romans 12:2

With whom
do we fight?

Devil

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world”
-1 Peter 5:8-9

“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”
- John 8:44

“Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat.”
- Luke 22:31

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.” - Ephesians 6:11

This means...

It is a fight of ***absolute necessity***.

It is a fight of ***universal necessity***.

It is a fight of ***perpetual necessity***

True
Christianity is
the fight
of *FAITH*.

“In this respect the Christian warfare is utterly unlike the conflicts of the world. It does not depend upon the strong arm, the quick eye, or the swift foot. It is not waged with carnal weapons, but with *spiritual*. *Faith* is the hinge upon which the victory turns. Success depends entirely upon believing.”

- p. 90

True
Christianity is
the fight
of *FAITH*.

General Faith in the truth of God's
written Word

Special Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ's
person, work and office

True
Christianity is
a *GOOD* fight

- Fought under the best of GENERALS.
- Fought with the best of HELPS.
- Fought with the best of PROMISES.
- Fought with the best of OUTCOMES and results.
- It does good to the SOUL of him that fights it.
- It does good to the WORLD
- It ends in a glorious REWARD for all who fight it.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- It may be you are struggling hard for the rewards of this world
- It may be you know something of the Christian warfare and are a tried and proved soldier already.