

# Men's Breakfast

## Fight the Good Fight of Faith

1 Tim. 6:12

### I. Conflict Metaphors for Faith

#### A. Athletic

1. The *agōn*
2. The passages  
Heb. 12:1 (1 Cor. 9:24-27; 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7)

#### B. Military

There is some continuity with the athletic metaphors and the military metaphors. Both involve engagement in the battle, conflict, fighting.

- 1 Tim. 1:18 (*strateuō/strateia*)  
(2 Cor. 10:3-4; 2 Tim. 2:4-5)  
Eph. 6:10-18

### II. All True Christianity is a Fight, All Real Christians are in a Fight

#### A. To be a follower of the Lamb is to enter into His inaugural victory

1. It is to be a part of His spoils of war (Mt. 12; 2 Cor. 2:14)
2. It is to be a victor in Him and through Him (Rom. 8:37)

#### B. To be a follower of the Lamb is to enter into the war that rages between the Cross and the Second Coming

### III. Who are our enemies?

#### A. The devil

1. A present enemy  
Eph. 6:12  
Eph. 4:27  
1 Pet. 5:8  
Rev. 12:17
2. His weapons  
He is the father of lies (Jn. 8:44)  
He opposes, twists and casts doubt on God's Word (Gen. 3:1-5; Matt. 4:6)  
He blinds people to the truth (2 Cor. 4:4)  
Satan seeks to attack our faith (2 Thess. 3:5; Lk. 22:31-32; 1 Pet. 5:8-10)

#### B. The world

1. The world is not a separate battle front, rather it is the primary battle front that Satan uses to destroy faith!



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2. The world is that anti-God system of thought, values, goals and lifestyles.  
The architect is Satan himself (Eph. 2:2)  
It is the *Zeit Geist*, the spirit of the age (Rom. 12:2)  
It is the deification of our lusts and desires (1 Jn. 2:16-17)

C. The flesh

1. The devil designs the world to appeal to the flesh!
2. The Flesh is the inherent self-centered, anti-God principles which moves and inclines us towards sinful behavior (Rom. 7:5, 18; 8:5-9; Gal. 5:16-17, 19; 6:8; Eph. 2:3).  
  
The flesh is also called the “body of sin,” the “law of sin,” “indwelling sin,” and the “body of flesh.”
3. The flesh or indwelling sin still remains in the believer (Rom. 7:14-25)

## IV. How shall we fight this fight?

A. This is a fight of faith

1. We have to recognize that it is our faith which is trying to be destroyed by these enemies.
2. The battle comes down each and every time to who will we believe?

B. We fight the fight of faith with the Sword of the Spirit

1. The primary way we strengthen faith and defeat the lies is through the Word of God.
2. Strengthen faith – the Word nourishes faith  
Rom. 10:17  
1 Thess. 2:13 -- *How does the Word work in us?*
3. Defeat the enemy – Eph. 6:17, the Sword of the Spirit defeats the lies and fiery darts of the enemies!  
The devil (1 Jn. 2:12-13)  
The world (1 Jn. 4:5; Rom. 12:2)  
The flesh (Rom. 8:13)

Piper, *When I Don't Desire God*, chs. 7-8

B. We fight the fight of faith with our comrades in arms

Heb. 3:12-13; 10:24-25

1. The fight of faith and the perseverance of faith is a community project
2. We must be transparent with our brothers, we must be truthful with our brothers.

