

## Fighting for Freedom

### Introduction:

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

1 Peter 5:8 NIV

### Ephesians 4:17 -31

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:22-25, 31-32 NIV

The Fight is for freedom. Not just for people to get free “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

Galatians 5:1 NIV

but stay free!!!!

“You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth?”

Galatians 5:7 NIV

Paul the apostle knew the importance of fighting

1 Cor 9:26 -27 “Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 NIV

2 Cor 10:3- 5

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV

Ephesians 6 :11-20

“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 NIV

1 Tim 6:12

“Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

1 Timothy 6:12 NIV

2 Timothy 4:7 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” NIV

Fight in Prayer and Intercession

Fight with armory and weaponry given from God

Fight in Presenting the Truth of Gods word

Fight in Offering Love and Forgiveness as opposed to hatred

Fight against the rising tide of evil and cultural shifts at odds with God

Paul- says

Fight ,

Finish,

Keep (to attend to carefully, take care of / to behold and observe without distraction to guard)

Second letter to Timothy its an epistle of encouragement to fight

- Fight for Truth , sound doctrine, loyalty to Paul, his team the gospel 1:14
- Fight for Purity 2;22

- Fight in a mixed up, messed up, ME obsessed culture 3:1
- Fight for Reality (put away hypocrisy, fakery, pretense) 3:5
- Fight in the midst of persecution 3:12

NOT EVERY FIGHT IS A BATTLE TO BE ENGAGED.

EQUALLY THERE ARE SOME BATTLES THAT MUST BE ENGAGED AND ENTERED INTO IF WE ARE TO PREVAIL IN THE LOCAL CHURCH.

3 ENEMIES

Common SIN.      FLESHLY Desires.      DEMONIC FORCES

Pick the right fights, Patient in the Fight and Anticipating the Fights

## **1. BE WISE IN THE FIGHT**

Gen 3:1 serpent was more crafty than any of the animals God made.  
So interesting Jesus making a point when he says to those he's sending out

Matt 10:16 be as wise (crafty) as a serpent, but as harmless as a dove.

Wise, discerning, subtle, clever

Church life and leadership develop and train in wisdom, discernment, craftiness

## **How to be wise**

### **A. Raise up PRAYER.**

Elevate prayer, A mark, imprint, impression of prayer in church life

A people of Prayer (teach them to pray and how to pray)

A regiment of PRAYER (prayer guards, intercessors)

Surrounded in prayer.

### **B. Listen**

Article Larry Stockstill “Listen to hear not to answer “

as you listen you will see, discernment will become yours.

- Listen to heart and mind.
- Listen to wise and trusted confidants and leaders.
- Listen to Holy Spirit
- Listen to spouse

## **2. Build Bridges where possible!!!!**

Some people we have are twisted, corrupt, and are wolves! But not always....!!!!!!

Podcast recently Matt Chandler ACTS 29 eg in repurposing journey win over 2 elders. W/ meals coffees time etc.

IN A HURRY ..... SLOW DOWN TO SPEED UP

### **3. WHERE and WHEN necessary FIGHT and HOLD YOUR GROUND.**

( have an ally / armour bearer (not just wife) )

Going into battle ..... Motives keep in check / Offence (not an occupant)

Deal with Issues quickly.....!!!

**Morality** - Try to deal with privately. Don't fudge it will trip you up. If it becomes public then deal with it publicly. Be clear.

**Theology / Philosophically** - Foundational Truth or open to differences???

Is compromise possible?? Common Ground

Disagree without separating???

Much of what spoils the church and hurts unity is petty differences, hills not mountains.

Eg style, fabric, systems. WHAT CAN WE AGREE ON?

Identify the source of where something is coming from....

“ Spoiled, hyper -emotional, hyper sensitive, argumentative, petulant, religious - super spiritual, prideful, controlling, rebellious, un

submissive, aggressive, know it all, unteachable, “ is IMPOSSIBLE to reason with. Needs a spiritual breakthrough.

**Relationally** - murmuring, complaining, gossiping more severe than we realize and so much more toxic than most!!!

recently reading and impacted by.....

“They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!” Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died.”

Numbers 21:4-6 NIV

Deal with these things in leaders and associates.

NB LEAD conversations with Grace and TRUTH follows

Live at peace with people as far as it depends on you!

Be willing to forgo friendship. It can hurt and cause pain!

Do not bury / turn blind eye..... it will trip you up

#### **4. BE STRONG and COURAGEOUS**

““But you, Israel, are my servant. You’re Jacob, my first choice, descendants of my good friend Abraham. I pulled you in from all over the world, called you in from every dark corner of the earth, Telling you, ‘You’re my servant, serving on my side. I’ve picked you. I haven’t dropped you.’ Don’t panic. I’m with you. There’s no need to fear for I’m your God. I’ll give you strength. I’ll help you. I’ll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you. “Count on it: Everyone who had it in for you will end up out in the cold— real losers. Those who worked against you will end up empty-handed— nothing to show for their lives. When you go out looking for your old adversaries you won’t find them— Not a trace of your old enemies, not even a memory. That’s right. Because I, your God, have a firm grip on you and I’m not letting go. I’m telling you, ‘Don’t panic. I’m right here to help you.’ “Do you feel like a lowly worm, Jacob? Don’t be afraid. Feel like a fragile insect, Israel? I’ll help you. I, God, want to reassure you. The God who buys you back, The Holy of Israel. I’m transforming you from worm to harrow, from insect to iron. As a sharp-toothed harrow you’ll smooth out the mountains, turn those tough old hills into loamy soil. You’ll open the rough ground to the weather, to the blasts of sun and wind and rain. But you’ll be confident and exuberant, expansive in The Holy of Israel!”

Isaiah 41:8-16 MSG

<https://bible.com/bible/97/isa.41.14.MSG>

“My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

Psalms 121:2 NIV