

12-D The Fight of Faith

1. **1TI 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.
2. **MAT 11:12** “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers VIOLENCE, and THE VIOLENT TAKE IT BY FORCE.
3. **2PE 1:3** His DIVINE POWER has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. 10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For **IF YOU DO THESE THINGS, YOU WILL NEVER FALL,** 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The FEAR OF GOD is the Key to victorious living. This is not a place for hypocrisy.

4. **ISA 33:5** The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness. 6 He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the KEY to this treasure.
5. **ISA 29:13** Then the Lord said, “Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence (fear) for Me consists of tradition learned by rote,
6. **PSA 111:10** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.
7. **PRO 1:7** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

God originally gave man dominion (lordship) over the earth. That dominion and our relationship to God was LOST to Satan when man sinned against God. Jesus came to RESTORE both man’s relationship to God and our dominion over the earth and its creatures (including dominion over Satan and his followers). He came to earth as a MAN in our place and legally won back the right to the earth. He now has authority over all the earth AS A MAN, and has delegated that authority to His body, the church. We now have the SAME authority over Satan that Jesus has. WE have the legal right to the earth, NOT Satan. Jesus gave us ORDERS to take back dominion from Satan. We are His delegates!!

8. **GEN 1:26** Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them RULE over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”
9. **PSA 8:4** what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? 5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:
10. **PSA 115:16** The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to man.
11. **LUK 4:5** The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 So if you worship me, it will all be yours.” 8 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”
12. **MAT 28:18** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
13. **LUK 10:19** I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.
14. **1JO 3:8** He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work. 9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.
15. **1JO 5:4** for EVERYONE born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

SAY this outloud: I am an overcomer, because the **OVERCOMER** lives in me. Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. I can do **all** things through Christ who strengthens me. **No** weapon formed against me shall prosper. **I can OVERCOME Satan through CHRIST in ME !!!!**

We are in the middle of a struggle between God and Satan, Good and Evil.

16. **EPH 6:10** Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.** 11 **Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.** 12 **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.**
17. **GAL 5:16** So I say, **live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.** 17 **For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.** 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. 19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.
18. **1JO 5:19** We know that we are children of God, and that **the whole world is under the control of the evil one.**

First, God gave Ministry Gifts (offices) and Gifts of the Spirit to birth and build up the Body of Christ.

19. **EPH 4:11** It was he who gave some to be **apostles**, some to be **prophets**, some to be **evangelists**, and some to be **pastors** and **teachers**, 12 **to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up** 13 **until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.** 14 Then **we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth** by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 **Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.** 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Second, God gave His WORD to teach us, work in us, for prayer, etc.

20. **1PE 1:23** For **you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.**
21. **1PE 2:2** As newborn babes, **desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:**
22. **JOS 1:8** **Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night,** so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.
23. **2TI 3:16** **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,** 17 **so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**
24. **2TI 2:15** **Study to shew thyself approved unto God,** a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**
25. **JAM 1:21** Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and **humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.** 22 **Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. DO what it says.**

Third, God encourages prayer.

26. **MAT 26:41** **"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.** The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."
27. **LUK 21:32** "I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 34 **"Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.** 35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 **Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."**
28. **GAL 4:19** **My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you,**
29. **EPH 6:18** And **pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.**
30. **ROM 8:26** In the same way, **the Spirit helps us in our weakness.** We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.**

Fourth, God WARNS us not to get cozy with the devil or the world, & to keep our flesh under. He wants to be wise in the ways of Satan and the world, but to be innocent as doves. God insists on HOLINESS.

31. **MAT 10:16** I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.
32. **EPH 4:26** **"In your anger do not sin":** Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and **do not give the devil a foothold.**
33. **2CO 2:10** **If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him.** And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, 11 **in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.**

34. **1PE 5:7** **Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.** **8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.** **9 Resist (antihistemi) him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.** **10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.**
35. **2TI 2:24** **And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.** **25 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,** **26 and that they will come to their senses and ESCAPE from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.**

God tells us to watch our mouths.

36. **MAT 12:34** **You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.** **35 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.** **36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.** **37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.**
37. **JAM 3:2** **We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.** **3** **When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.** **4** **Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.** **5** **Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.** **6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.**

God promises His power in us to accomplish His will.

38. **PSA 40:8** **I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.**
39. **ROM 8:13** **For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,** **14** **because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.** **15** **For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."** **16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.**
40. **ROM 8:1** **Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,** **2** **because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.**
41. **1CO 10:11** **These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.** **12** **So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!** **13** **No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.** **But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.** **14** **Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.**
42. **JAM 4:4** **You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God?** **Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.** **5** **Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?** **6** **But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."** **7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** **8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.** **9** **Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your joy to laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.** **10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**
43. **EPH 1:11** **In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,** **12** **in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.**
44. **EPH 6:10** **Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.** **11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.** **12** **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.** **13** **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.** **14** **Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,** **15** **and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.** **16** **In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.** **17** **Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**
45. **JUD 24** **To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—**

We are to FIGHT against Satan both in ourselves and in the earth, by the POWER of God within us. God Himself provides everything we need to be victorious – Every time !!
We must FIRST conquer ourselves. The main battle ground within is the MIND.
This struggle must be done according to the knowledge God provides in His Word.

46. **ROM 12:1** Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.** 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.
47. **2CO 10:3** For though we live in the world, **we do not wage war as the world does.** 4 **The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.** 5 **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.**

In a COOPERATIVE effort with God, we can become STRONG spiritually, & stand fast against the evils of Satan, this world, & our own flesh. THEN we can be of value in helping others into God's Kingdom & into His service.

48. **1TI 4:12** Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but **set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.** 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. 14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. 15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. 16 **Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.**
49. **1CO 9:24** Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into **strict training.** They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, **I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.**
50. **HEB 12:1** Therefore, **since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.** 2 **Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,** who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
51. **REV 12:11** **They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony;** they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Go for it!! We win!!

52. **REV 12:9** The great dragon was hurled down - **that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.** 10 Then **I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ.** For **the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.**
53. **2TI 2:3** **Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.** 4 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs - he wants to please his commanding officer. 5 Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, **he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.** 6 The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.
54. **1TH 4:1** Finally, brothers, **we instructed you how to live in order to please God,** as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. 3 **It is God's will that you should be sanctified;** that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. 7 For **God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.**
55. **1PE 1:8** Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for **you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**
56. **1PE 1:13** Therefore, **prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.** 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But **just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;** 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."
57. **1PE 2:11** Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly (sarkikos) lusts which war against the soul (psuche).**
58. **1PE 3:4** Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.
59. **1PE 5:8** **Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.** 9 **Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.**
60. **REV 1:17** When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "**Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.** 18 **I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.**