

## ***Fighting the Good Fight!***

Our Spiritual Battle Part 1

Today's Text

1 Timothy 1:18-19

Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them ***you may fight the good fight***, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith.

### **Keys to spiritual victory**

*"Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them..."*

#### **1. Live with a sense of \_\_\_\_\_!**

Personal reminders...

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What's happened to 'teaching for obedience'?

*"instructions" to "follow"*

*"you may fight the good fight"*

#### **2. Accept the reality of the \_\_\_\_\_**

*In any army there are those on the front lines making the sacrifices...and there are others in the rear...pilfering supplies from the store house...*

*"holding on to faith"*

#### **3. Keep grounded \_\_\_\_\_**

*"holding on to . . . a good conscience"*

#### **4. Maintain a \_\_\_\_\_ toward God & others**

- Psalm 139:23-24
  - Search *ME*
  - Test *ME*
  - See if there is any offensive (look for it) in *ME*
  - Lead *ME*

#### **Final thought & invitation...**

There is truly only one way to have & maintain a clear conscience before God—and it involves turning to God & trusting in the death & resurrection of Jesus Christ, His only Begotten Son.

## **Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion**

1. Are you living with a sense of purpose & mission? If "yes", when did that begin? If "no", what changes need to occur in order to answer "yes"?

2. Paul reminds Timothy of some encouraging words that served as an inspiration for him to live for God. How have you been inspired to live for God by parents, grandparents, or friends? Can you share a story of someone who inspired you to live above the average?

3. Do you recognize the spiritual battle we face? What aspect of the spiritual battle seems to challenge you the most?

4. Paul instructs Timothy (and us) to hold on to faith! In the midst of the challenges of life, we are called to hold tight to the Lord Jesus and to the truths of His Word.

-How has your faith in Christ and God's Word sustained you recently?

-Is there a promise from God's Word that sustains you when you're in the midst of trials?

5. Paul describes some who have shipwrecked their lives by not holding onto faith & a clear conscience. A "good conscience" is a synonym for an obedient heart; a heart that is sensitive and response toward God and others. Discuss the benefits of having a clear conscience.

6. As time permits, look at the following texts and see if you can identify the tremendous benefits of living with a clear conscience: Psalm 15.1 Psalm 25.14; Psalm 15.5; Proverbs 10.9; Proverbs 20.7; Philippians 2.14-15.