



DISCIPLESHIP



Lesson 7 What We Wrestle With



Read 1Tim 6:11-12. When Paul wrote about “*The good fight of faith*”, he was instructing his beloved disciple Timothy (now the pastor of the very important church in Ephesus) to not let anything mislead him into the same spiritual failure of so many others around him. He basically tells Timothy that the ‘best defense is a good offense’! Don’t wait to see if ‘bad’ might happen - make ‘good’ happen first!

Paul had just written in the verses before about many things his spiritual son Timothy needed to watch out for, to avoid or maybe confront. This would be for his own sake but also for those he was pastoring. Sometimes it takes a fighting spirit to win this spiritual war! Don’t back down - ‘buck up’ and ‘suit up’. Read carefully Ephesians 6:13-17, then draw a line to connect the descriptions below to the piece of armor it is describing:

- Defend yourself from Satan’s assaults
- Guard your heart from things unclean
- Fight back with ‘Thus saith the Lord’
- God’s Good News can carry you
- Know you are saved and why
- Don’t let lies get deep inside



Now, read Ephesians 6:10-12. The apostle tells us here that the real enemy is not someone down the street, or the bully at school, or the teacher who is ‘always angry’, or even your little brother! He says your fight is with the devil...and he is one adversary who knows your every weakness and how to use it against you!!!

This is why Apostle Peter says you gotta get a firm grip on your thoughts and feelings. And Peter is someone who knows how tough the pressure can get when you have to take a stand for the Lord (remember how he betrayed the Lord three times in the same night before the cross?) Here are Peter’s words as found in The Message Bible:

“So roll up your sleeves, put your mind in gear, be totally ready to receive the gift that’s coming when Jesus arrives. Don’t lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing. You didn’t know any better then; you do now. As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God’s life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. God said, “I am holy; you be holy.” (1Peter 1:13-16)

**Be sure you are practicing all of your memory work. You need to know them to complete!
Memorize: Be sure to learn the parts of your Christian armor and what they are for!**