

ARE YOU FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH?

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Pastor Audie D. Clairmont

1 Timothy 6:12-Wester

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which thou art also called, and **hast professed a good profession before many witnesses**.

Message Bible: ...Run hard and fast in the faith. Seize the eternal life, the life you were called to, the life you so fervently embraced in the presence of so many witnesses.

1. IN THE FIGHT OF FAITH: STAND YOUR GROUND.

Ephesians 4:27 – Webster

... Neither **give place** to the devil.

GW-...Don't give the devil **any opportunity to work**.

Passion - 27 Don't give the slanderous accuser, the Devil, an opportunity to manipulate you!

Isaiah 59:15-CJB

Honesty is lacking, **he who leaves evil becomes a target...**

Passion – 15 Yes, truth has disappeared, and those who turn from evil become the next victim.

Paul felt the pressure himself.

2 Corinthians 11:28–CJB

And **besides these external matters**, there is **the daily pressure** of my anxious concern for all the congregations.

Passion - And besides these painful circumstances, I have the daily pressure of my responsibility for all the churches, with a deep concern weighing heavily on my heart for their welfare.

Paul also knew where his courage came from during times of pressure.

1 Thessalonians 2:2-NLT

On the contrary, although **we had already suffered** and **been outraged** in Philippi, as you know, **we had the courage, united with our God**, to tell you the Good News **even under great pressure**.

2. IN THE FIGHT OF FAITH: REALIZE WE NEED HIS ABILITY IN HARD TIMES.

2 Timothy 3:1-the Scriptures Bible

But know this, that **in the last days hard times shall come**.

Amplified Bible: ...**BUT UNDERSTAND** this, that in the last days will

come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear].

Passion - But you need to be aware that **in the final days** the culture of society will become extremely fierce and difficult for the people of God.

Paul later on down in verse 11 says,

2 Timothy 3:11-AMP

..Persecutions, sufferings--such as occurred to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, **persecutions I endured, but out of them all the Lord delivered me**.

Again, that's why Paul admonished us one chapter earlier to:

2 Timothy 2:1-ERV

... **Be strong in the grace** that **we have because we belong to Christ Jesus**.

The scriptures: ...**be strong in the favour** that is in Messiah.

CJB: ...**be empowered by the grace** that comes from the Messiah Yeshua.

2 Corinthians 12:9-CJB

... but he told me, "My **grace is enough for you**, for **my power is brought to perfection in weakness...**"

Message Bible: ...My **grace is enough**; it's all you need. **My strength comes into its own in your weakness**.

Amplified bible: ...**sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble manfully**.

2 Timothy 2:3-EMTV

... You therefore **endure hardship as a good soldier** of Jesus Christ.

It hit Paul like a ton of bricks and that's when he said in:

2 Corinthians 12:9,10-Passion

9 But he answered me, "My grace is always more than enough for you, and my power finds its full expression through your weakness." So I will celebrate my weaknesses, for when I'm weak **I sense more deeply the mighty power of Christ living in me**.

10 So I'm not defeated by my weakness, but delighted! For when I feel my weakness and endure mistreatment—when I'm surrounded with troubles on every side and face persecution because of my love for Christ—I am made yet stronger. For my weakness becomes a portal to God's power.

Amplified: ...**for when I am weak in human strength, then am I truly strong, able and powerful in divine strength**.