

BY FAITH – 3
JANUARY 21, 2018

1 TIMOTHY 6:12

We've been studying the subject of faith and the place it holds in the life of a believer. We named 21 things connected to our faith including pleasing God, being saved, inheriting promises and as today's verse states "fighting the good fight of faith." Something Paul taught and did. **2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8**

THE BATTLE FOR THE MIND – 2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-6

1. The battle is between the ears. It involves pulling down strongholds, casting down imaginations and taking thoughts captive. In order to succeed, we must have the knowledge of God.
 - A. **ISAIAH 14:12-15** – Lucifer thought in his heart and said with his mouth things that went far beyond what God established for his existence. Lucifer crossed the line by trying to manufacture his own faith.
 - B. **GENESIS 3:1-6** – Satan uses deception to get Eve to cross the line also. The process involved thoughts, imaginations and strongholds that produced actions. "Hath God said?" Instead of dwelling on the question, she should've said "God hath said!" Faith is responding to what God said, and not the devil.
 - C. **HEBREWS 11:4** – Abel sacrificed according to the way God said. Cain sacrificed his way. Faith is rooted in what God said. Remember **HEBREWS 13:5-6** "He hath said, that we may boldly say." Instead of casting down thoughts to sacrifice his way, Cain crossed the line. The practice resulted in Abel's death and Cain's demise.

2. Faith is rooted in what God said.
 - A. **EXODUS 23:20-23** – God said He would send His angel to cut off the enemy. This is their foundation for faith.
 - B. **NUMBERS 13:29-33** – They said they were unable to do it. As a result, God revoked His promise. **NUMBERS 14:32-35** Judgment is pronounced. Now God said He won't fight for them.
 - C. **NUMBERS 14:40-45** – They once again refused to listen to God and act in presumption. Presumption is behavior that is arrogant, disrespectful and brazen.

3. We are to follow those who inherit the promises, not who fail.
 - A. **HEBREWS 6:11-12**
 - Do we follow Lucifer's example? No!
 - Do we follow Eve's example? No!
 - Do we follow Cain's example? No!
 - Do we follow the 10 spies example? No!
 - Do we follow Abel's, Joshua's and Caleb's example? Yes!
 - B. **MATTHEW 4:1-11**
 - The battle is for the mind. Jesus had to cast down every thought Satan threw His way by quoting the Word.
 - If we don't know what God's Word says, how can we win the battle for the mind?
 - **ACTS 4:15-20** – This is how the battle is won. We exalt what God said above what man or the devil says.

CONCLUSION: JOHN 2:5

There's a battle for the mind. The fight of faith is the fight to pull down strongholds, cast down imaginations and take thoughts captive. To win, we must know God's Word and refuse to allow thoughts that exalt themselves above the knowledge of God to influence our behavior.