

THE LIFE OF FAITH #5
JUNE 4, 2023

1 TIM. 6:12

Fight – using force to prevent the success of an enemy.

- The violent take it by force or intense activity. **MT 11:12**
- The power (Dunamis) working in us. **EPH. 3:20**

Luke 22:31-32 NLT

Jesus could've prayed for many things. Knowing the importance of faith, He prayed for Peter's faith not to fail (cease to work).

- It takes faith to overcome the world's influences. **1 JOHN 5:4**

The Fight of Faith

If faith involves a fight, there must be enemies, opponents, obstacles, or hindrances to faith.

- 1.) Deception. **2 COR. 11:3** An article used by the Dean of the Bible Department at Geneva College: "Don't waste your cancer". **A)** If you don't believe it's designed for you by God; **B)** If you believe it's a curse, not a gift; **C)** If you don't believe cancer is meant to waken us to the reality of God. "Cancer, God has something in it for us, so sit back and enjoy the ride. Learn from it, embrace it, thank God for it". **DEUT. 28:61** Cancer is a curse!
- 2.) Unbelief. **HEB. 3:19** There are two kinds – Lack of knowledge, and unpersuadableness. Unbelief limited what Jesus could do in His hometown. **MK. 6:5-6**
- 3.) Impatience. **HEB. 6:11-12** Abraham perfectly illustrates impatience. His faith began to break down when Sarah didn't conceive right away. Staying in faith produced Isaac.
 - We reap if we faint not. Waiting on the Lord renews our spiritual strength.
- 4.) Fear. **MK. 5:35-36** Fear is having faith in the wrong thing. Jairus had to choose between having faith in the power of death or in the power of God. **2 TIM. 1:7** reveals three forces that overcome fear – power, love, and a sound (well disciplined) mind.
- 5.) Our five senses. **2 COR. 5:7** We are to look not at the things that are seen, but at the things that are not seen. Faith is the evidence of things not seen. "There be more with us than that be with them".
- 6.) Condemnation. **HEB. 10:16-23** We are to approach the throne with boldness, not with a sense of condemnation or of strong disapproval.
 - * Our approach to God is not based on our works or performance. It's based on the works and performance of Christ.

Conclusion:

Faith is a fight and there are many forces that oppose our faith. It takes being a person of the Word, of the Spirit, of prayer and of praise to overcome the forces aimed at weakening our faith.

