Fight the Good Fight

There is a shift happening in this church....the shift is the reception of God's people receiving His Spirit and willing to be led by His Spirit.

You must be careful to think that you are filled with His Spirit when you are not. You will come under attack responding inappropriately while promoting confusion and doubt to potential believers.

You must understand that being filled with His Spirit is not for a select group of people, it is for everybody! All you are to do is understand, surrender, believe, have faith, and ask. You receive and keep filled by faith.

When you realize that you are filled you must also realize that you must fight to keep what was given to you.

Fight the Good Fight of FAITH

1 Timothy 6:12 New King James Version (NKJV)

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:12 Amplified Bible (AMP)

Fight the good fight of the faith [in the conflict with evil]; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and [for which] you made the good confession [of faith] in the presence of many witnesses.

Too often we fight “the bad fight of the flesh” instead of “the good fight of faith.”

What is a bad fight? The vigorous pursuit of anything on earth without the calling, consent, and/or confirmation of the Spirit of God.
What is a good fight? My pursuit toward something I am passionate about that God clearly endorses.

What am I fighting for?

- Change - to what I was called to be
- Protection - for what is already in me
- New Territory - for greater that is in me

Ephesians 6:11-12 New King James Version (NKJV)
Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:11-12 Amplified Bible (AMP)
Put on the full armor of God [for His precepts are like the splendid armor of a heavily-armed soldier], so that you may be able to [successfully] stand up against all the schemes and the strategies and the deceits of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places.

- You cannot fight against something that you don’t believe in, know about, or ignore.
- You must KNOW who you are and what you are capable of.
- In any battle, collecting as much intel on your opponent is crucial to success!

Let’s Get to Know Our Enemy

Genesis 3:1-7 Amplified Bible (AMP)
Now the serpent was more crafty (subtle, skilled in deceit) than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And the serpent (Satan) said to the woman, “Can it really be that God has said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, except the fruit from the tree which is in the middle of the garden. God said, ‘You shall not eat from it nor touch it, otherwise you will die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die! For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened [that is, you will have greater awareness], and you will be like God, knowing [the difference between] good and evil.” And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was delightful to look at, and a tree to be desired in order to make one wise and insightful, she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of the two of them were opened [that is, their awareness increased], and they knew that they were naked; and they fastened fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.
The enemy fights with:
- Ideas
- Thoughts
- Suggestions

His job is to get us to carry out and mature his ideas, thoughts, and suggestions.

The devil is a liar!

John 8:44 Amplified Bible (AMP)
44 You are of your father the devil, and it is your will to practice the desires [which are characteristic] of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks what is natural to him, for he is a liar and the father of lies and half-truths.

He is a deceiver!

2 Corinthians 11:14 New Living Translation (NLT)
But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:3 New Living Translation (NLT)
But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent.

Revelation 12:9 New Living Translation (NLT)
This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

- he is the god of this world
- he is also a mind blocker of truth

2 Corinthians 4:4 New Living Translation (NLT)
Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

- he is a thief, murder, and destroyer of lives

John 10:10 New Living Translation (NLT)
The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

Matthew 13:19 New Living Translation (NLT)
The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don’t understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts.
BIBLE STUDY

- The Deceiver - Satan’s target - your mind; his weapons - lies; his purpose - to make you ignorant of God’s will; your defense - the inspired Word of God.
- The Destroyer - Satan’s target - your body; his weapon - suffering; his purpose - to make you impatient with God's will; your defense - the imparted grace.
- The Ruler - Satan’s target - your will; Satan's weapon - pride; Satan's purpose - to make you independent of God's will; your defense - the indwelling Spirit of God.
- The Accuser - Satan’s target - your heart and conscience; Satan’s weapon - accusation; Satan’s purpose - to bring an indictment by God’s will; your defense - the interceding Son.

Exodus 23:22 Amplified Bible (AMP)
But if you will indeed listen to and truly obey His voice and do everything that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

Luke 10:19 Amplified Bible (AMP)
Listen carefully: I have given you authority [that you now possess] to tread on [spiritual demonic powers (serpents and scorpions)], and [the ability to exercise authority] over all the power of the enemy (Satan); and nothing will [in any way] harm you.