

“Winning” – The Series

Introduction

In the New Testament there are metaphors used for conflict in the life of a believer. We will look at the following three:

- A Fight
- A Race
- A Warfare

This series will discuss each of them and demonstrate from scripture how to win the conflict and succeed in our spiritual lives.

In each struggle, we will see how the enemy uses the following forces to attempt to defeat us:

- Deception
- Distraction
- Discouragement

We must remember that our goal in life is not wealth, comfort and popularity. The goal is to know God’s will and do it His way for His glory. It is obedience to Christ. Knowing this will help us to win each conflict.

If we make this our goal, and walk by faith, He will provide all that we need to accomplish His will.

Part One – Winning the Fight

I Tim. 6: 12 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.

Fight – *agonizomai* - to contend perseveringly against opposition. In this case the prize is eternal life. Straining every nerve to attain to the object. (Vine)

In this passage what is the deception?

That godliness is a means of gain (v. 5). Paul told Timothy this is corrupt belief that some have, that godliness is about being wealthy. He told Timothy to withdraw himself from them.

What is the distraction?

The love of money. It becomes all many people think about. It compromises their faith (v. 10). Jesus taught that no man can serve two masters (Mt. 6:24).

What is the discouragement?

Many sorrows. When money doesn't materialize it leads to discouragement and depression. It leads to many sorrows because our hearts are divided. Our priorities are out of line.

When we love God with all our hearts, and love our neighbor as ourselves, we can find contentment. We can have victory over greed. We can avoid many sorrows.

To fight the good fight and win, what are we to avoid?

- * Fighting over words (v. 4)
- * Envy, strife, reviling, and evil suspicions (v. 4b)
- * Covetousness and the love of money (vss. 5-10)

What are we to pursue?

- Righteousness – right living in public and private
- Godliness – The pursuit of Christlikeness
- Faith – personal faith, and by extension, “the” faith

- Love – serving one another with a heart of compassion
- Patience – perseverance no matter what comes
- Gentleness – even tempered, tranquil, balanced in spirit, passions under control

How are we to handle the love of money?

- Be faithful in least, with whatever you have now (Lk. 16:10)
- Trust in God, not money. When money increases, keep your heart on God, not things (Lk. 12:15; Ps. 62: 10). If it decreases, keep your heart on God, rejoice in Him, & trust His faithfulness (Hab. 3:17-18)
- Be rich in good works. Be generous. (I Tim. 6:18)

It is by doing these things that we will fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, and have victory over the love of money.