

PRAYER BULLETIN #183, 29JAN2022

STAND FIRM AND FIGHT WELL

"Fight the good fight of the faith.

Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

1 Tim 6:12

REFLECTION

The Apostle Paul was not ignorant or indifferent towards the struggles faced by the believers in Ephesus. They had to live with controversial speculations and compelling false teachings that could shake their faith. Paul wrote this epistle to warn against false teachings and to emphasize Godly conduct. Paul wanted the Ephesian believers to live right with God and grow their faith according to sound doctrine.

In a similar way, we too are faced with different teachings and opinions of our times that can sound really good but are, in fact, contrary to what the Bible teaches. e.g. *"It feels so good, it can't be wrong"* says a popular TV drama character after having pre-marital sex. These "teachings" creep into our lives surreptitiously through various mediums and media, such as books, drama dialogues, social media postings or conversations with friends. It can also be really confusing when faith or religion is thrown in, e.g. in the same TV drama just mentioned, the character also said *"I can't live without God. He is very important to me"*.

It is not wrong to engage with the world we are in, in fact, it is the right thing to do. We need to be aware of and proactively engaged with the values, norms and influence that change constantly in our society today. Paul exhorted us to *"fight the good fight of faith"*. We are to understand, interact, debate, struggle and make a stand. This fight is between the deceptions of world and God's truth in His Word. We need to stand on the living and authoritative Word of God and not on what sounds pleasing or is commonly accepted.

The goal of fighting is to hold on to the eternal life which we have received through Jesus Christ, and not for any temporal gains or satisfactions. This then shapes our perspective on what is worth fighting for, e.g. practicing Godly values and principles in policies, honoring one another as bearers of God's Image and caring for God's creation.

Some of these fights and struggles are not going to be easy but we must hold on to God's promises and provision as we put on the garment of faith in anticipation of His ultimate victories. And as we do our part to fight, we will emerge stronger in our faith and become more prepared for the challenges ahead.

PRAYER

Holy God, You are strong and mighty in battle. Assist us in our struggle against, sin, the world and the devil. We receive Your call to fight the good fight of faith as we take hold of the eternal life that we have received through Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Strengthen us in our weakness, stabilize us when we tumble and rejoice over us when we win. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- St Augustin said, *"wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it. Right is right, even if no one is doing it."*
 - Pray for wisdom as we discern sound doctrines from compelling options.
 - Pray that as we depend on God's empowerment may resist evil intentions and actions, from within and without.
 - Pray that we, as God's people, will honour one another as God's image bearers in words, thoughts and deeds.
 - Pray that we will steward and care of God's creation in accordance to God's beautiful intentions and design.
- What is your "good fight of faith" about in this season of your life? What are you struggling with or fighting for? Talk to God about them and lay them down at His feet. Allow Him to direct on how to "fight" and depend on Him to empower you. Are you alone in your "fight"? Who can come alongside you and cheer you on?
- Do you know of anyone who may be "fighting" silently or struggling in their own battles? Commit them to God's care and grace. Consider prayerfully if you can or how you can stand along them to assist them in their "fight" apart from being a sideline observer.
- Pray for decisions and policies makers to stand firm on the Word of God and practice Godly values and principles in this increasingly divisive world. Pray for the people who stand against injustice, abuse, lies, discrimination, greed, etc. Pray for those affected by such forms of wickedness that God would intervene in their circumstances and deliver them.

"Wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it.

Right is right, even if no one is doing it."

St. Augustine of Hippo

If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly

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