

Battle & Build

The Good Fight

Pastor Brad Howard - August 6, 2023

(Apostle Paul) I have fought the good fight ...
2 Timothy 4:7 NLT

WHAT IS THE GOOD FIGHT?

1. THE GOOD FIGHT IS BATTLING YOUR FLESH AND BUILDING YOUR SPIRIT.

Fasting - A biblical fast can be defined as simply abstaining from food for spiritual purposes.

When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.
Nehemiah 1:4 NLT

"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said ..."
Acts 13:2 NIV

When you fast, don't look like those who pretend to be spiritual. They want everyone to know they're fasting, so they appear in public looking miserable, gloomy, and disheveled.
Matthew 6:16 TPT

- *Fasting disconnects us from the world.*

Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery (excessive indulgence), not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. (emphasis mine)
Romans 13:13-14 NIV

I do not fight like a boxer who hits nothing but air. No, I train my body and bring it under control. Then after I have preached to others, I myself will not break the rules and fail to win the prize.
1 Corinthians 9:26b-27 NIV

- *Prayer connects us to God.*

O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring You. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me." In those days I was the king's cup-bearer.
Nehemiah 1:11 NLT

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2. THE GOOD FIGHT IS BATTLING THE ENEMY, AND BUILDING GOD'S FAMILY.

"Godly vision will always draw ungodly opposition."

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews ...

Nehemiah 4:1 NIV

Nehemiah's Keys to Victory:

- *Build a canopy of prayer.*

"Prayer is not a preparation for the battle; it is the battle!

- Leonard Ravenhill

Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads.

Nehemiah 4:4 NIVa

Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.

Nehemiah 4:9 NKJV

- *Power through your quitting points by encouraging others.*

...the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall."

Nehemiah 4:10 NIV

Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.

Nehemiah 4:13 NIV

- *Know what you're fighting for.*

After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

Nehemiah 4:14 NIV

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.

2 Timothy 4:7 NLT