

The Fight of Faith

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

THE FIGHT IS ABOUT YOUR FAITH!

The enemy is after your faith! He may attack your _____ (car, house, marriage, job, kids, health, family, finances, etc.) but he's after your faith. He doesn't need your _____, he needs your faith!

The legendary success of Bill Clinton's first election as US president in 1993 was all about focus. James Carville, who kept the campaign on target, had a sign on his desk that became their mantra, indicating the most important issue to US voters: "It's About the Economy, Stupid!"

FAITH IS THE ECONOMY OF HEAVEN.

Paper money is only symbolic of a value. The actual value of money depends on your perception of its strength to accrue worth. Right now, our dollar is "stronger" than it used to be on world markets.

You can't wear, eat, drive or live in money. But money is a medium of exchange – you can get whatever you need to buy with money.

The world does not respect faith as having much value because they do not understand Heaven's economy. That's why they mock our faith!

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

You don't need any faith if you're not hoping for anything! That's why a lot of Christians approach church with an "easy come, easy go" attitude – they don't expect anything from God!

But if you are after something you can't get on your own, you need faith!

God says "I don't need money to bring you out, I need your faith!"

It doesn't matter how you feel today, it matters what you believe!

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

ILLUSTRATION: God's people in Hebrews 11

In the first century (and today!), the devil tried to destroy the faith of the believers by persecution. This was a **TERRORIST TACTIC** to stop others from believing and shut down faith. (Did you hear what happened to ...?)

Since September 11, 2001 North America understands terrorism. When terrorists attacked the World Trade Center, it was not because they wanted the buildings! When they killed 3000 people, it was not because they hated those specific people.

Terrorists use an attack to terrify the people who are left into submission, and into giving up the battle. (i.e. Zimbabwe elections this week)

The enemy doesn't need your _____, but if he can attack it bad enough he can get you to give up on the God who can bring you out!

Luke 22:31-32 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

If you need more money, you need to do more work to earn it, but if you need more faith what do you do?

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

WHAT DO YOU COME TO CHURCH TO GET?! MORE FAITH!

When you have faith, you act and operate as if the way is already made.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **(BELIEVE FOR IT NOW!)**

Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Mark 10:27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

Hebrews 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.