

Mount Pisgah Baptist Church
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MOMENTS FROM THE MOUNT
Lesson # 6

“Faith- The # 1 Priority”

Okay, allow me to ask a series of hypothetical questions:

If by chance, your life, and your personal situations, should become more challenging than what they currently are; if your circumstances should escalate; how do you intend to make it?

If by chance your situation should get worst, before it turns around, how do you intend to get through it?

There is only **ONE** way that you’re going to be able to survive!! You are going to have to **FIGHT!!!**

Now, there are *three* possible fights that you can become involved in:

1). A Fist Fight- This is when you make a choice to go fisticuffs with your boss, coworker, or fellow church member. You make up your mind that you’re going to finally give that annoying family member (every family has one. This is the one that everyone hopes will *not* show up at the family reunion) what they deserve. Bottom line, you’re ready to throw-down.

2). A Fault-Finding Fight- Here you decide to point out, or take note of another person’s shortcomings and faults. You are very quick to notice all of sister Jones’ character flaws. You whisper behind brother Smith’s back; mentioning all that you see wrong with him, and how that he really needs to change.

Whenever you constantly point out your fellow church members faults, what you are really saying, is that “*you’re the best sinner at Mount Pisgah*”. You can compare this to being a passenger on the Titanic, looking at your neighbor’s cabin, and saying, “You really need to clean your room up!”

Friend you’re both on the *same* boat. Both of you are about to drown, “unless” someone throws you a life-preserver, a life-line, or a life-jacket. You both need to be rescued!

a). **Matthew 7:1-3 (Amplified Version)-** “[**Do not judge and criticize and condemn** [others unfairly with an attitude of self-righteous superiority as though assuming the office of a judge], **so that you will not be judged** [unfairly]. ² For just as you [hypocritically] judge others [when you are sinful and unrepentant], so will you be judged; and in accordance with *your standard* of measure [used to pass out judgment], judgment will be measured to you. ³ Why do you look at the [**insignificant**] speck that is in *your brother’s eye*, but do not notice *and* acknowledge the [**egregious**] log that is in *your own eye*?”

3). **A Faith Fight-** The bible specifically speaks of this particular fight. This is the type of fight that God says that we should be involved in.

a). **I Timothy 6:12a- Fight the good fight of faith,.....**

In order to successfully win the **Faith Fight**, there are **two** things that you must understand:

A. First, you must understand that Satan has weapons.

1). **Isaiah 54:17a-** No **weapon** that is formed against thee shall prosper;

This verse lets us know that there *are* “**weapons**” that Satan will use against us. He only has a few weapons in his arsenal. He normally doesn’t change weapons, because the few that he utilizes, usually will get the job done. .

2). **Ephesians 6:16-** Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the **fiery darts** of the **wicked** (Satan).

3). **II Corinthians 2:11-** Lest **Satan** should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his **devices**.

Satan’s three *main* weapons of attack:

1). **I John 2:16-** For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh**, and the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

a). **Weapon # 1- The lust of the flesh-** Here, you find yourself in a battle to control your *body*.

b). **Weapon # 2- The lust of the eyes-** Here, you're fighting the battle to control your *thoughts*.

c). **Weapon # 3- The pride of life-** Here, you're in a battle to control your *ego*. (Satan has deceived you into believing that you're Missionary Suchci Much!

B. Secondly, you must understand that you have weapons.

1). **II Corinthians 10:4-5-** ⁴ (For the **weapons** of **our** warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the **pulling down** of **strong holds**;) ⁵ **Casting down imaginations**, and **every high thing** that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into **captivity every thought** to the obedience of Christ;

a). **Pulling down of strongholds-** This indicates that power is available to help you to control your *body*.

b). **Casting down imaginations-** This indicates that you have power and strength to be able to control your *thoughts*.

c). **Every high thing-** This indicate that power is available to enable you to control your *pride/ego*.

2). **Isaiah 54:17a- No** weapon that is formed against thee **shall prosper**;.....

Satan will form weapons against you. You cannot stop him from doing that. So be prepared, *attacks will happen*. But if you **resist him steadfastly**, you will not lose.

3). **Jeremiah 1:19-** And they **shall** fight **against** thee; but they **shall not prevail** against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.

Now, let's look at your "**main weapon**"..... **the # 1 priority**:

4). **Ephesians 6:16-** “**Above all**”, taking the **shield of faith**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench **all** the fiery darts of the *wicked*.

When you have a situation that has become very stressful and most challenging, you have “**two**” options:

Option # 1- You can try to “**figure it out**”.

This is when the solution to your problem(s) is all about **you**. You go by what **you** see, feel, and think. You go with *your best thinking*.

Option # 2- You can “**faith it out**”.

Here you deliberately and intentionally turn to God. You totally rely on God. You go with *God’s best thinking* (which is found in the bible).

1). **Philippians 2:5-** Let this **mind** be in **you**, which was **also** in **Christ Jesus**:

When we *read, study, and meditate* on the bible, we are developing the *mind of Christ*.

The “**Faith Fight**” is a specific type of fight. When involved in a “**Faith Fight**” you exercise faith in **three** things:

1). **First, Exercise Faith in God’s Word-**

a). **Hebrews 4:12-** For the **word of God** is **quick**, and **powerful**, and sharper than any **twoedged sword**, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

b). Revelation 1:16b-... and *out of his mouth* went a sharp **twoedged sword**: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

c). Isaiah 55:11- So shall my **word** be that goeth forth *out of my mouth*: it shall **not** return unto me **void (Amplified Version- without results)**, but it shall **accomplish** that which I please, and *it shall prosper* in the thing whereto I sent it.

A Christian must build, stake his entire life and future, upon the **word of God**. On the teachings found in the bible. In order for a person to be able to do this, he/she must **KNOW** what the bible says. When a Christian doesn't know the word of God, they have no other choice but to be led by **reason**. Again, this would be *your best thinking*.

We must get to the point that when opposition comes against us, we say like Jesus said, **"It is written!"**

The word of God is like a **"two-sided coin"**. And both sides are **very important**.

I. Side A- You must **read** and **study** the bible.

1). II Timothy 2:15- Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

II. Side B- You must **meditate** upon what you read.

1). Joshua 1:8- This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt **meditate** therein *day and night*, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have *good success*.

2). Psalm 1:2- But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he **meditate** *day and night*.

Quit trying to read and study your Sunday School lesson fast, in order to get it out of the way. Read it *slowly*, **meditate** on it. Take some time before you lay down at night, or before you get out of bed in the morning, to *think/ponder* upon what you have read.

We suggest that you use the **"slow"** and **"show"** approach:

A. **Slow-** Take your time.

B. **Show-** Ask God to speak to you personally.

2). Second, Exercise Faith in God's Faithfulness-

a). **Lamentations 3:22-23-** ²²It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. ²³They are new every morning: **great** is thy **faithfulness**.

VERY IMPORTANT: Know and rest assured that God is *always* with you. He is *always* right by your side. There is *not a time* in your life, *regardless of how you may feel*, that God is not with you. He faithfully watches over you. You are never alone.

a). **Hebrews 13:5b-.....** for he hath said, I will **never** leave thee, **nor** forsake thee.

b). **Matthew 28:20b-** and, lo, I am **with you always**, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

c). **Exodus 3:12a-** And he said, **Certainly** I will be **with thee**;

d). **Genesis 31:3-** And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be **with thee**.

e). **Genesis 28:15-** And, behold, I am **with thee**, and will **keep** thee in **all** places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for **I will not leave thee**, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

f). **Proverbs 18:24b-** ".....there is a friend that sticketh **closer** than a **brother**.

3). God's Promises-

There is a HUGE difference between "**knowing**" God's word and "**believing**" it. Christians are not referred to as "*knowers*", but "*believers*".

The bible is not full of clichés,... its full of promises!!!! In order to win this "**Faith Fight**", a person must move from simply "**knowing**" about the promises, to "**believing**" the promises.

How is a person supposed to accomplish this? We must believe every promise of God.... "**by faith**"! We must move beyond what we see, feel, or think.

We're in a "**Faith Fight**". And God's promises are connected to your faith. They work together. In order for you to **see** God's promise come true in your life, you must have **faith** in what He has promised in His word.

a). **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.

God **REPEATS** Himself "4" times concerning our exercising of faith. **Biblical repetition is very important:**

1). **Romans 1:17-** For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.**

2). **Galatians 3:11-** But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, **The just shall live by faith.**

3). **Hebrews 10:38-** Now **the just shall live by faith:** but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

4). **Habakkuk 2:4-** Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but **the just shall live by his faith.**

PRACTICAL POINT EMPHASIZED: God's promises are "**connected**" to your faith.