

I. **As revealed in 2 Timothy 4:7, a proper Christian life is threefold; it involves fighting the good fight, running and finishing the course, and keeping the faith**

[2 Tim 4:7] I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith.

II. **“I have fought the good fight”**

- The believers fight the good fight by receiving the apostle’s charge. The charge given by the apostle to his spiritual son concerns the economy of God positively and the different teachings negatively. Paul charged Timothy to fight against the deviation from the faith, that is, to fight the good fight of the faith.  
[1 Tim. 1:18] This charge I commit to you, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you might war the good warfare.
- Paul told Timothy that according to the prophecies previously made concerning him, he “might war the good warfare”. To war the good warfare is to war against the different teachings of the dissenters and to carry out God’s economy. This war is according to the apostle’s ministry concerning the gospel of grace and eternal life for the glory of the blessed God. On the one hand, Timothy was to war against the different teachings; on the other hand, he was to carry out God’s economy according to the apostle’s ministry. To teach and preach God’s economy concerning Christ and the church is to war the good warfare.  
[1 Tim. 1:3-4] Even as I exhorted you...to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God’s economy, which is in faith.  
[Acts 2:42] And they continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- First Timothy 6:12a says, “Fight the good fight of the faith”, that means to fight for God’s New Testament economy. In particular, it is to fight for Christ as the embodiment of God and for the church as the Body of Christ. It is to fight for the contents of the complete gospel according to God’s New Testament economy. Because of different teachings, the church had already become degraded and had deviated from the faith; Paul charged Timothy to fight against this deviation from the faith, which is to fight the good fight of the faith.  
[1 Tim. 6:12a] Fight the good fight of the faith; ...  
[Col. 2:9] For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.  
[1 Cor. 12:27] Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- In 1 Timothy 6:12b Paul goes on to say, “Lay hold on the eternal life, to which you were called”. The eternal life is actually the processed and consummated Triune God being life to us. *Eternal* denotes the nature more than the time element of the divine life. To fight the good fight of the faith in the Christian life, we need to lay hold on this divine life and not trust in our human life. To carry out God’s economy concerning the church, as seen in 1 Timothy, to confront the downward trend of the church’s decline, as seen in 2 Timothy, and to maintain good order in the church, as seen in Titus, this life is a prerequisite.  
[1 Tim. 6:19] Laying away for themselves a good foundation as a treasure for the future, that they may lay hold on that which is really life.  
[2 Tim. 1:1] Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God according to the promise of life, which is in Christ Jesus,  
[2 Tim. 1:10] ... our Savior Christ Jesus, who nullified death and brought life and incorruption to light through the gospel,
- We are fighting the good fight against Satan and the kingdom of darkness. We should be God’s soldiers, fighting the good fight, overthrowing the devil’s strongholds, and taking captive man’s thoughts unto the obedience of Christ.  
[2 Cor. 10:4-5] For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful before God for the overthrowing of strongholds, As we overthrow reasonings and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought unto the obedience of Christ.
- We are fighting the good fight for the truth. Truth is the Triune God with His word. The divine truth is absolute, and we must be absolute for the truth and uphold the absoluteness of the truth. We need to have the truth wrought into us and constituted into our being, to be absolute for the present truth and the highest truth and the subjective truths. The churches should bear the responsibility to clarify our teachings in order to fight for the truth, care for the Lord’s recovery, and take care of our testimony.  
[1 Tim. 3:15] But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.  
[2 Tim. 4:7] I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith.

1 Timothy 6:12 Paul says, “Fight the good fight of the faith; lay hold on the eternal life...and have confessed the good confession before many witnesses.” To fight the good fight is to go against today’s situation, to go against the fashion of the age. According to the situation today, both Christians and non-Christians do not live by the eternal life of God, nor do they know what the eternal life is. People in the world think that this refers to everlasting life, the everlasting blessing that they will enjoy when they go to heaven. They do not know that eternal life is a life by which men should live today. The Lord has raised us up in order to bear this witness and fight the good fight of the faith.

*<Excerpts from “Bearing Remaining Fruit”, Chapter 28, “The Exercise of One Who Serves the Lord”>*

But today, the spiritual living of many Christians is neither a race nor a battle; they spend their time foolishly and ignorantly. Although we are in the Lord’s recovery, we should not be complacent. We should not make the Lord’s recovery our hiding place. In the same token, what is set before us is a race, a battle. From the time you were saved and began to pursue the Lord, you have had the sensation that the Christian life is a battle and a race. Hence, I would repeat that the way of meeting and serving as revealed in the Bible is a battle and a race. We must take such an attitude, daily putting ourselves on the battlefield and in the race.

*<Excerpts from “Words of Training for the New Way”, Chapter 23, “Living in the Spirit to carry out the overcoming way”>*