

The Fighting Man

There are certain battles that belong to the Lord.

Romans 12:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge ^(retaliate) yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord.

There are fights that are better left for the Lord to handle, but I want to talk about the fight that we are to engage in.

2 Timothy 4:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ **I have fought the good fight...**

A part of the good fight has to include the fight against ourself.

I would love to say that my greatest enemy is

- the boss
- the mother in-law
- the parents
- the neighbor's kids
- Or even the devil

But our greatest enemy is self.

In us lurks several things, that if left unchecked, will master us and leave us of little to no usefulness to advance the kingdom of our God.

In an article titled:

The 7 Enemies of Man

<https://www.allprodad.com/the-7-enemies-of-man/>

The surest way to fail is to develop bad ^(sinful) habits.

Wherever we find trouble in our lives, a detrimental root-cause stems from the common enemies we face.

No man is immune to this ongoing battle **but the wisest seek to identify their enemies and find out how to conquer them.**

Our marriages, families, careers, and friendships depend on this.

- Perhaps you are addicted to porn.
- Maybe your marriage is falling apart and you don't know how to save it.
- For some, finances are spinning out of control.

Whatever is afflicting you, the cause is your enemy.

Knowing who your enemy is provides a path to freedom from it.

Which of these seven enemies do you face?

Pride

I was a child when our culture switched to the “Me Generation.” We are taught to be [self-focused and to live behind the facades we create](#).

The result is a culture of adult children who lack conflict resolution skills, moral fortitude, and the ability to commit to higher callings—who are too proud to notice.

Envy

Gluttony

Lust

Anger

Greed

Sloth

In what ways have these enemies affected your own life?

Each one of these enemies are mentioned in the bible and we are to fight against them. **BUT HOW?**

1) Focus

2) Discipline (Self-control)

3) Know what you are fighting against (Root)

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NKJV) ²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*. ²⁵ And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus **I fight**: not as *one who* beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

1. Focus – v24 Run in such a way that you may obtain it. (Focus on the prize/goal-to please the Lord...VICTORY)

Philippians 3:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ ...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who **for the joy that was set before Him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2. Discipline/Self-control – v25 the one who competes is temperate in all things – to exercise self-restraint

Acts 24:24-25 (NKJV) ²⁴ And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. ²⁵ Now as he reasoned about righteousness, **self-control**, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV) ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, **self-control**. Against such there is no law.

2 Peter 1:5-11 (NKJV) ⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge **self-control**...

Self-control is the ability to control one's emotions and desires or the expression of them in one's behavior, especially in difficult situations.

It's important to know and understand the consequences of not exercising self-control.

Genesis 4:1-16 (NLT2)

¹ Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, "With the LORD's help, I have produced a man!"

² Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel. When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground.

³ When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD.

⁴ Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift,

⁵ but he did not accept Cain and his gift.

The text doesn't tell us why God did not accept Cain's offering but most likely Cain knew what God required but Cain gave the way he felt was right instead of what WAS right.

This made **Cain very angry**, and he looked dejected.

⁶ "Why are you so angry?" the LORD asked Cain. "Why do you

look so dejected (**sad/unhappy**)?

⁷ You will be accepted if you do what is right ^(Grace). But **if you refuse** to do what is right, then watch out! **Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."**

What Cain is going to do next is extreme but I'm sure that Cain had a series of opportunities to exercise self-control but he didn't and his lack of self-control got out of control and ended in murder.

⁸ One day Cain suggested to his brother, "Let's go out into the fields." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.

⁹ Afterward the LORD asked Cain, "Where is your brother? Where is Abel?" "I don't know," Cain responded. "Am I my brother's guardian?"

¹⁰ But the LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground!

What's missing here? Sorrow, there is no remorse for what Cain did.

- **Disrespectful to God...Am I my brother's guardian?**
- **Hard heart (this is what a lack of self-control has the potential of)**

¹¹ Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother's blood.

¹² No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth."

¹³ Cain replied to the LORD, "My punishment is too great for me to bear!

¹⁴ You have banished me from the land and from your presence; you have made me a homeless wanderer. Anyone who finds me will kill me!”

- Unwilling to take responsibility
- Accusatory – God You are not fair
- Blame – You have banished me, You have made me homeless, You are putting me in deaths way.

¹⁵ The LORD replied, “No, for I will give a sevenfold punishment to anyone who kills you.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain to warn anyone who might try to kill him.

¹⁶ So **Cain left the LORD’s presence** and settled in the land of Nod (*wandering*), east of Eden.

All because of a lack of self-control.

3. Know what you are fighting against and mastering

²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air.

In this fight, you are fighting against **your body** – that is your **fleshly appetite that wars against you fulfilling the purposes of God in your life.**

Now turn to Colossians 3:1-17

We’ve talked about what we are to fight against, next time we’ll talk about what we are fighting for.

The Failing Man, The Fighting Man, NEXT: The Family Man