

Rom 10:17 says that “Faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” Therefore, the revelation received from the Word of God is the source of our faith.

And the basis of our faith is: John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

So then, what is faith? Heb 11:1: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” In other words, we believe God at His Word not based on what we see in the world, but rather in response to the revelation from His Word.

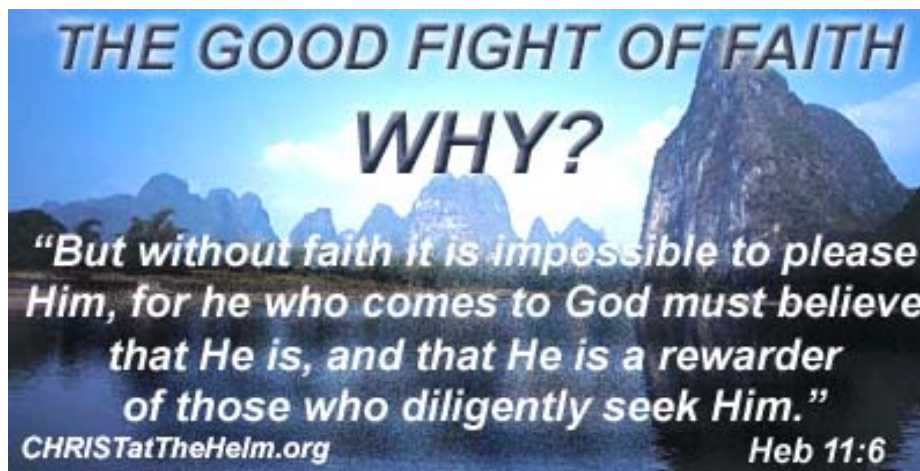
What does faith also encompass? James 2:17: “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” What this means is that in addition to profess that we believe, we must also live by what the Word of God teaches us.

What does fighting then imply? It is to put forth a determined effort to overcome the world and its temptations, as 1Peter 5:8 tells us.

How do we trust God? Pro 3:5-6: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

Introspection: Is my faith to simply believe and live my way, or do I truthfully live to follow Christ and abide by His Word?

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Why does keeping the faith involve a constant fight between good and evil?

2Cor 10:3-4: “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.”

As the flesh tries to draw us away from God, the Spirit draws us to God, thereby requiring we battle evil consistently.

The reason Paul said in Eph 6:12: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

In Philippians 2:12-13 he added, “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.”

Let’s remember Jesus’ words in John 10:10: “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.”

What’s more? Gal 2:20: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Introspection: Am I alert and steadfast in the fight against the enemy of my faith?

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How must we fight the enemy of our faith?

Rom 12:1-2: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

1Tim 6:12: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

Eph 6:10-11: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

Rom 12:21: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

1Cor 9:24-25: "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*. And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things."

John 8:31-32: "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Introspection: How committed am I to fight the flesh and abide in Christ by faith?

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How can we focus our lives to keep the faith, even through life's temptations, challenges, difficulties and even trials?

Heb 12:1-2: "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith."

James 4:7: "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

1Tim 6:11: "But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness."

2Tim 2:22: "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Philip 3:12-14: "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Why? 2Cor 5:1: "For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Introspection: Is my life focus on God in Christ Jesus first and foremost, or is it on this world and its pleasures?

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In fighting the enemy of our faith, where do we find the source and power to stand fast by the Word of God?

Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go."

Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I *am* with you; be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Rom 8:35-37: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: 'For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

Eph 3:16-17: "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith."

Finally, 1John 4:4: "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

Introspection: Am I steadfast and grounded in my faith to trust Christ, our Lord, to carry me through life's challenges?

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After all has been said and done, when we leave this world having kept the faith in Christ and lived by His Word, how does the Word of God describe what God has prepared for us?

2Tim 4:7-8: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

James 1:12: "Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

Rev 2:10: "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."  
Why should we trust and follow Christ by faith?

Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ."

1Cor 15:57: "But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Isaiah 54:17: "This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* from Me," says the LORD."

Introspection: Is the focus of my life on following Christ, and to live by faith in abiding by His Word?

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# THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH WARNINGS

*"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

*Matthew 26:41*

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How can we avoid being deceived by the enemy of our faith, and as well not be drawn by the world's lusts of the flesh?

1Peter 5:8-9: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

Jude 3-4: "Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."

Why?

Rom 8:9: "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."

Mat 12:36-37: "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Introspection: Do I take the Lord's warnings seriously to follow Christ by faith rather than the world?

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