

A Different Take on "Fight the Good Fight"

We should all know where that expression comes from:

1 Timothy 1:18 (NASB) – *This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight,*

Unfortunately, this and many other versions miss the point of what Paul was saying to Timothy. Here's some other translations of that verse so you can see what I mean:

Young's Literal Translations: *This charge I commit to thee, child Timotheus, according to the prophecies that went before upon thee, that thou mayest war in them the good warfare,*

Darby Translation: *This charge, [my] child Timotheus, I commit to thee, according to the prophecies as to thee preceding, in order that thou mightest war by them the good warfare,*

Holman Christian Standard Bible: *Timothy, my son, I am giving you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies previously made about you, so that by them you may strongly engage in battle,*

Notice the difference in emphasis according to the meaning of it in context? Paul is telling Timothy that the **prophecies he has received are to be used to wage war against his opposition**. That's a totally different understanding for the verse.

What Paul was writing is something vitally important for all of us: We are to use our genuine prophecies to advance our progress in our Kingdom life and activities. Prophecies are not to lie dormant while we wait for them to materialize. We are to partner with Father to see them come to pass and to do what they were meant to do in the big scheme of things,

Jonathan Welton wrote this about doing that:

“Here, we get the sense of warring with our prophecies or using our prophecies to make spiritual war. This is important because prophecy is not passive. We don't simply receive a prophecy and then passively wait for it to happen—unless part of the Word includes instruction to wait until such and such and then do something. Most of the time, when we receive a prophecy, we are supposed to take that Word and begin to make war with it. We begin by praying it into existence in our lives. We posture our heart to have faith and receive the grace that comes through that Word. We take it to prayer, and we begin to advance it. This is not, as some might say, a self-fulfilling prophecy. Instead, it is co-laboring with the Holy Spirit. If we do nothing, it is likely that our prophetic words will not come to pass. Within a prophetic Word is the invitation to partner with God to see His will accomplished in our lives. God wants to work with those who will co-labor with Him. The prophecies over our lives are weapons in our hands, and we need to access them by recalling them. This is why it is important to write out our prophetic words, read them, and meditate on them. This helps us keep them in front of us and go after them”¹

Why not read through or listen to your past prophetic words and start using them, along with the new ones, to assist you in the spiritual battles you engage in. More importantly, why not use “the word of God” (which are the things Father has personally said to you), as well – they are of same spiritual standing as prophecy.

I remember the testimony a woman who raised her husband from the dead because she held Father to account for what he had said to her. If I remember correctly, he had told them that they had a task to do together, but the husband had died before that was achieved. She said to Father that she wouldn't let him go because he had promised them they would achieve something together. He was immediately brought back to life

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1 – Jonathan Welton (2022) “The Better Covenant Commentary” [distributed sample from the book. It is being released at Christmas 2022]