**RISE UP** in 2021

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Dr. Jerry Edmonson, *Lead Pastor*

**RISE UP and Fight**



Have you ever been in a fight?

One of the greatest fights in history – the “Thrilla in Manilla”

**Fighting requires …**

* Intense effort
* Maximum exertion

… whether physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual.

But really, fighting? Is this what Jesus is telling us to do, RISE UP and Fight?

**Should followers of Jesus ever fight?**

**We know this** …

* Jesus followers are not to fight **one another** – we strive for peace.

*Strive for* ***peace with everyone****, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.* Hebrews 12:14

* Jesus followers are not to fight the **government** – but submit to its laws.

*Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.* Romans 13:2

Did you even know that you are in a **fight**?

*"Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth."* Mike Tyson

The **fight** in you is **bigger** than the fight you are **in**.

You have heard the saying: *It’s not the size of the dog in the fight but the size of the fight in the dog.*

*for* ***the righteous falls seven times*** *and* ***rises again****, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.* Proverbs 24:16

You need to know your **enemy**.

*If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle. –* Sun Tzu, The Art of War

*Now* ***war arose in heaven****, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent,* ***who is called the devil and Satan****, the* ***deceiver of the whole world****—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.* Revelation 12:7–9

**Five Things I Know About the Devil**

1. **He is evil:** wicked, calculating, and void of any good at all.
2. **He hates God** and God's image in this world and works tirelessly to destroy all that God created as good.
3. **He hates you** and me and all humanity because we are the crowning creation in God's world and we are His image bearers.
4. **He is not equal with God,** but is created by God and under the ultimate authority of our sovereign Lord.
5. **His destiny** is eternal **destruction in hell.**

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.* Ephesians 6:12

Your weapons are **spiritual**, but the **impact** is real.

They are both defensive and offensive; they protect us and bring our enemy down.

***Therefore*** *take up* ***the whole armor of God****, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all,* ***to stand firm****. Stand therefore, having fastened on* ***the******belt of truth****, and having put on* ***the******breastplate of righteousness****, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by* ***the gospel of peace****. In all circumstances take up* ***the******shield of faith****, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take* ***the helmet of salvation****, and* ***the sword of the Spirit****, which is* ***the word of God****,* ***praying at all times in the Spirit****,* ***with all prayer and supplication****. To that end,* ***keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints…*** Ephesians 6:13–18

But here is the big question …

What are you fighting **for**?

Fight for your **faith**.

***Fight the good fight of the faith****. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.* 1 Timothy 6:12

*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.* Jude 3

*… I have to write insisting—begging!—****that you fight with everything you have in you for this faith*** *entrusted to us as a gift to guard and cherish.* Jude 3 (The Message)

*Be* ***sober-minded****; be* ***watchful****. Your* ***adversary*** *the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.* ***Resist*** *him,* ***firm*** *in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.* 1 Peter 5:8–9

Fight for your **family**.

*And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them.* ***Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome****, and* ***fight for*** *your* ***brothers****, your* ***sons****, your* ***daughters****, your* ***wives****, and your* ***homes****.”* Nehemiah 4:14

Fight for your **future**.

*Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?* Ezekiel 33:11

*The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is* ***patient toward you****,* ***not wishing that any should perish****, but that all should reach repentance.* 2 Peter 3:9

You are not **alone** in your fight.

*In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there.* ***Our God will fight for us****.”* Nehemiah 4:20

***The Lord your God*** *who goes before you* ***will himself fight for you****, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes…* Deuteronomy 1:30

*Simon Peter replied, “****You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*** *And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock* ***I will build my church****, and* ***the gates of hell shall not prevail against it****. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”* Matthew 16:16–19

*Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, “****I am a warrior****.”* Joel 3:10

**Will you fight?**

for your children, your marriage, your family, your church, your neighbor, the vulnerable, the hungry, the thirsty, the searching, the seeking. Will you put on the armor of God and say to the enemy ...   
**No More!**

*Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!* Psalm 95:6

*He has told you, O man,* ***what is good****; and what does the Lord require of you but to* ***do justice****, and to* ***love kindness****, and to* ***walk humbly with your God****?* Micah 6:8

*And at the evening sacrifice I rose from my fasting, with my garment and my cloak torn, and fell upon my knees and spread out my hands to the Lord my God, saying: “O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens.* Ezra 9:5–6

**Benediction**

*Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.* Jude 24–25