

Topic: What does being saved look like? (*Conclusion*) We're fighters!

1. Free
2. Forgiving
3. Faithful
4. Fighters (Forceful, Fierce, forging ahead!)

Rom 12:6 - 21 (NLT) ⁶In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.

⁷If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.

⁸If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

⁹Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

¹⁰Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

¹¹Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.

¹²Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

¹³When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.

¹⁵Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.

¹⁶Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

¹⁷Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable.

¹⁸Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

¹⁹Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD. ²⁰Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.

²¹Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

- v.19 Paul says, "Dearly beloved," and it is a pensive and sensitive cry
- "Avenge not yourselves," = don't do that. "Don't you execute justice." The word literally means "to punish," *ekdikeo*, don't you go around punishing people for their evil, you are not called to do that.
- "But rather give over to the wrath." What does that mean? The wrath of God. "But rather give over to the wrath of God for it is written, Deuteronomy 32:35, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' saith...whom?...the Lord." Let the Lord do it.
- You say, "Why?" "For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." There's an old Egyptian ritual that was known in the Old World. When a man in the Egyptian culture wanted to demonstrate his public shame, his public guilt, when he wanted to show his spirit of repentance he would carry on his head a pan of burning coals which were supposed to represent the burning pain of shame, the burning pain of guilt.
- And Paul is saying when you treat an enemy with love and you feed him and quench his thirst, you put on his head a burning shame for the evil done. You understand that? You make him feel shame, a burning shame.
- V. 21: "Be not overcome by evil but overcome evil with good." The word "overcome" is Gk. *nikao*, we get our Nike...the Nike missile, the Nike shoe which means victory. Be the victor, be the conqueror, overcome evil by doing good.

Matt 11:12 (NLT) ¹²And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it.

Matt 11:12 (NASB) ¹²“From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force.

Gk. *biazo* = **suffers violence**. It carries the idea of being oppressed, treated violently, which would indicate that **violence** is brought on **the kingdom of heaven** by those outside of it. This would mean that entering God’s kingdom takes aggressive, assertive action.

Matt 7:13 - 14 (NLT) ¹³“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell^ε is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way.

¹⁴But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

He also said that citizenship in His kingdom requires denying self, taking up one’s cross, and following Him.

Matt 16:24 (NASB) ²⁴Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

Matt 10:38 “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

- Following the Lord = earnest endeavor, energy, exertion.
- Christians: swim against the flow of the world, against the grain, because the adversary—Satan, his demons, and the world system—are extremely powerful.
- The trend of the entire discourse deals, not with violence against the kingdom, but with the indifference and the dissatisfaction that hinder men from entering it with zest.
- We are not "forceful" by nature and thus better than others; but the kingdom itself with all its gifts, treasures, and blessings puts power and courage into us "to snatch," ; "to grab" it.
- We cannot be indecisive persons of Matthew 8:18–22. Instead we must be bold, resolute, forceful, and determined.

2 Tim 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

MMM: “Don't be a victim, be a victor!”

Eph 6:10 - 14 (NLT)

¹⁰A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

¹²For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

¹³Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

¹⁴Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness.