

**AVELEIGH'S YEAR OF THE BIBLE**  
**Feb. 18, 2018, First Sunday in Lent, Temptation Sunday**  
**Sermon: WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING FOR?**

**Texts: Luke 4:1-13 p. 1103 & 1 timothy 6: 11-16 p. 1227**

*"Fight the good fight of faith!" 1 Timothy 6:12a (NASB)*

*WORSHIP PREPARATION: "We're NOT fighting against human beings. We are fighting against spiritual forces . . . and powers of darkness in the unseen spiritual world." Eph. 6:12*

**INTRO: TEMPTATION IS THE CONFLICT BETWEEN YOUR  
OLD AND NEW NATURES**

*"I want to do God's will as far as my new nature is concerned, but there's something else deep within me: My old nature is at war with my mind and wins the fight. It makes me a slave to the sin that's still within me." Romans 7:22-23*

**3 BATTLES YOU'LL FACE**

● **THE BATTLE BETWEEN SELFISHNESS AND UNSELFISHNESS**

*"Do you know where your fights and arguments come from? They come from the selfish desires that make war inside you . . . Then when you don't get what you want, you quarrel and fight."*

James 4:1-2a (ICB)

*"Don't be selfish . . . Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing."*

Philippians 2:3-4 (LB)

● **THE BATTLE BETWEEN FORGIVENESS AND BITTERNESS**

*". . . Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives." Hebrews 12:15b (LB)*

*"If you get angry, don't sin by holding on to it. Never let the sun go down while you're still angry." Ephesians 4:26*

*"You will be judged in the same way that you judge others. And the forgiveness you give to others will be given to you." Matthew 7:2 (ICB)*

*". . . We are MORE THAN conquerors through him who loved us." Romans 8:37 (NIV)*

● **THE BATTLE BETWEEN WHAT'S EASY AND WHAT'S RIGHT.**

*"What your corrupt nature wants is contrary to what your spiritual nature wants . . . They are opposed to each other. As a result, you don't always do what you intend to do." Galatians 5:17 (GW)*

*"Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for AFTER A WHILE we will reap a harvest of blessing IF we don't get discouraged and give up." Galatians 6:9 (LB)*

The battle is often: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE WEAPONS YOU NEED TO WIN

*“Though we live in the world, we DO NOT fight in the same way the world fights. We fight with weapons that are different from those the world uses. Our weapons have power from God . . .”*  
2 Corinthians 10:3-4 (NCV)

**1<sup>st</sup> SECRET WEAPON: I GET FAITH FROM GOD’S WORD!** <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.

*“Faith comes from hearing the Word of God.”* Romans 10:17

**2<sup>nd</sup> SECRET WEAPON: GET SUPPORT FROM GOD’S PEOPLE** <sup>LUKE 4:8</sup> Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.

*“You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, Instead you should meet together and encourage each other.”* Hebrews 10:25a (NCV)

*“One standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer, and a group of three is even better.”* Ecclesiastes 4:12

**3<sup>rd</sup> SECRET WEAPON: GET POWER FROM GOD’S SPIRIT!** <sup>4:1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness

*“You belong to God . . . (so) God’s Spirit is in you, and He is more powerful than the spirit that is in the world!”* 1 John 4:4

*“They did not conquer by their own strength and skill, but by Your mighty power and because you smiled on them and favored them.”* Psalm 44:3 (LB)

*“Prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long . . .”*  
Ephesians 6:18a (Mes)

*“Every child of God defeats this evil world by trusting Christ to give the victory. And the ones who win this battle are the ones who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.”* 1 John 5:4-5

### The Epitaph of Life Well-Lived:

*Paul: “I have **FOUGHT** the good fight, I have **FINISHED** the race, and I have **KEPT** the faith!”* 2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)

PRAYER: Lord Jesus I pray that you’d give me the energy so that at the end of my life I will be able to say like Paul I have fought the good fight. And I finished the race. And I kept the faith. And I humbly ask this in your name. Amen.

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Prayer of confession

Loving God, When confronted by temptation we are easily over-come. They allure us with promises we find hard to resist. We harbor fantasies of how our lives might have been. Our dreams become pervasive, hiding the truth of your love. O God, have mercy upon us enable us to discern deception when it appears. Enlighten us, give us genuine renewal in Christ. Amen.