

## FIGHT



When I was a kid in school, fights were not that uncommon. Fights at middle school were the center of conversation for weeks to come. One of my friends was by any definition a fighter, and paid the price with several 3-day periods on suspension. On one of those occasions, he actually left the principals office following a fight, to resume a fight with the same guy – Tony did not back down to anyone!

Fighting should be the least desirable and avoided form of settling an argument or dispute; although it is the easiest form of engagement since it typically involves raw power, fury, and some determination and skill. At the same time, fighting is costly to at least one of the two or more participants. Depending on the type of fight, from an altercation to a full scale war, fighting is costly to everyone and the innocent or noncombatants suffer with the rest.

On leaving (or exiting) Egypt, the Hebrew people were told by Moses that they need not be afraid of the pursuing armies: *The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.* Joshua reminds the people of God's promise: *The Lord has driven out among you great and powerful nations; to this day, no one has been able to withstand you.* He continues: *So be careful to love the Lord you God.*

In the New Testament, Paul urges Timothy to follow the prophecies made about him so that he may *fight the good fight, hold on to the faith and a good conscience.* In the same book, Paul charges Timothy to remain faithful and not be diverted by myths (as others have) but to *endure hardship and to evangelize.* In the next verse, Paul describes himself as having *fought the good fight and finished the race.* Paul was preparing Timothy to continue the ministry while he was nearing the end of his days. If the Lord is with you, than who can be against you.

In a

WORD