

Fighting the real spiritual battle

1 Timothy 1:18-20

- I. Spiritual faithfulness: The spiritual battle is to fulfill God's plan for you (1 Timothy 1:18-19a).
 - A. God called Timothy to be a spiritual leader (18a).
 - God used others to identify Timothy's gift as a spiritual leader (1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6).
 - B. Those who want God's plan must embrace spiritual war (18b; 2 Cor. 10:4-5; Eph. 6:10-18).
 - C. To win spiritually we must believe right (*faith*) and do what's right (*conscience* – 19a).
- II. Spiritual accountability: Believers who continue to reject God's word face loss of church fellowship (1 Timothy 1:19b-20).
 - A. Hymenaeus and Alexander destroyed themselves by rejecting rebuke (19b-20a; 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:17).
 - B. The apostle Paul used the last resort of discipline, turning them over to Satan's world (20b).
 - *Delivered to Satan* – When a church releases someone to their sin and ceases fellowship.
 - 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 – Unrepentant immorality or other sins seriously staining Christ's reputation.
 - Matthew 18:15-20 – Progressive warnings and then separation from church fellowship.
 - The goal of church discipline is spiritual restoration (1 Cor. 5:5; 2 Cor. 2:5-11).