

Fight the Good Fight & Take Hold

“But you, as a man of G-d, flee from these things; and pursue righteousness, G-dliness, faithfulness, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith, take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you testified so well to your faith before many witnesses.” (1 Tim 6:11-12)

Introduction

The rarest and most valued commodity sought by leaders and businesses throughout the world is men and women who can “fight the good fight and take hold” of life and make things happen. No wonder the Book of Proverbs reminds us: “Do you see a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before obscure [insignificant] men.” (Proverbs 22:29) Davis’s mighty men illustrate for us principles that allowed them to be what Scripture calls “mighty men of valor.” The word “valor” in Spanish means the worth of something as well as meaning bravery and heroism. How did they accomplish such exploits?

- **They Had Incredible Courage** — “Following are the names of David's warrior-heroes: Yoshev-Bashevet ...he is the one who came against 800 men, whom he killed in a single encounter.” (2 Samuel 23:8)
- **They Fought Beyond Weariness** — “After him was El'azar...He stood firm and attacked the P'lishtim until his hand went into spasm, so that he couldn't let go of his sword. ADONAI accomplished a great victory that day; but the people didn't return until he had finished, and then only to plunder...” (2 Samuel 23:10)
- **They Stood When Others Fled** — “After him was Shammah...The P'lishtim had assembled at Lechi, where there was a plot of ground full of lentils; and the people fled from the P'lishtim. But he stood in the middle of the plot and defended it, killing the P'lishtim; and ADONAI brought about a great victory.” (2 Samuel 23:11-12)
- **They Risked Their Lives to Serve** — “David had a craving and said, “I wish someone could give me water to drink from the well by the gate of Beit-Lechem!” The three warrior-heroes broke through the army of the P'lishtim, drew water from the well by the gate of Beit-Lechem, took it and brought it to David...” (2 Samuel 23:15-16) {They risked their lives to get water from the ‘Well of Beit-Lechem!’ (Yeshua)}

Principles of Taking Hold

1 Know Who You Are Serving

The word diligence comes from the Latin *diligo*, which means to love earnestly. Ultimately, everything we do is done unto the L-rd, the Master of the Universe. “Whatever work you do, put yourself into it, as those who are serving not merely other people, but the L-rd. Remember that as your reward, you will receive the inheritance from the L-rd. You are slaving for the L-rd, for the Messiah.” (Col. 3:23-24) How shall we serve Him? We serve Him by laying our own life for him: “The way that we have come to know love is through his having laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers!” (1 John 3:16)

2 Learn to See Where You Fit in History

A great truth to discern from G-d is the realization of where we fit in history and what is G-d’s purpose at this time in history. When we do, we will also become aware of the enemies that need to be conquered and how to go about dominating those foes.

3 WWYD

Another principle is the famous “what would Yeshua do?” principle. Among the many things Yeshua did in His public ministry is that he served people, especially the poor, and He proclaimed truth. I know that He also did miracles and great deeds, but in the final analysis, His life was dominated by a “servant spirit.”

4 Take Authority Over Your Job (School, Education, Training, etc.)

In every instance in David's mighty men accounts they overcame seemingly insurmountable odds and obstacles resulting ultimately in G-d's blessing and victory. The same holds true today. We must realize that our greatest asset is the "Blessing of the L-rd" and our greatest foe is His "curse."

5 Become an Authority in Your Job (School, Education, Training, etc.)

Becoming skilled in whatever task we are assigned results in the admiration and trust of those whom we work for. One way to do this is to pay close attention to what is being asked of us and to be able to give instant recall of details. Ask the Holy Spirit of G-d to "bring to mind" those things that are important to those whom we serve.

6 Think Out Each Step of the Task You Are Being Asked to Do

David said: "*I bless ADONAI, my counselor; at night my inmost being instructs me.*" (Psalms 16:7) Therefore our innermost being is able to instruct us in what to do. Note that the process is often accomplished when we are at rest, even in our own beds. I remember how the L-rd would give me solutions to very difficult and often "impossible" programming problems over night, in my sleep, when Marilyn and I were developing the over 100,000 lines of code for the Payroll and Accounts Payable system of the Crom Corporation back in 1978-1980. Creative solutions would come that would defy all the education I possessed (and I was a Computer Science and Engineering faculty member at the University of Florida in 1977).

7 Find a Better Way to Do It

We can always seek for a better way to do anything. Whenever some task is done efficiently, faster, and with less cost, our leaders absolutely feel that we are men and women of "valor" to the enterprise.

8 Maintain Strategic Contact With the One You Are Serving

It is always important to coordinate efforts with those whom we serve. We should often get approval on the goals and check on key points of our strategy for accomplishing (serving) our work.

9 Know When Your Work is Good

If one knows when our work is good, we eliminate the need for the approval of others. Thus, we become free of the need for the praise of man. Scripture affirms that: "*So let each of you scrutinize his own actions. Then if you do find something to boast about, at least the boasting will be based on what you have actually done and not merely on a judgment that you are better than someone else.*" (Galatians 6:4)

10 Deflect Praise to Those Whom You Serve

This is a key element in taking hold and fighting off the spirit of pride that is responsible for the fall of Satan. Satan is all about pride. Scripture tells us that only "*Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.*" (Prov. 13:10) We can always be sure that His promises are Yes and Amen! Thus, if we are diligent in our work, He WILL bless the work of your hands. Further, we should always serve so others get the credit (this is really hard!) In fact, we should always be ready to tell how others helped making it work.

"The incapacity for independent action, this moral stupidity, this infirmity of the will, this unwillingness to cheerfully catch hold and lift—these are the things that drive employers to despair. My heart goes out to the man who does his work when the boss is away as well as when he is at home. The world cries out for such. He is indeed needed, and needed badly."

(Elberd Hubbard)