

LIVE OAK CHURCH

Fight The Good Fight

September 27, 2026

2 Timothy 3:1-12, 4:7-8

Will They (You) Stay With It?

- I. **The theme of warning throughout the Bible concerning leaving the faith**
 - A. Stand fast in the faith (1 Corinthians 16)
 - B. Hold onto the faith (Hebrews 10)
 - C. Be faithful unto death (Revelation 2)
 - D. Contend for the faith (Jude 1)
- II. **Why is this important?**
 - A. Faith grounds us whenever things fall apart, a solid foundation
 - B. Faith in Jesus brings hope of eternal life
 - C. Faith reminds us who we belong to & the promises we can claim
- III. **What happens when our faith drifts away**
 - A. We struggle with confidence
 - B. We feel a disconnect & avoidance of the things of God
 - C. We ask "how did we get here?"
 1. Joyless
 2. Faithless
 3. Heartless
 4. Doubtful
 5. Confused
- IV. **It has happened to many**
 - A. In John 6:66 disciples left Jesus
 - B. At the crucifixion many left Jesus
 - C. Peter denied Him, Thomas doubted Him, Judas betrayed Him
- V. **Paul's final words**
 - A. I have fought the good fight
 - B. I have finished the course
 - C. I have kept the faith
 - D. What He is saying
 1. This is a fight of faith
 2. Keep standing when others walk away
 3. Keep believing when circumstances are difficult
 4. Trust when don't understand
 5. Pray & seek even when Heaven seems silent
- VI. **The Christian life & following Jesus is not always easy**
 - A. 3 things that challenge us & come against us
 1. Things inside us
 2. Things around us
 3. Spiritual forces against us

VII. So why do some leave (deconstruct)?

- A. Case study of Josh Harris
- B. Stats on our college students
- C. 5 primary reasons
 - 1. Peer pressure
 - 2. Personal sin
 - 3. Problems in defending or understanding their faith
 - 4. Preparedness was lacking
 - a. Can't live out faith on automatic pilot
 - 5. Petty issues that "blow up"

VIII. 7 things that help you fight the good fight (so you don't deconstruct)

- A. Keep your focus on Jesus
 - 1. His resurrection
 - 2. Words of salvation
 - 3. Prophecy foretold
 - 4. Prophecy fulfilled
 - 5. Promised return
 - 6. His handling of situations
 - 7. Promises/principles given
- B. Keep the Word as your primary focus
- C. Keep yourself committed to a community of faith
 - 1. Isolated people unravel
 - 2. We are called to be attached
 - 3. Who are your "2:00 AM" friends?
- D. Keep short accounts

- 1. Don't let the sun go down on your anger

- E. Be authentic, be humble, be real
- F. Be reminded our faith is based on facts & determination
- G. We have multiple evidences & credible sources

**Paul Never Said He Had It Easy
He Kept Going**

He Looked Forward To The Finish Line

**The Place Of Reward, Hope,
& Eternal Joy Prepared For Him**