

THE ANGELIC CONFLICT (#4) (The Fight of Faith)

Teleiology is a theology term used to describe the study of spiritual growth maturity in CWL

(Heb.5:14) “But solid food is for the mature (teleios), who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” (Matt.4:4)

We are studying 12 church age doctrines that are essential for spiritual growth maturity. Today we are studying the ninth Teleiology doctrine:

Grace	Positional Truth	Angelic Conflict
Dispensations	Spiritual Gifts	
Spirituality	The Will of God	
The Faith Cycle	Suffering	

You might wonder how important is the doctrine of the Angelic Conflict? The Bible opens and closes with it.

- **The Bible opens** with the beginning of human history and the angelic conflict (Adam, Eve, and Satan) (Gen.2:17; 3:1-7).
- **The Bible closes** with the end of human history and the angelic conflict (Millennium, Gog and Magog, GWTJ, and Lake of Fire; Rev.20).

The Angelic Conflict (A/C) is a doctrinal term to describe the spiritual warfare between Satan’s evil forces and God’s divine agencies in the world (Eph.6:10-20).

This is the fourth lesson on the doctrine of Angelic Conflict (Origin of A/C, First Attack against Mankind, A/C in Church Age, and The Fight of Faith).

Last week we learned that every Church Age Believer (CAB) is a soldier of the Lord in the A/C (2 Tim.2:3-4) and that the soldier of the Lord must **fight the good fight of faith** (1 Tim.6:12; 2 Tim.4:7-8) and that the Lord has already won the war (Col.2:14-15; Heb.2:14-15; John 16:33).

We will study four aspects of The Fight of Faith in the AC.
--

1. Paul gave five Greek imperatives for The Fight of Faith in the A/C in our lesson text.

Eph.6:10	Be strong	(endunamoo / present.a.impv.2pl)	Strength	
Eph.6:11-12	Put on	(enduo / aorist.a.impv.2pl)	Struggle	(2 Cor.10:3-5)
Eph.6:13	Take up	(analambano / a.a.impv.2pl)	Stand	(James 4:7)
Eph.6:14-16	Stand firm	(histemi / a.a.impv.2pl)	Satan	(1 Pet.5:8-9)
Eph.6:17	Take	(dechomai / a.a.impv.2pl)	Sword	

2. Notice that I have separated the one present tense but the four aorist tenses.

Understanding the different is very important to understanding The Fight of Faith in the A/C.

- The present tense is linear or continuous action (Eph.6:10).

- The aorist tense is punctiliar or a point of finished action in past time (Eph.6:11-17).

The one present imperative involves the ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6:19-20; Eph.5:18; Gal.5:16). **Being strong** is a continuous process in preparation as well during The Fight of Faith in A/C.

The four aorist imperatives involve the actual fighting in the A/C and involve the acquiring of the full armor and the skill of use as well as fighting the good fight of faith.

(2 Tim.4:7-8) “**I have fought the good fight**, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

3. The four aorist imperatives involve six key doctrines necessary for The Fight of Faith in A/C (put on, take up, stand firm, and take) (Eph.6:11-17).

The aorist tense describes **a point of finished action in past time**. These four **aorist** imperatives emphasize the importance of acquiring the knowledge and the skill of application of these six doctrines before engaging the enemy in spiritual warfare (faith cycle).

(2 Tim.3:16-17) “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable **for** teaching, **for** reproof, **for** correction, **for** training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

4. These six doctrines are divided into defensive weapons and offensives weapons necessary to fight the good fight of faith in A/C.

Paul outlined **four defensive** weapons and **two offensive** weapons with the four aorist imperatives.

- **Four defensive weapons (Eph.6:14-16) [stand firm] (plus four aorist participles):**

1. **Truth** (Ps.119:160; 1 Tim.2:4; John 4:23; 16:13; 8:32, 44; 2 Tim.2:15; Heb.5:12-14; 1 Cor.2:13; 1 John 1:6-8; 2:22; 2 Pet.2:1-3).
2. **Righteousness** (2 Cor.5:21; Phil.3:9; Gal.2:16; Matt.5:20; 6:33; 2 Cor.6:14; Eph.4:22-24; 2 Tim.3:16-17).
3. **Preparation of gospel of peace** (1 Cor.15:3-4, 12-19; Gal.1:6-9; 2:3, 16; Rom.1:16).
4. **Faith** – (Eph.6:16; 1 Cor.16:13; Rom.10:17; 2 Cor.5:7; Acts 15:1; Gal.2:16, 21).

- **Two offensive weapons (Eph.6:17) [take]:**

1. **Salvation** (Eph.2:8-9; Rom.1:16; 5:10-11; Acts 26:18; Col.1:13; Isa.58:17; 1 Thess.5:8).
2. **Word of God** (Eph.6:17; Ps.45:3; Prov.12:18; Heb.4:12; Luke 2:35; 1 Pet.1:23; Acts 6:7; Titus 1:9).

Notice there is no armor for the back or retreat. Therefore it is never necessary to flee any spiritual battle – Stand firm (Eph.6:11, 13, 14) [fully armed for the fight]!

The issue is to FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH and be awarded the Crown of Righteousness, the highest honor given to the soldier of Jesus Christ in the church age (2 Tim.4:7-8).

Each CAB has the same armor, same responsibility, and same A/C. The difference is attitude and choice regarding the kind of soldier of the Lord he or she will be.