

# Handbook for a Soldier

## Fight The Good Fight

### I. What do we fight for? (2 Tim 4:6-7)

#### Faith

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Having faith means we believe that our future joy is secure IN CHRIST.  
God is good and loving and our greatest joy comes in following (obeying) Him,  
and in spending our future with Him.

Psalm 16:11

in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

#### Sin = Unbelief

When we lust, we convince ourselves that: “The pleasure I have from thinking about or looking at this girl is greater than the future hope that I have in Christ”

### II. Is **IT** a big deal?

Lies about lust

1. Nobody knows
2. It doesn't hurt anyone
3. It's not as bad as other sins
4. I'm forgiven...

### III. How do we fight?

1. **Soak in biblical truth about who God is and what His relationship to you is**

God is for you - Romans 8:31-32 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

God loves His Children - James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

God provided salvation for you - Eph 2:4-5 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved

God has set a future for you – Eph 2:6-7 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

2. **Remember the eternal danger of lust.**

Matthew 5:27-29 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’

But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

3. **Preach to yourself that there is more joy in God's presence than in sin.**

Psalm 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 73:23-26 Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

1 Peter 2:2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation

4. **Develop a worldview that views absolutely everything in relation to God.**

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

5. **Be vigilant over your eyes. Avoid unnecessary stimulation.**

Job 31:1 I Have made a covenant with my eyes; How then could I gaze at a virgin?  
Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

2 Timothy 2:22 Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

**6. Look at women as eternal persons. There are no “mere mortals”. The girl you lust after is either going to spend eternity with you in heaven or in eternal punishment in hell.**

John 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

**7. Think often that Christ suffered agony for your purity. Fight image with image.**

Titus 2:14 Christ gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

1 Peter 1:18; 2:24 You were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, [but with the precious blood of Christ]. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

1 Corinthians 5:15 He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Hebrews 10:29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

**8. Beware of assuming past successes guarantee future purity. Just because you have never failed before or haven't in a very long time, it does not mean you are safe or strong.**

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

**9. Do not be excessively alone.**

**10. Get in a group where you exhort one another every day against the deceitfulness of sin.**

Hebrews 3:12-13 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

**11. Memorize God's Word.**

1 John 2:14 I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Psalms 119:11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

**12. Stockpile your thoughts with good things.**

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

**13. Never assume that you are above suffering or that you deserve relief through sin. The pitfall of powerful self-pity. God does not promise happiness. He would rather we were obedient than happy because obedience results in ultimate good.**

Luke 9:58 And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

2 Timothy 2:3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

**14. Get busy with some task.**

**15. Pray for God's deliverance.**

Matthew 6:13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Luke 22:40 And when He arrived at the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Psalms 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law.

**16. Be encouraged; God is patient.**

Exodus 34:6-7 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Nehemiah 9:17 They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.

\* Portions of this list are taken from the work of John Piper. ©2014 Desiring God Foundation. Website: [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org)

3 Overarching Principals

Kill the power of sin – Saturate your mind with God's Word – You are not alone

Will you fight to keep the faith?