

- 6 “What accord has Christ with Belial?” (2 Cor. 6:15).
- 7 “Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together...” (Hebrews 10:25).
- 8 “...The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17).
- 9 “...If you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed...” (Galatians 5:15).
- 10 “... You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...” (Hebrews 12:22).
- 11 “For our citizenship is in heaven...” (Phil. 3:20).

By Kyle Pope



# Welcome Visitors

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# Faithful Sayings

## Olsen Park Church of Christ

4700 Andrews Avenue Amarillo, Texas 79106  
(806) 352-2809

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### Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.  
10:20 a.m.  
6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

#### Elders:

Ken Ford  
Charles Kelley  
Pat Ledbetter

#### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Bill Davis  
Pat Goguen  
Neil Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Fred Perez  
Rusty Scott

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## Staying Faithful When Others Fall

The battle was hard! falling all around them to scale the steep slopes of Mount Suribachi and hoist the American flag? Admiral Nimitz claimed of these men that— “Uncommon valor was a common virtue.”

Bullets flew over head. Comrades fell all around. Of the 60,000 men who landed on the ash-covered island of Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945 one out of every ten lost their life. It must have been unbearable to see your friends and fellow-soldiers fall all around you and yet go on with the battle. The enemy would lose 20,000 men, but that wouldn’t become evident until after the 26 days of heavy fighting were over. What filled the hearts of those brave young men? What led them in spite of those

In Christ our battle is also hard.<sup>1</sup> It is not fought with shrapnel and powder, but it is no less dangerous.<sup>2</sup> We as well see our brethren fall all around us. One to the fatal wound of falsehood.<sup>3</sup> Another to the blast of immorality.<sup>4</sup> Still others (as if shell-shocked) seem to forget which side they are on! They com-

promise truth,<sup>5</sup> flirt with the enemy,<sup>6</sup> forsake times of regrouping,<sup>7</sup> and travel the battlefield without their weapons<sup>8</sup>. There are some that have been hit by “friendly fire.” The misdirected zeal of one of their own comrades mortally wounded them.<sup>9</sup> It is unbearable at times to go on with the battle having to step over the corpses of so many fallen brothers and sisters! What can fill our hearts? What can spur us on to scale the



steep, rugged slopes that lead to Zion?<sup>10</sup> Will we hoist the “banner of the cross” and declare our “citizenship in heaven”?<sup>11</sup>

In carnal warfare man can see with his eyes the fact that in spite of all those fallen around him there is no time for hesitation. There is no time for disillusionment. The enemy is there. It is fight or die! In Christ the same is true. Though we grieve and plead and work to restore the fallen there is no time for disillusionment. The enemy is ever before us. We must fight or perish! The next time you are tempted to lay down your sword and question the cause for which you strive perhaps this acronym can spur you on: Remember we fight...

**F** *or Christ.* We are His. We belong to the Lord. While we mourn our fallen brethren our allegiance is not to them but to Christ.

**I** *magine...* Heaven before us! Saints departed beside us. Imagine Christ fighting with us and for us! Imagine Satan at our heels.

**G** *rasp Firmly the Sword of the Spirit.* We are by no means defenseless in our battle. We have offensive and defensive weapons of “nuclear” capacity (spiritually speaking)! God’s word provides us with a weapon capable of rescuing the fallen, healing the wounded, destroying the enemy’s ammunition and resisting his assaults. The key is we must keep it with us, in us and before us.

**H** *elp the Wounded.* Some around us have not yet fallen, but they have been injured. It is our job to pick them up. Nurse them back to health and shield them from the enemy. Too much time spent mourning the fallen leaves the wounded with no medics.

**T** *ear Down the Enemy’s Strongholds.* Each time truth is declared a brick crumbles away from the fortress of sin and falsehood which Satan has constructed. The surest way to take back a comrade taken captive is to destroy what binds him. There is no time for timidity. Souls are at stake. May it be said of the Lord’s people that spiritual valor is their “common virtue.”

- <sup>1</sup> “...Difficult is the way that lead to life and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:14 NKJV).
- <sup>2</sup> “...Your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (I Pet. 5:8).
- <sup>3</sup> “...Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth...” (2 Tim. 2:17,18).
- <sup>4</sup> “...Abstain from sexual immorality” (1 Thess. 4:3).
- <sup>5</sup> “...They will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” (2 Timothy 4:4).