

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag. The stars are visible in the upper left, and the stripes of red and white are prominent in the lower right. The overall tone is patriotic and solemn.

Fight the Good Fight

# September 11, 2001

- Yesterday was the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on 9/11



# And in Response, we...

- Fought the war against global terrorism
- We hunted for Al Qaeda
- We toppled Saddam Hussein
- We sought Bin Laden
- We increased our war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan



# Apolitical



# Indefensible Responses

- We must acknowledge there has been a frightening increase in acts of hatred and intolerance that has led to violence
  - Attacks against Muslims and Sikhs
  - Protests against the building of an Islamic Center in Manhattan
  - Arson of an Islamic Center in Tennessee and attacks against an Islamic Center in California
  - Threatened burning of the Quran by a Christian pastor


# Cry Violence

- It's not about politics
  - It's about speaking out against wrong
  - It's about declaring injustice
  - It's about voicing what is unfair
  - It's about crying violence
- And we must speak out



# Why?

- Because our fight is not carnal
  - Yes we were angry
    - When towers fell
    - When thousands were killed
    - When planes crashed into the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field
  - But as believers we don't seek our revenge through violence

The background of the image is a blurred American flag, showing the stars and stripes in shades of blue, red, and white. The text is overlaid on this background.

*An eye for eye only ends up  
making the whole world blind*

Mahatma Gandhi

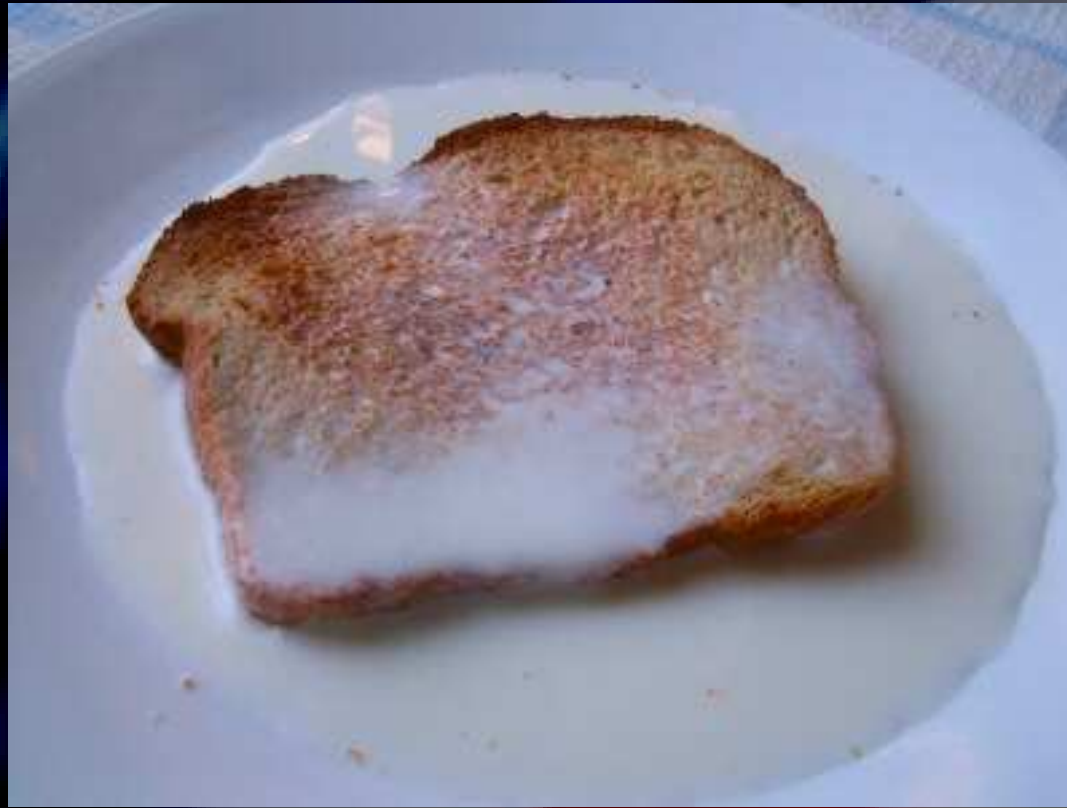
# Instead – Fight the Good Fight

Our job as believers is to pursue:

- Righteousness
  - Strive for redemptive relationships
- Godliness
  - Live in accordance with God's will
- Faith
  - Trusting commitment in God
- Love
  - Benevolent concern for the well-being of others
- Endurance
  - Able to withstand hardship and adversity
- Gentleness
  - State of being free from violence

# This is not to say...

- That we simply become “Milk Toast”



# We Have Weapons

- And our weapons are made mighty by God
- Our Weapons of Righteousness  
(2 Corinthians 2:6-7)
  - Endurance
  - Purity
  - Understanding
  - Patience
  - Kindness
  - Holy Spirit
  - Genuine Love
  - Power of God

# Though our Weapons

- Through our weapons we will have divine power to:
  - Pull down strongholds
  - Demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God
  - Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ
  - Maintain discipline in response to obedience

# Not By Human Power or Might

- By the flesh, we will not
  - Pull down
  - Demolish
  - Take captive
  - And maintain discipline of anything



# But by God's Spirit


- By the power of God, we will
  - Pull down strongholds through endurance and understanding
  - We will demolish arguments and false pretense through the Holy Spirit and purity
  - We will take captive of every thought through patience and kindness
  - We will maintain discipline through genuine love

# And it's already happening

- Threat of Quran burning gone “viral”
  - More than 1 million web hits, 43,000 images and 500 video clips within hours
  - International denouncement as wrong
- Memphis church reaches out to Muslim neighbors
  - Christian Church, Heartsong, welcomes Memphis Islamic Center worshippers until their center opens

# And we must continue

- Fight the Good Fight
  - Use the might of God to speak truth
  - Use the righteousness of God to redeem and restore
  - Use the weapons of spiritual warfare
    - Pull down strongholds
    - Demolish arguments
    - Take captive
    - And maintain discipline
- And as we Fight the Good Fight, we can create community...

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag. The top-left corner shows the blue field with white stars, while the rest of the image is dominated by the red and white stripes. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

*One Nation under God,  
Indivisible, with Liberty and  
Justice for All*