

The Struggle of the Christian Faith

1 Timothy 6:11-14

Introduction:

- A. How did Jesus describe the Christian life?
 - 1. Matt 7:13 – d_____
 - 2. Jn 16:33 – t_____
- B. What difficult things did Jesus command believers to do?
 - 1. L_____ your enemies.
 - 2. F_____ those who have sinned against you.
 - 3. P_____ for your persecutors.
- C. 1 Tim 6:11-14 teaches us about the struggle of the Christian faith and that the struggle is well w_____ it.

Is a g_____ struggle (11,12a)

- A. Paul uses the metaphor of an a_____ contest to illustrate the Christian's struggle.
 - 1. Paul calls Timothy a man of G_____, reminding him to whom he belongs. Why the reminder?
 - a. We tend to forget who we really are because the world identifies us by our o_____, or our l_____.
 - b. If you have truly trusted Christ, your identity is tied to Him (s_____ of God, child of God, new creation in Christ, etc.).
 - 2. Paul commands Timothy to run away from e_____ things and to run after the things of God (righteousness, godliness, faithfulness, love, perseverance, gentleness).
 - 3. This struggle is summed up in these words: f_____ the good fight of faith.
 - a. The word translated as fight is where we get our word a_____.
 - b. The struggle in living the Christian life is a good fight, worth all the agony!
- B. Application
 - 1. Righteousness and godliness – actions that show we are r_____ related to God.
 - a. It is easy to allow people and circumstances to dictate your actions.

- b. It is a struggle to let God run your life. But He will e_____ you to move ahead (a good struggle).
- 2. Faithfulness and love – un_____ actions for the good of God and our fellow human being.
 - a. It is easy to be passive in relationships (e.g. marriage; dealing with people you do not like).
 - b. It is a struggle to actively build relationships using faithfulness and love (e.g. marriage; dealing with people you do not like). This is a good struggle.
- 3. Perseverance and gentleness – the a_____ behind our actions.
 - a. It is easy to give up or to give in to anger.
 - b. It is difficult to persevere and be gentle (good struggle).
 - 1) Keep f_____; keep enduring adversity.
 - 2) Madness is not p_____. Gentleness is.

Is a p_____ struggle (12b)

- A. Paul commands Timothy to take hold of the eternal life to which he was c_____.
- 1. Eternal life has three aspects to it
 - a. Sp_____ aspect (Eph 2:1,4,5; Rom 8:10) – as soon as you trusted Jesus, He made your spirit a_____ saving it from the spiritual penalty of sin.
 - b. Ph_____ aspect (Rom 8:11; 1 Cor 15:51-55) – at Jesus’s return, He will gather up your bodily remains and make a new body, saving you from the physical penalty of sin.
 - c. Ps_____ aspect (Eph 5:18; Rom 12:2; Gal 5:16) – this is the ongoing Christian life on this earth where Jesus is saving our mind, will, and emotions from the p_____ of sin.
- 2. What is eternal life? (Jn 17:3) – to k_____ (personally) God through Jesus Christ.
- 3. Notice that in 1 Tim 6:12b that God c_____ us personally and we responded by trusting Christ.
- B. So what does it mean to take hold of eternal life?
 - 1. The good confession that Timothy made in the presence of many witnesses refers to his b_____ where he

confessed Jesus as His Lord and pledged to live Christ's way (Rom 6:4).

2. Therefore, to take hold of eternal life is to live out your relationship to Jesus by living His way (psychological aspect).
 - a. S_____ struggles – dealing with tragedy, crisis (we all have different sets to test our righteousness, godliness, faithfulness, love, perseverance, and gentleness)
 - b. Inherent struggles – dealing with our w_____ (this varies from person to person).
 - c. Let's make sure we p_____ for one another and encourage one another as we struggle in situations and in our weaknesses.

Is a t_____ struggle (13,14)

- A. How long will we have to struggle? – until the a_____ of Jesus Christ.
 1. This refers to His coming when every e_____ will see Him (Rev 1:7)
 2. At that time, for the believer, all struggles will end as He removes sin completely from our lives.
- B. Continue running from s_____ and running after the things of God looking forward to the day when Jesus comes.

Conclusion:

Picture an infinite line as representing eternity



Your earthly life is just a small d_____ but an important one. What you do now will affect eternity (Gal 6:9; Heb 12:1,2; Rev 14:13).