



Word *for* Life Says
Bible. Inspiration. You.

www.WORDFORLIFESAYS.com

Sunday School Lesson

TOPIC:

“Pursuing the Good Fight of Faith”

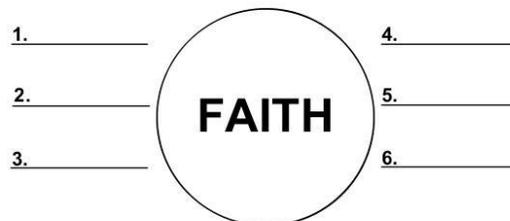
1 Timothy 6:11-21

VERSE DISCOVERY: 1 Timothy 6:11-21 (KJV, Public Domain)

Prepare

- Timothy was known by his faith from a youth (2 Timothy 1:5). People of all ages can learn to live a life of sincere faith and continue steadfastly in it.

In this lesson, we are going to cover six specific topics of personal accountability (our inner commitment, our upward focus, our outward responsibility, our spiritual readiness, our quest for the greater gain, and our standing in the truth) for the one who is pressing forth and pursuing the good fight of faith. In preparation for the lesson, draw the diagram below on a board for an easy-to-see reference. As you go through each part of the lesson, record on the numbered lines the topic being discussed. Use this as a refresher as you are going through the lesson to reiterate what each topic has to do with pursuing the good fight of faith.



- Do an online search for an object lesson or video (especially one geared toward younger students) to use as a lead-in for this lesson.

Explore – Full Lesson Available on pages 6-13

Verses 11-12

Timothy may be younger than some of the members of his church, but he was a leader and leaders have a responsibility to carry themselves in a certain way. People look up to leaders as an example, so Paul taught Timothy to stay away from things that could hurt his testimony before the world and to follow the good things God loves to see exhibited in His children; things that put a smile on God's face. (*What are some things that can hurt our Christian testimony?*)

The entire Bible encourages us to live lives that please God. One verse, in particular, says that *“Without faith it is impossible to please him...”* (Hebrews 11:6). Our faith matters to God. Our walk in the faith matters so much that the Apostle Paul teaches in another verse, *“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work...”* (Colossians 1:10).

In our lesson, Paul taught the importance of some “fruitful... good work[s]” Timothy and all Christians should be performing in their personal walks of faith. These include **“righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness”** (1 Timothy 6:11). (For younger students, you can hold up pictures of each of these practices being demonstrated to give them a visual idea of what each would look like in our daily walk.)

Following these practices will help us to **“Fight the good fight of faith,”** and to **“lay hold on to eternal life”** (1 Timothy 6:12). Although we are not saved by any works we do ourselves (Ephesians 2:8-9), our works or the things performed in our life are a sure sign to whom we belong (Luke 4:43-45).

Verses 13-16

So, the **“charge”** given to Timothy and us as well, is to maintain and follow **“this commandment without spot”**. When things are spotted, they become blemished. Then, it becomes hard to see all the good stuff underneath. (For younger students, find a picture of something beautiful. Take a Bingo marker or some other kind of stamper and cover the beautiful with the spots as a demonstration.)

One thing we want, is for all to see the goodness of Christ working in us (Matthew 5:16). The things we do and say and how we respond to situations if they are not presented in a good way can leave a bitter taste in the mouths of those who are watching us. We want to present to the world a sweet Jesus, not a bitter saint. (Compare the two by contrasting it with food. For example, honey and lemons.)

God is the one who is holy, and we are living this life and fighting in this spiritual battle to become children of God that represent our Father well (1 Peter 1:15-16). He is the **“King of kings, and Lord of lords”** and it is His Kingdom that we not only want to enter into one day, but we want

to present it to the world in a favorable manner so that others also may want to share in the eternal life which Jesus Christ offers to them that believe.

Verses 17-21

Therefore, through it all, our focus should remain on the greater gain of eternity. Nothing. I repeat, NO THING matters as much as our eternity. Status' pale in comparison to eternity (compare social media likes and so forth). Money is not as important as we think and the things we purchase with money will all vanish into oblivion while “**eternal life**” will go on forever.

Considering everything, keep standing in the truth. Many darts will be aimed at your faith (Ephesians 6:16; feel free to demonstrate with a dartboard or shield of faith representation), including false teaching that will try to pull you from the path of the Lord and what is right before Him. Hold on against the “**oppositions**” and your pursuit of the good fight of faith will pay off after a while.

Activities

- Anything we do for the Lord requires nothing less than our total commitment, especially when it comes to our faith. Using the **Adult Journal Page**, write a personal declaration of your unshakeable stand in pursuing the good fight of faith. For the **Kid's Journal Page**, students can write about what it means to fight the good fight of faith and how should we do it.
- **Collage Craft:** In the lesson, Paul described six practices for Timothy and all Christians to follow in verse 11. Find pictures from old magazine, books, comics, etc. and make a collage of examples of each of these practices being used. For an alternate activity, use **The Good Fight of Faith** comic strip activity page for students to draw these examples instead.
- Younger students can use the **Draw the Scene** page found on site to draw a picture of themselves in the frame and declare, “I will fight the good fight of faith!”
- Alternate activity sheets such as **Word Search, Memory Verse, Crossword, and more** are available on site for those who just wanted to work with printed materials.

Review

- Commit to memory the base verse from the lesson: “***Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...***” **1 Timothy 6:12**
- Draw on a board, make or buy a cheap target/dart board. Come loaded with questions about this lesson and/or other closely related subjects or recent lessons covered. Using soft

projectiles, have students work in teams or individually to see who can reach the higher score.

Mark a spot on the floor for students to stand. After answering a question successfully, they can take a shot at the board and move to the back of the line. Continue to do this, alternating between teams until all questions are answered successfully. The team that has accumulated the most points is the winner, but all students become winners when they learn the specifics of God's Word to carry with them through their lives.

- Fill out the review sheet provided (page 14)

Life

Life is a battle of focus. What one pursues after becomes the aim of all that focus. Let your focus be grounded in the good attributes of a life marked with spiritual fruit (1 Timothy 1:11; Galatians 5:22-23); a life that is seeking to fight the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12).

Check the things you follow or pursue this week, what has become the focus of your life lately, and see how they do in comparison with the fruit of the Spirit listed in this lesson and those in Galatians. Get honest with yourself about how you are doing with that list and what areas of life have become your primary focus. If need be, seek and aim for a spiritual adjustment to realign yourself where you feel you need to be and to be the soldier in the army of the Lord God is calling you to be.

TOPIC:

“Pursuing the Good Fight of Faith”

1 Timothy 6:11-21

VERSE DISCOVERY: 1 Timothy 6:11-21 (KJV, Public Domain)

In case you didn't know, we are in a competition like no other. The world, as God originally designed it, was good. But through the course of time, as evil entered the world, this place that we call our physical home has become a contentious place. It has become a battleground where a spiritual war is being waged every day and the target of the main attacks is our faith.

If you have ever heard someone use phrases of exasperation over the struggles they are facing, you get the sense that what they are involved in at that moment or what they are dealing with is extremely hard. The way they are trying to go or the thing they are trying to accomplish at that time is not easy; rather, it comes with the press of extra effort to get done what they need to get done to make it through.

No truer is this than in the adherence of and the push to maintain our Christian faith. In a world bent on opposing us with its lack of values and moral character, and with spiritual enemies all around, we are in a fight to keep firm in what we believe.

But keep firm we must. We are called to be proactive in protecting and walking in our faith. We must be diligent in our obedience to God as we hold on to our confession and confidence in the One who "...hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son," (Colossians 1:13).

What God has given us through Jesus Christ is too good to let go of now and the reward up ahead is greater than one can imagine (1 Corinthians 2:9) and it is eternal. We must strive to not let the flow of this world influence us or make us waver in our faith.

This lesson is a bold message for us to hold on to what we believe. To pursue after and fight the good fight of faith, and never let it go. Pursuing the good fight of faith requires something from us. In this lesson, I will cover six specific topics of personal accountability for the one who is pressing forth and pursuing the good fight of faith.

NOTES:

1. OUR INWARD COMMITMENT

1 Timothy 6:11 “But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.”

In the verses leading up to the lesson text, Paul, in his letter to Timothy, encourages him in his role as pastor of the church of Ephesus. In this role of leadership, Timothy would be responsible for how things are ordered or conducted in the church. As one to whom others would look up to, spiritual discipline would be of the highest order because it not only testifies of the leader before the congregation, but it teaches the congregation how to act before the world. All with the end purpose of drawing more people to believe in Jesus Christ through their living testimonies.

In chapter 6 particularly, some of the issues Paul points out for teaching edification revolves around the idea of contentment, erroneous teaching and beliefs, and the warning of the love of money and how it has already caused some to “err from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Timothy 6:10). For these, Paul wants Timothy to be on guard from these practices while pursuing and protecting his faith.

“But thou, O man of God.” Let us pause here for a moment and pay attention to that word **“but.”** In contrast to what Paul has already described as the wrong way some are following, the word **“but”** serves as a sifting agent for the one whose identity is tied up in God. In baking, sifting is used to separate, and as a **“man of God,”** Timothy particularly had to make sure his actions were separated from the things that would dim his testimony before the world instead of edifying the God he served. In other words, he was saying, “Timothy, you are different, and I want you to act differently, talk differently and walk differently in the pursuit of your faith. Don’t do what they are doing but let your testimony before God and the world be of truer stuff.” For that to happen, Paul lays out some specifics for Timothy, and those in Christ, to follow.

“Flee these things.” Disassociate yourself from the wrongdoings of others. The word **“flee”** gives great urgency to get away from there. High tail it out of there like never before! Do not give opportunity for the seed of evil that comes from hanging around that stuff to have a chance to plant in you. In other words, **“RUN!”**

NOTES:

The effects of hanging around these sinful behaviors or pondering them in one's heart, if continually being exposed to it, can ravage the faith of a believer. If you touch fire, you *are* going to get burned. The best way to avoid getting burned is to not expose yourself to the fire in the first place. Many don't realize it, but in pursuing the good fight of faith, it means one needs to take themselves away from things that can cripple their walk with the Lord.

While Timothy is to turn away from those things that can be damaging to one's faith, Paul counterbalances his teachings for the things Timothy should be seeking because what one is turning to is just as important as what one is turning away from.

Timothy and every Christian's life will be characterized by what they **"follow after"**; by the things they pursue. Rather than going after the things others are going after like money and materialistic things that those in the world are looking for, Paul teaches Timothy and us what are the better things to seek in our lives.

With that, he makes this list of things to pursue: **"righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness,"** all designed to govern our relationship with God and with each other. They not only show the inner commitment we are to have toward God in the right things we pursue, keeping His ways as a priority in all that we do in our lives, to believe in them and adhere to them through it all, but they also show us how to respond to circumstances and people through the production of the fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23).

2. OUR UPWARD FOCUS

1 Timothy 6:12 "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

So, Paul teaches, **"Fight the good fight of faith."** Fighting the good fight of faith is not about putting your dukes up. It is all about putting your faith up. It is more about taking a stand than taking a punch. It's ordering one's life and steps according to the will of God for our lives (Psalms 119:133). It is running the race of this Christian life and competing in this spiritual contest, pushing toward the finish line with every ounce of effort one possesses because there is a wonderful goal up ahead.

NOTES:

While we are pushing forth in the defense and protection and adherence to what we believe, we are doing so with the intent of laying hold of a prize. Our prize is the “**eternal life**” we are living in hopes of. At the end of any contest, at the end of the struggle, there is something wonderful we are looking forward to. Our stand through all we are facing here is in light of the victory we are promised to gain in the end: “**eternal life.**”

Heaven belongs to the believers. Life eternal is the ultimate prize for the one who refuses to give in or give up; to the one who does not get entangled by the things of this world others are chasing after (compare 2 Timothy 2:4). That’s why Jesus once taught, “Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for the meat which endureth unto everlasting life...” (John 6:27). We have something better than money; we have something better than the materialistic things and social status’ down here to lay hold of.

Our purpose in being “**called**” and of having this “**profession**” of faith, is to pursue the things of God. To be God-focused and heaven-focused, not world-focused and getting caught up in the things we presently see. It is pushing past every contention here while keeping an upward focus for our future.

3. OUR OUTWARD RESPONSIBILITY

1 Timothy 6:13 “I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;”

Our testimony before others matters and it is our responsibility to represent our Lord well. Therefore, in the strongest terms, Paul tells Timothy, “**I give thee charge in the sight of God.**” If you have ever attended a graduation ceremony you may hear the word “**charge**” being used during the occasion when the higher-ups of the learning institution instruct the graduating class on how to apply their newfound knowledge with responsibility. This is a word that Paul has chosen to use several times in his letter to Timothy to invoke the seriousness of all he is relaying to him.

And, to punctuate his statement even more with its importance, he is delivering this message before the same All-Mighty, Sovereign, and Supreme God of all the universe that breathes life into every being (“**quickeneth**”) and “**Christ Jesus**” who stood blameless with His “**good**

NOTES:

confession” before **“Pontius Pilate”**, never wavering in what He spoke or knew was the truth. Our Lord never raised the white flag of surrender, not even through the most difficult thing He would ever face. Timothy, and all Christians alike, are to follow the example of our Lord with that same fierceness of our **“good confession”**.

1 Timothy 6:14 “That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:”

With that, Paul continues to encourage Timothy to **“keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable.”** Continue forth in the press of your faith; continue to live a life above reproach and accusation. When Jesus comes back at His **“appearing”** (second coming), He’s coming back for a church “not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish,” (Ephesians 5:27).

Yes, that might not meld well with the current culture of the world, but in Christ, we are not living to please the culture of this world; rather, we are living for a higher life and that requires the discipline of maintaining and keeping the faith without fail against all adversaries, including the flesh. We who are called by His name are called to live like Him. “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked,” (1 John 2:6, see also 1 Peter 1:13-25; Matthew 5:48). Our faith is on display as an example of the Christ we follow. What people see being performed outwardly in our lives will speak volumes more than any message we could ever preach verbally.

4. OUR SPIRITUAL READINESS

1 Timothy 6:15-16 “Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.”

For when He comes **“in his times,”** all will see Him as He truly is. We do not know the day or the hour (Matthew 24:36), but Peter teaches us, “The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...” (2 Peter 3:10).

Once, I wrote:

NOTES:

“Preoccupation with this world has so many in its clutches and has lulled multitudes into a false sense of security. How many of our waking hours are spent on the temporary trappings of now instead of the glory that awaits our future? Our time on this earthly sojourn is not infinite. Time will pass. Days will turn to night and eventually, at our proper time, we will step into eternity or as the older folk used to say, when Jesus cracks the sky – it will all be over.

Will we be ready or caught unawares?” (I Come Quickly/Word for Life Says)

Paul wants Timothy, and every Christian, to be aware of not only the life they are living, but the times they are living in, and the time they are living for. Be ready.

Know that is God the Father is the **“only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords,”** meaning He, as noted above in verse 13, is supremely Sovereign, with all authority over all (Revelation 19:6). The Lord reigns, the Bible tells us (Psalms 93:1; 97:1; 99:1)! He is “the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple,” (Isaiah 66:1). He is God alone!

Scripture shows us that the Lord Jesus Christ is also known and called by the same description/title (noted above) being attributed to Him (Revelation 17:14; 19:16), and the Bible also encourages us in His power and authority (compare Colossians 2:10) and that we can take heart because our faith is complete in Him! We are told, “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things on earth, and things under the earth; And every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father,” (Phil. 2:10-11). He will be acknowledged as King forever. The everlasting King will rule forever, and all will “bow the knee” in honor and recognition of who He really is!

God **“hath immortality”** meaning death and everything that comes with it can never be imposed on Him or appropriated to Him as to others. Not that He simply just cannot die, but the very fact that His immortality is who He is, He is explicitly incapable of doing what is against the very nature and make up of Himself. “From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God,” (Psalm 90:2). As God in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16; see also John 1:14, 1 John 1:2), Jesus Christ is conqueror over death. 2 Timothy 1:10 tells us, “But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and

NOTES:

immortality to light through the gospel.” Life everlasting is found in Christ who lives forever (see Hebrews 7:24). Hold on to your faith that you may live eternally with Him!

God is He who is that **“light which no man can approach unto.”** The Bible reminds us of the story of Moses asking to see God’s face, His glory, just how impossible this was (read Exodus 33:18-20). Christ is where God is in that glorious place and it is God’s glory that illuminates all of heaven (see Revelation 21:23). It is a place too wonderful for man to obtain on his/her own; whom without Christ, we would not be admitted into the presence of God. Keep pursuing and fighting the good fight of faith that you may be able to enter in to be with Him **“whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.”**

5. OUR QUEST FOR THE GREATER GAIN

1 Timothy 6:17-19 “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches.” In light of all of this, teach people what is the greater gain, Timothy! Wealth, notoriety, social status, and the things the world applauds are not what counts. They are fleeting and will pass away. “For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?” (Proverbs 27:24). Nothing we accumulate here will last forever. Therefore, don’t put your trust in things but put your trust in the God **“who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;”** who gave you those things in the first place.

And, when He blesses, use those blessings, not just for yourself, but turn them into **“good works”** by sharing and positively impacting the lives of others. Part of fighting the good fight of faith is using what we have to lift others and offer help and support when and where it is needed; not be self-focused, but others-focused.

This, in turn, benefits us spiritually as well in the long run. For we are **“laying up in store... a good foundation against the time to come.”** With **“eternal life”** ever-present in the mind of

NOTES:

the believer, that one lives with not only their own life of faith in their hearts but with the concern of others there as well. What we do in the here and now impacts our future to come.

6. OUR STANDING IN THE TRUTH

1 Timothy 6:20-21 “O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.”

Therefore, Timothy, “**Keep that which is committed to thy trust.**” All that Paul is teaching Timothy, all that entails this life of faith, Timothy is to pursue it, fight for it, and guard against anything contaminating it such as “**profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called.**” There was a lot of talk with a lot of false teaching that Timothy was to guard himself and guard the faith against. Everything that sounds good is not good. Timothy, hold on to the truth and fight to stand in it!

Even though some “**professing have erred concerning the faith,**” meaning having been drawn away into believing what is false, you Timothy, continue in the good fight of faith.

The world today is full of false teachings that may sound right, but if it does not match up with the Word of God in its entirety, it is false, and we would do good to stay away from it, too.

As Timothy is, so are we to be just as diligent in our press for our faith. Our prize for a race well-run is set in the Heavens where it will neither tarnish nor fade with time but will last into all eternity. May we pursue after and fight the good fight of faith that we too may gain that greater reward.

NOTES:

TOPIC:

“Pursuing the Good Fight of Faith”

1 Timothy 6:11-21

Please Answer the Review Questions Below

1. **T or F.** The Apostle Paul is described as having a “**Good Confession**” before Pontius Pilate. (1 Timothy 6:13)
2. “That thou keep this commandment without _____...” (1 Timothy 6:14)
A. Care B. Help C. Repentance D. Spot
3. How would you describe what it means to “**Fight the Good Fight of Faith**”? (1 Timothy 6:12)

4. In warning him to flee from wrong things, Paul wrote about six things Timothy should “**Follow After**”. What are those things? (1 Timothy 6:11)

5. Who was commanded to be not “**Highminded**”? (1 Timothy 6:17)

A. Timothy B. Sinners C. Paul D. Rich

6. **T or F.** Eternal life is promised for those who “**Fight the Good Fight of Faith**”. (1 Timothy 6:12)

7. Timothy was instructed to avoid unprofitable speech and false teachings (1 Timothy 6:20-21). What impact can these do to one’s faith and how can we avoid them?

