

# JESUS FOLLOWERS PERSEVERE

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: LIVING IN PURSUIT / SERIES: 2 TIMOTHY

## BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS PERSEVERE

Jude 1:20-21; Hebrews 11:1; Philippians 4:19; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Titus 2:11-13; Galatians 2:20

## BIBLE VERSE: 2 TIMOTHY 1:14

*"By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you."*

## BIG IDEAS

- We persevere through faith.
- We persevere through grace-fueled effort.
- We persevere through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 1

### TRANSFORM - LIVING IN PURSUIT

In High School, the Transform Year is an exploration of what it looks like to have transformed influence as we seek to live for a Kingdom that is greater than our own. First, we recognize that we will never be transformed if we are not Living for Jesus. To do this, we must first know who Jesus is by looking at who He says He is (John 8:58), and then look at what the Bible says about how in Him, we live by faith (James 1:6). Next, we recognize that to have transformed influence means that we must live as disciples in pursuit of Christ and His Kingdom over ourselves and our own kingdoms.

### SERIES AIMS



#### Every student should know that...

- God never leaves or forsakes His children
- Holiness makes us ready for every good work
- God's Word equips us for every good work



#### Every student should feel...

- Strengthened and ready for the fight of the Christian life
- Love for God's Word which changes our lives
- Responsible to use their influence for Jesus alone



#### Every student should strive to...

- Read the entire book of 2 Timothy
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Recognize and flee forms of counterfeit godliness



#### Every student should want...

- To grow in how to rightly handle God's Word
- To faithfully face weakness so that God's strength would be on display
- To remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, in all they do and in all their conversations

### GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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**BIBLE VERSE: 2 TIMOTHY 1:14**

*"By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you."*

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**The gospel is entrusted to God's people.**

*"...guard the good deposit entrusted to you."*

- To entrust something to someone is to commit something to another person with confidence. When a Jesus follower receives the gospel, it is a gift from God given to that person to be kept and guarded as such. Paul writes to Timothy to guard the gospel that has been entrusted to Him because it is no small thing to receive this truth from God.
- Receiving the gospel is the work of God. There is nothing that a person does to facilitate this happening. God gives the gospel by His Spirit. His Spirit opens the eyes of a person and enables them to see their need of a Savior. Once they receive salvation, they are entrusted with this truth forever.

**Persevering in the faith means guarding the gospel in our hearts.**

*"...guard the good deposit entrusted to you."*

- When Paul instructs Timothy to guard the gospel that has been entrusted to him, he is encouraging his young disciple to continue in the faith. Paul is near the end of his own life and spiritual journey as he writes this last letter to Timothy. He knows better than anyone else what is required to persevere in this life.
- For the Jesus follower, guarding the gospel means continuing to grow in our knowledge of God and His Word. We cannot become complacent and apathetic in our spiritual walk and expect to be good guardians of the gospel entrusted to us.

**The gospel is only guarded in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

*"By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us..."*

- In order to guard something well, one must be trained and have the right help and guidance. Even though this is a command, we cannot guard the gospel in our own power. We cannot persevere in our own power. We need the help and power of the Holy Spirit to persevere in this life.
- With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can grow in our knowledge of God and His Word. We can remain steadfast and immovable in this life no matter our circumstances. It is the Holy Spirit who seals us and holds us fast in the midst of the greatest storm and darkest night. Without the Holy Spirit, we are lost.

**BIG IDEA #1: WE PERSEVERE THROUGH FAITH.<sup>1</sup>****[ THIS ]**

One definition of faith in Merriam-Webster's dictionary is something that is believed, especially with strong conviction. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as the assurance of things we've hoped for and the conviction of things we've yet to see. In 2 Timothy 1:5-7, Paul writes of Timothy's heritage of faith. In these two verses, we get a glimpse of Timothy's family history. His grandmother Lois was a woman of great faith. His mother Eunice also lived a life of great faith, and now Timothy's life revealed that he had great faith. Paul remarks on this lineage of faith because it represents the perseverance of believers. These women clearly continued in their trust and belief in Christ. They did so because of their faith. Their strong conviction isn't something that they did themselves. It is a result of the work of the gospel in their lives. When the gospel is at work in our lives, we influence and impact the lives of those around us. This is evident because of the person that Timothy became. Paul remarks that it is evident that Timothy has the same faith that was evident in his grandmother and mother. This faith keeps and continues throughout generations.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Read 2 Timothy 1:5-7. What is significant about the fact that Timothy's grandmother and mother both had great faith?**

The point Paul was making by pointing out the faith of Timothy's grandmother and mother is that real faith perseveres. It does not stop or quit. Their faith continued regardless of their circumstances or the obstacles they faced.

**[ THIS ]**

True faith is eternal faith. When God intervenes in a person's life and gives them the gift of real faith, their lives are forever changed. It is eternal. The reason this is true is because it does not depend upon the person who has been entrusted with the faith. It depends upon the work of God in their lives. Timothy was a man of faith because God had given him the gift of faith and his faith was persevering. True faith is life-transforming and once that happens, there is no returning to the life before. Paul sets the example of this type of faith as he persevered through many trials and hardships. Even as he wrote to Timothy, he was suffering for the sake of the proclamation of the gospel, yet he continued in his faith. It is our faith in God, His person and work, that holds us fast always. When we hold to this truth, we persevere and continue on our spiritual journey no matter what our circumstances.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**How does our faith help us to continue serving and living for Jesus each day?**

Hebrews 11:1 tells us that faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things we've yet to see. Without this type of faith, we could not live obedient daily lives that help us live obediently in the more difficult times of our lives.

**Paul encourages Timothy to persevere by reminding him of older people in the faith. How have you been encouraged to persevere by someone older than you who has persevered?**

The faith of fellow believers helps us to persevere and remain faithful. Acts 15:32 gives us a picture of believers encouraging one another, and Hebrews 10:23-25 reminds us of the importance of gathering with one another to encourage one another.

1. 2 Timothy 1:5: Faith is pivotal to our continuing our spiritual journey in this life. Without faith, we will not continue serving God.

**BIG IDEA #2: WE PERSEVERE THROUGH GRACE-FUELED EFFORT.<sup>2</sup>****[ THIS ]**

In 2 Timothy 1:8, Paul encourages Timothy to share in suffering for the gospel. In 2 Timothy 1:9, Paul speaks to how this suffering for the gospel is possible—through grace. It is grace that enables us to know God by allowing us to understand the gospel. It is grace that awakens us to our need for the Savior and grace that leads us to the realization that we are sinners in need of salvation. God pours this grace upon our lives and gives us what we do not deserve. Paul reminds Timothy of this grace as he encourages him to continue serving Jesus even in hard and difficult times. Perseverance is not easy, but it is possible because of the grace of God. We would not even desire to persevere if it were not for the grace of God in our lives. Paul was an example to Timothy of this very grace as he suffered greatly for the sake of the gospel, yet he continued to live faithfully for Christ, pointing Timothy to do the same.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Why is it necessary to receive the grace of salvation in order to persevere in our faith?**

If we do not first receive the grace of salvation, we cannot and will not have the faith necessary to persevere in our belief and trust of God. Romans 10:9 explains that this type of faith is confessing and believing that Jesus is the Savior. Doing this results in our knowing God and persevering in our faith. Galatians 2:20 shows us that this leads to a different life that produces perseverance.

**[ THIS ]**

For something to be sufficient is for it to be enough. Something is enough when it fulfills and accomplishes what it needs to accomplish. Only God's grace is sufficient for us to live as we should. We live a faithful life for Christ through our efforts that are fueled by God's grace in our lives. This type of grace is the daily grace He pours upon us to live obediently for Him. Paul speaks of this grace in 2 Timothy 1:9 when he speaks of the grace God gives in Christ when He saves for His purposes. God saves His people for His purposes and gives them daily grace to carry out this purpose. It is this daily grace that enables us to carry on in the most difficult of times. God pours this grace upon our lives and it is enough for every need we have. This means that no matter our circumstance or situation, God's grace is enough to help us persevere through it with our faith intact. This isn't something we accomplish in our own power, but the power of God.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**How does daily grace enable you to live obediently for God in any situation?**

Without God's daily grace, perseverance would be impossible. With God's daily grace, He makes it possible to endure and overcome anything we face in this life as Philippians 4:19 reminds us. 2 Corinthians 9:8 and 12:9 teach us that it is this daily grace that makes persevering obedience possible.

**When we try to persevere in our own efforts, we often fail. What are some examples of how this has happened to you? What is the practical difference between relying on God's grace rather than effort?**

When we try to overcome difficult times by having positive thoughts or using the world's ideas of positive thinking, we will often fail. Facing a difficult challenge is often only possible with the help of God's grace in our lives. Titus 2:11-12 and 2 Peter 1:2 both remind us that God's grace is given to us to equip us and enable us to live for Him daily.

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2. 2 Timothy 1:9: It is God's grace that holds us and enables us to live faithfully for Him.

**BIG IDEA #3: WE PERSEVERE THROUGH THE POWER AND PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.<sup>3</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Jesus followers are not alone on this earth to persevere in their own power. God gives the Holy Spirit to every person who believes in His Son. This indwelling of His Spirit in believers gives them access to His grace always. Because the Holy Spirit is with them always, they always have God's grace in their lives. The Holy Spirit is the power by which Jesus followers live for God. Paul speaks of this power in 2 Timothy 1:14 when he writes to Timothy of the way in which the Holy Spirit guards the gospel in him. The Holy Spirit gives power to every person who follows Jesus. This power is the power of God inside of His people. It enables them to overcome the greatest of hardships and struggles. Paul speaks of his own struggles and the suffering he has endured for the sake of the gospel as he writes to Timothy. He has endured this suffering because of the power of the Holy Spirit inside of him. Without this power, it is impossible for us to persevere. We would fall away and turn away from God. The power of the Holy Spirit keeps us from falling away and prevents us from turning away from trusting and believing in God.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Read 2 Timothy 1:12-14. How have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit helping you remain faithful when you've wanted to turn away?**

Paul suffered greatly for the sake of spreading the gospel. He was imprisoned, beaten, and abandoned by his friends. He continued and persevered in the faith because of the power of the Holy Spirit at work in his life.

**When we face difficult times, we can continue in the faith because of the power of the Holy Spirit, too. What are some ways we ignore the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives?**

We ignore the power of the Holy Spirit at work when we quench His work as 1 Thessalonians 5:19 warns us not to do. We can also grieve the Holy Spirit when we do not submit our lives to His leading as Ephesians 4:30-31 reminds us.

**[ THIS ]**

The Holy Spirit serves as a believer's Helper. He is God the Father's gift to every Jesus follower because He is the presence of God in them always. To always have the presence of God with us is a grace that allows us to persevere and continue in the faith. Just knowing that God is with us always is encouraging and helps us live for Him. When we know that someone is near us and with us, we are aware of their presence. Because God is always with us, when we are aware of His constant presence, we will live in a way that produces perseverance and dedication. This type of relationship also results in an intimacy with God because He is always with us. To know that no matter what our circumstances are, God is always with us is encouraging and helpful to God's people. We are more likely to continue in our faith when we know that God is dwelling in us and helping us.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**What power does the Holy Spirit's presence have in your daily life?**

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 and Ephesians 2:10 remind us that the Spirit works in our daily lives to help us live for Christ. His presence helps us live out our faith obediently.

3. 2 Timothy 1:14: God gives us His grace through the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who helps us live for Christ and persevere in this life.