

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A FIGHT

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

BIG TRUTH: THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A FIGHT

1 Timothy 6:11-12; Ephesians 6:11-13; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Exodus 14:14; Psalm 34:19; Romans 5:3-5, 8:18

BIBLE VERSE: 2 TIMOTHY 2:3-4

"Share in the suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him."

BIG IDEAS

- Strength for the fight is found in the grace of Jesus.
- Growth in the fight happens through faithfulness in hardship and suffering.
- Power for the fight is found in God's Word.

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-13

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.



Property of Tri-Cities Baptist Church
171 Promise Land Dr. Gray, TN 37615

BIBLE VERSE: 2 TIMOTHY 2:3-4

"Share in the suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him."

Believers share in the suffering of one another.

"Share in the suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus."

- Paul compares Jesus followers to soldiers in an army working together to fight the same battle. He describes Jesus' followers as soldiers because the Christian life is a battle against the sin nature and the wickedness of the world. It is the wickedness and brokenness of the world that works against God's people and causes them suffering.
- Paul teaches Timothy to share in the suffering of other believers as he would do if he were in an actual army fighting a battle. When soldiers fight an actual battle, they are fighting for their lives. Christians are to fight the fight of faith in this life as if their lives depend upon it and in doing so, they are to share in one another's suffering. By doing this, they help the body of Christ persevere through this life.

Believers are not distracted by the world.

"No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits..."

- When a soldier is enlisted in the military, they are focused on their military job. They are distracted by civilian concerns, nor do they busy themselves pursuing things outside of the military. When a soldier is engaged in a battle, he or she does not begin pursuing something not related to the battle they are fighting.
- A follower of Jesus is singularly focused on living faithfully for Jesus. He or she is focused on pursuing His kingdom and living for Him. They are not distracted by the things of the world. They do not pursue worldly, earthly things that are empty and temporal. Instead, they focus on pursuing eternal things that further the Kingdom of God.

Believers remain focused on pleasing Christ.

"...since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him."

- The focus of a believer isn't pleasing themselves. Their focus isn't just winning the battle, either. Instead, their aim is to please Christ. The goal of the believer is to live a life that is pleasing to Christ.
- A believer remains focused on pleasing Jesus by living obediently to Him. This means that they live faithfully to Him and fight the fight of faith in order to be found faithful.

BIG IDEA #1: STRENGTH FOR THE FIGHT IS FOUND IN THE GRACE OF JESUS.¹**[THIS]**

In 2 Timothy 2:1, Paul writes to Timothy of the grace that is in Jesus. This grace is the unmerited, or undeserved favor of God that we receive because He sent Jesus to the earth. We did nothing to deserve God's favor in sending Jesus to die for us. Because of this favor, we can now experience a relationship with God. When Paul writes to Timothy of this grace that is in Jesus, he is writing about the many aspects of what it means to be a believer. Because of God's grace, we are at peace with God. Because of God's grace, we are able to live in God's power and not our own. This is where we find the strength to face this life. Paul knew this grace firsthand. He had experienced it through his conversion first and then throughout his life as a believer. God had empowered him to serve Him and to face many hardships and trials. Now, he was instructing Timothy to live and walk in this same power, trusting in the grace that was available to him through Jesus.

[THEREFORE]

How does self-reliance keep you from being strengthened in the grace of Jesus?

When we falsely believe that we can rely upon ourselves to do things, we will fail. 2 Corinthians 3:5 reminds us that our sufficiency in our spiritual lives comes from the grace of God, not ourselves. Ephesians 2:8 and Romans 12:3 also reminds us that anything we are able to do is because of God's grace in our lives.

[THIS]

The world we live in is broken and fallen. Because of the brokenness of the world around us and our own flesh nature, we battle against this daily. Living for Jesus is a fight. We face our own flesh and the temptation to sin daily. Paul knew this to be true in his own life. The Christian life is a battle against the sinfulness of this world and against Satan and his demons. Just as Jesus was persecuted and hated by the world, His followers are persecuted and hated, also. Jesus' followers are not popular or culturally relevant. Instead, Christ followers are outsiders and typically in opposition to the mainstream culture. This causes friction between a believer and those who do not follow Christ. Paul understood this friction and the sorrow that it causes in our lives. He encouraged Timothy to find strength in the grace of knowing Jesus and the hope of eternal life that every believer is promised through Him. This is how we are strengthened to live each day in this world. Knowing that we will have eternity with Jesus gives us the power and strength to face whatever opposition comes our way.

[THEREFORE]

How have you felt friction between your life and the unbelievers around you and sorrow because of it? How does the grace of Jesus strengthen you?

Those who desire to live a Godly life will face friction with the unbelieving world. 2 Timothy 3:12, John 15:18, and 2 Corinthians 15:18 teach us that believers will be persecuted for their faith. Hebrews 4:16 teaches us that God's grace strengthens us and offers us hope in these times.

Why is grace so important in helping us fight the good fight of faith?

Without God's grace, we could not fight the fight of faith. We would fail. We would not have access to God's Spirit who gives us the power and strength to face this life. James 4:6 and Hebrews 4:16 helps us to understand that it is not in our own power that we do anything for the Lord.

1. 2 Timothy 2:1: We find strength to live for Christ through the grace of Christ.

BIG IDEA #2: GROWTH IN THE FIGHT HAPPENS THROUGH FAITHFULNESS IN HARDSHIP AND SUFFERING.²**[THIS]**

A follower of Christ can expect hardship and suffering in this life. Jesus promised that for those who would follow Him, they would experience difficult times. Paul wrote to Timothy of the hardships and suffering that face believers in 2 Timothy 2. He reminded Timothy to remain steadfast and to remember the suffering of Jesus. In 2 Timothy 2:11, Paul reminds Timothy that those who die with Christ in this life will live with Him in the next. To die in this life is not always to lose our lives physically, but to die to our fleshly lives. In order to remain steadfast and faithful in hardships, we must deny our flesh and take up our cross daily to follow in the example of Jesus. Jesus came willingly to suffer for our sake. Paul leads by example in this way when he reminds Timothy that he, too, is suffering for the sake of other believers. We cannot think that we will live a life of obedience to Jesus in this world and not experience suffering.

[THEREFORE]

How have you experienced suffering as a part of your Christian journey?

Psalms 34:19 tells us that the righteous experience many afflictions, yet God promises and delivers them from these afflictions. Romans 5:3-5 and 8:18 also teaches us that suffering is a part of the Christian walk. Suffering and hardship are part of following Jesus.

[THIS]

When we walk faithfully in hardships and through our suffering, we will grow in our faith. It is the trials and hardships that we face that increase our faith. Paul reminds Timothy that it is faithfulness that is required of the believer in order to endure and be found faithful at the end of the Christian life. In 2 Timothy 2, we see that Paul endured many hardships and trials. He suffered greatly for the sake of the gospel. When we remain faithful during our trials, our faith will grow. We will mature spiritually because we will grow in our understanding of who God is and how He works. We will understand His truth because it will be real to us and not just words on pages in our Bibles. As we face hardships and we suffer in this life, we grow in our spiritual disciplines. Trials and suffering lead us to pray more as we seek God during our most difficult times. We go to His Word for help and encouragement, which increases our time in the Bible. All of these things cause growth in our lives. We also see firsthand the way that God's Word and His promises are true as they are lived out in our lives.

[THEREFORE]

What does it mean to be faithful during a trial? How has your own faithfulness led to growth in your spiritual life?

Hebrews 10:23 tells us to hold fast to our confession of faith. To be faithful is to hold tightly to the truth we know to be true. 2 Timothy 2:11-12 also teaches us that when we endure, we are being faithful. Remaining faithful during hardships leads to our growing spiritually.

What obstacles prevent us from remaining faithful during hardships?

Mark 4:17 speaks of people who have no true root in Jesus. When faith isn't real faith, hardships will cause a person to fall away. Our pride and self-reliance can keep us from remaining faithful during hardships.

1 Corinthians 10:12 teaches us to have a right view of ourselves and our circumstances.

2. 2 Timothy 2:12: Enduring during hardships produces growth in our faith and enables us to remain faithful in the Christian fight.

BIG IDEA #3: POWER FOR THE FIGHT IS FOUND IN GOD'S WORD.³**[THIS]**

As Paul encouraged Timothy to remain faithful in his Christian life, he encouraged him to remember the things he had been taught and to teach them to other faithful people. The things Paul was speaking of are truths found in God's Word. In 2 Timothy 2:1-2, Paul encourages Timothy to entrust these valuable truths to other trustworthy people who will pass them along to others. As Paul instructed Timothy to invest God's truth in others, he was reminding Timothy of the value of God's Word. Knowing God's truth is the most important aspect of remaining faithful and finding the strength and power to live for Him in this world. Paul is an example of this for all believers. Paul valued and knew God's Word. He taught these truths to others and found strength from God's Word. Paul experienced great persecution, yet he found the power to endure these hardships by relying upon the truth of God's Word. He continued serving faithfully until the end of his life because of the power of God's Word at work in his life.

[THEREFORE]

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-2. Has someone entrusted you with the truth of God's Word? Do you seek to entrust other faithful people with the truth of God's Word?

These verses are examples of what it looks like to disciple or invest in another believer's life in a way that helps them grow spiritually. Paul taught Timothy and in turn, he asked that Timothy also teach other faithful men the same truths Paul had taught him. This process produces faithful followers of Jesus who impact the world for the glory of God.

How have you found power in knowing God's truth in His Word?

Psalm 62:11 tells us of the power of God speaking. His Word is powerful and mighty. By it, He creates and commands creation. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that His written Word is living and active and powerful in the life of His people. This power helps us live for Him daily.

[THIS]

God's written Word is our source of all things. From it we learn who God is and how we are to live for Him. When we face anything in this life, we can turn to His Word for truth and for the power to overcome whatever obstacle we are facing. Paul knew this truth well and encouraged Timothy to use the power that is available to any and every believer—God's Word. God's Word gives us the power to overcome the wickedness of this world by reminding us of who God is. It also helps us stay focused on God's plan for us and helps us keep an eternal focus in mind. We are encouraged by it. We are convicted by it. We are helped and reminded of God's promises. Through God's Word we are taught what it means to be faithful and how to fight faithfully in this life for His glory.

[THEREFORE]

What are some challenges you face when it comes to reading and studying God's Word?

Psalm 119:105 speaks of God's Word being a lamp to a person's feet. A challenge for us is when we use other things in this world as our guide. We are tempted to use worldly things instead of God's Word. Matthew 4:4 teaches us that we should not focus solely on earthly things, but instead, look to God's Word as our source of truth and power.

3. 2 Timothy 2:2: To know God's Word is to be prepared for the Christian life.