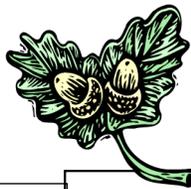


Feb 25, 2018



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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The Good Fight of Faith 1 Tim 6:11-21

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches how and why Paul advised Timothy to fight **The Good Fight of Faith**. The study's aim is to highlight the importance of the body concept of the Church, showing that pastors are not expected to do everything. The study's application is to be encouraged to continue serving God by using our gifts and placing our confidence in His direction.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

"Want to quit?" The question came from my instructor. She was standing in front of me, watching. "We can reschedule this." Surrounding us were other students in my martial arts class. They too were watching. Would I give up, or would I finish what I had started? That night was not an ordinary karate class. Several students were testing for their next belt, including me. As part of the test, our instructor asked us to help others who were testing. Among them was a more advanced student, and part of his test was a certain type of defense. Other students had to attack him so that our sensei could see whether the testee could defend. When my turn came, I ran up to him and proceeded to grab his arm. Before I could blink, I was thrown through the air. I landed with a thud as pain exploded in my side. I would have scratches and bruised bones for weeks. Lying on the mat, I knew it would have been easy to stop. I was in pain. I knew that should I quit, though, I might not make a challenge again for months. I wanted to get that next belt. So I stood up and said, "No, I'll keep going." Even though I was hurting, I poured everything into it. I not only finished my test, but I also did it well. In this week's text, we are entreated to "fight the good fight of faith." Paul goes on to say that we should be diligent to keep our Lord's commands and to make every effort to live righteously until Christ returns (1 Tim. 6:13-14). Paul's entreaty here is not merely a call for perseverance. Yes, we are called to be diligent in our faith walk. Believers do need to persevere. But Paul was touching on something deeper here. You see, it is not enough to merely keep fighting. We have to think about the quality of what we do. Why? My grandfather used to say, "If a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well." We were put here to glorify God and further His kingdom. How we live our lives affects not only us but also those around us. If we are content to drift through life in a mediocre way, we are not fulfilling our calling as believers as we should. It is easy to lose track of this in the daily rhythms of life. We float through our existence, forgetting what is eternal when confronted with the urgency of the day. That is why the Scriptures remind us to keep our eyes on Jesus (cf. Heb. 12:2). We are to keep our focus on what is really important and not get caught up in the temporary. As we consider this, we will understand how important it is to stay motivated. How we live out our faith may alter someone else's eternal destiny. Are you fighting the good fight today? Are you giving it everything you have, or are you simply trying to get through each day? If all you are doing each day is going through the motions, then perhaps you have lost your motivation. God does not call us to be mediocre people. He calls us to a passionate, fulfilled life in His Son (John 10:10). He wants us to participate in something greater than we could have dreamed. We can only do that, however, if we are fighting the good fight. Are you fighting the good fight of faith?

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Our greatest comfort in sorrow is to know that God is in control

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:
What our faith rests on is the belief that God is in ultimate control and will indeed keep His promises—whether that happens in this life or the next

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him
(Heb 11:6 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", July 30, 2016)

Series: Acknowledging God

UNIT: Follow in My Ways

NEXT WEEK

The Lord Will Provide
(Gen 22:1-14)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Helpful Instructions (1 Tim 6:11-16)

What to pursue (11)

- Pursue righteousness by thirsting for it (Matt 5:6)
- Pursue godliness through training (1 Tim 4:7-8)
- Pursue the deep truths of the faith (1 Tim 3:9)
- Pursue love because it is commanded (1 John 3:23)
- Pursue patience because Jesus' coming is near (James 5:7-8)
- Pursue gentleness out of love (Eph 4:2)

How to live (12)

- Live righteously until the day of the Lord comes (2 Peter 3:10-12)
- Live righteously because Jesus sacrificed Himself (1 Peter 2:24)
- Live righteously through God's Divine power (2 Peter 1:3)
- Live righteously through obedience (Rom 6:16)
- Live righteously to obtain the goal of our hope (Gal 5:5)
- Live righteously because there is a crown awaiting us (2 Tim 4:8)

How to stay blameless (13-14)

- Blameless because God chose us (Eph 1:4)
- Blameless because of the gift of discernment (Phil 1:9-11)
- Blameless because of doing everything without complaining or arguing (Phil 2:14-15)
- Blameless because God strengthening our hearts (1 Thess 3:13)
- Blameless because of being entrusted with God's work (Titus 1:7)

Whom to honor (15-16)

- Honor God with our body (1 Cor 6:20)
- Honor God because He is worthy of honor (Rev 4:11)
- Honor God with our finances (Prov 3:9)
- Honor God with our heart (Matt 15:8)
- Honor God by honoring Jesus (John 5:22-23)

Important Commands (1 Tim 6:17-21)

Trust the living God (17)

- Trust God and don't worry (Matt 6:25-27)
- Trust God by seeking His kingdom first (Luke 12:29-31)
- Trust God because He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7)
- Trust God to provide overflowing hope (Rom 15:13)
- Trust God by being convinced of His ability (2 Tim 1:12)

Be willing to share (18-19)

- Share by giving to those in need (Rom 12:13)
- Share with instructor the good things in God's word (Gal 6:6)
- Share by working to be able to give to others (Eph 4:28)
- Share because God is pleased with His people who share (Heb 13:16)
- Share by supporting the weak (Acts 20:35)
- Share to help others in the Church (Acts 2:44-46)

Guard the important truths (20-21)

- Guard the truth through standing firm (Eph 6:14)
- Guard the truth in faith (2 Cor 1:24)
- Guard the truth by resisting the yoke of slavery (Gal 5:1)
- Guard the truth in Jesus (1 Thess 3:8)
- Guard the truth using the grace and power of God (1 Peter 5:10)
- Guard the truth committing to the work of God (1 Cor 15:58)