

1. Last week I taught 1Ti 6:12 in part and when the clock tolled noon we were exegeting the phrase “lay hold on eternal life.”
2. Before returning to the exegesis I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may be necessary.
3. Let me first give you an expanded translation of 1Ti 6:9-11.

**Expanded Translation**

**1Ti 6:9 All, and that includes pastor-teachers, who have an inordinate desire for wealth will invariably fall into temptation and become entrapped into many foolish and harmful desires. Such desires will plunge them into ruin and destruction.**

**1Ti 6:10 For you see the love of money is and keeps on being the root of all kinds of evil and some because of their craving have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with a great deal of pain and suffering.**

**1Ti 6:11 But you, man of God, avoid all these things, i.e., materialism lust. Strive for the process of righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patient endurance, and gentleness.**

4. Paul’s imperative for Timothy is to fight the good fight. I want to review some of that learned and then begin new material on page two.

5. So far, we have exegeted that portion of 1Ti 6:12 which in the KJV has been translated “Fight the good fight of faith, ...” noting it might better be rendered “**Now Timothy, it is important for you to strive as one competing in the Corinthian Games; fighting the fight of faith ...**”

6. The entire verse has been translated in the KJV:

KJV-New Sentence

1Ti 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.

7. Now for the phrase “lay hold on eternal life.”

LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE επιλαμβανομαι ο ζωη αιωνιος

1. **Epilambanomai Ho Zoe Aionios** is better translated “and take possession of your eternal life ...”

2. **Epilambanomai** is a verb parsed as a 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular, aorist active indicative.

3. **Epilambanomai** appears some 18 times in the New Testament where it is translated “took, by, to seize” or “to take hold of.” The vocabulary form is **Epilambano** where it is translated “to grab” or even “to seize by force.” Examples:

Acts 9:26 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.

Acts 9:27 But Barnabas **took** him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

Acts 9:28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

Acts 9:29 He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him.

Acts 9:30 When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Acts 9:31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

Acts 16:19 And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, **they caught** Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,

Acts 16:20 And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,

Acts 16:21 And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.

1Ti 6:17 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;

1Ti 6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

1Ti 6:19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they **may lay hold** on eternal life.

1Ti 6:20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

1Ti 6:21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.

Heb 2:16 For verily **he took** not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

Heb 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

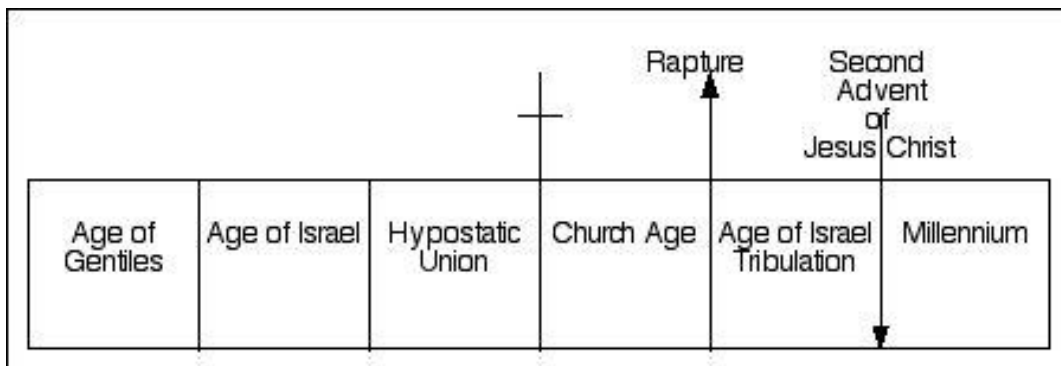
Heb 2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Heb 8:9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I **took** them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

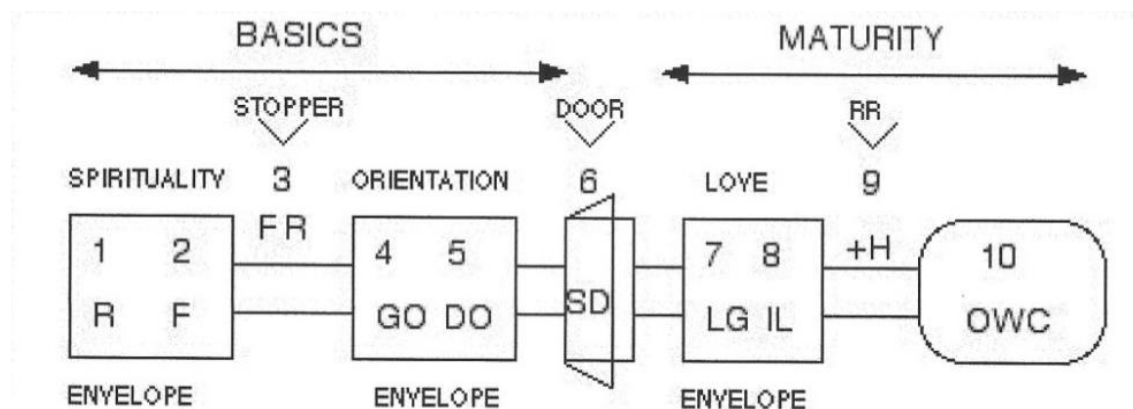
Heb 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Heb 8:11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

4. So how do you “seize” or “lay hold” on eternal life? It is the same in every age “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.” This begins the process of temporal sanctification.



5. Now when Paul exhorts Timothy “to lay hold of eternal life” he does not imply that he does not possess positional sanctification. Timothy was obviously saved and possessed it as a gift of God. What Paul desires Timothy to experience is more of his eternal life in his work as an apostle. The definite article appears before life marking it out as a particular life which the Scriptures tell us God gives each believer: it is best taught as a Sense of Destiny belonging uniquely to a mature believer.



5.1 A sense of destiny is developed when you begin to live your life in the light of eternity. As the first of the advanced problem-solving devices, your self-worth becomes inseparably united with Jesus Christ because you share eternally all that Christ is:

### *His righteousness*

2Co 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

### *His election*

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

### *His sonship*

Gal 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

### *His priesthood*

1Pe 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

### *His kingship*

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him *forever*.

5.2 Your personal sense of destiny weathers all the storms of adversity, and further develops humility so that you understand God is the Source of all prosperity.

6. **Zoe Aionios** appears often in the New Testament where the two are translated “eternal” or “everlasting life.” Examples:

Mat 19:16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have **eternal life**?

Mat 19:17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

Mat 19:18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

Mat 19:19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Mat 19:20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

Mat 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

Mat 19:22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Mat 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

Mat 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Mat 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit **everlasting life**.

Mat 19:30 But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.

Joh 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have **eternal life**.

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have **everlasting life**.

Joh 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Rom 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is **eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.

7. Now let's again see how our verse looks so far by way of an expanded translation.

### **Expanded Translation**

**1Ti 6:12 Now Timothy, it is important for you to fight the good fight of faith and take possession of your eternal life ...**

8. Paul again returns to his favorite metaphor: the old stirring metaphor of the Olympic contestant competing for a prize.

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