

TAKE HOLD OF ETERNAL LIFE

Paul issued two commands in the Greek of our lesson text.

- First command is “Fight (agonize/ p.m.impv.2ps) the good fight of faith.” (1 Tim.6:12a)
- Second command is “**Take hold (epilambno/ a.m.impv.2ps) of eternal life.**” (1 Tim.6:12b)

In our last study, you were told to watch for a play on Greek words connected with both commands.

- First command is “**fight the good fight.**”
- Second command is harder to see in English “**confess the good confession.**”

The part of 1 Tim.6:12 that we are studying today is:

(1 Tim.6:12b) “take hold of eternal life to which you were called, and **you made (homologeō) [confessed] (a.a.ind.2ps) the good (ten kalos) confession (homologia)** in the presence of many witnesses.”

This lesson will study four aspects of Take Hold of Eternal Life.
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1. What does Paul mean by “take hold of the eternal life to which you were called?”

- He is speaking to a saved Church Age Believer (CAB)
- He is speaking to a spiritually mature believer
- He is commanding someone who already has eternal life.
- He is commanding Timothy who is engaged big-time in church ministry.

Yet Paul is commanding Timothy to: “take hold (epilambano/ a.m.impv.2ps) of the eternal life (tes aionios zoe) to (eis+acc) [of purpose] which (hos) [relative pronoun] (asf) you were called (kaleo/ a.p.ind.2ps).”

Timothy, who had studied and cycled the doctrine of eternal life through faith is to “confess the good confession” to others who need the assurance of it (“in the presence of many witnesses”) (1 Tim 6:19; 1 John 5:20). This is especially true of baby believers - “Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, **so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.**” (1 Pet.2:2, 1:23)

2. **Eternal life is given to every Church Age Believer (CAB) at the moment he believes that Jesus died for his sins, was buried and raised from the dead on the third day (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).**

(John 3:36) “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (read John 3:14-16)

(Rom.5:21) “So that **as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom.5:21) (read Rom.6:20-23)

(John 10:28) “And I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.” (read John 10:22-30)

3. There is a doctrinal distinction between eternal life and spiritual life.

In the pamphlet of [50 Things](#) we received at the moment of our salvation, we placed spiritual life under the Eight Works of The Holy Spirit and eternal life under our twenty status-privileges of salvation.

Spiritual life is based on the ministry of Indwelling of Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6:19-20).

- Spiritual death is contrasted to spiritual life (2 Cor.2:14-16; Eph.2:4-5).
- The unsaved is contrasted with the saved based on Indwelling of Holy Spirit (Rom.8:9-11; Jude 19).

Eternal life is based on personal faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (John 5:24; 1 John 2:25; Heb.6:18).

4. Eternal life was assigned to Jesus Christ, and through Him, to every Church Age Believer (CAB) at the Eternal Life Conference of eternity past.

(Eph.1:4) God chose Christ when we chose Christ we are chosen of God

Paul and Barnabas, on their 1st Missionary trip (1st M.E.T), speaking in the Jewish synagogue in Pisidian Antioch said “confessed the good confession of eternal life.” (Acts 13:14, 44-49)

It was there that “Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, ‘It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold we are turning to the Gentiles.’” (Acts 13:44)

This made the Gentiles glad with excitement (Acts 13:44-49) and the Jews mad with incitement (Acts 13:50-52).

Paul responded to the Gentiles excitement by explaining the inclusion rather than exclusion of grace salvation

(Acts 13:48-49) “When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying **the word of the Lord**; and as many as had been (eimi/ impf.a.ind.3pl) appointed (tasso/ perf.p.ptc nplm) [to place in order] to eternal life believed. And the **word of the Lord** was being spread through the whole region.”

NOTE: Eimi + tasso is a pluperfect periphrastic **very intensive** verbal form in context (imperfect eimi) and (perfect participle). “As many as were being placed in order to eternal life believed” is explained in Acts 13:46.

The context is important to the understanding of Acts 13:46-50 (1st M.E.T).

The religious Jews failed to believe and thus failed to take the grace gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46-47). Which resulted in the Gentiles taking it to the world (Acts 1:8; Acts 11-28).

However, it is worth noting that a pivot of Jewish believers did take it to world in Acts 1-2 (Acts 2:5-12, 41).