

Pursue Righteousness
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Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (1 Timothy 6:11b-12 ESV)

"When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade." As it is in matters of this world, so it is in matters of our walk with the Lord God. Everything is struggle. Yet in the end the struggle is already won in Jesus Christ.

As a baptized child of God, you find it difficult every day to "pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness." Your parents' discipline may seem too harsh when you are in need of correction. You may be prone to anger and even rage when siblings and peers tease you...even if the teasing is good-natured. The more you work at pursuing virtue, the more it seems working at it is impossible.

God's standard is perfection. This you cannot achieve by your own reason or strength. You may spend your entire life working to achieve it, but you'll always, ALWAYS, fail.

God knows you'll fail. That is why, out of sheer love for His creation, He sends His Son, Jesus Christ, to achieve it for you. He, as it were, made the lemonade for you. Then He gives it to you to drink as a gift. It may be a bit crass to compare His forgiveness to lemonade but it is an apt comparative. He makes the lemonade and gives it to you to drink in order that you "take hold of the eternal life to which you were called". In so doing, you then make "the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." The good confession is your life in Christ that your neighbor sees. Your neighbor sees Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Cast care aside, lean on your guide;
His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove
Christ is your life and Christ your love. (LSB 664:3)