

Theme: It is the responsibility of every Christian to know, understand, guard, and pass the faith down to the next generation of believers.

I. Intro - Fort Knox Security

- A. I looked at this the other - very impressive!
- B. Natural defenses, military, incredible building and vault
- C. Some say it could actually survive an atomic blast!
- D. So secure - because of what they are guarding!
- E. But we have been given a far greater treasure to guard!

II. The Need: Guard the Deposit of the Faith

- A. Paul tells Timothy to guard the good deposit
What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ **Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you**—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. ² Timothy 1:13–14
 - 1. Paul tells Timothy to guard the good deposit
 - 2. He has been given something and he must guard it
 - 3. Paul has told Timothy this before
Timothy, **guard what has been entrusted to your care.** ¹ Timothy 6:20
 - 4. There is a deposit given which Timothy must guard
- B. The deposit is the faith - what we believe
What you **heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching,** with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ **Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you**—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. ² Timothy 1:13–14

- 1. The good deposit is parallel with Paul's teaching
 - 2. Guarding is parallel with "keeping as the pattern"
 - 3. The good deposit is sound teaching - the faith
 - 4. Refers to the content of our faith - not my personal belief
 - 5. Same theme seen before
Timothy, **guard what has been entrusted to your care.** Turn away from **godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge,** ²¹ **which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith.** Grace be with you. ¹ Timothy 6:20–21
 - a. Entrusted to you opposite of godless chatter/empty sounds
 - b. Entrusted opposite to false knowledge - gnostics
 - c. Other ideas wander from THE faith
 - d. This is the danger in every age - distorting the apostolic teaching so that we wander from the true faith
- C. This is a call for Timothy - and all leaders and believers
 - 1. All leaders have a special call to guard the faith
And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. ² Tim 2:2
 - a. A chain of four generations of leaders
 - b. This is a key part of what leaders are called to do
 - 2. All believers are called to guard the faith

Dear friends... I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. ⁴ For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. Jude 1:3-4

- a. Contend for THE faith once for all entrusted to the saints
 - b. A call for all believers - keep the faith without distortion
 - c. There are always those who change God's grace and deny Jesus
3. The unchanging faith was given to all true believers - and they must all guard it from distortion.

III. The Method: Teaching In the Power of the Spirit

- A. This spiritual work will require the power of the Spirit
- What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. ² Timothy 1:13–14
1. This is spiritual work and requires the Spirit's power
 2. Thanks be to God - the Spirit lives in us!
 3. But we must consciously call out for the Spirit to empower us to guard the faith and to make the faith live through our words
- B. The faith is handed down as we teach the apostolic faith

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1. We don't just "trust the Spirit" - we carefully teach
 2. We don't just teach anything - we follow apostolic doctrine and practice
 3. This teaching must be done by leaders [v13; 2 Tim 2:2]
 4. But it also must be done by each believer as they learn and pass on the faith
- These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:6–7
- a. We are called to learn God's Word
 - b. We are called to pass God's Word on to others
 - c. This includes children, but is more than that - see NT passages like Colossians 3:16
5. It is the responsibility of every Christian to know, understand, guard, and pass the faith down to the next generation of believers.

IV. Catechism - Guarding the Deposit

A. The catechism is now finished!

1. It is on the web site - use QRC go to go there
2. It is being implemented in children's ministry
3. For next several weeks at least we will be providing the Q&A for each class on card for everyone
4. This lets us work on it - & parents with kids at home

B. Why a catechism?

1. Catechism (and everything else!) is under authority of Scripture!
2. Catechism simply refers to careful instruction
He had been **instructed** in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. Acts 18:25
 - a. Used 8x in the NT - also see Galatians 6:6
 - b. Apollos had been catechized carefully - and could teach powerfully
 - c. But his catechizing had been incomplete!
 - d. We must be careful to pass on the faith!
3. This method of Q&A on central beliefs is ancient & effective for kids and adults
4. We consciously related ours to older catechisms - especially Heidelberg and Westminster. The faith did not begin with us! [More below]

C. A quick overview of our catechism

1. The catechism has 98 questions covering central tenets of our faith
2. We have not only Q&A, but also Scriptures, explanatory material, questions for further discussion, a link to other catechisms and even a worship song!
3. The structure of the catechism - guilt, grace, & gratitude and growth. This is the structure of the Gospel!
4. Four key elements memorized in final section:
 - a. The names and order of all 66 biblical books
 - b. The 10 commandments
 - c. The Apostles Creed
 - d. The Lord's Prayer
5. More than information - strives to stoke a passionate response of love and faith. Note the final question:
Question 98: Knowing all of these things, what is your only comfort in life and death?

That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, from this day forth, to live unto him.

V. Applying the Authentic Word

- A. Have you received the deposit of the faith?
1. There is a single faith handed down
 2. The faith - our guilt, God's grace, our response of faith
 3. Have you responded to God's grace by embracing Christ?
 4. Respond in faith today!
- B. Are you guarding and passing on the deposit of the faith?
1. We do not stop at the moment of belief - we grow
 2. This is not just for leaders or spiritual elites - all
 3. Learn your faith - Sundays, catechism great place to start
 4. Are you passing on the faith?
 - a. Parents - you are responsible to do this
 - b. If you child is old enough for KS - old enough to be having devotions
 - c. Use the catechism to help you - and just read to them!
 - d. Everyone - Do you encourage others in their faith?
 - e. Do you help younger believers/kids to learn and grow?
- C. Water baptism of Melissa Blood

Guarding the Deposit of Faith

2 Timothy 1:13-14

September 6, 2015

Prayer

Jude 1:24-25

Teaching keywords: catechism; discipleship; faithfulness; false teaching and heresy; multi-generational perspective and ministry

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. Jude 1:24–25

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. 2 Timothy 1:13–14