

### **Fighting the Good Fight of the Faith**

The great enemy of our souls takes very special delight in our spiritual shortcomings and our failures. The adversary knows all too well that to seduce and entrap one soul in sin, will often result in a ripple effect that will disrupt and harm the lives of everyone around them. To those who belong to the body of Christ, Charles Spurgeon, remarked:

Take heed, for the enemy hath a special eye upon you. You shall have his most subtle insinuations, and incessant solicitations, and violent assaults. As wise and learned as you are, take heed to yourselves lest he outwit you. The devil is a greater scholar than you, and a nimbler disputant; he can transform himself into an angel of light to deceive, he will get within you and trip up your heels before you are even aware; he will play the juggler with you undiscerned, and cheat you of your faith or innocency, and you shall not know that you have lost it: nay, he will make you believe it is multiplied or increased when it is lost. You will see neither hook nor line, much less the subtle angler himself, while he is offering you his bait. And his baits shall be so fitted to your temper and disposition, that he will be sure to find advantages within you, and make our own principles and inclinations to betray you; and whenever he ruineth you, he will make you the instrument of your own ruin.

Christians must take heed to this warning. You must beware of the adversary's strategy. You must beware of his ploys, and his snares, and his subtleties, which are meant for your downfall, which are meant for your destruction. Never forget, not even for a moment, the ongoing reality of the spiritual danger that you face every day.

Our text this morning is 1 Timothy 6:11-16. In this passage, Paul begins his final charge to Timothy, and he gives Timothy four imperatives, or commands, that will help him achieve victory over the strategy and schemes of the adversary.

1 Timothy 6:11-16, But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. [12] 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. [13] I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, [14] to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, [15] which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, [16] who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

In order to achieve victory over the strategy and the schemes of the adversary, we must flee (v11a), we must pursue (v11b), we must fight (v12), and we must keep (v14).

#### **Command #1, We must flee.**

1 Timothy 6:11a, “But as for you, O man of God, flee these things.”

The first command mentioned, the man of God must flee. The man of God must know when he is to flee. In other words, Christians must know what dangers to avoid. Just a good soldier would not carelessly walk into an enemy minefield, or walk into an enemies line of fire, the man of God must know when to make

a tactical withdrawal. He must know when he is to flee.

All throughout the Scriptures, Paul repeatedly reminds us that with certain things, we are to flee. Flee from sexual immorality. Flee from idolatry. Flee from youthful lusts. Flee is the translation of the Greek word, *pheugo*, from which our English word, fugitive is derived. This term means to seek safety by flight. It means to shun or to avoid something abhorrent. It means to escape safely, to escape out of the path of danger. The present tense of this verb indicates that it is a continuous action, which means we are to continually keep on fleeing.

In other words, as a man of God, as a Christian, you are to be continually fleeing. You are to be continually seeking safety by flight. You are to be continually on the run. In this world you are to live as a fugitive. In this life, you are to constantly run away from certain things, for your own good.

Again, remember your adversary –a relentless, attacking enemy, who will stop at nothing to snare and entrap you. Your enemy is strong. Paul referred to him as the prince of this world, the prince of the power of the air. He opposed the LORD Jesus Christ in his ministry. He opposed the disciples in their ministry. All throughout history he has opposed the church, and he will oppose you. Your enemy is restless, he prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. He never sleeps, he never rests, he remains undistracted. He is always going back and forth in the earth, and walking up and down on it. You may be careless about your walk with God, you may be careless about your soul, but he is not. Your enemy is cunning. J.C. Ryle commented,

For a thousands of years he has been reading one book, and that book is the heart of man. He ought to know it well, and he does know it –all its weakness, all its deceitfulness, all its folly. And he has a storehouse full of temptations, such as are most likely to do the heart of man the most harm. Never will you go to the place where he will not find you. Go into the city –he will be there. Go into the wilderness –he will be there also. Sit among drunkards –and he will be there to help you. Listen to preaching –and he will be there to distract you.

The adversary is working hard for you destruction. The adversary is working hard to deceive you, to discredit you, to make your testimony meaningless, and without influence. He is working hard to destroy your marriage. He is working hard to destroy your children, your family, your church. You are the prize for which he is contending, in order that your life will advance his kingdom, and bring great reproach to the name of the LORD our God. And while there is no need to fear our adversary, because greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world, you must never underestimate him.

As Christians, we are in a war. As Christians, we are fugitives. Our lives are lived on the run, constantly fleeing. Fleeing from immorality, fleeing from idolatry, fleeing from youthful lusts, fleeing from all the things that contaminate and corrupt our hearts, and fleeing from things that weaken our resolve to love the LORD your God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind, and to love our neighbor as yourself.

In 1 Timothy 6:11, Timothy is specifically commanded to flee these things. To what things is Paul referring? Paul is here speaking of the things that he had just been warning Timothy about in the previous passage. Timothy was to flee from different doctrine, doctrine that did not agree with the sounds words of the Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness. Timothy was to flee from the false teachers who perpetuated these false doctrines, men of depravity, who were deprived of the truth, and advocates of doctrinal error. Timothy was to flee from the pursuit of money. Timothy was to flee from the love of money, and all of the bitter fruits that accompany it: envy, greed, discontent, foolish desire, and dissension.

The adversary uses all of these things to trip us up, and keep us down, and restricts us from following

the LORD Jesus Christ with our whole hearts, which is why we must flee from all of these things. We must turn away from all of these things. We must run away from all of these things. We must never look back. In order to achieve victory over the strategy and schemes of the adversary, we must flee.

**Command #2, we must pursue.**

1 Timothy 6:11, “But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.”

There is much, much, more to avoiding sin, than simply retreat. There is much, much, more to avoiding sin, than simply fleeing. If you run away from one sin, and do nothing else, then you will run right into the arms of another sin. In his commentary on the book of 1 Timothy, Philip Graham Ryken remarked that the human heart is like a popular ride at an amusement park: sins are lined up at the entrance to the ride, waiting for a chance to get on and enjoy the ride. The adversary is more than happy for a sin to get off the ride, every now and again, provided another sin can climb on board and take its place. In other words, the man who successfully fights off sexual temptation, may yet become prideful and arrogant; substituting one sin for another. The woman who successfully controls her tongue, may yet become resentful or bitter; also substituting one sin for another.

Godliness, true godliness, is much more than merely exchanging one sin for another sin. True godliness is much more, than exchanging a really bad sin, for one that is more socially accepted. True godliness, means that you will exchange your sin, not with other sins, but with righteousness. True godliness exchanges vice with virtue. You put off that which is displeasing to God, and you put on that which is pleasing to God, and you do this by being renewed in the spirit of your minds.

In fact, this is the formula for how to grow and change. Authentic spiritual growth comes from putting off, putting on, and renewing your mind. Turn with me for a moment to the book of Ephesians.

Ephesians 4:22-24, “to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

The formula for spiritual growth is laid out in these verses. As you study the word of God, as you obey the word of God, as you present your body as a living and holy sacrifice to God, the transforming power of the Holy Spirit will renew your mind, and enable you to lay aside the old self, and your old sinful practices, as you put on the new self, with holy and righteous practices.

Let me give you some examples. Ephesians 4:25-32.

V25, “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.”

What are we to put off in this verse? Falsehood. And what are we to put on? Truth.

VV26-27, “Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.”

What is the put off? Sinful anger. What is the put on? Reconciliation, before the sun goes down.

V28, “Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.”

What is the put off? Theft. What is the put on? Hard work and sharing.

V29, "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."

What is the put off? Corrupting talk. What is the put on? Edifying words; words that build up, words that encourage, words that comfort.

In v31, the put off is bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and all malice. In v32, the put on is kindness, being tenderhearted, and forgiving, as God in Christ forgave you.

How do you grow and change? By putting off, by putting on, and being renewed in the spirit of your minds. As you read the Scriptures, you should be asking yourself, "Is there a command here that I need to keep? Is there an example that I need to be following? Does my life line up with what is being said? Is there any area of my life that does not conform to what I just read? What do I need to put off? And what do I need to put on, in its place? And what biblical passage will drive my thoughts and my actions?"

If you have a tendency to have impure thoughts towards your neighbor or your co-worker, put off the impure thoughts, by putting on pure thoughts. Pray for their salvation, pray for their walk with God, pray for their marriage, pray for their family, pray for their purity, and pray that God would bless them; put off, and put on. If you have a tendency to be selfish in your relationships, put off selfish attitudes, by putting on selfless attitudes. Consider others as more important than yourself, strive to serve others, go out of your way to meet their needs –put off, and put on.

The end goal of studying the Scriptures is obedience. It is personal application. It is applying the text to your life, making the text come alive in your life, and walking in obedience to its truth. This principle, is one of the easiest ways to practically apply the Scriptures to your life.

As sinners each one of us have problem areas in our lives, and we need to be diligently working on these problem areas. If you do not know of any problem areas in your life, ask your spouse, ask your children, ask a close friend. We all have blind spots, areas in which we think we are doing okay, in but actuality not so much. And many times we need other godly, and mature believers, to help us see and identify these areas of our lives.

In 2012, Laura and I left Massachusetts, and moved to Barrie, Ontario, to help plant a church. But the only way that Canada would accept a non-Canadian to pastor a church would be if a Canadian denomination supported and invited me into the country. So, I became a pastor with the CNBC, the Canadian National Baptist Convention, which is essentially the Southern Baptist Convention in Canada. But before I was accepted, I had to jump through a handful of hoops, and one of these hoops was a personality assessment that sought to identify any problem areas, or blind spots, that may surface in my life and my ministry. And according to their assessment I had 23 blind spots. Now 23 blind spots is a lot of blind spots, I mean it was over two pages long. I am not sure I agreed with every one of them, but I was more surprised at Laura's assessment, according to the CNBC she did not have any blind spots, only hidden strengths. It was very obvious that there was a Canadian bias to the test.

Self examination is a very important discipline. Often times, we are blinded to our faults. Time must be spend in prayerful self examination, and we must take the findings of our shortcomings, and line them up with the Scriptures. Self examination can be painful, and you will probably find some blind spots, maybe not two pages worth, but you will find enough, and once they are identified start to diligently work on them.

To grow in our walk with the LORD Jesus Christ we must work out our salvation with fear and trembling –we must put off, we must put on, we must be renewed in the spirit of our minds, we must spend

time in self examination, we must flee sin, and we must pursue righteousness.

In v11, Paul commands Timothy to flee these things, and to pursue six virtues. We must pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness. Righteousness refers to doing what is right on the outside. It looks towards our outward behavior. It is not referring to the imputed righteousness of the LORD Jesus Christ, which comes from our justification, but the practical righteousness that is the result of our sanctification, our moment by moment submission and obedience to the word of God; a life that is marked by obedience to the commandments of the LORD. Godliness refers to doing what is right on the inside. It has more to do with our attitudes and our motives. Godliness refers to our reverence for God, which flows out of our worshiping heart.

Notice the relationship that exists between righteousness and godliness. One produces the other, one proceeds from the other. Righteous deeds proceed from righteous motives. Righteous actions proceed from righteous attitudes. Righteous behavior, proceeds from a righteous heart.

The next two virtues that Paul calls Timothy to pursue are the internal virtues of faith and love. Faith refers to our confident trust in the LORD God for everything. The man of God will trustfully resign himself, and all of his affairs, into the capable hands of the LORD God, being absolutely satisfied with his providence. Love refers to our affections for the LORD God, and it refers to our affections towards man. The man of God must diligently pursue the great and foremost commandment.

Matthew 22:37-39, “And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

The last two virtues, that we are called to pursue are the virtues of steadfastness and gentleness. Steadfastness is often translated as perseverance, or patience. The term literally means to remain under. It refers to one who is not swayed from his loyalty to faith and piety, by even the greatest of trials, and greatest of sufferings. Steadfastness is the ability to stand fast. It is the ability to stand firm, to dig in, and be unmovable. It is not a passive or fatalistic resignation, but rather a triumphant, unwavering loyalty to the LORD God, even in the midst of great difficulty. A Christian who pursues steadfastness will be able to stick with it, whatever the task, whatever the cost, for however long it lasts.

Gentleness refers to possessing a mild, kind, and humble disposition, which consequently, comes in very handy in relating to those in the church. In one of Aesop's Fables, the fable of the North Wind and the Sun. The North Wind and the Sun had a contest to see which was the stronger. A traveler comes along, wrapped in a warm cloak and they agreed that the one who succeeds in making the traveler take off his cloak first, should be considered stronger than the other. So the North Wind blows and blows as hard as he can, but the more he blows, the more closely the traveler holds on to his cloak, and finally the North Wind gives up. The Sun, then shines out warmly his rays upon the traveler, and immediately he takes off his coat, and rests in the warmth of the sun. So North Wind concedes defeat and confesses that the Sun is indeed stronger.

Gentleness is often more effective than being harsh. The truth, when presented in a harsh and unloving tone, will often make men cling to their sins, and cling their self-righteousness even more tightly. The truth when presented in a harsh and unloving tone will often have the exact opposite effect of that which is desired. But presenting the truth in gentleness, presenting the truth in love, is far more effective and far more fruitful. Jonathan Edwards remarked:

It is the duty of God's people to be steadfast and vigorous in their opposition to the designs and ways of such as are endeavoring to overthrow the kingdom of Christ and the interest of religion. If therefore, we see any of the followers of Christ, in the midst of the most violent, unreasonable and wicked opposition, of God's and his own enemies, maintaining, under all this temptation, the

humility and quietness and gentleness of a lamb, and the harmlessness and love and sweetness of a dove, we may well judge that here is a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

We must diligently pursue righteousness and godliness. We must diligently pursue faith and love. We must diligently pursue steadfastness and gentleness.

In order to achieve victory over the strategy and schemes of the adversary, we must flee and we must pursue.

### **Command #3, we must fight.**

1 Timothy 6:12, "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."

It is important to remember that to be called as a Christian, is to be called into a fierce and raging battle. True Christianity is a battle. It is a battle against the flesh. It is a battle against the world. It is a battle against the rulers, the authorities, the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. This is not a battle in which you can stay neutral. This is not a battle in which you can stay still. You cannot claim peace with the world, and peace with the LORD God.

James 4:4, "You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

You have no choice or option in the matter, you must fight. Fight is the translation of the Greek word, *agonizomai*, from which our English word agonize is derived. It was used in both military and athletic contexts to describe the concentration, the discipline, the conviction, and the effort needed to win. The present tense of this verb indicates that it is also a continuous action. Just as we are to keep on fleeing, and pursuing, we are also to keep on fighting. Fighting for the faith.

What does it mean to fight for the faith? The term faith is referring to the Scriptures; to all of the Scriptures; to the entire body of Christian truth. As Jude 3 states, "Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints." For the man of God, all of his concentration, all of his discipline, all of his conviction, and all of his effort should be focused on upholding and defending the faith; you must defend the truth of the word of God.

You must fight for the veracity of the Scriptures, for the truthfulness of the Scriptures. You must fight for the authority, the inerrancy, the infallibility, and the sufficiency of the Scriptures. You must fight for the holiness of God. The LORD God cannot, and will not overlook sin. The LORD God will take vengeance upon his adversaries. The LORD God will judge the world in justice and righteousness. The LORD God is indeed a consuming fire. You must fight for the depravity of man. All men, without exception, are born into a state of sin and misery. There is none righteousness. There is none who seek God. There is no one who does good. There is no exception. From conception, all men are born guilty, and all men are born rightfully deserving of hell. You must fight for the person of the LORD Jesus Christ; that he is both God and man. You must fight for the work of the LORD Jesus Christ, the substitutionary atonement. You must fight for the bodily resurrection, maintaining that Jesus Christ is the risen Lord. From Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, you must contend and fight for the truth of God.

Do you contend for the truth of God? Do you take offense when the name of the LORD God is blasphemed? Do you take offense when the word of the LORD God is belittled? Do you fight for the truth of God? Do you fight the good fight of faith?

In our pluralistic and accepting society, it can be very easy to forget that we are in a fight. It can be very easy to forget that there is a spiritual battle that is raging all around us. I think one of the most effective strategies of the adversary is distraction. He blinds our eyes to the battle. He blinds our eyes to the fight, by distracting us with the pleasures and comforts of this world. Paul reminds us of the truth of this battle.

Ephesians 6:10-13, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."

Are you fully prepared for the battle? Today, are you fully prepared to stand firm against the schemes of the devil? Today, are you prepared to battle the rulers, the authorities, the cosmic powers over this present darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places? The truth of the matter is that many in the church are not.

Let me ask you a couple of questions. Do you spend more time picking out and arranging your daily clothes, or do you spend more time preparing for the spiritual battle that lies in the day ahead? When was the last time you thought about your armor? When was the last time you thought through the significance of each piece of armor? Do you daily gird you loins with truth? Do you daily put on the breastplate of righteousness? Do you daily shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace? Do you daily arm yourself with the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit, and all prayer? Do you even know the significance of each piece of armor?

In order to take full advantage of the strength of God's might, you must put on the armor of God, you must put on the provision that God has provided. And, you must:

1 Timothy 6:12, "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."

Paul here is making reference to a confession that Timothy had made, probably at the time of his baptism, when he publicly professed his faith, and Paul is reminding him of what is at stake, eternity. Paul is telling Timothy, to take hold of eternal life. Appropriate it, grasp it, grab it, hold onto it, never let it go. As a soldier in the Kings army, as a soldier fighting the good fight, live and minister in the light of eternity. Do not minister for what you can get out of this world, but rather set your mind on the eternal things above. Paul himself, tried to live his life in this same way.

Philippians 3:12-14, "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Paul recognized that eternal life is for now, as well as for later. Eternal life is a present possession, and it is a future hope. As Paul pressed on toward the goal, so should you press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

In order to achieve victory over the strategy and schemes of the adversary, we must flee, we must pursue, and we must fight.

**Command #4, We must keep.**

What exactly are we to keep? The commandment.

1 Timothy 6:13-15, “I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.”

The commandment, to which Paul is referring, is the word of God. There is no limiting feature that narrows the definition, so we should understand the term commandment in its most broad sense. We are to keep the whole law of God, we are to keep the whole law of Christ, we are to keep the entire rule of faith; we are to keep the commandment.

Notice in v13 the strongly worded preamble to keeping the commandment. Paul charges Timothy, in the presence of God, in the presence of Christ Jesus, to keep the commandment without stain, and without reproach.

Paul’s charge to Timothy is also applicable to the church. In the presence of God, in the presence of the LORD Jesus Christ, we are charged with being faithful to the truth; we are charged with being defenders of the truth; we are to maintain a life and testimony that is without spot, without rebuke, that is blameless and above reproach; and we must follow these commands until the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time. On this passage Matthew Henry remarked:

He charges him as he will answer it at the great day to that God whose eyes are upon us all, who sees what we are and what we do: God who gives life to all things, who has life in himself and is the fountain of life. This should quicken us to the service of God that we serve a God who gives life to all things. He charges him before Christ Jesus, to whom in a peculiar manner he stood related as a minister of his gospel: who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession. Observe, Christ died not only as a sacrifice, but as a martyr; and he witnessed a good confession when he was arraigned before Pilate, saying, My kingdom is not of this world: I am come to bear witness unto the truth. That good confession of his before Pilate, My kingdom is not of this world, should be effectual to draw off all his followers, both ministers and people, from the love of this world.

This world is passing away along with its desires. The LORD Jesus Christ will return and sweep away every one of our enemies, but until then, we must keep the commandment unstained and above reproach, no blemish, or legitimate accusation is to mar our witness for the LORD Jesus Christ. Our doctrine, and our practice must not bring disrepute to the LORD Jesus Christ, to his church, or to his gospel.

To be ready and prepared for spiritual battle, the man of God must know when he is to flee, the man of God must know what he is to pursue, the man of God must fight the good fight, and the man of God must keep the commandment.

Paul concludes this passage with a short song of victory, to help motivate and encourage Timothy and his readers.

1 Timothy 6:15b-16, “He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.”

God is invincible. Our God is far, far, above and beyond, everyone and everything. He is the blessed and only Sovereign. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Our God is the absolute, supreme ruler over all that is, over all that was, and over all that will be. He rules over all kings, over all kingdom, and over



all lords. God is immortal. Our God alone possesses immortality. He has life in himself, and every created thing, depends on him for their existence and their sustenance. God is inaccessible. Our God dwells in unapproachable light. Our God is transcendent. Our God is totally beyond our understanding. Darkness of any shape or form, whether falsehood or evil, cannot enter into his presence, let alone overcome him. God is invisible. No one can see God. No one has seen God in his full brilliance and majesty. Had he not revealed himself and come out of his holy habitation, man would have absolutely no knowledge of him.

There is nothing that will motive you more than a clear picture of our majestic God and Father. There is nothing that will motivate you more than a clear understanding of the LORD God –an understanding of his nature, and understanding of his attributes, and understanding of his works. Knowing the LORD God is our encouragement and our motivation for fleeing, pursuing, fighting, and keeping.

If we are to please and glorify the LORD God, if we are to walk in manner worthy of the LORD our God, if we are to be victorious over the strategy and schemes of the adversary, then we must:

1. Flee all of these things.
2. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness.
3. Fight the good fight of the faith.
4. Keep the commandment.

If you strive to keep these four commands, then you will do well. If you strive to keep these four commands then you will be victorious in the battles that lie ahead. Remember and practice each one of these commands: flee, pursue, fight, and keep.