

O MAN OF GOD!

1 Timothy 6:11-12

INTRODUCTION

- While Timothy ministered to the many different groups of people in the church, it was vital that he did not neglect his own spiritual health.
- We tend to be better at pointing out other people's problems and shortcomings than our own
- But we must "look to ourselves" (2 John 8)
- Paul understood this very well (1 Corinthians 9:27)
- Paul describes Timothy as a "man of God".
- The title, "man of God", is often used of prophets in Scripture: Eg, Moses (Deuteronomy 33:1), Samuel (1 Sam. 9:6), Elijah (1 Kings 17:18), Elisha, 2 Kings 4:7) David (Nehemiah 12:24)

What does it take to be a "man of God"?

I. FLEE SINFUL WAYS

- A. In the context this refers to covetousness and false teaching (6:3-10)
 1. The love of money will destroy a Christian's usefulness to God
 2. Error is to be completely separated from (2 Thessalonians 3:14)
- B. There are numerous admonitions to *flee* in the New Testament
 1. Fornication (1 Corinthians 6:18; cf. Genesis 39:12)
 2. Idolatry (1 Corinthians 10:14)
 3. Youthful lusts(2 Timothy 2:22)

- C. Easily besetting sins must be laid aside (Hebrews 12:1-2)
- D. We must flee sins of the flesh and of the spirit (cf. Genesis 19:26)

II. FOLLOW A SCRIPTURAL WALK

A. Righteousness

- 1. Imputed (2 Peter 1:9)
- 2. Practical (Matthew 6:33; 5:6)
- 3. It means all attitudes and actions in harmony with what God calls right

B. Godliness

- 1. A devotion to God which results in a pious life
- 2. Godliness requires exercise (1 Timothy 4:7)
- 3. Spiritual health is of more importance than physical health (1 Timothy 4:8)

C. Faith

- 1. Faithfulness or fidelity
- 2. This is an active reliance upon God (See Hebrews 11)
- 3. Faith is cultivated by the word of God (Romans 10:17)
- 4. We must be on guard against unbelief in our hearts (Hebrews 3:12)

D. Love

- 1. Love is sacrificial devotion to the needs of others (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)
- 2. Love is what characterises the true believer (John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:14)
- 3. Love is to be extended to our enemies (Matthew 5:44)

4. This love comes only from God (1 Thessalonians 4:9; 3:12)

E. Patience

1. A faithful continuance through adverse or discouraging circumstances

2. It could also be translated as “endurance”

3. Tribulation works patience in the believer (Romans 5:3; James 1:2-4)

4. Christ set the example of patient endurance in his suffering (Hebrews 12:1-4)

F. Meekness

1. Meekness is not weakness, but power under control

2. Where patience relates to circumstances, meekness relates to people

3. The believer is to be meek and gentle, even towards those in opposition (2 Timothy 2:24-26)

III. FIGHT IN THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A. The word “fight” is taken from the athletic contests in the Grecian games

1. The Greek word is *agônizou* from which we get “agonize”.

2. It describes a person straining and giving his best to win the prize

B. There are no short-cuts to sanctification

1. Just as the great athletes succeed through much training and effort, so the man of God obtains the prize by much spiritual striving and exertion

C. This is the “good fight”

1. It is good because of its Author and Captain (Hebrews 12:2; 5:9)
 2. It is good because of its weapons (2 Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:14-18)
 3. It is good because of its effects
 4. It is good because of its longevity
- D. We are to “lay hold” on eternal life
1. This does not mean to work in order to gain eternal life
 2. It means to live with regard to eternal things
 3. The man of God who possesses eternal life, ought to live in a way that prepares for the next world
 4. We are to lay up treasures in heaven, not on earth (Matt 6:20)
 5. We are to set our affections on things above (Colossians 3:2)
- E. The believer is to have a good profession
1. This refers particularly to Timothy’s baptism (Romans 6:3-4)
 2. A good profession means to give evidence of one’s salvation.
 3. Not all Christian professions are “good” (Titus 1:16; Jam. 2:17)
 4. We must be always mindful of our testimony before the world and our influence on others

CONCLUSION

What sinful things in my life must I flee from?

What godly things are lacking in my life that I must follow?

Can my Christianity really be described as a “fight”?

At the end of my life, will I be able to say, “I have fought a good fight?” (2 Timothy 4:7-8)