

1 Timothy 6:11-16; 20-21

6-19-05

“Flee, Follow, Fight, & Fasten!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Quote the Perfect Husband!**
 - 1.1.1. **Book** – Thanks, good job, & we seek to honor & better equip you.
 - 1.1.2. **Pray for Dad’s** – Empower by Spirit to be men you want them to be.
 - 1.1.2.1. Grant desire to be a **faithful disciple** of Jesus.
 - 1.1.2.2. **Walk** in Christ. **Live** in Christ. **Work** as unto Christ.
 - 1.1.2.3. May their **home** be a place of refuge where they **renew there strength**.
 - 1.1.2.4. Most fathers are **willing to die** for their children – but most aren’t **willing to live** for them!

2. **FLEE, FOLLOW, FIGHT, & FASTEN! (11-16)**

- 2.1. **Following orders!**
 - 2.1.1. We’ve all have **given** orders, & all have **followed** orders.
 - 2.1.2. To the Toddler, *“Get out of the street!” “Don’t pull kitty’s fur!”*
 - 2.1.3. Sometimes there’s time for *discussion*; other times, *“just do it because I said!”*
 - 2.1.4. **Following orders can even save your life!**
 - 2.1.4.1. They might only be one word! – *“Duck!” “Move!” “Watch out!”*
- 2.2. **All of God’s Word is instructive, but it instructs in a variety of ways!**
 - 2.2.1. These can be divided into **Precepts & Principles**.¹
 - 2.2.2. **Principles** – *are broader*. Require more digging. They address the “gray areas”.
 - 2.2.2.1. Principles help us to answer questions **like**: *“How much should I be in the world in order to evangelize the lost?”*
 - 2.2.2.2. *“When do I step over the line of enjoying my freedom & begin abusing it?”*
 - 2.2.3. **Precepts** – *are direct moral commands*. They are black & white.
 - 2.2.3.1. 10 commandments. Jesus’ Great commission.
 - 2.2.3.2. They call for a response of **obedience**.
 - 2.2.3.3. To **disobey** is serious consequences.
- 2.3. **This section Paul Packs with Precepts!**
 - 2.3.1. *Flee, Follow, Fight, & Fasten onto...* & we **cannot** confuse them!
- 2.4. How appropriate for today, *“But you O man of God!”*
 - 2.4.1. Moses, David, Samuel, Elijah, & Elisha was called *“man of God”*.
 - 2.4.2. It refers to, *“one who is in God’s service, represents God, & speaks in His name.”*

¹ Chuck Swindoll; pg.139

- 2.5. **FLEE!** – Sometimes the **bravest** thing to do in the Christian life is **run away!**
- 2.5.1. Paul isn't elevating cowardice! – It's a **spiritual Strategy!**
- 2.5.2. **Did Jesus ever have to flee?** (As a babe to Egypt) (Naz synagogue)
- 2.5.3. **Paul?** – in Acts, they let down the city wall in a basket. (9:25)
- 2.5.4. Here it means, flee the bad doctrine, greed, & so on. (3-10)
- 2.5.4.1. *Present Imperative* indicates a **continuing action!**
- 2.5.4.2. **"Keep on fleeing these things; make it a habit, a lifestyle."**
- 2.5.5. Didn't Paul say to the church in Ephesus, **"having done all, stand"?**
- 2.5.6. [a] When **tempted**...**Flee!**
- 2.5.7. [b] When **attacked** from Satan for being right...**Stand!**²
- 2.5.8. Fleeing is what **saved Joseph**(Potiphar's wife) [no reason to stay & reason]
- 2.5.9. Not Fleeing is what **killed Samson**(instead he enjoyed those late night couch sessions with De-liar/Delilah & Jay Leno!)
- 2.5.9.1. [Dating couples...flee that "late-night couch fellowship"]
- 2.5.9.2. Indulge in **"sanctified flight"**! {Kent Hughes}
- 2.6. The **6 virtues** describe the **lifestyle** of balanced spirituality that ought to characterize a Christian.
- 2.7. Some are content in their Christianity with just **fleeing godlessness!**
- 2.7.1. **Running from wrong** is only half the plan for godliness.
We must also **Run toward what is right!**
- 2.8. **FOLLOW!** – Pursue. (lit.) to hunt.
- 2.8.1. The **6 virtues** describe the **lifestyle** of balanced spirituality that ought to characterize every Christian.
- 2.8.1.1. These produce a life well spoken of on **earth & heaven**.
- 2.8.2. The **Christlike life** doesn't just happen! - It's **deliberate**. It requires **focus, discipline, & a dependence** on the One who himself possess all those traits.³
- 2.8.3. John Stott – "We are simply to **run from evil** as we run from danger, & to **run after godliness** as we run after success. That is, we have to give our mind, time & energy to both flight & pursuit."
- 2.9. **FIGHT!** - Funny, right after the exhortation toward **"gentleness"** he tells us to **fight!** – **Contradiction? No!**
- 2.9.1. Different from **1:18** – (i.e. to fight as a soldier)
- 2.9.2. Here, the Greek word carries the idea of **"contending for a prize in the Olympic games."**

² John Gershner

³ Chuck Swindoll; pg.141

- 2.9.3. Athletic competition requires discipline, training, & movement toward a specific goal (here the tape is...eternal life).
- 2.9.4. This shows that our faith is going to be at least **a struggle** for the truth of the gospel. [lit. "agonize the good agony"]
- 2.9.5. **Fight through what?** - Fight through the tears at the **graveside** that are in the shape of question marks; Fight through that **debilitating illness**; Fight through that **seemingly needless handicap**; Fight through that **severe frustration** with your mate; Fight through the **business decisions** that went from bad to worse; Fight through your anti-Christian professor; Fight through the medias bombardment upon your mind; Fight through religious rationalism disguised as up-to-date Biblical scholarship; Fight through your doubts, fears, weaknesses, ulterior motives. **Ok, but how???**
- 2.9.5.1. Rom.8:27 "**we are more than conquerors, through Him...**"
- 2.9.5.2. **Luther** had to lean on Jesus with his mental & emotional struggles! - **Spurgeon** had to lean on Jesus with his Gout! – **Fanny Crosby** with her blindness! – **Richard Baxter** with all his illnesses which gave him "a holy earnestness".
- 2.9.6. **And what do we fight with?**
- 2.9.7. **1st Weapon = Godly living.**
- 2.9.7.1. The most convincing apologetic of our Christian faith is its life-changing power.
- 2.9.7.2. **Pretentious talk** w/o **godly walk** is an arrow w/pretty feathers, but a blunted point.⁴
- 2.9.7.3. **Our 1st weapon is Christlike behavior.**
- 2.9.8. **2nd Weapon = confess that good confession in the presence of many witnesses.** (12b)
- 2.9.8.1. We must speak forth our confession of our faith otherwise we are like a **noble statue**. Beautiful but dumb.⁵
- 2.9.9. Fight the good fight of faith...which some have **strayed** from(10, 21)
- 2.10. **FASTEN!** – Lay hold. (lit.) to get a good grip on.
- 2.10.1. **Eternal Life** – is our motivation to stay in the fight! To keep contending for the faith.
- 2.10.1.1. He doesn't mean "*save yourself Timothy*"!
- 2.10.1.2. He means **get a grip** on eternal kind of living, Timothy!
2.10.1.2.1. "**Grab it for all its worth, live it to the full!**"
- 2.10.1.3. **Grab on**(fasten on), & **don't stop grabbing!** – Like a Pit-Bull; **not like** a weak-handshake. It's that grip you see when the stuntman jumps & grabs onto the helicopters rail as it leaves the building. (**seize it, & let it seize you up!**)

⁴ J. Sidlow Baxter; pg.253

⁵ Ibid; pg.253

- 2.10.2. In **contrast** to Cain, Nimrod, Lot, Esau, Samson who lived only for the life that is now. – They tried to “*lay hold of the temporary life!*”
- 2.10.2.1. **1st** - Lay hold of **Jesus** and you lay hold of **eternal life!**
- 2.10.2.2. “**And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**”
- 2.10.2.3. **Then**, get a grip on that eternal kind of living.
- 2.10.2.3.1. **Like** a man **dying of thirst** who grabs the rescuers water bottle with a death grip.
- 2.10.2.3.2. **Like** a man who just found a **buried treasure**.
- 2.10.2.3.3. **Like** a **drowning man** who lays hold of the rescuers rope as his life-line.
- 2.10.3. **Story** - Years ago a small boat capsized not far above Niagara Falls. 2 men were left struggling against the strong, downward current. A **thin rope** was flung out, & both managed to grasp it. **Then a large log** came floating by, & one man let go the rope to grab the log – it looked so much more substantial. Soon log & man were swept over the Falls; but the man who clung to the rope was saved.
- 2.10.3.1. It is that **thin rope** of faith which saves; you hold at this end, the Savior pulls at the other.
- 2.11. **KEEP!** (13-15)
- 2.12. (13) Strong Charge w/a double witness!
- 2.12.1. Jesus’ good confession before Pilate was his model!
- 2.13. (14) **Keep** – Like Robertson McQuilkin’s poem, “Mourning in the hollow chambers of memory, Gazing on the faded banners of victories long gone. Cannot I run well unto the end? Lord, let me get home before dark.”
- 2.13.1. **This commandment** -
- 2.14. (15,16) **A majestic Benediction!** – Praising God’s Sovereignty.
- 2.14.1. Though your calling might be intense & immense, the God who calls you is far greater, & He will enable you to do it.
- 2.15. **GUARDING & AVOIDING!** (20-21)
- 2.16. “Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care.” (NIV)
- 2.17. **GUARD!** –
- 2.17.1. **Trust** – **παραθήκη** [paratheke] a deposit, a trust or thing consigned to one’s faithful keeping⁶
- 2.17.1.1. When it was demanded back, it was a sacred duty to hand it back in its entirety.

⁶Strong, J. (1996). *The exhaustive concordance of the Bible* : (electronic ed.) (G3866).

- 2.17.2. (Barclay) Sometimes children [in Roman society] were called *paratheke*, a sacred trust.
 - 2.17.2.1. If the gods gave a man a child, it was **his duty** to present that child trained & equipped to the gods.
 - 2.17.2.2. **We are not only the possessors but also the trustees of the faith!**
 - 2.17.2.2.1. Whatever we have received from God we must return to him.
- 2.17.3. You have a deposit, the pure faith of the gospel, to guard & invest!
 - 2.17.3.1. See 2 Tim. 1:12b (same word used, “committed”).
- 2.17.4. St. Leo (5th Century) What is meant by “committed/deposited”?
 - That which is committed to thee, **not** that which is invented by thee;
 - That which though hast received, **not** that which thou hast devised;
 - A thing **not** of wit, but of learning;
 - Not** of private assumption, but of public tradition;
 - A thing brought to thee, **Not** brought forth of thee;
 - Wherein thou must not be an author, but a keeper;
 - Not** a leader but a follower; **Keep the deposit!**
- 2.17.5. We have received gold, & we must render gold!
- 2.18. **AVOID!** – guard by avoiding.
 - 2.18.1. Stay focused on the deposit. Preach the Word; deliver the gospel.
 - 2.18.2. Just test the **counterfeit currency** up against the **true currency**.
- 2.19. **Grace** – the very thing the false teachers came to rob, steal & destroy!
 - 2.19.1. Oh guard the truth of God’s good Grace Saints.
 - 2.19.1.1. It is the universe’s richest treasure!
 - 2.19.1.2. Guard it well & share it freely!