1 Timothy 6:11-16; 20-21

"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 media 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/prettty 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. 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 rescuer’s 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 rescuer’s 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 -


2.14.1. 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 keeping

2.17.1.1. When it was demanded back, it was a sacred duty to hand it back in its entirety.

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 thou 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!