

The Walk of A Man of God

I Timothy 6:11 - 12 (& II Timothy 2:22)

1 Timothy 6

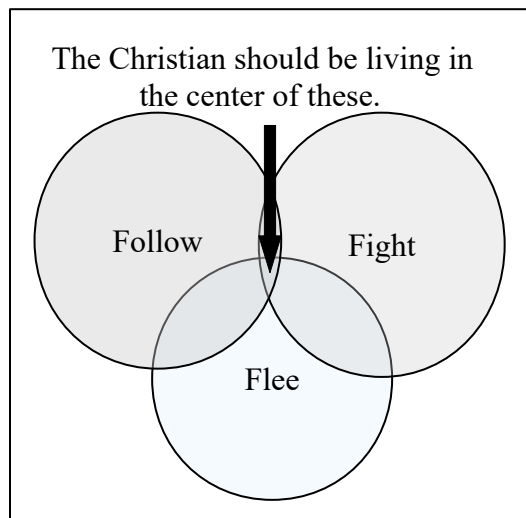
11 But thou, O man of God, **flee** these things; and **follow** after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

12 Fight the good **fight** of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

2 Timothy 2

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.



Last week we talked about balancing our time but this week we talk about how we are to balance our focus in life. It's kind of like driving down the road of life and staying between the lines on the road.

I. Things we need to FLEE from

Which illustration best illustrates your idea of fleeing?

- A Child who sits on the edge of the kitchen floor (when you have told him not to come into the kitchen since you didn't want him to ruin his appetite with cookies)
- A person like Joseph in the OT when he fled from Potiphar's wife.

*Strong's Definition: "(apparently a primary verb; to **run away** (literally or figuratively); by implication, to shun; by analogy, to vanish:--**escape, flee** (away).)"*

-Immorality -(Fornication)

1 Cor. 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

-Idolatry

1 Cor. 10:14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

(The Children of Israel had turned to idolatry)

*An Idol is anything that comes between you and your relationship with God!

*"Idolatry is worshiping anything that ought to be used, or using anything that ought to be worshiped." -Augustine.¹

*"What other gods could we have besides the Lord? Plenty. For Israel there were the Canaanite Baals, those jolly nature gods whose worship was a rampage of gluttony, drunkenness, and ritual prostitution. For us there are still the great gods **Sex, Shekels, and Stomach (an unholy trinity constituting one god: self)**, and the other **enslaving trio, Pleasure, Possessions, and Position, whose worship is described as "The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life" (1 John 2:16)**. Football, the Firm, and Family are also gods for some. Indeed the list of other gods is endless, for anything that anyone allows to run his life becomes his god and the claimants for this prerogative are legion. In the matter of life's basic loyalty, temptation is a many-headed monster."

-James Packer, Your Father Loves You, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986.²

-Immature desires & longings

2Ti 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

-Fleeing youthful desires

Lust - (Strong's) "*a **longing** (especially for what is forbidden):-- concupiscence, **desire**, lust (after).*"

Annotated Bible Notes - "Timothy was yet in the prime of life, see 1Ti 4:12 when the passions are strong."

-Examples of youthful lusts:

*Guy / girl relationships

A word of caution to be careful - touching, thinking about etc.

Be careful not to idolize them.

*Passion for the things of the world. (To be like them - We need to be separated from the world)

-In our Dress

-Hairstyles

-Actions

-Motives.

1 Augustine. Internet Source: <http://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/i/idolatry.htm> . Accessed 1/7/17.

2 James Packer, Your Father Loves You, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986. Internet Source: <http://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/i/idolatry.htm> . Accessed. 1/7/17.

***Discontentment and evil speaking**

1Ti 6:4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, {proud: or, a fool} {doting: or, sick}

5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: **from such withdraw thyself.**

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

"He is proud. That is, he is lifted up with his fancied superior acquaintance with the nature of religion. The Greek verb means properly to smoke, to fume; and then to be inflated, to be conceited, etc. The idea is, that he has no proper knowledge of the nature of the gospel, and yet he values himself on a fancied superior acquaintance with its principles.

Knowing nothing. Marg., a fool. That is, that he does not understand the nature of religion as he supposes he does. His views in regard to the relation of masters and servants, and to the bearing of religion on that relation, show that he does not understand the genius of Christianity. The apostle expresses this in strong language, by saying that he knows nothing. See Barnes for 1Co 8:2.

But doting. Marg., sick. The Greek word-- nosew --means properly to be sick; then to languish, to pine after. The meaning here is, that such persons had a sickly or morbid desire for debates of this kind. They had not a sound and healthy state of mind on the subject of religion. They were like a sickly man, who has no desire for solid and healthful food, but for that which will gratify a diseased appetite. They desired no sound doctrine, but controversies about unimportant and unsubstantial matters--things that bore the same relation to important doctrines which the things that a sick man pines after do to substantial food.

Questions and strifes of words. The Jews abounded much in disputes of this sort, and it would seem probable that the persons here referred to were Jewish teachers. See Barnes for 1Ti 1:6; See Barnes for 1Ti 1:7; See Barnes for Ac 18:15.

Whereof cometh envy. The only fruit of which is to produce envy. That is the appearance of superior knowledge;

the boast of being profoundly acquainted with religion, and the show of an ability for subtle argumentation, would produce in a certain class envy. Envy is uneasiness, pain, mortification, or discontent, excited by another's prosperity, or by his superior knowledge or possessions. See Barnes for Ro 1:29.

Strife. Or contentions with those who will not readily yield to their opinions.

Railings. Harsh and abusive language towards those who will not concede a point--a common effect of disputes, and more commonly of disputes about small and unimportant matters, than of those which are of magnitude. Such railings often attend disputes that arise out of nice and subtle distinctions.

Evil surmisings. Suspicions that they are led to hold their views, not by the love of the truth, but from sordid or worldly motives. Such suspicions are very apt to attend an angry debate of any kind. It might be expected peculiarly to exist on such a question as the apostle refers to here--the relation of a master and slave. It is always very hard to do justice to the motives of one who seems to us to be living in sin, or to believe it to be possible that he acts from right motives." -Albert Barnes³

***Love of Money**

1Ti 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. {erred: or, been seduced}

*Sin takes us farther than we ever wanted to go it is best to flee far from it when it is just small.

One Nail Ruined Everything

"On a recent trip to Haiti, I heard a Haitian pastor illustrate to his congregation the need for total commitment to Christ. His parable: A certain man wanted to sell his house for \$2,000. Another man wanted very badly to buy it, but because he was poor, he couldn't afford the full price. After much bargaining, the owner agreed to sell the house

3 Power Bible CD – Albert Barnes Commentary.

for half the original price with just one stipulation: He would retain ownership of one small nail protruding from just over the door.

After several years, the original owner wanted the house back, but the new owner was unwilling to sell. So the first owner went out, found the carcass of a dead dog, and hung it from the single nail he still owned. Soon the house became unlivable, and the family was forced to sell the house to the owner of the nail.

The Haitian pastor's conclusion: "If we leave the Devil with even one small peg in our life, he will return to hang his rotting garbage on it, making it unfit for Christ's habitation." - Dale A. Hays, *Leadership*, Vol. X, No. 3 (Summer, 1989), p. 35.⁴

Not only are there things that we are to FLEE - there are also things in our walk with the Lord that we need to FOLLOW after.

II. Things we need to FOLLOW after

What does it mean to follow.

(a prolonged (and causative) form of a primary verb dio (to flee; compare the base of 1169 and 1249); to pursue (literally or figuratively); by implication, to persecute:--ensue, follow (after), given to, (suffer) persecute(-ion), press forward.)

We are the only Bible that some people will ever read - puts responsibility on us. If we really believed this, it would change the way we lived. (In grocery store - are you passing out Gospel tracks and not leaving good foot tracks for others to follow in.

***Righteousness** (S - equity (of character or act); specially (Christian) justification:--righteousness.) ;

***Godliness** (S - piety; specially, the gospel scheme:--godliness, holiness.) ;

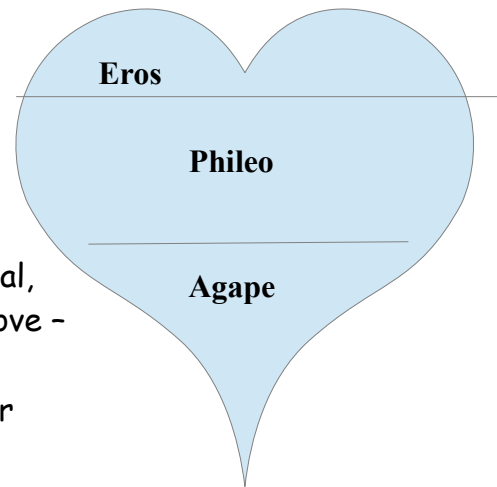
***Faith** (S - persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly, constancy in such profession; by extension, the system of

4 Dale A. Hays, *Leadership*, Vol. X, No. 3 (Summer, 1989), p. 35. Internet Source: <http://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/c/commitment.htm> . Accessed 1/7/17.

religious (Gospel) truth itself:--assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.) ;

***Love** (S - love, i.e. affection or benevolence; specially (plural) a love-feast:-- (feast of) charity(-ably), dear, love.)

After charity and desire Spiritual gifts, but rather prophesy. (I Cor. 14:1)



[From Bro. Rex McDowell - "**Eros**" - sensual, sexual expression {This is the romantic love - This one not used in the New Testament}; "**Philia**" - This one is the friendship love or

companionship} ;

"**Agapa**" - This is the love that does not depend on the senses - it is a choice]

You must start at the bottom of this foundation and build up (From a friend - Richie Geul.

***Patience**-- (S- cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy:-- enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).) ;

***Meekness** - (gentleness, by implication, humility:--meekness.). --I Tim. 6:11

6.2 Tim. 2:22 - Righteousness, faith, charity, peace (S - probably from a primary verb eiro (to join); peace (literally or figuratively); by implication, prosperity:--one, peace, quietness, rest, + set at one again.)

7.Heb. 12:14 - Peace, & Holiness (S - from 37; properly, **purification**, i.e. (the state) purity; concretely (by Hebraism) a purifier:--holiness, sanctification. ::: from 40; to make holy, i.e. (ceremonially) purify or consecrate; (mentally) to venerate:-- **hallow, be holy, sanctify**. :::from hagos (an awful thing) (compare 53, 2282); sacred (physically, pure, **morally blameless** or religious, ceremonially, consecrated):--(most) holy (one, thing), saint.)

{Somebody - I think Jeffrey McDowell - pointed out that there is - Progressive, Initial, Progressive, Entire, Progressive, Redemption}

***Follow that which is good.**

III John 1:11 (S - from 17; to be a well-doer (as a favor or a duty):-- (when) do good (well).) Do good works - They are not the means of salvation (cause and effect).

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. God - (Ephesians 5:1) - Not in front of Him - Follow Him | behind Him. |
| 2. Things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may
another. - (Romans 14:19) | edify |
| 3. Our earthly examples - Paul says to follow him. - I Corinthians
Corinthians 4:16) | 11:1 (also I |

Remember - in order to follow, you have to walk - different experiences will help you to walk. The idea of walking also carries with it the idea of consistency.

III. Things we need to FIGHT for

(S --from 73; to struggle, literally (to compete for a prize), figuratively (to contend with an adversary), or genitive case (to endeavor to accomplish something):--fight, labor fervently, strive.)

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

-from 473 and 2476; to stand against, i.e. oppose:--resist, withstand.

Not ignore the devil.- like a little child that you hope will go away and leave you a lone.

Not always up in the Christian life - You can be settled which direction you are going to go though. (Especially Young People).

II Tim. 2:3 - Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

We are in an open warfare for our faith.

"The fight of faith is our encountering that opposition which we meet with from the world, the flesh, or the devil, for a strenuous defending the doctrine of faith, or making it good by a life suitable to the rule of faith. This is called a good fight, either in opposition to the bad fights of the men of the world in maintenance of their lusts, or the ludicrous fights usual in their public games, or of the intrinsic nobleness and exercise of it, or the good event or issue of it; and Timothy is bid to fight it, by a metaphor either drawn from soldiers, or such as exercise themselves in their games."⁵

⁵ Matthew Poole Commentary – Power Bible CD.

"Fight the good fight of faith] "Agonize the good agony." Thou hast a contest to sustain in which thy honour, thy life, thy soul, are at stake. Live the Gospel, and defend the cause of God. Unmask hypocrites, expel the profligate, purge and build up the Church, live in the spirit of thy religion, and give thyself wholly to this work.

Lay hold on eternal life] All this is in allusion to the exercises in the public Grecian games: Fight, conquer, and seize upon the prize; carry off the crown of eternal life!

Whereunto thou art also called] The allusion to the public games is still carried on: Thou hast been called into this palaestra; thou hast been accepted as one proper to enter the lists with any antagonists that may offer; in the presence of many witnesses thou hast taken the necessary engagements upon thee, and submitted to be governed by the laws of the stadium; many eyes are upon thee, to see whether thou wilt fight manfully, and be faithful. Timothy's faith was undoubtedly tried by severe persecution. In Heb 13:23, it is said: Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty. Hence it appears that he was imprisoned for the testimony of Christ, and perhaps it was then, more than at his ordination, that he made the good confession here mentioned. He risked his life and conquered. If not a martyr, he was a confessor."⁶

It would be terrible to fight - while not following your commander.

-The Battle of Gettysburg was lost because General Longstreet and a number of Robert E. Lee's high ranking Generals did not follow the instructions Commanding General Robert E. Lee gave them. The devil would like us to look at the pessimistic side.

OUR FOCUS - "Lay Hold On Eternal Life " (I Tim.6:12) `

6 Adam Clarke Commentary – Power Bible CD.