

1 Timothy 6:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

But thou, O man of God, flee these things (Σὺ δὲ, ὁ ἄνθρωπε θεοῦ, ταῦτα φεῦγε, Sy de, ὁ anthrōpe theou, tauta pheuge)—'but you, O man of God, flee from these things.' Pheugō means to flee, escape, shun. 'Man of God' is an OT title for prophets (Moses, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha)—Paul applies it to Timothy, emphasizing his calling. 'These things' refers to love of money and the evils it produces (6:9-10).

And follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness (δίωκε δὲ δικαιοσύνην, εὐσέβειαν, πίστιν, ἀγάπην, ὑπομονήν, πραΰπαθίαν, diōke de dikaiosynēn, eusebeian, pistin, agapēn, hypomonēn, praypathian)—'pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness.' Diōkō means to chase, pursue, press toward. Six virtues to pursue: dikaiosynē (righteousness), eusebeia (godliness), pistis (faith), agapē (love), hypomonē (patient endurance), praypathia (gentleness, meekness).

Christian life involves two movements: flee evil, pursue good. Passive avoidance isn't enough—we must actively chase virtue. The sixfold list encompasses relationship with God (righteousness, godliness, faith) and with others (love, endurance, gentleness). Ministry requires both negative (flee greed) and positive (pursue virtue) holiness.

Historical Context

The title 'man of God' distinguished prophets from false prophets, priests, and pagan religious figures. Paul applies it to Timothy, emphasizing his calling as God's representative. Unlike false teachers motivated by profit (6:5), the man of God flees money-love and pursues virtue. This establishes Timothy's identity: he belongs to God, not to himself or his culture—his values must reflect his Owner.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to 'flee' certain sins—how is this different from merely avoiding them?
2. Why does Paul balance negative (flee) with positive (pursue) commands—why both necessary?
3. Which of the six virtues (righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness) challenges you most?

Interlinear Text

Σὺ δὲ ὦ ἄνθρωπε τοῦ θεοῦ ταῦτα φεῦγε· δίωκε
thou **But** ^{G5599} **O man** ^{G3588} **of God** **these things** **flee** **follow after**
^{G4771} ^{G1161} ^{G444} ^{G2316} ^{G5023} ^{G5343} ^{G1377}

δὲ δικαιοσύνην εὐσέβειαν πίστιν ἀγάπην ὑπομονήν
But **righteousness** **godliness** **faith** **love** **patience**
^{G1161} ^{G1343} ^{G2150} ^{G4102} ^{G26} ^{G5281}

πραότητα
meekness
^{G4236}

Additional Cross-References

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

1 Timothy 4:12 (Faith): Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

2 Timothy 3:17 (References God): That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Hebrews 12:14 (Parallel theme): Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

1 Corinthians 10:14 (Love): Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

Psalms 34:14 (Parallel theme): Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

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

1 Peter 3:11 (Parallel theme): Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

Romans 14:19 (Parallel theme): Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

1 Corinthians 14:1 (Love): Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

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