

# WEEKLY ENCOURAGEMENT

from Johnny Hunt

## THE CHALLENGE TO BE FAITHFUL

### PART ONE

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:11-12

#### I. INTRO

- Can you possibly think of a greater designation which speaks of spiritual characteristics than to be called a **man of God**? Listen to the sweetness and strength of these words: “My Dad is a **man of God**.”
- An encouraging statement is found in these words, **“God does not call the equipped; God equips the called.”** This passage helps us to clearly see what the **man of God** looks like.
- The Apostle Paul realized that lots of forces attempt to pull down our men, therefore, with passion and encouragement he paints the portrait of the **man of God**. One very helpful textual approach is that of contrasting the **man of God** with the one who has his affections, attention and aim on the world only. This text concerns itself with the private and public life of our men. If these scriptural admonitions are embraced and obeyed, it would assure Timothy (the man of God) success in his life’s causes and ministries.
- We talked about what a man of God should flee. Now, let’s discuss what a man of God should pursue. What develops a Christian life isn’t what you quit doing, but what you start doing.

#### II. WHAT HE ASSIMILATES | VERSE 11

- Separation without positive growth becomes isolation. We must cultivate the virtues and graces of the Holy Spirit in our lives or else we will be known only for what we oppose rather than for what we propose.
- **“pursue”**—follow after, keep on pursuing; make these things your life by pursuit; constantly strive.
- A.T. Robertson calls this, *“vivid verb is present active imperative.”* The believer cannot afford to not take temptation seriously.
- The language pictures a man running away from something, but at the same time, moving toward something.
- **2 Timothy 2:22, “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”**
- If he stops, what is behind him (sin) will catch him and attempt to pull him down.
- If you and I desire to be a **man of God**, these six characteristics listed above in 2 Timothy 2:22 will help ensure our effectiveness of reaching the goal. These words speak of *character* and *conduct*.
- **Man of God** is indeed a privileged title.

#### A. CHARACTER

##### 1. RIGHTEOUSNESS (EXTERNAL)

- To do what is right in relation to God and man. This does not refer to Christ’s righteousness imparted at salvation, but holy living of our lives. It is the outward living of His inward life. A life marked by obedience to God and His Word.

##### 2. GODLINESS (INTERNAL)

- Right behavior flows out of right motives and attitudes. This word can refer to reverence for God flowing out of a worshipping heart and God-likeness. It is the reverence of the man who *never ceases* to be aware that all life is lived in the presence of God.
- Charles Spurgeon refers to these truths as the *“minister’s self-watch.”* He speaks of the importance of us *“watching over ourselves.”*
- **Acts 20:28, “take heed to yourselves” or “be on guard for yourselves”.**
- **1 Timothy 4:16, “pay close attention to (yourself)”.**
- Puritan John Flavel, *“It is easier to declaim against a thousand sins of others, than to mortify one sin in ourselves.”*

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- John Owen, *"A minister may fill his pews, his communion roll, the mouths of the public, but what that minister is on his knees in secret before God Almighty, that he is and no more."*
- Charles Bridges wrote, *"For if we should study the Bible more as Ministers than as Christians—more to find matter for the instruction of our people, than food for the nourishment of our own souls, we neglect then to place ourselves at the feet of our Divine Teacher, our communion with Him is cut off, and we become mere formalists in our sacred profession...We cannot live by feeding others; or heal ourselves by the mere employment of healing our people; and therefore, by this course of official service, our familiarity with the awful realities of death and eternity may be rather like that of the grave-digger, the physician, and the soldier, than the man of God, viewing eternity with deep seriousness and concern and bringing to his people the profitable fruit of his contemplations. It has well been remarked—that 'when once a man begins to view religion not as of personal, but merely of professional importance, he has an obstacle in his course, with which a private Christian is unacquainted.' It is indeed difficult to determine, whether our familiar intercourse with the things of God is more our temptation or our advantage."*
- Godliness is what the Lord has done inside of us. This is how God builds character in a person's life.

## B. CONDUCT

### 1. FAITH

- A confident trust in God for everything. He trusts God to keep and fulfill His Word. It involves loyalty to the Lord and unwavering confidence in Him.

### 2. LOVE

- It is unrestricted and unrestrained, encompassing love for God, other believers, and non-believers.
  - Loving the Lord
  - Loving others
- William Barclay refers to this love as *"the 4-facets of the priceless diamond of love."*
  - Love for the Unknown
  - Love for the Unlovely
  - Love for the Unprofitable
  - Love for the Unfriendly
- If there are people in our lives that we aren't loving like we ought to, it's because we're not loving God as we ought to.