Fight the good fight of the faith

1 Timothy 6:11-21

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. [12] Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. [13] In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you [14] to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, [15] which God will bring about in his own time —God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, [16] who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might forever. Amen.
[17] Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. [18] Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. [19] In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.
[20] Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, [21] which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.
Grace be with you all.

1) Fight for your integrity

- But you, man of God, flee from all this…
- Flee from what?
  - 1 Timothy 6:9-10 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.
  - Flee from harmful desires and the love of money that would cause us to wander from the faith.
  - Those things have negative consequences on our lives: they plunge people into ruin and destruction and pierce us with many griefs.
- Fighting for your integrity isn't merely fleeing from sin, but pursuing what's right in the sight of God.
  - 1 Timothy 6:11 …and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.
  - To pursue something is to chase after it with the intent of gaining it in your possession.
- Fighting for your integrity means actively staying away from what's wicked in God's sight to chase after what's right in His sight regardless of the way we feel.
- Biblical examples of fighting for your integrity
  - Joseph fled from Potiphar's wife when she wanted to sleep with him in order to maintain His integrity before God.
  - Daniel fled the temptation to preserve his life when commanded not to pray and prayed anyway.
  - Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego stood up for what was right in God's sight and didn't bow down to worship a statue of the king even though they were thrown into the furnace for doing so.
  - Esther risked her life to stand up for the Jews who were about to be annihilated, and in doing so saved them all.
- Fighting for your integrity may have negative consequences, but in the end, God is glorified and we receive the benefits – sometimes in this life, but always in the life to come.
- Examples of fighting for our integrity in daily life
  - You need some stationery for yourself or for your family member and see that your employer has stationery. Fighting for your integrity resists the temptation to take any of it but rather asks your employer if you can have something, or leaves it and you go buy your own.
  - You're looking at something on your phone and an ad pops up advertising porn or something else unsavoury. You leave your phone altogether rather than follow that ad in order to fight for your integrity.
- Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one else sees.
  - God always sees

2) Fight for your eternity

- 1 Timothy 6:12 Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
- Our eternal life is based on our faith in Jesus Christ
  - John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
  - Hence, fighting the good fight of the faith is fighting for our eternity.
- Why do we need to fight for our eternity?
  - This temporal world lures us with its temporal wealth, temporal pleasures, temporal illusions of success, and attempts us to lure us away from that which is eternal and better.
- It's by faith that we see the unseen and hold onto our inheritance waiting for us in heaven.
  - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
  - 1 Peter 1:3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

3) Fight the fight of the faith throughout your life

- 1 Timothy 6:13-16 In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time —God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might forever. Amen.
- We need keep fight the good fight of the faith – fighting for our integrity and our eternity – throughout our lives until Jesus comes again
  - While we're in this will we will constantly face temptations, trials, and hardships and will be tempted to give up or yield to temptations, but we need to persevere to the end.
  - Matthew 24:12-13 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.