

**Proper Pursuits**  
1 Timothy 6:11  
June 5, 2022  
Pastor Gary Hollinger

**The man or woman of God must run from evil and after good character.**

- I. Run from false teachers, false doctrines and the desire for financial gain. (v.11a)**
- II. Run to obtain a transformed character. (v. 11b)**

**A. Righteousness**

Righteousness: Gr: dikaiosune; *dik-ah-yos-oo'-nay* – 1) in a broad sense: state of him who is as he ought to be, a condition acceptable to God. 2) integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking feeling, and acting

God made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we would become the righteousness of God. (1 Corinthians 5:21)

Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!

Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:7-18)

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have

come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:15-23)

Righteousness is a state of the heart and mind that operates in harmony with the mind of God as expressed in His Word.

## **B. Godliness**

Godliness (Gr. Eusebeia, *yoo-seb'-i-ah*) – 2) reverence, respect 2) piety (devotion) towards God

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. (2 Peter 1:3-4)

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. (1 Timothy 4:7-9)

... who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain. (1 Timothy 6:5b-6)

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. (2 Peter 3:10-14)

Godliness, the authentic and abiding desire to glorify God through every thought, every reaction, every word and deed. The outward evidences of inward faith and reverence for God.

## **C. Faith**

Faith: (Gr. *Pistis*, *pis'-tis*) 1) in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and joined with it. 1a1) the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ. 1b1) a strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God. 1d) belief with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence) Which will result in: 2) fidelity, faithfulness.

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. (Romans 10:17)

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1)

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God... (Ephesians 2:8)

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good...to another faith by the same Spirit...All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. (1 Corinthians 12:7, 9a, 11)

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" (Luke 17:5)

Faith, resting in God's promise to provide, protect, empower and guide; choosing to be content with what the Lord provides, directs or permits. Remaining steadfastly loyal to Him and His ways.

#### **D. Love**

Love (Gr. *Agape*, *ag-ah'-pay*) affection, good will, love, benevolence

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Colossians 3:14)

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If

I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. (1 Corinthians 13:1-8a)

We have come to know love by this: that Jesus laid down his life for us; thus we ought to lay down our lives for our fellow Christians. (1 John 3:16)

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

(1 John 4:16-21)

Agape love: seeking the highest, greatest good of other people, especially those one has been called to serve.

### **E. Endurance / perseverance**

Endurance (Gr. *Hupomone*, *hoop-om-on-ay'*) 1) steadfastness, constancy, (patience KJV). 1a) In the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings.

For you need endurance in order to do God's will and so receive what is promised. (Hebrews 10:36)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. (Revelation 2:2-3)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4)

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5:3-5)

...being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience... (Colossians 1:11)

Endurance: a deliberate, steadfast obedience despite pressures, troubles or temptations.

Literally: to remain under, that is: holding out under long difficulty with hope and courage.

## **F. Gentleness / Meekness**

Gentleness: (Gr: *praotes*, *prah-ot'-ace*) mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit, meekness  
Meekness toward God is that disposition of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting. In the OT, the meek are those wholly relying on God rather than their own strength to defend them against injustice. Thus, meekness toward evil people means knowing God is permitting the injuries they inflict, that He is using them to purify His elect, and that He will deliver His elect in His time. Gentleness or meekness is the opposite to self-assertiveness and self-interest. It stems from trust in God's goodness and control over the situation. The gentle person is not occupied with self at all. This is a work of the Holy Spirit, not of the human will.

Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. (1 Peter 3:3-4)

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5)

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matthew 11:29)

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

“Say to Daughter Zion,

‘See, your king comes to you,

gentle and riding on a donkey,

and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” (Matthew 21:4-5)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23a)

Gentleness: a controlled, confident, firm strength that can offer reassurance to weak or wounded people.