



Outward Group Discussion Guide

September 13, 2026

SUMMARY

Drawing from Paul's closing instructions to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6, Pastor Matt challenges believers to embrace their identity as men and women of God and to live accordingly. The sermon is structured around four commands Paul gives Timothy -- run, fight, take, and keep -- each of which calls believers to active, intentional engagement with their faith. Rather than treating Christianity as a passive church attendance habit, Pastor Matt urges the congregation to recognize they are on a spiritual battlefield, to pursue righteousness and godliness above all else, to make their faith personally their own, and to keep the commandment faithfully until Christ's return. The sermon emphasizes that a right vertical relationship with God is the foundation for all right horizontal relationships, and that understanding the gospel -- Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection -- is what makes genuine love, endurance, and faithfulness possible.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The pastor describes being called a 'man of God' or 'woman of God' as the defining identity of a believer, superseding failures, achievements, and possessions -- in what ways does your daily life reflect or contradict that identity?
2. Paul instructs Timothy to both flee certain things and pursue others, presenting the Christian life as one of active movement in two directions -- what specific things in your own life might you need to run from, and what godly qualities are you actively pursuing?
3. The sermon draws a connection between a healthy vertical relationship with God and the quality of our horizontal relationships with others -- where have you seen this principle proven true or neglected in your own experience?
4. The pastor argues that you cannot truly understand love apart from faith in the crucifixion of Christ -- how does meditating on the cross practically change the way you love the people closest to you?

5. Paul pairs steadfastness and gentleness as qualities to pursue simultaneously, and the sermon points to Jesus as the model of holding both -- where in your life do you find it hardest to hold these two qualities together, and why?
6. The sermon challenges believers to see themselves as warriors on a battlefield rather than spectators on a walk in the park -- in what areas of your life have you been acting like a spectator when you should be contending for the faith?
7. The pastor warns that when people forget they have a spiritual enemy, they tend to fight each other instead -- can you identify a relationship in your life where this dynamic may be playing out, and how might recognizing the true enemy change your approach?
8. The concept of taking hold of eternal life is described not just as a future hope but as a present reality that should shape how we live today -- what would it look like for you to live this week with a firmer grip on that reality?
9. The sermon distinguishes between a borrowed faith and an owned faith, suggesting some believers have been called and have confessed

without ever truly taking personal ownership --
what does taking ownership of your faith look like
in your specific season of life?

10. Paul charges Timothy to keep the
commandment in the presence of God and of
Christ Jesus, who made the good confession
before Pilate knowing it would lead to his death --
how does reflecting on the courage and surrender
of Jesus in that moment shape your willingness to
remain faithful under pressure?