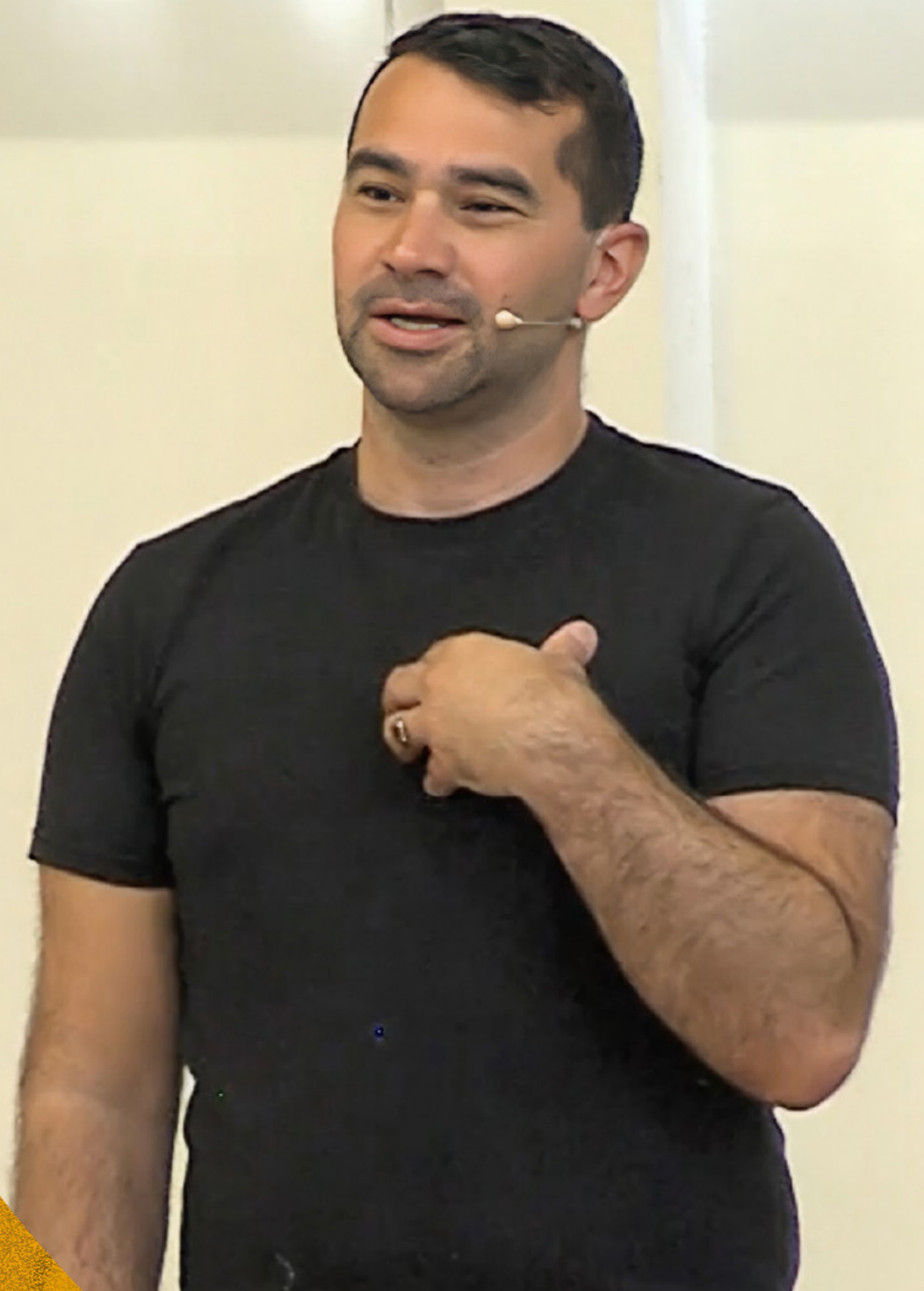


Maturity



SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 2:22-26

Maturity = Fleeing

Paul charges Timothy to flee certain things. Maturing in our relationship with Christ means willingly denying ourselves and following Him. In this passage, Paul emphasises three things that we should continuously strive to flee.

Firstly, we should be aware of the lingering presence of youthful passions, such as the temptations related to sexual desires, pride, laziness, or seeking approval. To mature, we must daily flee these things.

Secondly, we should avoid engaging in foolish controversies. Our goal should not be to prove ourselves right and others wrong or to impose

the ways of Christ on culture. Instead, we should focus on pointing people to Jesus. Maturity involves fleeing from foolish controversies that only lead to quarrels.

Thirdly, we must flee the snares of the devil. It is important to recognise the spiritual battle we are in and understand that the devil's snares are subtle shifts that can lead to destruction or deceitful lies that distort the truth.

Maturity = Pursuing

In addition to urging Timothy to flee from certain things, Paul also encourages him (and us) to actively pursue other things. It is worth noting that Paul's call to pursue is not an individual endeavour but a corporate one.

Firstly, we are called to pursue righteousness. Christian maturity grows as we understand that righteousness comes from Christ and His work on the cross, not from our own performance. Our pursuit of righteousness is not driven by the need for God's approval, but rather from the overflow of His affection for us.

Secondly, we are called to pursue faith, which is exemplified in patiently enduring evil, as mentioned in this passage. Pursuing faith leads to increased patience and strength. It means not giving up when faced with adversity but remaining steadfast in the midst of life's challenges.

Thirdly, we are called to pursue love, which, in this context, involves providing gentle

correction. As we experience God's love and gentleness towards us, we naturally grow in our ability to extend love and gentleness to others.

Finally, we are called to pursue peace and to be kind to everyone. This means prioritising the well-being of others over our own desires and seeking to bless and benefit all those we encounter.

QUESTIONS

1. What is God calling you to flee? What does that look like for you?
2. How can our growth in maturity strengthen our witness?
3. Which of the 4 areas to pursue do you feel God stirring your heart on?