

Small Group Notes

Sermon: 16 June 2024

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SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 6

OVERVIEW

In chapter 6 of 1 Timothy, we see Paul's final commissioning to Timothy. We focused particularly on verses 11 and 12, where Paul charges the Man of God to "fight the good fight of the faith."

1. What is the Fight?

Paul highlights two key aspects of the fight of faith in verse 11: we should flee certain things and pursue others. We explored how the fight in the church today, especially for many men, is against apathy. Sadly, many grow apathetic in their faith, stopping both the fleeing of distractions and the pursuit of righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness.

2. What are the Challenges?

We examined the challenges Timothy faced when fighting the good fight of faith and how we face similar challenges today.

External Challenges

- **Culture:** Timothy lived in a culture that promoted values counter to the gospel and a lifestyle drifting away from Jesus. Similarly, our culture increasingly pushes an agenda contrary to Christ, and we must learn how to stand firm and fight amidst these pressures.
- **Persecution:** Timothy faced a high likelihood of persecution for following Christ. Although we may not face the same level of persecution, we do encounter hostility for our faith and must resist the temptation to hide or shrink back.
- **False Teaching:** Timothy contended with false teachings infiltrating the church and leading people astray. We face the same challenge today and must ensure we walk the narrow path Christ has set for us.

Internal Challenges

- **Impostor Syndrome:** Timothy struggled with leading others due to his age, and Paul urged him not to let this hinder his calling. We all face battles that can make us feel like impostors; we need to confront these feelings head-on and not let them undermine our confidence.
- **Responsibility:** Timothy had responsibilities in the church that could have distracted him from pursuing the

virtues Paul highlighted. Similarly, our responsibilities in life can cause us to lose sight of Christ and dampen our passion.

- **Health:** Timothy faced health challenges that could have hindered his faith. We, too, carry physical, mental, and emotional weaknesses that we must not allow to rob us of our joy and zeal for God.

3. How Can We Fight?

Throughout this passage, we find keys to growing in the fight of faith:

- **Eternal Perspective (v. 12):** We need to keep our eyes fixed on the eternal life Jesus has won for us and take hold of it today.
- **Purity (v. 14):** We should continually strive to remain unstained by this world.
- **Worship (v. 15-16):** We must recognise the beauty and glory of our God and let our affections be shaped by Him.
- **Contentment (v. 6):** We need to allow our desires to be shaped by Jesus, not the world.
- **Generosity (v. 17-19):** We should pursue riches in heaven by growing in generosity.

QUESTIONS

1. Are there any areas of your life where you notice apathy affecting your desire to fight the good fight of the faith?
2. What challenges do you face, and how do they impact your walk with Christ?
3. How can we grow in the areas highlighted in the passage regarding fighting the good fight of faith?