

**Subject: Marks of the Man of God, Part 1**

**Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:11-16**

The phrase “man of God” is found only twice in the NT (vs. 11 and 2 Tim. 3:17), both times in reference to Timothy. This is a title found about 70 times in the Old Testament always in reference to a man who was an official spokesman for God. Moses, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, and David were called a man of God. Many times we describe a person by the one main feature of his life. We say he is a man of wealth, a man of business, a man of influence. Think of what it means to be called “a man of God.” It is a sacred privilege that carries with it a serious responsibility. It is more than a title. It describes the life and character of a man. A man of God is known by what he flees from, follows after, fights for, and is faithful to.

**1. A MAN OF GOD IS KNOWN BY WHAT HE FLEES FROM**

The word translated “flee” is the word from which we get our English word “fugitive,” or one who is fleeing. It is a present command, “Keep on fleeing.” The man of God is a runner. What is a man of God to run from? What things did Paul refer to when he wrote “O man of God, flee these things?”

- The man of God must flee from pride and arrogance

It can reveal itself in many ways—actions, attitudes, words, stubbornness, arguing, an air of superiority. Pride has no place in God’s servants. The Bible is full of paradoxes:

If you want to save your life	You must lose it
If you want to be lifted up	You must humble yourself
If you want to be great	You must be a servant
If you want to be strong	You must be weak
If you want to inherit the kingdom	You must be poor in spirit
If you want to live	You must die to self
If you want to be first	You must be last

- The man of God must flee from materialism and greed

This is the desire for more money and more things. The Bible does not say that money is evil, but the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Paul described false teachers as motivated by greed. God’s men are not motivated by money or worldly things.

- The man of God must flee from destructive sins

There are times when the man of God must stand and there are other times when he must run. **1 Corinthians 6:18** *Flee fornication.* Remember how Joseph ran from Potiphar’s wife. **Genesis 39:12** *And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.* **1 Corinthians 10:14** *Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.* **2 Timothy 2:22** *Flee also youthful lusts.*

**2. A MAN OF GOD IS KNOWN BY WHAT HE FOLLOWS AFTER**

Just like the word “flee,” this is a present command which means “keep on following after.” The man of God is constantly running from some things and constantly pursuing other things. Someone said: “We can never stop running from what is evil because it will catch us, and if we stop pursuing what is right, it will elude us.” We never come to the place where we finally

outrun what is wrong, nor will we ever be able to fully capture what is right. What is the man of God to follow after? In verse 11, Paul lists six virtues that every man of God must pursue.

- The man of God must follow after righteousness

The Bible says we have the imputed righteousness of Christ and then we are to pursue practical righteousness. It is practical righteousness that Paul has in mind here. It is the same when he speaks of putting on the whole armor of God and mentions the breastplate of righteousness. This kind of practical righteousness is simple doing what is right before God. He must be doctrinally pure and morally straight.

- The man of God must follow after godliness

Godliness is God-likeness. It comes from a reverence for God and fear of God that keeps a man's heart right. Paul knew the importance of a man of God guarding his heart. **1 Timothy 4:16** *Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*

- The man of God must follow after faith

This means he trusts God for everything. It involves complete confidence in His power, purpose, plan, provision, and promises. Faith is simply taking God at His Word. **Romans 10:17** *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* The man of God walks by faith, not by sight.

- The man of God must follow after love

This is agape love. It has been called the "love of choice." It is love for God, love for other believers and for unbelievers. Jesus meant what He said in **Matthew 22:37-39** <sup>37</sup> *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.* <sup>38</sup> *This is the first and great commandment.* <sup>39</sup> *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*

- The man of God must follow after patience

Patience means to bear up under pressure. It is perseverance, endurance, or staying power. When he is tempted to quit, he keeps on going. Perseverance keeps a man doing what he is supposed to do. **Hebrews 10:36-37** <sup>36</sup> *For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.* <sup>37</sup> *For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*

- The man of God must follow after meekness

This is gentleness. It is genuine humility. It is not weakness, but power under control. Paul reminds Timothy again in the second letter, **2 Timothy 2:24-26** <sup>24</sup> *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,* <sup>25</sup> *In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;* <sup>26</sup> *And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*