

Subject: *Marks of the Man of God, Part 2*

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. Being a man of God is a sacred privilege that comes with 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 four things:

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

The man of God flees from pride and arrogance, materialism and greed, and he flees from destructive sins. He is always running from these things.

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

He is not only running from evil things, he is constantly pursuing good things. He is always following after (same word as persecute, pursue aggressively in order to apprehend) righteousness, godliness (godlikeness), faith, love, patience (endurance), and meekness or gentleness.

3. A MAN OF GOD IS KNOWN BY WHAT HE FIGHTS FOR

The man of God is in a spiritual conflict. He is to fight the good fight of faith. The word “fight” (Gk., *agonizomai*) was used to describe an athletic contest and a military struggle. It calls for concentration, discipline, and the commitment to win at all costs. God’s man is to be like Nehemiah, who led in rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem, and he worked with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other. He was ready for building and battling at any time. The man of God is always building and always battling. Serving the Lord is an opportunity that always comes with opposition. Whenever God’s people rise up to build, Satan and his workers rise up to hinder or stop the work.

1 Timothy 1:18 *This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare.*

2 Timothy 2:3-4 ³ *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

2 Timothy 4:7 *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*

When Paul describes the strength of Christian character he uses the analogy of military armor in Ephesians 6: “Put on the whole armor of God...”

4. A MAN OF GOD IS KNOWN BY WHAT HE IS FAITHFUL TO

Paul challenged Timothy to be committed. He reminds him of the calling (vs. 12), gives him a charge (vs. 13), and tells him to keep the commandment (vs. 14).

- The man of God has a calling (vs. 12)

It is a serious calling. He is called to eternal life and therefore he is to lay hold of it (get a grip on it). He has made a good profession of faith, and now he must hold to it. He is to have a firm grip on the reality of eternal life and fulfill the reason for his salvation. He will fight the

good fight of faith because he knows it is worth fighting. Christ has paid the ultimate price to save him, so he must stay faithful.

- The man of God has a charge (vs. 13)

This is like a formal charge or a commission. Paul invokes two witnesses of this charge, God the Father and Jesus Christ. This is a serious charge and Paul is reminding the man of God that he is accountable to the Father, the One who gives life to all things. He gives life and takes life. He is our creator and we are accountable to Him. ***Psalm 100:3*** *Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.* The man of God is accountable to Jesus Christ, who stayed faithful when He stood before Pilate. He did not compromise and neither can the man of God.

Hebrews 12:2-3 ² *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.* ³ *For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.* God's man must remain faithful to please the God who gives him life and to please the Lord who set the standard of being faithful.

- The man of God has a commandment (vs. 14)

He must obey what Paul had instructed him to do. He is to obey this commandment “without spot” (in the sight of God) and “unrebukeable” (in the sight of man) until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is watching so his motives must be right. Man is watching so his actions must be right. He is to live blameless, not sinless. He is live above reproach. He must have a pure heart and nothing to stain his testimony. The story is told of a pastor years ago who went to a new town to start his ministry. One day he caught a bus and noticed that the bus driver gave him back 25 cents too much. He wondered if he should bother to give it back, and as he started to leave the bus, he handed it back to the driver, who then asked him who he was and what he did. He told him that he was a new pastor in town and the driver came to his church the next Sunday. Later on the pastor thought to himself, “I came close to losing that man's soul for 25 cents.”

The man of God has a high calling and a great responsibility. Jesus said, “To whom much is given, much will also be required.” The man of God is known by what he flees from, by what he follows after, by what he fights for, and by what he is faithful to. This is a lifelong pursuit until the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ.