

## **A DIVINE STRATEGY FOR SPIRITUAL VICTORY**

I. Text – 1 Timothy 6:11, 12

II. These three words flee, follow, and fight, were Paul's advice to Timothy concerning the Christian Life. The Bible traces the progress of the conflict between righteousness and unrighteousness. Everyone chooses to be on one side or the other. Since Timothy had chosen the side of righteousness. Paul gave him advice on how to be victorious in the spiritual conflict.

Someone has written, “The greatest battles that were ever fought; shall I tell you where or when? They were not fought on battle fields; they were fought inside men.”

I. Flee

A. The first step to winning spiritual victories is to know when to flee. Paul was dealing specifically with covetousness here, but this principle applies to us anytime we are confronted with sin or temptation of any kind.

1 Thessalonians 5:22

B. Joseph in the Old Testament used this same principle of fleeing from evil to gain a great spiritual victory for himself.

## **A DIVINE STRATEGY FOR SPIRITUAL VICTORY**

### **II. Follow**

A. The second step in Paul's advice for winning spiritual victories is to follow after righteousness, godliness, faith.... These Godly characteristics are gained as we yield to the Holy Spirit and use every means of grace to help us draw close to God.

B. The word "follow" is a very strong word suggesting the idea of pursuing with great desire.

The story is told about a young man who came to a man of God and said, "Sir, I want to find God, but I don't know how. Please help me." The man of God gave him some instructions from the Bible and told him to report back to him in two weeks. At the appointed time, the young man returned to visit with the man of God. The man of God asked him how he was doing. The young man said that he had followed the instructions that had been given to him but still could not find God. He wanted to know what else he must do. The man of God took him to the river and after they had waded out into the water about waist deep, he took him by the hair of the head and held him under the water. In a short period of time, the young man began to need air. He struggled to lift his head out of the water, but his head continued to be held

## **A DIVINE STRATEGY FOR SPIRITUAL VICTORY**

under the water. It was not long until he became desperate. Finally, the man of God jerked his head out of the water. While he was still gasping for air the young man said, “Why did you do that to me?” The man of God replied, “When you want God as desperately as you just wanted air, you will find Him.” We must pursue righteousness, like the merchant sought after the pearl of great price in Matthew 13.

### **III. Fight**

A. Here is the final part of Paul's advice to Timothy. The word “fight” is from the Greek word meaning, “agonize.” Paul sees the Christian life as a fight, an intense struggle that requires persevering in loyalty to Christ and contending with adversaries of the gospel.

B. We need to be ready for those times when the devil will marshal the forces of hell to defeat us. Ephesians 6:12, 2 Corinthians 10:3, 4. God has promised victory to those who are willing to fight (Romans 8:31-39).

C. The Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). Followers of Christ are also His soldiers called to do battle with the forces of Satan and evil. Victories are never won while resting in the

## **A DIVINE STRATEGY FOR SPIRITUAL VICTORY**

barracks. God's soldiers must always be alert and dressed in full armor. That armor includes six important pieces (Ephesians 6:10-20).

1. The belt of truth (warriors with absolute integrity).
2. The breastplate of righteousness (people must see our good works).
3. Sandals of peace (though soldiers, we are called to be peacemakers).
4. Shield of faith (for extinguishing all of Satan's doubt and fears).
5. Helmet of salvation (one of Satan's chief attacks is the mind).
6. Sword of the spirit (our only offensive weapon)

In addition to wearing armor, the Christian soldier is to face every occasion with prayer and to remember the fellow saints in prayer (v. 18). Ultimately, however, the battle is not ours but God's (2 Chronicles 20:15). He knows the battle plan. Our responsibility is only to be active and obedient in the small duty wherever He has placed us on the battlefield. (Amazing Grace Devotionals).

## **A DIVINE STRATEGY FOR SPIRITUAL VICTORY**

### **Conclusion**

The reward for winning the victory over Satan is going to be eternal life. May God give us faith and determination to win the conflict against sin.