

A True Spiritual Leader

"But you, man of God..." 1Tim.6:11

The title 'man of God' is simple, yet immensely rich! The title 'man of God' was used frequently throughout the OT, but in the NT it is only used to describe Timothy. All of the OT uses point to a man who represents God by living and proclaiming His Word. It is a sacred privilege to be identified as God's personal possession, whether you are a man or a woman. It is a privilege that carries with it sacred responsibilities. So for the sake of our devotion today, I would like each of you to consider yourself God's personal possession, whose privilege it is to live and share the truth of God in our present generation. You are the true spiritual leaders for this critical time in His-story. Now, take a moment and read through 1Tim.6:11-14 and pay particular attention to some of the characteristics of a true spiritual leader.

A true spiritual leader is known by what he flees from...v.11

You and I must realize that there are certain things that need to be avoided at all costs. The word flee, is the word from which we get the word 'fugitive'. A godly person is to constantly be fleeing from these things! Identify clearly what the corrupting love of money looks like and run like Joseph in Gen. 39:12

A true spiritual leader is known by what he follows after...v.11b

As fast as we run from that which pierces, we must run toward spiritual virtue. This parallels:

"Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart." 2Tim.2:22 Righteousness...deals with our external behavior, it is doing what is right in relation both to God and man. Godliness...deals with our internal attitudes and motives. For all right behavior flows from right motives. These two virtues are absolutely central and crucial to a spiritual leader's power and usefulness. They form an essential part of our self-watch. Paul knew well the importance of a watch over himself...*"Be on guard for yourselves..." Acts 20:28* What else should you pursue? Grasp it clearly, seek it earnestly and live it fervently!

The true spiritual leader is known by what he fights for...v.12

Being a representative for God calls you into warfare! You are in constant battle against the flesh, the devil, and the resistance of the fallen world that loves sin and error.... and hates truth and holiness. It is also a struggle against lazy half-hearted Christians that fill many church buildings today. Fight is derived from the word, which we get 'agonize'. It is used in both military and athletic contexts to describe the concentration, discipline, conviction, and effort needed to win. Good is noble or excellent and faith refers to the body of truth, the content of the Word of God. In other words, Timothy, get a grip on the reality of eternal life, so that you can live and serve with eternity in view!

A true spiritual leader is known by what he is faithful to...v.13-14.

The key to this whole section of Scripture is in v.14...*'keep the commandment'*. Verse 13, tells Timothy why he should keep the commandment and verse 14, tells him how he should keep it.

The world is looking to see what a man or woman totally yielded to the Lord can do. Why don't you accept the challenge?

Be that man...be that woman...for the praise of His glory and grace!
