

## **Introduction**

“Blessed Father’s Day!” Song, “Daddy, daddy, you’re my hero!” Yes, daddies we are our children’s heroes! If we are not their heroes then they will look to other heroes.

As their heroes, they want to see our humanness; the “ordinary us. They want to see how we walk our talk not how we fast we fly.

The male “hero”. He is a man. A husband. A father. He must have God’s word in his heart and life - to teach, to correct, to counsel. A man formed by God’s word can become a man after God’s own heart. Let us consider I Timothy 6:11-12. Four things to note.

## **I) “Flee from...” (v.11a)**

Decision: “Fight or flight”? Timothy was asked to flee. Why? Consider v.9, 10

Flee from what? The love of money.

Question: Why do we work? Why do we choose a particular career path? A particular business? Are they associated with the “love of money” and with “cravings”? Don’t end in “ruin and destruction.” Are you “seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness”? Are you too busy for God? Are you pursuing the god called “wealth” and not the God who gave you the power to make wealth?

There are times in our Christian life when the only defence we have is a clean pair of heels. Get up and go; flee these things.

## **II) “Pursue after...” (v.11b)**

The man of God is to pursue after virtues that pleases God. These virtues do not “automatically” come into being. We have to be diligent and committed to nurture them. Consider, “But work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” (Phil 2:12). All of us are at different levels of our spiritual growth because we pursue with different intensity and earnestness! It is like comparing the body of an ordinary person with that of a body-builder.

There are six virtues which a man ought to pursue after.

### A) God-wards

#### 1) Righteousness.

We are made righteous before God through what Christ has done for us on the cross.

The evidence of righteousness of life should be seen in our day to day dealings with our fellow mankind.

#### 2) Godliness.

The man of God needs to be “devoted to God”, he seeks to please God; he seeks to walk justly before God. He seeks to glorify God in spirit, soul and body. God’s value is what guides his thoughts, emotions and actions. Consider Joseph (Gen 39:9) and King David (Ps 51:4)

#### 3) Faith.

Consider the account of Jesus calming the storm - Mark 4:35 -41.

When the storms of life hit you, do not say, “I am perishing!” Instead say, “Lord, my faith is in you alone!”

### B) Man-wards

The next three man-wards virtue the man of God needs to cultivate are: *love, steadfastness, and gentleness.*” These are almost related to the “fruit of the Spirit.” Seek to live a Spirit-filled life and bear these fruits. Man of God, do not demonstrate “toxic masculinity.” Example: dominance, intimidation, anger, violence and aggression. Demonstrate a Spirit-controlled or Spirit-tempered life.

### **III) “Fight the good fight.” (v.12a)**

We are always engaged in a spiritual warfare - Ephesians 6:12.

Put on the whole armour of God and fight the good fight of faith. We need to be sober-minded; be watchful. Our adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking to devour us. (I Peter 5:8)

Hymn. “Rise up, O men of God! Have done with lesser things;...” The devil wants the man of today to do – be busy with “lesser things” of the world and neglect the “weightier things” of God.

Husbands you must not be a sitting duck! Diligently keep guard over your family. Man of God, because so much is at stake, rise up and fight the good fight of faith.

### **IV) “Take hold” (v.12b)**

You are a “Man of God” because you have surrendered your lives to God through accepting Jesus into your lives as your personal Lord and Saviour. You have taken hold of eternal life - John 3:36.

After you have taken hold of eternal life, you need to “make a good confession.” Do not deny Christ. Do not quit being a Christian. Fight the good fight and be victorious. You want to be a worthy witness for Christ. Your goal is to stand and worship Jesus who is Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

To those man who are fathers, you are also conscious that your confession of faith must continue to the next generation (Ps 145:4)

### **Bridging: Are Men Necessary?**

When the man, the husband, the father, seeks to obey God, he can truly be a man after God’s own heart. I am concern when a woman such as Maureen Dowd wrote this book entitled, “Are Men Necessary?”

Are men indeed unnecessary? Case study where there was a different response to the Mother’s Day and Father’s Day greeting card project in the prison. Consider why men are in prison.

The man, the father failed in his God-ordained role.

Dr Ditta M Olier’s article, “The Importance of Fathers - Is Father's Day real?”

“An involved father can play a crucial role, particularly in the cognitive, behavioral, and general health and well-being areas of a child's life.... it is generally accepted, under most circumstances, that a father's presence and involvement can be as crucial to a child's healthy development as a mother's.”

### **Conclusion**

Fathers don’t be a “F.I.A” – Father Is Absent”.

See yourself as a “F.A.M.I.L.Y” – Father and Mother In Loving Yoke – together build a home after God’s own heart.

Man of God, take note of God’s word and fulfil your God-ordained responsibility.