

Flee And Follow 1 Timothy 6:11

Introduction:

1. Many times I will hear people say, “The Bible is too difficult to understand. That’s why I don’t read it.” This is simply not true. Granted, there are parts of the Bible that require study and will not be understood if given a quick cursory reading.
2. But much of the Bible is very easy to understand. For example, look at verse 11. I think we all understand the word “*flee*.” We also understand the word “*follow*.”
 - Many of you will **flee** the building to your car at the last “amen” and you will **follow** the path to your favorite restaurant!
3. Seriously, we all understand the word “*flee*” and “*follow*,” don’t we?
4. There are some things in your Christian life you need to stay away from, and there are some things you need to embrace and follow. Romans 12:9b
5. This is crucial if we are to be men of God, as the verse says. As well, the same goes for women of God. Men and women of God know when to flee, and they know what to follow.
6. Every believer can become and live like a man or woman of God. This should be our utmost desire. When we leave this earth, may our loved ones be able to say, “He was a man of God,” or “She was a woman of God.” How?

First, flee the world’s priorities.

1. What was Timothy to flee from? In the context, it was a love for money, a covetous heart, a self-willed desire to be rich, a worldly mindset, and worldly priorities.
2. A man of God cannot love God and love the world (1 John 2:15). James said that the “*friendship*” (fondness) of the world is “*enmity*” (hostility, opposition) with God. He went on to say, “*Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*” **James 4:4**
3. We must flee the sins, habits, attitudes, actions, ethics, and priorities of Satan’s world system. God said to abstain from even the appearance of evil.
1 Thessalonians 5:22
4. The word “*flee*” literally means “to run away.” Sometimes, fleeing is a mark of cowardice, but at other times it is a mark of wisdom and discretion.
5. As we look in the Bible, we see some examples of godly fleeing!
 - Moses and Israel fled from Egypt.
 - Joseph fled from Potiphar’s wife.
 - David fled from Saul when he threw a javelin at him and tried to kill him.
6. There are many things in this old world that a believer simply needs to flee from—get away as fast as you can. 1 Corinthians 6:18; 10:14; 2 Timothy 2:22
7. But this word “*flee*” does not necessarily mean to literally run away from. It can also simply mean “to shun or to separate yourself from.” **Examples:** Worldly

- friendships that are dragging you down, worldly places, worldly forms of entertainment, etc.
8. Satan's world system has a mold that it wants everybody to fit into. Your priority as a believer must be to love God more than anything else, love His Word, and love people.
 9. If you do not make a conscious decision to set godly priorities in your life, rest assured, Satan will be glad to set your priorities for you.
 10. This world system says to have a "me-first" mentality. The world says it is all about you being happy, having lots of money and new things, and looking out for number one.
 11. We see in our text that this is a recipe for drowning in destruction. It is a recipe for misery and heartache. God has a better way. This brings me to my next point.

Second, follow after God's priorities.

1. The word "*follow*" in our verse means "to pursue."
2. The world's priorities are for you to pursue money, possessions, power, and prestige; Satan tells people that these things will make them happy.
3. God's priorities do not involve what you **have**, but what you **are**. God's priorities do not care about the brand name on your clothes, but the heart inside your clothes. God's priorities do not involve what you have stored up in your house or bank account; they are concerned with what you have stored up in your heart.
 - Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.
4. What are God's priorities? They are for His children to follow after (pursue):
 - Righteousness—doing right by obeying God's commands and God's principles.
 - Godliness—a love for Jesus that manifests itself as a desire to do God's will.
 - Faith—trusting Christ and His Word in every situation of life.
 - Love—the greatest command is to love God, the second is to love others.
 - Patience—the peace of God rules your heart, and it shows in your dealings with others.
 - Meekness—being gentle and humble in our dealings with others; not self-willed and arrogant.
5. These are the fruits of people who have recognized that Christ is their identity—not their money or job or possessions or talents or abilities, but Christ.
6. When you recognize your true spiritual identity at the core level, it frees you from the grip of Satan's world system to follow after God's priorities, becoming a man or woman of God.

In Conclusion:

1. Why is the suicide rate so high? Why are young people destroying their lives? Why do addictions enslave people? Why are marriages breaking up at an alarming rate? Why are so many people depressed and distressed?

2. It is because people have not learned to “*flee*” and “*follow*.” Flee the world’s priorities and follow after what God says is important.
3. May our loved ones be able to say one day about us, “He was a man of God! He did not allow the world to dictate his priorities.” May they be able to say, “She was a true woman of God. God’s priorities were her priorities.”
4. Know what and when to flee. Know what to follow!