

The Effort Necessary

Intro: Many believe that all that is needed to be saved is a mental assent of the facts of the gospel. Others act as though nothing is needed beyond their initial obedience to the gospel. Paul teaches us that great effort is needed to be saved. Let us study five points Paul makes in 1 Tim. 6:11-14
“¹¹ But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.
¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. ¹³ I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and *before* Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; ¹⁴ That thou keep *this* commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:”

I. ONE MUST FLEE.

A. 1 Tim. 6:11 “¹¹ But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.”

1. Means to turn away from, run, abhor.
2. The Greek word φεύγω (*pheugo*) is closely akin to our word “fugitive.”
3. The disciple must run away from certain things.

B. False Teaching.

1. 1 Tim. 6:3-5 “³ If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; ⁴ He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, ⁵ Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.”
2. Mat. 7:15 “¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”
3. Rom. 16:17-18 “¹⁷ Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. ¹⁸ For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”
4. 2 John 9-11 “⁹ Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed: ¹¹ For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”

C. The love of money.

1. 1 Tim. 6:9-10 “⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”
2. Mat. 6:19-21 “¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”
3. Mat. 13:22 “²² He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.”
4. Luke 12:15, 20-21 “¹⁵ And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.... ²⁰ But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? ²¹ So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”
5. Col. 3:5 “⁵ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

D. Anything contrary to godly living.

1. Some specifics.
 - a. 1 Cor. 6:18 ^{“18} Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”
 - b. 1 Cor. 10:14 ^{“14} Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.”
 - c. 2 Tim. 2:22 ^{“22} Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”
2. Some generics
 - a. Rom. 12:9 ^{“9} Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”
 - b. 1 The. 5:22 ^{“22} Abstain from all appearance of evil.”
 - c. 1 Pet. 2:11 ^{“11} Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”
3. One must have the conviction and courage to flee anything that is sinful.
4. Story told by Iron Eyes Cody (famous Indian actor)

Many years ago Indian braves would go away in solitude to prepare for manhood. One hiked into a beautiful valley, green with trees, bright with flowers. There, as he looked up at the surrounding mountains, he noticed one rugged peak, capped with dazzling snow. I will test myself against that mountain, he thought. He put on his buffalo-hide shirt, threw his blanket over shoulders and set off to climb the pinnacle.

When he reached the top, he stood on the rim of the world. He could see forever, and his heart swelled with pride. Then he heard a rustle at his feet. Looking down, he saw a snake. Before he could move, the snake spoke. “I am about to die,” said the snake. “It is too cold for me up here, and there is not food. Put me under your shirt and take me down to the valley.” No,” said the youth. “I know your kind. You are a rattlesnake. If I pick you up you will bite and your bite will kill me.” “Not so,” said the snake. “I will treat you differently. If you do this for me I will not harm you.”

The youth resisted awhile, but this was a very persuasive snake. At last the youth tucked it under his shirt and carried it down to the valley. There he laid it down gently. Suddenly the snake coiled, rattled, and leaped, biting him on the leg. “But you promised—” cried the youth! “You know what I was when you picked me up,” said the snake as it slithered away.

And now, wherever I go, I tell that story to young people who might be tempted by drugs. Remember the words of the snake: “You know what I was when you picked me up.”

- E. When we flee from Satan and his devices then Satan will flee from us. Jas. 4:7** ^{“7} Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

II. ONE MUST FOLLOW.**A. Righteousness**

1. Meaning of word.
 - a. This word is the character or quality of being right or just.
 - b. Thus, it is doing what is right and just before God and man.
 - c. Possibly here dealing more with our uprightness in dealing with man.
2. What that righteousness is:
 - a. 1 Pet. 3:11-12 ^{“11} Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil.”
 - b. Comes stems from God’s dealings with man. 1 John 2:29 ^{“29} If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.”

- c. 1 John 3:7 ^{“7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”}

B. Godliness

1. Meaning of word.
 - a. From a compound word well, and to be devout.
 - b. Denotes that piety which characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him. Thus, conforming to the image of God, godlikeness.
2. We are to be godly.
 - a. Tit. 2:12 ^{“12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”}
 - (1) Soberly (relation with self)
 - (2) Righteously (relation with others)
 - (3) Godly (relation with God).
 - b. 2 Pet. 1:3,6-7 ^{“3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:... 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”}
 - c. 2 Pet. 3:11 ^{“11 Seeing then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,”}
3. 1 Tim. 4:8 ^{“8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”}

C. Faith

1. As used here it refers to one having a dependence upon Christ and His word.
 - a. One who has fidelity.
 - b. One who has the courage of his convictions.
2. We are to be faithful.
 - a. God has always wanted this; Mat. 23:23 ^{“23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.”}
 - b. Mat. 24:45-46 ^{“45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? 46 Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.”}
 - c. 1 Cor. 4:2 ^{“2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”}
 - d. Gal. 5:22 ^{“22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,”}

D. Love

1. This is the Greek word ἀγάπη (*agape*).
 - a. A love that serves.
 - b. A love that does what is in the best interest of others.
2. We are to have a love for others.
 - a. 1 Cor. 16:14 ^{“14 Let all your things be done with charity.”}
 - b. Rom. 13:8-10 ^{“8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. 9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if *there be* any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.”}
 - c. 1 The. 3:12 ^{“12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you:”}

- d. 2 Pet. 1:7 ⁴⁷ “And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”
- 3. Paul’s description of love. 1 Cor. 13:

E. Patience

1. This word is from the Greek ὑπομονή (*hupomone*).
 - a. It literally means “to abide under.”
 - b. The reference here is to abide under, or have steadfast endurance in the trials and afflictions that will come upon the Christian.
2. Persecutions, trials, etc., will come upon the Christian.
 - a. John 15:20 ²⁰ “Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.”
 - b. 2 Tim. 3:12 ¹² “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”
 - c. 1 Pet. 4:1 ¹ “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;”
 - d. 1 Pet. 4:12 ¹² “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:”
3. We must be patient under those persecutions.
 - a. Rom. 12:12 ¹² “Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;”
 - b. 2 Cor. 6:4 ⁴ “But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses;”
 - c. 2 Tim. 3:10-11 ¹⁰ “But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, ¹¹ Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.”
4. When we endure, are patient, we then have hope.
 - a. 1 The. 1:3 ³ “Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;”
 - b. Heb. 10:36 ³⁶ “For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.”
 - c. Jam. 1:3-4, 12 ³ “Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.... ¹² Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”

F. Meekness

1. What is meekness?
 - a. It is not weakness.
 - b. It is the result of inner strength that has been brought under control.
 - (1) It is expressed outwardly by one’s compassion and gentleness.
 - (2) But, meekness is a condition of the mind and heart.
2. We are to be meek.
 - a. Mat. 5:5 ⁵ “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.”
 - b. Gal. 5:22-23 ²² “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”
 - c. Eph. 4:1-2 ¹ “I Therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, ² With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;”
 - d. Col. 3:12 ¹² “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;”
 - e. Tit. 3:2 ² “To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, *but* gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.”

3. We must bring our strength under control (practice self-control) even under adversities and contradictions.

III. ONE MUST FIGHT.

- A. **1 Tim. 6:12** ^{“12} Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”
- B. **The idea of fight.**
 1. The word means to contend perseveringly against opposition and temptation.
 2. The gospel brings conflict to the entire Christian life.
- C. **A Christian enlists in the army of God.**
 1. 1 Tim. 1:18 ^{“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. 2 Tim. 2:3 ^{“3} Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”
- D. **We must prepare ourselves for the fight.**
 1. 2 Cor. 10:4 ^{“4} (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)”
 2. Eph. 6:11 ^{“11} Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
 3. Study and learning the word of God (the faith).
- E. **The fight must be forcefully carried to the enemy.**
 1. We must not be passive.
 2. There is fighting for and fighting against.
 - a. Notice context:
 - (1) fighting against: flee.
 - (2) fighting for: follow.
 - b. Rom. 6:13 ^{“13} Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.” *instruments* means “weapons” (marginal reading).
 - c. Fighting for:
 - (1) 1 The. 2:2 ^{“2} But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.”
 - (2) 1 Pet. 3:15 ^{“15} But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”
 - d. Fighting against:
 - (1) 1 Tim. 4:1-2, 6 ^{“1} Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;... ⁶ If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.”
 - (2) 2 Tim. 4:2-5 ^{“2} Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. ⁵ But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”

- (3) Jude 3 ⁴³ Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
3. We must be able to say with Paul; 2 Tim. 4:7 ⁴⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:”

IV. ONE MUST LAY HOLD.

A. 1 Tim. 6:12, 19 ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.... ¹⁹ Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.” **(Paul repeats this effort).**

B. What the effort is:

1. Taking a firm grasp upon, to grasp or seize, to lay firm hold.
2. The object is eternal life.
3. “Practically appropriating all the benefits, privileges and responsibilities involved in the possession of it.” (Vine’s)

C. The object we are to lay hold of is eternal life.

1. We have been called to eternal life.
 - a. One is called by the gospel; 2 The. 2:14 ¹⁴ Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - b. One must obey the gospel to be saved.
 - (1) Rom. 1:16 ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
 - (2) Rom. 6:17 ¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”
 - (3) Heb. 5:8-9 ⁸ Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”
 - c. 2 Pet. 1:10-11 ¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: ¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”
2. Upon the confess (profession) of Jesus as the Son of God.
 - a. The word professed (profession) is from the Greek word *ὁμολογία* (*homologia*) and means “a word together with.”
 - b. This is what God said.
 - (1) Mat. 3:17 ¹⁷ And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”
 - (2) Mat. 17:5 ⁵ While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”
 - c. We make this confession for salvation.
 - (1) Mat. 10:32-33 ³² Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. ³³ But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.” This confession is a life dedicated to God.
 - (2) Acts 8:37 ³⁷ And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
 - (3) Rom. 10:10 ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

V. ONE MUST KEEP.

A. **1 Tim. 6:14** ^{“14} That thou keep *this* commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:”

B. **Keep means to retain, to maintain, to fulfill or to observe.**

C. **It requires faithfulness.**

1. Mat. 24:45-46 ^{“45} Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? ⁴⁶ Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.”
2. 1 Cor. 15:58 ^{“58} Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
3. Rev. 14:13 ^{“13} And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”
4. even unto death
 - a. Mat. 10:22 ^{“22} And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”
 - b. Rev. 2:10 ^{“10} Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

D. **This involves keeping oneself:**

1. Pure in doctrine.
 - a. 1 Tim. 6:14 ^{“14} That thou keep *this* commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:” (the commandments of God)
 - b. 1 Tim. 6:3 ^{“3} If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;”
 - c. 1 The. 5:21 ^{“21} Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”
 - d. Tit. 2:1 ^{“1} But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:”
2. Pure in living
 - a. 1 Tim. 6:11 ^{“11} But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.” (fleeing and following)
 - b. Jas. 1:27 ^{“27} Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.”
 - c. Rom. 12:1-2 ^{“1} I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Conclusion: Are you putting forth the effort necessary to reach heaven’s home? If not they why not start now.