

We all know the feeling. That nagging pull back towards old habits, the temptation that seems to come out of nowhere. The siren call of sin beckons us back. But make no mistake: the Christian life is not a playground; it's a battleground. And in that battle, there's no room for complacency or isolation. In 2 Timothy 2:22, Paul doesn't mince words. He issues a double command: Flee and Pursue. In the battle with Satan, it's not enough to simply avoid evil; we must actively chase after righteousness. This morning, let's explore this crucial verse and discover how to fight the good fight and live a life worthy of our calling.

“So, flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.” 2 Timothy 2:22

1. “Flee youthful passions...”
 - a. It's a desperate escape from sin, not a passive avoidance of it. | 1 Cor 6:18; 10:14; 1 Tim 6:11
 - b. The passions of youth are a constant threat to anyone of any age. | Gal 5:16-21-24
2. “And pursue...”
 - a. As Timothy runs from sin, he must aggressively chase the positive virtues of godliness. | Rom 14:19; 1 Cor 14:1; 1 Tim 6:11
 - b. A life merely cleansed of evil but lacking in goodness becomes vulnerable to a greater and more destructive evil. | Luk 11:24-26
 - c. “Righteousness” - Living a life that reflects God's holy character. | Eph 4:17-5:1
 - d. “Faith” - Trusting God's promises and relying on His power. | Col 1:3-14
 - e. “Love” - Selfless care and compassion to all. | 1 Cor 13:1-13
 - f. “Peace” - Living in harmony with God and others. | Rom 12:9-21
3. “Along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”
 - a. Christianity is a communal faith, not a solitary pursuit. | Heb 10:24-25; Eph 5:18-21
 - b. Timothy is to partner with those who:
 - i. Actively “call on the Lord.” | Act 2:42-47; Rev 3:14-22
 - ii. Center their hearts on God's word. | 1 Tim 1:3-5; 1 Pet 1:22-25

We weren't meant to do life alone. God has given us the church – a community of fellowship, support, encouragement, and grace. We're here to help each other flee those temptations that persistently tempt us and to encourage one another to pursue the virtues that will transform our lives. As we leave here today, I want to ask you: Who's fighting alongside you? Who's coming to your aid in the battle? Are you encouraging someone else in their struggle? Are you helping someone slay their demons? Connect with your brothers and sisters here at JH – lift them up when they're down, speak truth to them when they're tempted to stray, and celebrate with them as you grow in Christ. Apart, we're easy prey, but together, we can flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, living lives that shine His light in the world.