

# P U R S U I N G   R I G H T E O U S N E S S

“ P r a y e r   i s   t h e   k e y   a n d   f a i t h   u n l o c k s   t h e   d o o r ”

*“But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” (v11,12)*

*1 Timothy 6:3-12*

## **PRAY ON JUST DON'T THROW IN THE TOWEL**

It would seem as we draw near the end of this year of pursuing righteousness in prayer. Satan has decided he's taking the gloves off in his efforts to hinder our enjoyment of this closer walk with God. So then, is it true that Satan is being more relentless with his combination punches? Or is it our knees buckling under the pressure, because we are failing to bend them often enough to maintain control? Well, what ever the reason for this season of heartaches, headaches and disappointments, there is still good news, so don't throw in the towel yet.

In our focus scripture this month, Paul recognizes that Timothy is faced with a season such as ours. A season of failing contentment, overwhelming temptation and deceitful directions. Paul encourages Timothy and us by first reminding us who we are. “But you, O man of God” Timothy as well as you and I are chosen vessels of God. We are called by Him to serve His purpose. Secondly, Paul says refresh daily your focus. “Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and gentleness.” We get caught up in the pursuit of many things these days. Pursuing fame, fortune, position and prestige is weighing us down. The desire for me to be right and you to be wrong is slowing us down and allowing Satan's blows to be far more damaging. Thirdly, Paul reassures us that it is through our faith, we are promised to share in the victory. Christ has already gained the victory, yet most of the time we try to fight a fixed fight thinking it is our battle to win. Someone once said “the battle is not yours, it's the Lord's.” So, stand firm in faith and fight the good fight.

I am personally encouraged by this timely peek into Timothy's mail box. Lately my spirit has been challenged at every turn. I have felt my knees weakened by the battering of current events and personal choices. So I'm making a special effort to strengthen my knees for the fight, by exercising them more often in the positions of prayer.

O man of God, don't retreat, just re-focus. What is it in your life that is draining your power? Recognize it then refresh yourself daily in your Godly pursuit. Then finally don't throw in the towel, stand sure on your faith. Satan's lowest blows can be a source of untapped strength to those pursuing the righteousness of God.

((A church that prays together, grows in faith together))

L e t   u s   p r a y

DEACON LARRY DAVIS 10/07