

Follow After...

I. Introduction

- A. After warning against sinful attitudes toward earthly riches, the Holy Spirit through Paul commands pursuit of six virtues that *are* appropriate for one who belongs to God. Consider some things Scripture teaches related to each of these.
1 Timothy 6:11

II. Righteousness

- A. The first thing the verse commands following after is *righteousness*. **1 Timothy 6:11**
B. We must *hunger* and *thirst* after righteousness. This involves a fervent desire to *be* right with God, by *learning* and *doing* what He defines as right. **Matthew 5:6**

III. Godliness

- A. We must also diligently pursue *godliness*. **1 Timothy 6:11**
B. Godliness is not necessarily “godlikeness,” though there are some characteristics of God we should strive to emulate. Godliness, though, involves a reverent fear and proper respect toward God. **Hebrews 12:28; Proverbs 1:7**

IV. Faith

- A. The apostle Paul also notes *faith* as something that must be sought after. Faith generally involves “assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen.” **1 Timothy 6:11; Hebrews 11:1**
B. Such assurance and conviction is not baseless, but is founded on the truth of God’s Word. **Romans 10:17**
C. While faithfulness could refer to the unwavering trust and obedience produced by God’s Word in the hearts of sincere hearers, it can also refer to being dependable, or trustworthy, as we should be in our service to God. **1 Corinthians 10:13**

V. Love

- A. After commanding faith, the apostle Paul commands *love*.
1 Timothy 6:11
B. *Agape* love involves seeking others’ highest good. It involves sacrifice and selflessness. God Himself perfectly exemplifies this. **1 John 4:10**
C. Given the love God has shown us, we have great motivation to love *Him*. Such love will be manifested by obedience to His commands. **1 John 5:3**
D. God’s love also encourages us to love *others*. Just as God loves us even though we have mistreated *Him*, we ought to love even those who have mistreated *us*. **1 John 4:11**

VI. Patience

- A. We must also follow after *patience*. Scripture’s description of patience generally involves “perseverance” (*WEB*) and “steadfastness” (*ESV*). It involves *constancy* in doing right, especially in trials. **1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Thessalonians 1:4**
B. Jesus’ parable of the sower helps distinguish between those who serve God with patience, and those whose faith is unstable. **Luke 8:13, 15**
C. Developing patience is helped when we look to biblical examples of others who have persevered. **Hebrews 12:1**

VII. Meekness

- A. The apostle Paul also commands *meekness*. Meekness involves a humble, submissive spirit that allows God to direct one’s steps. **1 Timothy 6:11; James 1:21**
B. Meekness must also be directed toward others. **Titus 3:2**

VIII. Conclusion

- A. May each of us deliberately and zealously pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. **1 Timothy 6:11**