



**January 28, 2018**

*"But, you man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, **endurance**, and **gentleness**. Fight the good fight of the faith."*

1 Timothy 6:11,12

### **I. Pursue Character!**

- A. The last two pillars deal with difficult situations and people!
- B. God is more concerned about our character than our comfort
- C. Paul's resolve to pursue character (Acts 20:22-24)

### **II. Pillar #5 – Endurance – hypomeneo**

- A. Simple definition = Determined to finish despite the struggle and despite the pace
- B. Hardship can be a trial or it can be a test – both build endurance! (James 2:1-4; Heb. 12:1-7)
- C. The struggle can be great – Keep on going! (Job)
- D. The time may be long – Keep on going! (Psalm 13)
- E. To pursue endurance means to acknowledge every test and trial as an opportunity and to develop a pattern of overcoming

### **III. Pillar #6 – Gentleness – praupathia – 1X**

- A. Simple definition = The balancing act: Right anger – real forgiveness – confident regard for self - proper respect for others
- B. Slow to anger for Self <-----> Quick to anger for others (Eph. 4:6)
- C. Forgiving of others <-----> Expectation of change (Eph. 4:32)
- D. Walks in right humility <-----> Right pride in abilities (Eph. 4:2)
- E. Concern for others <-----> Concern for self
- F. To pursue Gentleness is to practice self control and humility through patience with others.

### **IV. Practical Pursuits**

- A. Remain in Community - Isolation destroys!
- B. Remove guilt - Confess sin - Repent - Forgive yourself - Keep moving forward!
- C. Remember Christ— His endurance/His Gentleness (Heb. 12:2)