

“Flee”

Run, runner!

By John Cospers

We hear a lot of talk in the church about being bold and standing strong. We like to talk about putting on the full armor of God to resist the flaming arrows of the devil. We like to talk about arming ourselves with knowledge so we can argue and defend the faith. These are all good traits for a follower of Christ, but there's one skill, one strategy that doesn't come up as often as it should:

Running.

Or fleeing, to quote the Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 6:8). Paul tells us to flee from sin, specifically sexual immorality. Sounds like a cowardly thing to do when we spend so much time talking about standing and fighting, but even the great general Sun Tsu, author of *The Art of War*, acknowledged there were times when retreat was wiser than engaging in battle. When you're up against overwhelming odds, better to fall back than to fight a losing battle. And try as we might to resist, sexual temptation - from looking at pictures on the Internet to sex outside marriage - is often a losing battle!

The great king David fell to sexual temptation (2 Samuel 11). So have many other men who thought they were invulnerable. One man who did not was Joseph, the son of Jacob. When Potiphar's wife came after him, he fled (Genesis 39). He went to jail for a crime he didn't commit, but the Lord knew Joseph to be a righteous man - one who knows when to retreat when he must!

Men, it's high time we stop fooling ourselves and learn to turn tail and run. When sexual temptation arises, flee. Get away from the computer, from that woman, from whatever is drawing you to sin. Let's pick our battles more wisely, and know when our best strategy is full retreat.

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