

Breaking Free from the Money Trap
Resist Continually
Avoiding Temptation
I Timothy 6:9-16
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Jan. 28, 2018

I. Recognize How Rich You Are Compared to the Rest of the World

The word 'rich' Paul uses is the Greek word 'pluteo' meaning 'to have an abundant supply of money, resources, or possessions.'

If you own a car, have a phone, running water, indoor plumbing, live in an air conditioned and heated space, and eat 3 meals a day, then you're rich in comparison to 90% of the rest of the world. If you add some savings, have two cars in any condition, and live your own house then you have reached the top 5%.

You may not feel wealthy, but that's because you've lost sight of how the rest of the world lives.

II. Recognize How Dangerous It Is to Be a Christian Here in America

V. 9 and 10 are loaded with some of the most frightening and sobering words you can find in all the Bible.

I Timothy 6:9-10 "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

A. Wishing for More Money Can Easily Turn into Living to Get It

The word 'desire' in **v. 9** is the Greek word 'boulomai' which is a wish that you have often and strongly enough that it shifts into a deliberate, willful desire that now motivates you and changes what you do next.

Willful desire leads to temptation which leads to a snare which leads to self-inflicted destruction.

B. Money Can Be an Incredible Temptation

v. 9 "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare..."

I Timothy reminds us that one of the biggest temptations we face is the worship and abuse of money!

C. Money Can Derail Your Faith

v. 10 "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness..."

That word 'strayed' in **v. 10** is a Greek word that means to gradually or slowly be misled from the right path.

Satan knows that sudden things startle us so he's very patient. He's the king of subtle and slow.

The problem with greed is that we don't see it in ourselves and even when we do we're not convinced it's a problem.

As Christians in America we may not be persecuted, but we are afflicted with prosperity and a low-grade fever of affluenza.

III. Recognize How Relentless You'll Have to Be to Keep from Getting Sucked into the Money Trap

Beginning in **v. 11** Paul lays out a plan for how we can still thrive as Christians in the midst of such a money temptation!

The plan is two-pronged and it reflects the fundamental strategy for fighting sin that's laid out in the New Testament. It can be summarized in two words: fighting and delighting.

A. Do Whatever It Takes to Keep Fighting Against Your Own Flesh and This Present World System

v. 11-12 "But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 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."

The verbs flee, pursue, and fight are present, active imperatives. That means you're going have to do it, then do it again and again.

Keep fighting the good fight of faith, run like a fugitive and do whatever you can to keep from getting sucked into the money trap.

You need to be in God's Word and at close range with other Christians.

Hebrews 12:1-2 "... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus..."

B. Do Whatever You Can to Keep Delighting in Your Savior and What's Coming Next!

In **v. 13-16** Paul launches from calling us to flee, pursue, and fight and heads into a doxology of praise for Jesus and what's coming next!

Our present moments are best lived when they stay solidly framed between God's past acts of redemption and the glorious future He has planned for us.

You can't be just fighting or you'll lose heart and quit. You have to be delighting in what God's already done for you and delighting in your Savior and what's coming next!