

# Trustworthy Sayings

## Part 10 – Taking Hold of True Life

### 1 Timothy 6.11-21

#### Flight AND Fight

- Flee what spiritually clogs your heart (v.11)
  - Greed and materialism are spiritual cholesterol
- Fight for transformation
  - Pursue / Fight – both active – no one drifts into this
  - Fight for godly character (v.11)
    - Character DOES matter – and transformed character the best thing we can offer the world
  - Fight along with others (v.12)
    - You don't have to do this alone – you can't do it alone
    - ARMY TRAINING WALL VIDEO
  - Fight for obedience (v.14)
    - You're not just fighting against something but *for* something and *with* somebody
- Paul calls this “taking hold of life” – serious words, serious work, seriously worth it

#### Financial Application

##### *Don't be haughty*

- We are blessed to be a blessing, not stockpile the blessings
- This is self-idolatry – making ourselves the source of our own hope

##### *Hope in God*

- Not in riches which prove uncertain
- He provides us with all things to enjoy
  1. Receive it as a gift
  2. Use as intended
  3. Say thanks

##### *Do good*

- The temptation might be to throw money at something you don't necessarily want to do
  - Service is a discipline that helps you not be arrogant
- Be rich – and be rich in good works

##### *Be generous*

- This happens through tithes and offerings
  - Tithes – 10% of earned income given to local church

- Offerings – gifts over and above tithing given to causes that stir your heart

Our current situation:

Giving is up 3.5%

Attendance is up 15%

Cause

- Economy isn't as strong (bonuses)
- Retirement of faithful givers
  - Younger families get to step up

Consequence

- Not inhibiting current ministry but inhibiting future ministry
  - Church plan
  - Spanish-speaking ministry
- Not missing bills but missing investments
  - Reserve transfers
  - Carpet in children's and preschool areas

Cure

- Proper attitude: it's all His
- Proper action: give regularly and spontaneously

1. "I just didn't know" – but we don't have another source of income for ministry
2. "I've been hurt before" – but we have absolutely nothing to hide
3. "I don't see it making a difference" – but we don't have fat in the budget
  - a. Kick-Starter Giving – give to causes we like and expect something back (but it keeps us at the center)
4. "I don't know if I can" – but we don't lack testimonies
5. "It's just not that important" – but we have a command, promise, and calling

Questions for Discussion

1. When you hear the phrase "spiritual cholesterol," what immediately comes to your mind? What does the world offer that is most dangerous to you?
2. Read 2 Timothy 4. Paul writes of how he fought the good fight. What will it take for you to get to the end of your life and say the same (instead of being like Demas)?
3. Look at the list of character traits to pursue in 1 Timothy 6.11. Which one do you need to work on most? How will you pursue it?
4. Out of the four applications (*don't be haughty*, etc.), which do you find easiest? Most difficult? Why?
5. What did your family do giving-wise while growing up? How does that impact you today? What steps (if any) do you need to take to leave a legacy for your own family?