

# 4Ws

# MONEY: GOOD OR EVIL?

## PURSUE GREAT GAIN

JUNE 12, 2022

### WORSHIP

God So Loved, The Same  
Jesus, In Christ Alone,  
Living Hope, My Heart is  
Yours/I Surrender All

### WELCOME

What do you consider as  
“small things” in your life  
today? Do you have a  
sense of contentment  
and gratitude for these  
“ordinary” blessings?

### WORD

#### 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-12

But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. <sup>7</sup> For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it, either. <sup>8</sup> If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. <sup>9</sup> But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. <sup>11</sup> But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

In 1 Timothy 6:6, it says that godliness is a means of great gain. God wants us to pursue and experience great gain, in Greek, this translates to “abundance”, we can also read this from John 10:10. An abundant life is one full of (and overflowing with) all that God blesses us with to do His work, for His glory. What does it mean to pursue great gain and abundance?

Is godliness equivalent to gain? (Godliness = Gain). In **1 Timothy 6**, Paul began his letter with a reminder that many people (false teachers) will take advantage of things of God and use it to make money. However, there are also those who believe that if they become “godly” or do good things, everything in their life will be great (**1 Timothy 6:3-5**). But we know that that’s not the case, as believers, our lives are not storm-free but our lives can become storm-proof because of Jesus. Instead of equating godliness with gain, Paul says that godliness with contentment is great gain (Godliness + Contentment = Great Gain). How can we achieve and pursue this? It may seem counter-intuitive because gain may be perceived as acquiring more. However, Paul says that gain is accompanied by contentment. Why is it hard to be content in this day and age? Because there are so many distractions like sale offers we see online, encouraging and bombarding us to acquire more things that we may not even need!

How then can we pursue great gain?

#### 1. HAVE A STOPOVER MINDSET (v.7)

The Bible is reminding us that we need to learn contentment, we need to have the right mindset. What does it mean to have a “stopover” mindset? When we travel, we encounter “stopovers”. These are quick breaks as we travel to and from our destination and we do not stay in our stopovers. Similarly, the stopover mindset is one that says, as the verse reminds us, that we brought nothing into the world and thus we can’t also take anything from it (**1 Timothy 6:7; Hebrews 13:14**). So, “Travel light. Hold the things of this world lightly” (Deonna Tan-chi). In summary, someone who has a stopover mindset:

- Thinks temporary (just passing through)
- Buys few things to get by
- May spend to bless others (pasalubong)

Ask yourself: “What am I tightly holding onto in my life?”

#### 2. APPRECIATE THE SIMPLE THINGS (v.8)

Are we okay with having just a little? With what we are currently blessed with, are we generous with those around us? In **Matthew 6:11**, when asked by the disciples how to pray, Jesus himself taught “Give us today our daily bread.” Jesus reminds us to pay special attention to the simple things. God does want to bless us, and wants us to experience abundance for His work, but do we appreciate the small things? As the Barclay Study Bible says, “To whom little is not enough nothing is enough”

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(**Proverbs 30:8-9**). A word of caution, contentment does not encourage us to be passive, we still are to work to provide ourselves with our essentials, it is not an invitation for us to procrastinate (**1 Timothy 5:8**).

What is the difference between a need and a want? A need is what lets you live and survive. A want improves your quality of life. As beautiful quote that encapsulates this point is by Pastor Rick Warren, he says "A lot of things we think are needs are actually just greeds. God did not say He will supply all our greeds."

Ask yourself: Do I appreciate the simple things?

### 3. RE-DIRECT OUR DESIRES (VV.9-11)

Being rich is not what the Bible warns against in **1 Timothy 6:9-11**, but about wanting more stuff or covetousness. In the same way, the love of money that the verse is talking about here translates to extreme greed. The passage thus reminds us that for us to develop deep contentment, we need to beware of the trap of covetousness and greed (**Exodus 20:17**). The word "covet" in Hebrew means "to pant after", to want what others have so bad that it has a potential to be destructive to us (**Proverbs 15:27**). **1 Timothy 6:11a** tells us to avoid greed and covetousness by fleeing. It may mean deleting apps, staying away from places and people that maybe pressuring us to live a lifestyle that we cannot afford. The passage instead encourages us to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness (**1 Timothy 6:11b**). We need to redirect our desire for things instead to Jesus (**Psalms 17:15; Psalm 37:4**). When we covet and grab, we actually lose more. But when we desire God and His ways, He blesses us.

Ask yourself: What desires do we need to redirect?

### 4. FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT (V.12)

In developing contentment, we need to evaluate if we are consumed with our own endeavors or if we are fighting the good fight to obey God in sharing the gospel and making disciples (**Matthew 28:19-20**). We are to remember that if Jesus has brought us to it, He will enable us to go through it; He will enable us to fight the good fight. (**Hebrews 13:5**). Maybe there are doubts hovering over our minds that obeying God and pursuing His good work may put us to risk and lose things, but God promises us that those who seek the Lord lack no good thing (**Psalms 34:10**).

If you are not yet fighting to accomplish God's work, join in, if you are thinking of stepping back, keep fighting because God will provide all you need. Because as Hudson Taylor wisely said, "God's work done God's way will not in lack God's resources." If you want to experience this abundant life in Jesus, pray for Him to transform your life today.

Ask yourself: Am I fighting the good fight 100%?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

#### 1. Self-Check.

Do I appreciate the simple things?

#### 2. Setting It Right.

What desires do you need to redirect?

#### 3. Living It Out.

Are you fighting the good fight 100%?

### WORKS

#### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for those who are burdened and distracted by material riches, that they may learn to pursue godliness and contentment. Reach out to these people to pray for and with them and share your own story of fighting the good fight to do God's work. Share the gospel to them, that they too may experience "great gain" in and through Christ.

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of newly-elected and incumbent public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to stop; peace and order be restored, lives spared. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, families, leaders to turn to Christ; refugees be given safe passage into surrounding nations.

#### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

### MEMORY VERSE

#### 1 TIMOTHY 6:6

But godliness with contentment is great gain