

## Verses: 1 Timothy 6:11-12 NKJV

*<sup>11</sup>But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. <sup>12</sup>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.*

Paul not only warns Timothy what to run away from, but he also points him to what he is to run towards. He instructs him to pursue or chase after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience (cheerful, hopeful endurance, steadfastness) and gentleness (meekness, humility). When we are actively pursuing God and His way of living, we will not so easily be tripped up by the wrong things.

Jesus called us to follow Him. That means to learn from Him and follow His way of living. Often, that involves adopting a completely new lifestyle and outlook on life. We need to study His teachings and apply them in our daily walk.

One of these areas is to consider how we view and use our money and resources, which, if we are saved, are actually God's. Our whole lives, including our possessions, belong to Him. We become stewards of the resources He entrusts into our care. He gives us the power to gain wealth and He blesses the work of our hands, but we need to hold it lightly and be ready to give.

God is generous towards us, but we must be careful that we don't start to trust in our stuff rather than in Him. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 *"<sup>17</sup>Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. <sup>18</sup>Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, <sup>19</sup>storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."*

We must not be possessed by our possessions, but always be willing to give generously as God directs us. We ought not to be careless with our spending, but intentional about giving and sharing with others, building it into our lifestyle and budget. This is pleasing to God our Provider. This is righteous living.

May we use that with which God has blessed us to be a blessing to others and show His love and compassion through our generosity.

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for your love, goodness and generosity towards me. You are my Provider and Shepherd and I put my trust in You. Help me to steward the resources you have entrusted to me with care and wisdom. Lead me in this lifestyle of stewardship and generosity. Cause me to be a cheerful giver who always looks to You as my source of security and comfort and help me to be a blessing to those around me, in Jesus' name. Amen.