

Sunday, 19 August, 2007
1 Timothy 6:1-12

1Ti 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all evils, of which some having lusted after, they were seduced from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. Fight the good fight of faith. Lay hold on eternal life, to which you are also called and have professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Fighting to reach my goal.

Most of us were brought up with the teaching of parents and teachers that we should set goals for ourselves, and then strive to reach them in life. We are told that we can reach any goal in life, if we put our hearts and minds to it. Perseverance is the key to success. But how do we measure success? Can you think of someone you know, who is seen by others and yourself as a truly successful person? What is your measure of success? Yes, it's usually money. The more money you have, the better your status in the community. You are respected and admired because you have reached a goal most others can just dream of. But is this what our goal should really be?

I once overheard a poor lady, staying in a very poor community with her husband and kids, talking to a man in an office where she was a cleaner. She said to him that he must be one of the most lucky and happiest people on earth, for he had a nice big house, with lovely furniture, and a beautiful car. She does not have a car, or even bicycle. Poverty was all she knew. He looked at her, and replied: *"I will give it all if I could only have what you have, for you have true riches."* She looked at him in a very confused manner, asking what she could possibly have that he would want. He replied. *"You have a husband and kids who love you so much. You have a family who cares for you. When you go home, someone will be waiting for you to greet and welcome you home. You have love. I may have a nice house and car, but my wife left me long ago. I have no kids. What you have, I can never buy."* She looked at him and tears filled her eyes. She walked over and hugged him, realising just how blessed and rich she was.

"For the love of money is the root of all evil..." Satan often finds a way of making something we perceive as an obtainable goal just the thing to sidetrack us from what is really important. We often forget that our goal in life should not be to become rich, or important, because that is only of value here on earth. Our main focus should be to get the eternal life promised to the children of God. We should fight all evil, for our goal should be to become more like Jesus. We should follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness, as taught by our Saviour's example. We should be grateful for the riches we have, and not strive for the things that could potentially cause us to lose perspective of the real goal to attain. Flee the things that could potentially keep you away from the Kingdom of God, and FIGHT for what is really important.

* Should you wish to write me, and are in need of someone who would listen and pray with you... Please do. david@davidniebuhr.com

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