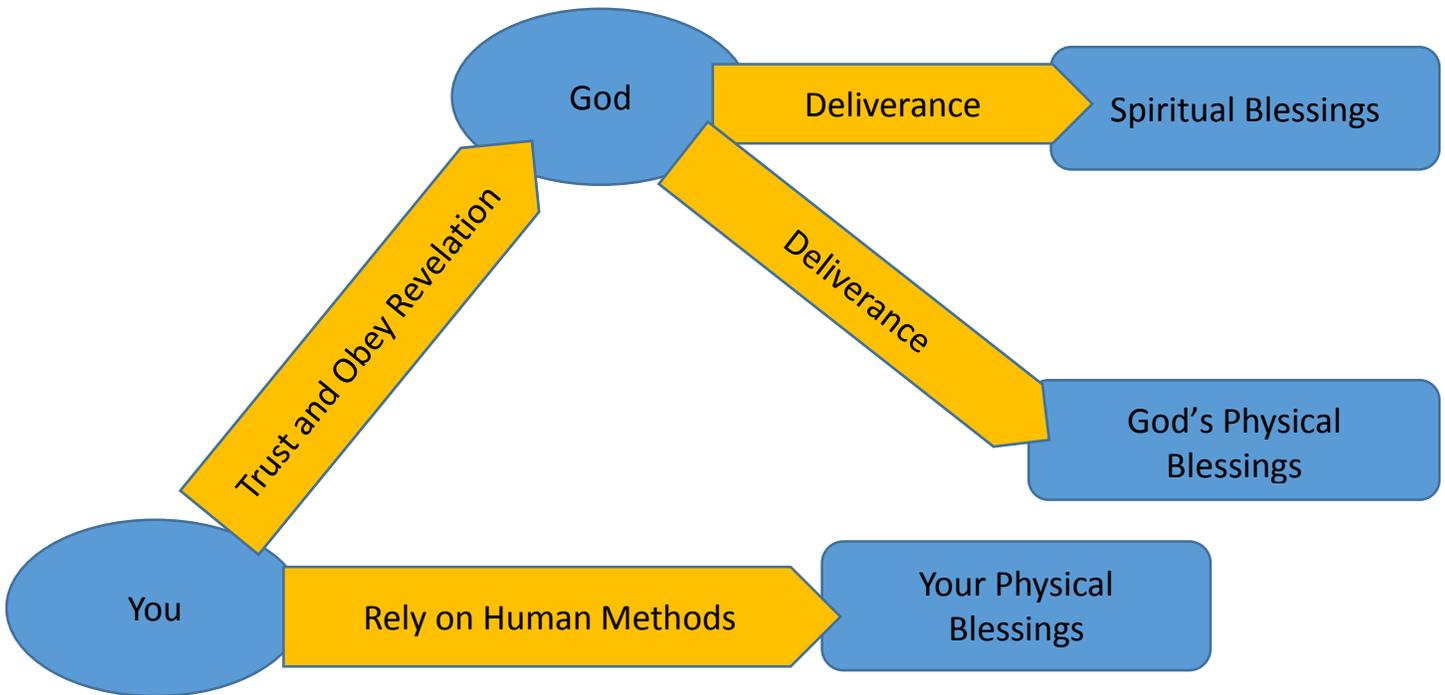


1 Timothy 6.6-12 / Church of the Open Bible / 01.17.16



Three Main Points:

Be _____ with whatever God gives you.

Avoid the _____ of money.

Pursue _____.

1 Timothy 6.6-8: Contentment

If you are discontent you will focus on _____ more so as to become content, not on your relationship with God or doing his work. You will be pursuing your own “bottom line” goals, instead of God’s.

If you are discontent you will feel tempted to obtain more by _____ methods, what we call “bottom line” methods.

We should be content if God keeps his promise to meet our physical _____, since he already has provided everything necessary for our spiritual needs.

Since *everyone* thinks they would be content with a _____ bit more, it is a mistake to think that way; generally, we are never satisfied in our flesh. Contentment is a heart issue, a spiritual issue.

In Philippians 4.11-13, Paul explained he relied on _____ - sufficiency [not self-sufficiency], so he could be content in any circumstances. Paul lived on the “top line” path of faith and obedience, and thus was blessed with the spiritual blessing of contentment.

For further reflection: In what ways are you not content with your life? What practical steps could you take to feel more content with the blessings you have? How can you grow spiritually, such that you will feel more thankful and content, and yearn less for the things of this world?

1 Timothy 6.9-10: Love of Money

Longing to be rich results in _____ to seek worldly things in worldly ways.

Longing to be rich leads to a _____, in that materialism causes us to always yearn instead of being content, to chase worldly treasure instead of heavenly.

Longing to be rich results in _____ desires that bring us ruin and destruction. Materialism, greed, covetousness, jealousy, material lust, can lead us to focus on the wrong things, even to the point of largely ignoring our relationship with God and doing his work; they become idols.

Thus Paul concludes that the _____ of money is the root of all sorts of evils in our lives.

The prayer in Proverbs 30.8b-9 asks for neither poverty nor _____, because either extreme can tempt us away from the “top line” way of life.

For further reflection: Though you might not be at the extreme of having materialism or money as an idol in your life, can you see symptoms of how perhaps you focus too much on accumulating or enjoying material wealth, whereas you could focus more on giving and serving for Christ? We all are rich compared to most of the people in the world today [15% live on less than \$1.25/day!], and especially compared to almost everyone in history; how does being in such a wealthy society distort our expectations and thus our contentment or desires? how can being so well off make it harder to give up control to God or to be generous?

1 Timothy 6.11-12: Godliness

As people _____ to God, instead of pursuing money or material things, we should pursue God and the things of God: righteousness, godliness, faithfulness, love, endurance, and gentleness.

We also should _____ well for the faith, that is to pursue God’s kingdom by immersing ourselves in biblical teaching and the biblical way of life, by pursuing our relationship with God passionately, by fulfilling the commands and goals God gave to the church and his people in it.

Since we are eternally saved people, we should _____ like it! If you are a person dedicated to God, as Timothy was, keep away from earthly, materialistic stuff, the love of money; instead pursue God’s way of life in relationship with him.

Hebrews 13.5 has similar themes to our passage: _____ in God’s provision, and thus you can be content and free from the love of money.

For further reflection: Would others describe you as godly? In what ways could you be more godly? In what ways could you live more like a person separated out by God, for God, and transformed to be the true image of God? What steps could you take to ensure you continue to grow in godliness, righteousness, and the other godly traits Paul listed?