

Becoming Fruitful Disciples: By Avoiding Greed (Part 4)

Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. (Luke 8:14)

Principles of True Prosperity

(1 Timothy 6:1-21)

1. Bloom Where You are Planted (6:1-2)

¹ Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and [His] doctrine may not be blasphemed. ² And those who have believing masters, let them not despise [them] because they are brethren, but rather serve [them] because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

Duty #1: Honor Leaders to Honor God and His Teaching

Duty #2: Serve Brothers to Benefit Spiritual Family

2. Beware of Bad Teachers and Teachings (6:3-5)

³ If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, [even] the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, ⁴ he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, ⁵ useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a [means of] gain. From such withdraw yourself.

Key #1: The Content

Key #2: The Character

Key #3: The Conclusion

3. Build Life Upon the Basics (6:6-8)

⁶ Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

Truth #1: Godly Living with Contentment Is Truly Great Gain

Truth #2: Nothing Brought In, Nothing Taken Out

Truth #3: We NEED Food and Clothing

Truth #4: Choose Contentment

4. Break Away from the “Money Love” Path (6:9-10)

⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all [kinds of] evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Danger #1: Temptation

Danger #2: Snare

Danger #3: Foolish & Harmful Lusts

Danger #4: Straying from the Faith

Danger #5: Many Sorrows

5. Beat a New Path of Godly Behaviors (6:11-12)

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

Action #1: Flee

Action #2: Follow

Action #3: Fight

Action #4: Grasp

6. Base Hope Upon God, not Riches (6:17-19)

¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ [Let them] do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Trust God, Not Self or Riches

Be Rich in Good Works and Giving

What Steps Can I Take Today?