

"TEE OFF CORRECTLY"

1 TIMOTHY 4:11-16

INTRODUCTION

LIFE IS LIKE A GOLF GAME. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE PLAYED A ROUND OR TWO, YOU KNOW HOW CHALLENGING THE SPORT OF GOLF CAN BE.

I KNOW THAT TIGER WOODS, PHIL MICKELSON AND VIJAY SINGH, MAKE IT LOOK EASY ON TELEVISION WHEN THEY HIT THE BALL OVER THE POND AND ONTO THE GREEN, ONLY 3 FEET FROM THE PEN.

BUT FOR THE AVERAGE PLAYER, THE BALL WILL PROBABLY END UP IN THE POND, OR FAR BEYOND THE GREEN IN THE RUFF.

LIFE IS LIKE A GOLF GAME BECAUSE ON THE SURFACE IT APPEARS TO BE RELATIVELY SIMPLE, BUT IT IS ACTUALLY VERY CHALLENGING.

IN THIS MESSAGE TODAY, I WANT TO EXPLORE SOME OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF GOOD GOLFING AND ATTEMPT TO APPLY THEM TO OUR APPROACH TO LIFE ITSELF.

NOW, I WANT TO BE HONEST AND TELL YOU THAT I NEVER PLAYED A ROUND OF GOLF IN MY LIFE, SO THIS IS A CASE OF DO AS I SAY, AND NOT DO AS I DO.

I. TO TEE OFF CORRECTLY, YOU NEED TO GET A GOOD GRIP.

- A. FIRST A GOLFER GRIPS HIS CLUB WITH BOTH HANDS, SO THAT HIS HANDS ARE INSEPARABLE.**

THIS WORKS TO COMBINE THE STRENGTH OF BOTH ARMS INTO ONE SMOOTH MOTION A LOOSE GRIP WILL CAUSE THE FORCE OF THE CLUB TO TURN, RESULTING IN SLICING THE BALL TO THE

RIGHT, OR HOOKING TO THE LEFT.

1. A GOLFER KNOWS THAT A CORRECT GRIP CAN DO WHAT BRUTE STRENGTH CANNOT DO.
2. THE LONG BALL HITTERS LEARN HOW TO USE THEIR WRISTS AS WELL AS THEIR SHOULDERS.
3. THEIR GRIP ON THE CLUB IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE SIZE OF THEIR BICEPS.

B. MANY YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO FIND A HANDLE ON LIFE, BUT THERE IS NONE BETTER THAN FAITH.

SOMEONE HAS SAID THAT LIFE HAS TWO HANDLES, FAITH AND FEAR.

1. THE HANDLE OF FEAR CAUSES SWEATY PALMS, AND SLIPPERY FINGERS.
2. THE YOUNG PERSON WHO GRABS HOLD OF FEAR WILL FIND HIMSELF STRIPPED OF EVERYTHING WORTHWHILE.
3. THE HANDLE OF FAITH IS STEADY AND SECURE, AND IT IS ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR DEALING WITH LIFE'S GREATEST CHALLENGES
4. FEAR WILL PUT YOU IN THE ROUGH, WHILE FAITH WILL KEEP YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FAIRWAY.

C. CLASS OF 2010, YOU NEED FAITH BECAUSE IT IS NOT EASY DEALING WITH THE PRESSURES OF

TODAY'S WORLD.

- DRUGS
- ALCOHOL
- SUICIDE
- PREMARITAL SEX

D. CLASS OF 2010, I KNOW YOU ARE FILLED WITH UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

1. "WHY DON'T MY PARENTS CARE ABOUT ME?"
2. "WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH MY LIFE?"
3. "HOW CAN I SAY NO TO MY FRIENDS?"
4. "WHAT'S WRONG WITH HAVING A LITTLE FUN?"
5. "HOW CAN I DEAL WITH REJECTION?"
6. "WILL THIS BOREDOM EVER END?"

E. THESE ARE THE KINDS OF QUESTIONS YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FACING.

NO WONDER THEY GET A LITTLE SHAKEN UP AND LOSE THEIR GRIP ON LIFE.

1. YOU MAY ACT COCKY AND CONFIDENT, BUT I KNOW YOUR HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH FEAR.
2. YOU ARE AFRAID OF FAILURE AND YOU ARE AFRAID OF SUCCESS.

3. YOU ARE AFRAID THAT LIFE WILL CHANGE AND YOU ARE AFRAID IT WON'T
 4. YOU ARE AFRAID TO WITHDRAW, BUT YOU ARE ALSO AFRAID TO REACH OUT
 5. YOU ARE AFRAID OF DEATH, BUT YOU ARE ALSO AFRAID OF LIFE. (LIFE}
- F. SOMEHOW, YOU MUST GET A GRIP ON YOUR LIFE.
1. YOU HAVE LEARNED ALGEBRA, CALCULUS, SOCIAL SCIENCES, BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY. BUT NO ONE HAS TAUGHT YOU FAITH.
 2. FAITH: SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN
 3. FAITH: A WAY TO GET A HOLD ON LIFE
 4. YOU SHOULD NOT TEE OFF UNTIL YOU HAVE FAITH.

I. TO TEE OFF CORRECTLY, YOU NEED TO GET A GOOD GRIP. (FAITH)

II. TO TEE OFF CORRECTLY, YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN.

- A. THE GOLFER WHO RAISES HIS HEAD BEFORE OR DURING THE SWING, WILL EITHER TOP THE BALL OR PLOUGH INTO THE GROUND.

ALL OF THOSE GIBBETS ON THE FAIRWAY ARE THE RESULT OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE THEIR NOSES IN THE AIR WAY AHEAD OF THEIR CLUBS.

AN OUNCE OF HUMILITY IS BETTER THAN A POUND OF PRIDE.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ONE OF THE TEN
COMMANDMENTS WAS GIVEN ESPECIALLY TO
YOUNG PEOPLE?

1. THE 5TH COMMANDMENT SAYS; " *HONOR THY MOTHER AND THY FATHER; THAT THY DAYS MAY BE LONG UPON THE LAND WHICH THE LORD THY GOD GIVETH THEE*"
2. BILL COSBY SAID IT ANOTHER WAY; "RESPECT YOUR PARENTS, BECAUSE THEY BROUGHT YOU INTO THIS WORLD AND THEY CAN TAKE YOU OUT" (PERSONAL)
3. THE REAL WORK OF HUMILITY IS OBEDIENCE. IT REQUIRES THAT YOU SUBMIT TO THE AUTHORITY OVER YOU.

I. TO TEE OFF CORRECTLY, YOU NEED TO GET A GOOD GRIP.

II. TO TEE OFF CORRECTLY, YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN.

III. TO TEE OFF CORRECTLY, YOU NEED TO CHECK YOUR STANCE.

- A. GOLFERS KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF SQUARING OFF WITH THE BALL.

IT IS POSSIBLE TO HIT THE BALL PERFECTLY STRAIGHT AND BE 50 YARDS OFF TARGET SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU WERE FACING THE WRONG DIRECTION.

A PART OF CHECKING YOUR STANCE INVOLVES FACING UP TO YOUR PROBLEMS.

1. 90 % OF ALL DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE IS PART OF AN EFFORT TO ESCAPE REALITY.
2. HAVE YOU HEARD THE STUDENT'S PRAYER?

- a. "NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO REST, AND HOPE TO PASS TOMORROW'S TEST, IF I SHOULD DIE BEFORE I WAKE, THAT'S ONE LESS TEST I'LL HAVE TO TAKE."

3. NO ONE LIKES THE PRESSURE INVOLVED IN MEASURING UP TO SOMEONE ELSE'S STANDARD BUT YOU CANNOT IGNORE THE ISSUE OF ACCOUNTABILITY.
4. WHEN YOU AVOID DEALING WITH YOUR PROBLEMS, THEY WILL COME HOME TO HAUNT YOU.
5. IN COLLEGE, YOU CANNOT CUT CLASS EVERY DAY. THERE IS A TEST EVENTUALLY.
6. YOU CAN'T PLAY SICK JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR HOMEWORK.
7. EVENTUALLY, YOU MUST PROVE YOURSELF AND THE SOONER THE BETTER.
8. FACING UP TO YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS THE BEST WAY TO GET STARTED.

C. CLASS OF 2010, YOU NEED TO LEARN TO COMMUNICATE.

1. WHEN YOU SPEAK UP, PEOPLE WILL RESPOND TO YOU AND GIVE YOU FEED-BACK THAT WILL HELP YOU TO BETTER UNDERSTAND YOURSELF.
2. WHEN COMMUNICATION LINES BREAKDOWN, SELF IDENTITY DETERIORATES AND RELATIONSHIPS FALL APART.
3. STOP TEXTING, TWITTING AND I-MING, AND TALK TO, EACH OTHER *FACE-TO-FACE*.

- I. TO TEE OFF CORRECTLY, YOU NEED TO GET A GOOD GRIP. (FAITH & NOT FEAR)
- II. TO TEE OFF CORRECTLY, YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN. (HUMILITY & OBEDIENCE)
- III. TO TEE OFF CORRECTLY, YOU NEED TO CHECK YOUR STANCE. (FACE YOUR PROBLEMS)
- IV. TO TEE OFF CORRECTLY, YOU NEED TO FOLLOW THROUGH.

A. NO GOLF SWING IS WORTH ITS SALT IF IT STOPS SHORT. - HOLDING BACK AT THE LAST MOMENT IS NOT THE SOLUTION TO A DIFFICULT SHOT, BUT TO FOLLOW THROUGH IS. - YOU NEED TO SET GOALS AND WORK TOWARD THEM. IF YOU AIM AT NOTHING, YOU WILL HIT NOTHING.

1. IT'S EASY TO SCORE A BULLS EYE WHEN EVERY THING IS RELATIVE.
2. IT'S EASY TO REACH YOUR GOALS, WHEN YOUR GOALS ARE TO GET UP IN THE MORNING AND HAVE BREAKFAST
3. ONLY WHEN YOU FOLLOW THROUGH WITH SOMETHING TRULY WORTHWHILE CAN YOU IMPROVE.

EDGAR GUEST
POEM

WHEN YOU'RE UP AGAINST A TROUBLE,
MEET IT SQUARELY, FACE TO FACE;
LIFT YOUR CHIN AND SET YOUR SHOULDERS,
PLANT YOUR FEET AND TAKE A BRACE.

WHEN IT'S VAIN TO TRY TO DODGE IT,
DO THE BEST THAT YOU CAN DO;

**YOU MAY FAIL, BUT YOU MAY CONQUER,
SEE IT THROUGH!**

**BLACK MAY BE THE CLOUDS ABOUT YOU
AND YOUR FUTURE MAY SEEM GRIM,
BUT DON'T LET YOUR NERVE DESERT YOU;
KEEP YOURSELF IN FIGHTING TRIM.**

**IF THE WORST IS BOUND TO HAPPEN,
SPITE OF ALL THAT YOU CAN DO,
RUNNING FROM IT WILL NOT SAVE YOU,
SEE IT THROUGH!**

**EVEN HOPE MAY SEEM BUT FUTILE,
WHEN WITH TROUBLES YOU'RE BESET,
BUT REMEMBER YOU ARE FACING
JUST WHAT OTHER MEN HAVE MET.**

**YOU MAY FAIL, BUT FALL STILL FIGHTING;
DON'T GIVE UP, WHATE'ER YOU DO;
EYES FRONT, HEAD HIGH TO THE FINISH.
SEE IT THROUGH!**

- I. **TO TEE OFF CORRECTLY, YOU NEED TO GET A GOOD GRIP. (FAITH NOT FEAR)**
 - II. **TO TEE OFF CORRECTLY YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN. (HUMILITY & OBEDIENCE)**
 - III. **TO TEE OFF CORRECTLY, YOU NEED TO CHECK YOUR STANCE. (FACE YOUR PROBLEMS)**
 - IV. **TO TEE OFF CORRECTLY, YOU NEED TO FOLLOW THROUGH. (FINISH WHAT YOU START)**
 - V. **TO TEE OFF CORRECTLY, YOU NEED TO STAY OUT OF THE SAND TRAPS.**
- A. THIS LAST POINT IS ALMOST SELF EXPLANATORY.

1. SAND TRAPS CAUSE YOU REPETITIVE STROKES, BECAUSE THEY ARE HARD TO GET OUT OF.

B. SO, ALSO, IS IT WITH TROUBLE;

1. IT IS BETTER TO AVOID TROUBLE ALL TOGETHER BY SAYING NO!
2. TO DRUGS: NO!
3. TO ALCOHOL: NO!
4. TO SEXUAL PROMISCUITY: NO!
5. TO DRINKING AND DRIVING: NO!
6. TO A LIFE OF CRIME: NO!
7. TO SETTling FOR SECOND BEST: NO!
8. TO DROPPING OUT OF COLLEGE: NO!
9. TO DISHONORING MY FAMILY: NO!
10. TO EMBARRASSING MY SCHOOL: NO!

STAY OUT OF THE SAND TRAP BECAUSE THEY WILL COST YOU MORE THAN YOU WANT TO PAY

SO, GO OUT THEIR AND "TEE OFF CORRECTLY".

ILLUSTRATION

STORY OF THE MAN WHO TOOK HIS SON
TO PLAY A ROUND OF GOLF.
(FEARFUL NOT FAITHFUL)

ILLUSTRATION

STORY OF THE AFRICAN GAZELLE
(FEARFUL)