What the Bible Says about MONEY



(A Study by Pastor Vincent Sawyer – Victory Baptist Church, Port Charlotte, FL)

One of the greatest stresses on a person's life is the stress caused by financial worry & discontentment. It has been estimated that 1/2 of all marriages in the USA end in divorce, and 1/2 of those divorces are over money.

INTRODUCTORY PRINCIPLES:

1. The Principle of <u>Ownership</u>

God <u>owns</u> everything. You and your possessions are God's.
(I Chron. 29:11; Is. 43:1, 7; I Cor. 6:19; Ps. 24:1, 50:7-11).

2. The Principle of <u>Stewardship</u>

You are God's <u>manager/steward</u> of the material resources He entrusts to you. (I Cor. 4:2; Lk. 16:1-13)



The way you manage God's money is:

a. A <u>tool</u> - to be a blessing
b. A <u>test</u> - of your spirituality
c. A <u>testimony</u> - to glorify God

One of the surest ways to determine a couple's priorities and spiritual problems is to look at their checkbook. "The Bible teaches that where your money is, your heart is (Matt. 6:21). How you handle your money reflects your spiritual maturity and reveals the desires and priorities of your life." (John MacArthur)

The <u>husband</u> as the head of the home is responsible to God for how he oversees the family's financial matters. (He may delegate certain tasks to his wife such as paying bills, balancing the check book etc., but he must be aware of what is going on.)

3. The Principle of <u>Dependency</u>

Your power to <u>earn</u> wealth comes from God.
(Deut. 8:18; Prov. 8:20,21; 10:22)

4. The Principle of <u>Family</u>

Your money is your spouses money and vice-versa.
(Eph. 5:28-31)
At marriage "You" and "Me" become "WE"
It is not "your money" and "my money" but it is "<u>our</u> money."
When you became married, your spouses debts become your debts, and your spouses assets become your assets. (Separate bank accounts to not honor the oneness of marriage)

8 Financial Management Secrets
from Proverbs and other Scriptures:

1. The Secret of WORK
(God expects the husband to earn the family's money by working hard)
(Prov. 6:6-11; Prov. 10:4; Prov. 13:4, 11)

2. The Secret of HONESTY
(Earn your family's money honestly)
(Prov. 10:2; Prov. 11:1; Prov. 15:27; Prov. 16:11; Prov. 20:10; Prov. 20:17; Prov. 20:21; Prov. 21:6; Eph. 4:28)

3. The Secret of GIVING
(Your family financial practice must give priority of giving)



a. Honor God first with your money
(Prov. 3:9-10; Prov. 11:24-26; Compare: Gal. 6:6-10; II Cor. 9:6-12; I Kings 17:11-16)
Christians generally establish the "tithe" (10 % of your income) as the minimum standard of giving to God through your local church (Lev.27:30).

B. Help others in need with your money
(Prov. 19:17; Prov. 21:13; Prov. 22:9; Prov. 25:21-22; Prov. 28:27)

4. The Secret of PAYING DEBTS
(If you are in debt, get out of debt and stay out of debt!)
(Prov. 3:27-28; Prov. 22:7; Rom.13:8; Psalm 37:21)

Buy nothing on credit that you do not have the ability to pay for. The interest on credit loans will bury you!

Credit debt occurs when you borrow to purchase a depreciating item and pay high interest.

5. The Secret of SAVING
(Save during the sunshine to be ready for the storms)
(Prov. 6:6-11; 30:25; Prov. 10:5; Prov. 21:20)

(10 % of each paycheck might be divided up and saved in
a "short term" account (for immediate access) and in
a "long term" account (for long range goals; like a House; Retirement; Children's Christian College Education etc.)

A WARNING about saving - Don't base your security on it! (Lk.12:16-24)
A PURPOSE for saving - That you can stay out of debt and that you might have money to give when needs arise (Eph.4:28)

6. The Secret of CONTENTMENT
(Be satisfied with what God gives you)
(Prov. 30:7-9; Compare with Heb. 13:5; I Tim. 3:3; 6:6-19; Phil. 4:11-13)

Covetousness, discontentment, and worry or concern about money is sin!
(I Tim.6:8; Lk.13:14; Phil.4:11; Col.3:1-3; Heb.13:5; Mt.6:25-34)

Someone has said: *"Financial prosperity is like salt water -- the more you drink the thirstier you are"*

7. The Secret of MODERATION
(Control your spending, or it will control you! Have self-control)
(Prov. 21:17)

In our indulgent society we need to be aware of 2 wrong extremes:

1) Being a "Miser"
2) Being a "Spend Thrift"

"The nature of money problems is internal, not external. It's not what we earn that hurts us, but what we spend." (Tim Jordan) Generally the solution to our money problem is not to make more money but to be a better steward of what we already earn. If you are not faithful with what God has already given you why should He trust you with more?

8. The Secret of PRIORITIES
(Invest your life and money in what really matters!)

a. Realize that the spiritual and eternal supersede the material and temporal. (Prov. 8:10-12; Prov. 16:16)

b. Realize what money cannot buy

Money can't buy:

1)	Deliverance from God's wrath	(11:4)
2)	Peace and tranquility	(15:16; 17:1)
3)	Righteousness	(16:8)
4)	Security	(11:28; 18:11)
5)	A prudent wife	(19:14; cp. 31:10)
6)	A good reputation	(22:1)
7)	Integrity	(28:6)





"HOW TO SPEND YOUR MONEY WISELY"

1) <u>Thank</u> the Lord for what He gives you (I Thes. 5:18)

2) Prioritize <u>God</u> in your spending (Prov. 3:9-10)

See: II Cor. 9:6-7

--Bountifully (v. 6)

--Deliberately (v. 7a)

--Cheerfully (v. 7b) (cp. II Chron. 24:10)

--Proportionately (I Cor. 16:2)

"If you have a big bill with Sears & Roebuck (or Visa or Mastercard, etc.) and say, 'I can't give to God!'-- Remember this: Sears will not help you pay God! But God will help you pay Sears! (Put God first. Have the right perspective.)."

(Dr. Charles Shoemaker)

3) <u>Seek</u> God's <u>wisdom</u> before making purchases (Prov. 3:5-6)

4) Before purchasing, ask: Is this a <u>need</u> or a <u>greed</u>? (Phil. 4:19)

Beware of obsessions with glamour, style, jewelry, etc.

5) Pay your <u>debts</u> before you buy any non-essential items (Rom. 13:8)

Example: You don't buy a new stereo if you are in debt to the credit card companies.

6) Be on the look-out for someone you can <u>help</u> financially (Phil. 2:4; Prov. 19:17)

7) Purchase items on <u>sale</u>, if it's an item you needed

A sale isn't a sale if you didn't need the item to begin with!

Be a coupon clipper.

8) Make meals at home rather than frequently eating out in restaurants and fast-food places

9) Keep your checkbook balanced so you know what you have to spend

10) Discipline yourself to follow your budget

You need to adopt a practical financial plan or budget

(Prov.6:6-10; Prov.30:24-28)

Budgeting is sort of like dividing up a pie.

How do we plan a budget?

a) Take time to add up your true weekly (or monthly or yearly) income.

b) Make an exhaustive list of fixed (necessary) expenses.

c) Determine your spending priorities
(Put the list of expenses in priority order)

Example:

(1) God -
(2) Housing -
(3) Food -
(4) Utilities -
etc.

d) Determine how much you plan to spend on each expense.
How? By averaging out your last years bills. (Example: How much did you spend last year on utility (Electricity/Gas) bills. Add them up. Then divide by 12 (or 52). This amount will help you know how much to project for this year's budget. Take into consideration any rate increases.

e) Your budget must match your income.

f) When there are more expenses than income, you must either increase income or decrease expenses.

*(Note: If increasing income would mean that you would have to miss church on Sundays then you should reevaluate your priorities. It cannot be God's will for you to forsake the assembly (Heb.10:25) in order to provide for your family. His priorities never conflict. If God is first in your living, spending, etc., your dollars will not drop through your pockets - Haggai 1:2-11 * v.6)*

g) Discipline yourself to follow your budget.

A budget should not be a "straight jacket" allowing no fluctuation at all, but it should be followed as closely as possible to disciple your spending.

Sample Family Budget

Income: **Weekly:**_____ **Monthly:**_____ **Yearly:**_____

Acct. # (For personal Filing purposes)	Category	Yearly Budget	Monthly Budget
100 -	**Offerings**		
	110 - Regular Offerings		
	120 - Special Offerings		
200 -	**Taxes**		
	210 - State Income Tax		
	220 - Federal Income Tax		
	230 - Social Security		
	240 - Property Tax		
300 -	**Rent/Mortgage**		
	310 - Home Improvements		
400 -	**Utilities**		
	410 - Electric		
	420 - Gas		
	430 - Phone		
	431 - Home phone		
	432 - Mobile phones		
	433- Other		
	440 - Water		
500 -	**Groceries**		
600 -	**Automobile**		
	610 - Maintenance (oil/tune-ups)		
	620 - Repair (Parts/service)		
	630 - Gas/Tolls		
	640 - Replacement		
	650 - Registration		
	660 - Inspection		
700 -	**Insurance**		
	710 - Health (Medical)		
	720 - Life		
	730 - Auto		
	740 - Homeowners		
800 -	**Miscellaneous**		
	810 - Health Care (Dentist, Prescriptions etc.)		
	820 - Bank Charges		
	830 - Clothes & Home Furnishings		
	840 - Gifts (Christmas, birthdays)		
	850 - Family Activities (Restaurants, parks, etc.)		
	860 - TV (Cable/Dish)		
	870 - Internet Service		
	880 - Miscellaneous		
900 -	**Savings**		
	910 - Short Term Account		
	920 - Long Term Account		
Totals (amount needed):			

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11-10-2021

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