

MONEY

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)



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?

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

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

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

Example:

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

4) 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 (Con-Edison) 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.

5) Your budget must match your income.

6) 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)*

7) 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

Acct. # (For personal Filing purposes)	Category	Budget
100 -	**Offerings**	
	110 - Regular Offerings	_____
	120 - Special Offerings	_____
200 -	**Taxes**	
	210 - State Income Tax	_____
	220 - Federal Income Tax	_____
	230 - Social Security	_____
300 -	**Rent**	-
400 -	**Utilities**	
	410 - Electric	_____
	420 - Gas	_____
	430 - Phone	
	431 - Local	_____
	432 - Long Distance	_____
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	_____
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.)	_____
900 -	**Savings**	
	910 - Short Term Account	_____
	920 - Long Term Account	_____



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2. **The Principle of**
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   The way you manage God's money is:

   a. A _____ - to be a blessing
   b. A _____ - of your spirituality
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3. **The Principle of**
   Your power to <u>earn</u> wealth comes from God.
   (Deut. 8:18; Prov. 8:20,21; 10:22)

4. **The Principle of**
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   At marriage "You" and "Me" become "WE"

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from Proverbs and other Scriptures:

1. **The Secret of**
   (God expects the husband to earn the family's money by working hard)
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3. **The Secret of**
   (Your family financial practice must give priority of giving)



   a. Honor _____ <u>first</u> 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)
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(If you are in debt, get out of debt and stay out of debt!)
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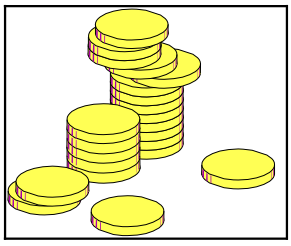
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"HOW TO SPEND YOUR MONEY W I S E L Y"

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

2) Prioritize God 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) Seek God's wisdom before making purchases (Prov. 3:5-6)

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

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

5) Pay your debts 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 help financially (Phil. 2:4; Prov. 19:17)

7) Purchase items on sale, 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

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God's people should give:
--_____ (v. 6)
--_____ (v. 7a)
--_____ (v. 7b) (cp. II Chron. 24:10)
--_____ (I Cor. 16:2)

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