

Help God! I need more money.

March 6 & 7, 2010

Remember, your money struggle is a spiritual struggle

Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Ephesians chapter 6 verses 11 & 12 (898)

- Money pressure & troubles are a tactic that Satan uses to defeat Christ-followers and to distract them from God's plan for their lives
- Money-defeated Christ-followers cannot live prevailing lives for God or passionately pursue God's plan for their lives

Monday

Study Ephesians 6: 10-13, making notes about what God teaches you in these verses

- Today, start a new practice in your life. Daily, pray & ask God to help you win the spiritual battle for your finances. And ask God to remind you every day that your financial battle is a spiritual battle.
- What are 2 changes that God's asking you to make as a result of this?

Be faithful with what you already have (that's how you get more!)

Jesus said, "If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities."

Luke chapter 16 verse 10 (798)

- The simple Biblical truth is this: God will never give me more if I'm not already honoring Him with what I have
- To do this, I need to honor the financial commitments I already have
- ***It is better to say nothing than to make a promise and not keep it.***

Ecclesiastes chapter 5 verse 5 (507)

Tuesday

Study Luke 16:10-12 - What "little things" in life are you being unfaithful or dishonest in?

- What is God asking you to do to fix this? Could it be these "small" areas of unfaithfulness & dishonesty are keeping you from experiencing more blessing from God?

Study Ecclesiastes 5:5 - What financial vow(s) is God asking you to take more seriously?

- What needs to change or be cut so you can do this?
- Which of your debtors do you need to speak to about this and ask for their help & understanding?

Give back to God (no matter how little you have!)

When God's people were not honoring Him with their money, here's what God said to them: ***"Look at what's happening to you! You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes!"***

Haggai chapter 1 verses 5 & 6 (718)

- Giving to God is an act of obedience, submission (humility!) & faith
- Because my finances are a spiritual battle, I need to see the connection between what I give God & what God blesses me with financially

Wednesday

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-10

- In giving back to God, am I planting “few seeds” to get a “small crop” or am I planting “generously” to get a “generous” crop?
- What steps can I take so I can be a more generous giver to God? The important thing is to do something, start taking small steps of obedience until I can do more.

Grow in your understanding in what it means to be a “servant of God”

Jesus said, “The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone.... After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money.” Matthew chapter 25 verses 14 & 19 (756)

- “My” stuff is NOT “my” stuff...it all belongs to God
- One day I’ll give an account to God about how I used & spent “His stuff”

Thursday

Read Matthew 25:14-30

- What is Jesus teaching here?
- Which servant in the story am I most like?
- What changes do I need to make so my life & finances reflect the servant who was given five bags of silver?

Don’t automatically spend money on what I “need”(God may meet the need if I pray & ask Him)

This same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Philippians chapter 4 verse 19 (901)

- If I’m already in debt & in financial trouble, does it make sense to go into more debt...for anything?
- STOP spending money & going into more debt!
- PRAY & wait on God to supply my needs...and pass on the rest!

Friday

Read Philippians 4:18-20

- Make a list of all the stuff I’m already spending money on
- Divide this list into 2 groups...“needs” (what I absolutely NEED to live) & “wants” (the stuff I LIKE but don’t ABSOLUTELY need to live)
- Stop spending money on my “wants” so I can put all of my money towards my “needs” & my current financial obligations

Do whatever you can to gain God’s wisdom (you won’t be sorry!)

Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding. For wisdom is more profitable than silver, and her wages are better than gold. Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.

Proverbs chapter 3 verses 13 - 15 (482)

- Read & study the book of Proverbs in the Bible
- Sign up & take the financial classes offered at Bethel

Next weekend: Help God! I’m out of work.