

Bible Study Topic: Elevation of our Finances

Text: Ps. 8.4-8

Big Idea: Abundant living is obtainable when minds shift to God's financial perspective.

Money must be mastered, or it will master us (Matt. 6.21; Luke 16.10).

Four Financial Myths.

1. Myth: *Money is Evil*

Truth: No, money can be used for great good. It is the love of money (*1 Timothy 6.10; Heb. 13.5-6*)

Beating the Myth: Recognize that money is not evil. Put your money to good use. Anything that we put ahead of God in our lives becomes evil. Love God above all. We love God and leverage money.

2. Myth: Being in Debt is normal.

Truth: Most lenders are more than anxious to extend credit to consumers to collect inflated interest rates over an extended period. But the Bible says to be aware. (*Proverbs 22.7*)

Beating the Myth: Develop a heart of patience, contentment, and gratitude. Develop a consistent practice of tracking and categorizing your spending and reviewing your priorities and non-negotiables. This will align your spending with the most essential things in your life.

3. Myth: Debt is a sin

Truth: Debt is not the problem – it’s a symptom. The truth about whether or not any debt is a sin results not from the debt itself but from the cause of the debt. Most consumer debt – driven by greed, envy, and having our treasures on earth rather than in heaven – has sin at its root.

Beating the Myth: Debt must be treated with caution. Examine your financial condition, loan terms, and other circumstances. **(Luke 14.28-29)**

4. Myth: A little more money will solve my problems

Truth: A little more income nearly always leads to a little more spending. Instead of using additional income to build some margin into

our lives, we trade our car for a newer, nicer, and more expensive one. Rather than paying down that credit card balance, we go out to eat a bit more often because we got it like that. (Eccl. 5.10)

Beating the Myth: A heart of contentment leading to a *lifestyle cap*. (Phil. 4.11-13)

October 2024 Elevating our Finances Self-Evaluation Questionnaire

- | | | |
|--|---------|--------|
| 1. Do you live by a budget that documents how much money you make and spend monthly? | Ye
s | N
o |
| 2. Do you have car insurance? | Ye
s | N
o |

3. Do you have life insurance? Ye N
s o
4. Do you have disability insurance? Ye N
s o
5. Do you have homeowners' or renter's insurance? Ye N
s o
6. Do you know what is covered in your insurances and what is not? Ye N
s o
7. Do you know how your insurance companies are rated by AM Best, Standard & Poor, Moody's Investor Services, Weiss Research or Duff & Phelps? Ye N
s o
8. Do you save regularly? Ye N
s o
9. Have your bank transactions been free of return checks for the last 24 months? Ye N
s o
10. Are you free of bills for which you are a co- Ye N
s o
11. Do you pay tithes (10% of income) regularly? Ye N
s o

- | | | | |
|-----|---|---------|--------|
| 12 | Do you give offerings (money beyond your tithes) regularly? | Ye
s | N
o |
| 13 | Do you contribute every month to the church you are a member of (answer yes even if your monthly contribution is not 10% of your income)? | Ye
s | N
o |
| 14 | Do you have good credit (700 and above)? | Ye
s | N
o |
| 15 | Can you obtain \$1500 in the next 24 hours without borrowing from someone? | Ye
s | N
o |
| 16 | Have you written your next financial goals for the next 5 years? | Ye
s | N
o |
| 17. | Do you know how much money you need | Ye
s | N
o |
| 18 | Have you consulted a financial or investme | Ye
s | N
o |
| 19 | Can you pay off all your credit card balances within 90 days? | Ye
s | N
o |

- | | | | |
|-----|---|---------|--------|
| 20. | Do you spend at least one to two hours per week learning more about financial management and investment strategies? | Ye
s | N
o |
| 21. | If your parents are alive, do you know their net worth, their liabilities, whether they have long term care insurance and how their assets will be distributed should they die? | Ye
s | N
o |
| 22. | Do you know how you will pay for the funeral of everyone for whom you will be responsible should they die? | Ye
s | N
o |
| 23. | Do you know what percentage of your gross income is spent on housing, transportation, insurances, entertainment and clothing? | Ye
s | N
o |
| 24. | Do you have a will, estate plan or other plan for the distribution of assets in the event of your death? | Ye
s | N
o |

Responses to the Self-Evaluation Questionnaire

1. Do you live by a budget that documents how much money you make and spend monthly?

Prov. 27.23. Dave Ramsey recommended in his book Financial peace restoring financial hope to you and your family an income distribution of tithe/charitable gifts 10-15%, savings 5-10%, housing 25-35%, utilities 5-10%, food 5-15%, transportation 10-15%, clothing 2-7%, medical/health 5-10%, personal 5-10%, recreation 5-10% and debts 5-10%

2. Do you have car insurance?

Prov. 22.3. Protect yourself and assets from liability, you need insurance.

3. Do you have life insurance?

Prov. 22.3. Protect your assets and provide support for those who depend upon your income adequate life insurance is needed.

4. Do you have disability insurance?

Prov. 22.3. Disability insurance is a means of financial support if you are unable to perform your work.

5. Do you have homeowners' or renter's insurance?

Prov. 22.3. It is prudent to protect your assets by purchasing appropriate insurance that will defray the cost of replacing your home or valuables.

6. Do you know what is covered in your insurances and what is not?

Prov. 27.12. Thoroughly examine all of your insurance policies to be sure that you are not overpaying or under paying.

7. Do you know how your insurance companies are rated by AM Best, Standard & Poor, Moody's Investor Services, Weiss Research or Duff & Phelps?

Prov. 24.3-4. Evaluate the insurance companies that you do business with to ensure that they are stable and are reputable.

8. Do you save regularly?

Prov. 21.20. Most financial advisors recommend a savings account equal to 3 to 6 months of your monthly living expenses. This money is separate from retirement and for emergency purposes only.

9. Have your bank transactions been free of return checks/NSF/overdrawn for the last 24 months?

Prov. 22.1. Bouncing checks is a sign that your financial affairs are not in order. It gives you a bad name and weakens your credibility.

10. Are you free of bills for which you are a co-signer?

Prov. 6.1-5. Do not co-sign on a note unless you are able to pay the bill for them.

11. Do you pay tithes (10% of income) regularly?

Mal. 3.10; Prov. 3.9-10. The giving of tithes must be a priority as the Christian is commanded to pay tithes.

12. Do you give offerings (money beyond your tithes) regularly?

Acts 20.35. You can only give an offering if you are a tither. The offering is the amount of money given beyond the tithe. Anything else is a contribution.

13. Do you contribute every month to the church you are a member of (answer yes even if your monthly contribution is not 10% of your income)?

Prov. 11.24-25. Giving increases your opportunities to receive.

14. Do you have good credit (700 and above)?

Prov. 22.1, 3.27-28; Rom. 13.8 If you have bad credit, you have a bad name.

15. Can you obtain \$1500 in the next 24 hours without borrowing from someone?

Prov. 22.3. Emergencies will arrive and it will require that you have access to cash.

16. Have you written your next financial goals for the next 5 years?

Habb. 2.2; Prov. 24.3-4. Write your plans. The precursor to success is good planning.

17. Do you know how much money you need to retire?

1 Tim. 6.18-19. Carefully calculate your future needs. Prepare for the future by using your money wisely now.

18. Have you consulted a financial or investment advisor?

Prov. 11.14, 15.22. Wise counseling is profitable.

19. Can you pay off all your credit card balances within 90 days?

Rom. 13.8. Debt is debilitating. Set a goal to pay off your credit cards monthly.

20. Do you spend at least one to two hours per week learning more about financial management and investment strategies?

Hos. 4.6. Become learned in the area of finances. Create a surplus with the money that the Lord has given us.

21. If your parents are alive, do you know their net worth, their liabilities, whether they have long term care insurance and how their assets will be distributed should they die?

Prov. 27.23, 22.3; Gen. 14.17-23. We must be aware of all things that affects our surplus. We must be knowledgeable about anything that could change the status.

22. Do you know how you will pay for the funeral of everyone for whom you will be responsible should they die?

Prov. 22.3. We must prepare for the forthcoming events.

23. Do you know what percentage of your gross income is spent on housing,

transportation, insurances, entertainment and clothing?

Prov. 27.23; Luke 12.44. You must faithfully keep a record of what God has blessed you with and how they are allocated.

24. Do you have a will, estate plan or other plan for the distribution of assets in the event of your death?

Gen. 25.5-6. Prior to death and not at the time of death put in writing how your assets are to be dispersed.