

Financial Prestonwood Foundation *Freedom*

Ten Principles to Realize True Financial Freedom

- 1) **Understand that God Cares about your Finances ~ 2 Chronicles 29:11-12**
 - a. There are over 2,300 verses in the Bible that deal with our money & possessions. Why? Because God knew this was going to be such a big issue for His people.

- 2) **Have a Biblical Eternal View when it comes to your Money & Possessions ~ Mark 8:36**
 - a. Our time on earth is short, especially when you compare it to eternity.
 - b. Jeremiah, what do you see? (Jeremiah 1:11,13)
 - c. Invest your money & possessions in a manner that benefits eternity and God's Kingdom as opposed to a fleeting temporary worldly kingdom.
 - d. Understand the (Biblical) appropriate use for our money & possessions:
 - i. To care for one's own family and thus prevent them from becoming a burden to others (1 Tim 5:8; 1 Thes 4:11-12; 1 Thes 3:6-15)
 - ii. To help those in need - especially the church (Pro 19:17; Rom 15:25-27; Gal 6:7-10)
 - iii. To encourage and support the work of the gospel both at home and around the world (1 Cor 16:1-3; Phil 4:14-19; 1 Tim 5:17-18)

- 3) **Have a Balanced Spending Plan ~ Luke 16:11**
 - a. Track where your money is going down to the penny.
 - b. Develop a monthly spending plan/budget and eliminate wasteful impulse spending.

- 4) **Eliminate Harmful Debt ~ Romans 13:8**
 - a. Credit cards are not sinful, but they are very dangerous. Don't fall into the buy now, pay later trap!
 - b. Get into the habit of paying cash only. If you don't have the cash, don't buy it. If you can't pay off your credit cards balances in full, tear up the cards and go to a cash only system.
 - c. Understand the difference between a "want" versus a "need".

5) Be a Saver ~ Proverbs 21:5

- a. Be a Saver, not a Spender. *“Saving is the new Spending”*
- b. Build Short-term (six month’s worth of living expenses for unbudgeted items) and Long-term (retirement) savings.
- c. Understand the power of compounding interest (principle, interest rate, and time).
- d. Start Today!

6) Give God what is Rightfully His: The Tithe ~ Leviticus 27:30 / Genesis 14:20b

- a. The first fruits of our labor to the storehouse (the local church)
- b. Giving with a cheerful heart is an act of worship – Acts 20:35 / Proverbs 3:9-10
- c. Don’t Rob from God – Malachi 3:8-9
- d. God says to Test Him in this area in that He will “pour down a blessing until there is no more need” – Malachi 3:10
- e. The concept of New Testament Grace Giving.

7) Be a Faithful Steward ~ Psalm 8:6

- a. The World says that financial success is having the biggest, brightest, and newest. God defines financial success as, no matter how little or how much you have, being a faithful steward (a good manager, not wasteful, all dealings with integrity, abundant/cheerful giver)
- b. Pay your bills on-time.
- c. Your credit Score is important. How do I repair or improve this score?

8) Righteous Prayer over your Finances ~ Philippians 4:19

- a. The five elements of righteous prayer.
- b. Ask for wisdom and direction on spending and giving (beyond the Tithe) decisions
- c. Give God a chance to provide before you race off and buy on credit.

9) Learn to be Content ~ Philippians 4:11-13

- a. Contentment is mentioned 7 times in the Bible; 6 of those times have to do with money & possessions.
- b. Be content no matter how little or much that you have (Apostle Paul).

10) Understanding God’s definition of prosperity ~ Psalm 35:27

- a. “The Lord delights in the prosperity of His servant” but this doesn’t always mean material blessings. God’s definition of prosperity is far greater than the world’s definition.
- b. Two schools of thought
- c. Trials of life. (James 1)
- d. Why do some prosper and others seem to struggle?