

Financial Freedom

Prestonwood Foundation

Ten Principles for True Financial Freedom

- **God Cares about Your Finances (2 Chronicles 29:11–12)**
 - The Bible contains more than 2,300 verses addressing money and possessions because God knows it's a significant issue for His people.
- **Adopt a Biblical, Eternal Perspective on Money (Mark 8:36)**
 - Life on earth is brief compared to eternity (Jeremiah 1:11, 13).
 - Invest your money and possessions to advance God's kingdom, not temporary worldly gains.
 - Use money biblically to:
 - Provide for your family (1 Timothy 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:11–12; 3:6–15).
 - Help those in need, especially the church (Proverbs 19:17; Romans 15:25–27; Galatians 6:7–10).
 - Support the spread of the Gospel locally and globally (1 Corinthians 16:1–3; Philippians 4:14–19; 1 Timothy 5:17–18).
- **Create a Balanced Spending Plan (Luke 16:11)**
 - Track every penny of your spending.
 - Develop a monthly zero-based budget to eliminate impulsive, wasteful purchases.
 - Use one of the many great apps to assist you with managing your spending (Quicken Simplifi, Faith Fi, YNAB, Monarch, Every Dollar)
- **Avoid or Eliminate Harmful Debt (Romans 13:8)**
 - Credit cards aren't inherently sinful but can lead to dangerous debt. Avoid the "buy now, pay later" trap.
 - Pay with cash whenever possible. If you can't pay off credit card balances monthly, switch to a cash-only system.
 - Distinguish between "wants" and "needs."
- **Cultivate a Saver's Mindset (Proverbs 21:5)**
 - Prioritize saving overspending: "Saving is the new spending."
 - Build short-term savings (six months of living expenses) and long-term savings (retirement).
 - Leverage the power of compound interest (principal, interest rate, time).

- Start saving today. Steady plodding leads to prosperity (Proverbs 21:20).
- **Give God His Tithe (Leviticus 27:30; Genesis 14:20b)**
 - Offer the first fruits of your income to your local church as an act of worship (Proverbs 3:9-10; Acts 20:35).
 - Don't withhold from God (Malachi 3:8-9).
 - Test God's promise to bless generous giving (Malachi 3:10).
 - Embrace New Testament grace giving.
- **Be a Faithful Steward (Psalm 8:6)**
 - God measures financial success by faithful stewardship – managing resources wisely, with integrity, and giving generously – regardless of wealth.
 - Pay bills on time and maintain a good credit score. Seek ways to improve or repair it if needed.
- **Pray Righteously over Your Finances (Matthew 6:9)**
 - Use righteous prayer to seek wisdom for spending and giving decisions beyond the tithe.
 - Trust God to provide before resorting to credit.
- **Learn Contentment (Philippians 4:11–13)**
 - Six of the seven biblical mentions of contentment relate to money and possessions.
 - Be content with what you have, whether little or much, as Paul exemplified.
- **Understand God's Definition of Prosperity (Psalm 35:27)**
 - God delights in His servants' prosperity, but His definition transcends material wealth.
 - True prosperity aligns with God's will, not worldly standards, and endures life's trials (James 1).

For more resources pertaining to biblical financial principles, go to prestonwoodfoundation.org.