

If you do not learn to manage your money, your money is going to _____ you. 64% of all families argue over money, and 54% of all divorces are over money.

Solomon, who wrote the book of Proverbs, was the *wisest* man who ever lived. He was also the *wealthiest*. The Book of Proverbs gives us five foundations for financial freedom. They're very simple to understand. **The attributes you need in your life to be able to win with money are about _____% behavior and only _____% head knowledge.** Most of us know what to do – we're just not doing it!

1. Get out of _____.

Debt = " _____ " (NOTE: 100% of foreclosures are on homes with a mortgage).

Proverbs 22:7, *"The rich rule over the poor and the borrower is servant to the lender."*

WORD STUDY: "Servant" is the Hebrew word for slave. Slaves do not have any options. They must do what they're told. Slaves have to keep a job they hate and cannot retire early because they must repay their debts. Slaves are also not generous people because it is hard for them to make ends meet, let alone give. People who are slaves to debt have a lot of masters in their life.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:24, *"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."*

What are some areas of debt you need to prioritize in eliminating?

Do you need to sell an additional car you really can't afford and rid yourself of a car payment? (The average car payment in America is \$478 over 84 months. If you were to take that \$478 and invest it in a decent growth stock mutual fund from age 30 to age 70, you would have \$5.6 million!)

You can't get out of debt while keeping the same _____ that got you there. Cut out everything except the basics.

2. _____ your _____.

Planning your spending involves three disciplines:

1. **Keep good _____.** This is the principle of accounting. Proverbs 27:23, *"Riches can disappear fast, so watch your business interests closely. Know the state of your flock."* In Bible days, many people were shepherds. Flocks represented assets. Solomon is advising us to know what we've got and to keep track of where we are financially.
2. **Tell your money where to _____, rather than wondering where it _____.** This is the principle of budgeting. You have to set financial goals and stick with them. Proverbs 21:5 (Good News), *"Plan carefully and you will have plenty. If you act too quickly you will never have enough."* Financial freedom is never determined by how much money you make. It's determined by how you spend what you make.

The average American spends _____ hours a week in shopping-related activities.

A study found out that nine out of ten people shop _____. We respond to commercials and emotional appeals.

Proverbs 21:20, *"The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get."*

READ Matthew 25:21 – If you can be trusted in the little, you can be trusted with more.

Your loving Father is not going to bless you with something that can harm you. If you can't handle a little bit of money, God isn't going to give you a bunch of it!

READ Luke 14:28-30. You wouldn't build a house without a blueprint would you? In your working lifetime, most of you have handled or are going to handle \$2 to \$6 million!

3. **The more you _____, the more you _____.** How much time have you spent learning about investing, money management, and building lasting wealth? Les Brown says, *"Do what's easy and your life will be hard. Do what's hard and your life will be easy."*

3. _____ for the _____.

Proverbs 21:20 *"The wise man saves for the future."* The average Japanese person saves 25% of his income. The average European saves 18% of his income. But the average American only saves 5% of his income. Why? Because we're a "live for today" society.

Proverbs 13:11, "He grows rich who accumulates little by little." You need to set three goals: a spending goal, a saving goal, and a giving goal. The Bible says in Proverbs 6, "Consider the ant." It stores up a little at a time so when winter comes along it's set.

Warren Buffet said, "Do not save what is left after _____, but spend what is left after _____." Dave Ramsey says you ought to save money for 3 basic things:

1. **Save for an _____ fund.** *Money Magazine* says that 78% of you will have a major negative financial event at any given 10-year period in your life. An emergency fund is three to six months of savings set aside. Proverbs 21:20, "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil..."
2. **Save up and _____ for things.** When you pay cash for things, you spend less. Spending with cash changes your whole perspective. There's an emotional attachment to cash and a less susceptibility to spending it casually.
3. _____ **money.** Did you know that \$100 a month invested in a decent growth stock mutual fund from age 30 to age 70 will earn you \$1,176,000!

4. _____ what you already _____.

That is the principle of contentment. Proverbs 21:17 says, "Indulging in luxuries, wine and rich food will never make you wealthy."

We hear this lie all the time: Having more will make me more _____. That's just not true. If it were true the wealthiest people would be the happiest. And they're not.

There's a difference between _____ and _____. Lordship and laziness are not the same. Contentment means enjoying what you have. It doesn't mean you don't have any goals or ambitions or desires. But if you can complete this sentence: "I'll be happy when I have..." that means you're not content. You need to learn to be happy now, while you still have goals and ambitions and desires.

Henry David Thoreau said, "I make myself rich by making my wants few."

Hebrews 13:5 "Be content with what you have."

You must learn to act your _____. We need to learn to live on less than we make. Proverbs 21:20, "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has." If you spend everything you make, Scripture calls you a fool!

"But godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6). Contentment is probably the most powerful financial principle there is.

KEY THOUGHT: Contentment occurs when your _____ power is equal to or greater than your _____ power.

5. _____ at least _____ back to God.

That's the principle of tithing. It's taught all through the Bible but especially in the book of Proverbs. Give at least 10% back to God. Proverbs 3:9-10 (Living Bible), "Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part [not leftovers] of all your income and He will fill your barns to overflow."

If you want God's help in your finances, if you want God to help you get out of debt, if you want God's blessing, then you've got to put Him first. This verse contains both a *promise* and a *promise*. You honor the Lord with the first part of what you make and He'll bless your finances, He'll bless your life, and He'll bless your business.

The 70% Principle of Lasting Wealth:

- The first 10% - _____
- The second 10% - _____
- The third 10% - _____
- The remaining 70% - _____

Proverbs 10:16 (Living Bible), "The good man's earnings advance the cause of righteousness." Is any of your money doing that? Proverbs 22:9, "A generous man will have God's blessings." God is a giving God. When you're giving, you're like God. If you're not tithing you're only cheating yourself. You can't afford not to tithe! If you want God's help in getting out of debt the starting point is to put him first in every area of your life.

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- The first 10% - Give
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- The remaining 70% - Spending

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