

## *Discipleship 103*

### *Stewardship & financial freedom*

#### *Lesson Eight: Trusting God for Our Finances*

**Did the tragedy of September 11, 2001 and the latest economic recession teach us anything? These events should have taught us that economic conditions and finances throughout the world are unstable. Instead of placing our trust in investments, savings, and other finances, we should trust in the Lord who promised to meet all of our needs. Furthermore, rather than trusting in a worldly system that cannot assure our welfare or relying on our own capabilities to provide our needs, God calls us to depend entirely upon Him. In today's lesson, you will be given a plan that will help you release your faith in God and fully develop your trust in Him for your finances.**

#### **Recognize That God is Worthy of Your Trust**

- 1. Read Psalm 12:6. How much can we trust God?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. What will happen if you make God's promises the foundation of your financial security (Proverbs 3:5-6)?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3. List the financial areas that are hardest for you to put into God's hands. Prayerfully dedicate them to Him.**

#### **Realize That God Wants You to Live a Full and Abundant Life**

- 1. Read John 10:10. How does this promise apply to financial freedom?**

Stewardship: Lesson Eight

2. **Does abundant life mean having all the money or possessions you want? Why or why not?**
3. **Do you feel you have abundant life right now? If not, what is keeping you from it?**

**Substitute Faith for Fear**

1. **How does fear interfere with your trust in God?**
2. **Read 2 Timothy 1:7. Contrast the two kinds of spirits mentioned.**
3. **Write down the financial areas that make you fearful. Surrender these to the Lord.**

**Ask God to Supply Your Needs**

1. **What is the difference between needs and wants? Be specific.**
2. **Why do we lack good things (James 4:2-3; John 15:7)?**
3. **Faith requires action. Read 1 John 5:14-15, and:**
  - **As an act of your will, ask God to supply your needs**
  - **Expect Him, as an expression of your faith, to provide for your needs.**

**Keep Your Heart and Motives Pure**

1. **What wrong motives for financial increase do we sometimes display (James 4:3)?**

**What is the result?**

2. **Confess the wrong motives to God.**
3. **Claim the power of the Holy Spirit to help you rely on Him to supply your needs.**

**Take a Step of Faith**

1. **What is essential to your Christian walk (Hebrews 11:6)?**
  
2. **One way to enlarge your faith is to make a “faith promise”—one that is greater than you are capable of fulfilling according to your present income. It is not a pledge that must be paid. Rather, it is a voluntary “promise” based on your faith in God’s ability to supply out of His resources what you cannot give out of your own. You give as God supplies.**
  - **Describe a time in which God led you to give above your means.**
  
  - **What was the result?**
  
  - **If you have never made a “faith promise,” you may want to do so now after prayerfully considering various worthwhile investments you can make for God. Keep a record of your giving and how God supplied your needs in a special way.**

**Life Application**

- 1. Read Luke 6:38. How does this verse apply to financial freedom?**
- 2. Suppose a new Christian confides in you that she is afraid to give God control over her checkbook. How would you advise her?**
- 3. Review the steps to trusting God for your finances. Which of these steps are weak areas in your life?**

**Why do you find them difficult?**

**What could you do to strengthen them?**

- 4. Prayerfully consider the faith promise God would have you make. Write that promise here.**

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