

FIVE HABITS OF FINANCIAL HEALTH

STRAPPED: Part 4

January 31, 2016

Pastor Brian

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock." (Matthew 7:24–25, NLT)

1. WORK HARD.

"Being lazy will make you poor, but hard work will make you rich." (Proverbs 10:4, GNB)

"A hard worker has plenty of food, but a person who chases fantasies has no sense." (Proverbs 12:11, NLT)

"All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty." (Proverbs 14:23, NIV)

"Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." (1 Timothy 5:8, NIV)

2. PLAN CAREFULLY.

"Plan carefully and you will have plenty; if you act too quickly, you will never have enough." (Proverbs 21:5, GNB)

Two powerful financial tools:

- SPENDING plan.

"...fools spend whatever they get." (Proverbs 21:20b, NLT)

- SINKING funds.

"Take a lesson from the ants...Learn from their ways and become wise...they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter." (Proverbs 6:6–8, NLT)

3. LEARN CONTENTMENT.

"Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, 'I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.'" (Hebrews 13:5, NLT)

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." (Philippians 4:12, NIV)

4. SAVE REGULARLY.

"The wise man saves for the future..." (Proverbs 21:20a, The Living Bible)

"Whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow." (Proverbs 13:11b, NIV)

5. GIVE FAITHFULLY.

"...The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives." (Deuteronomy 14:23c, The Living Bible)

"You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." (Malachi 3:9–10, NIV)

LAST THOUGHT

Money makes a good servant, but a bad MASTER.