

Life Money Hope
The Way Out
October 14, 2018

Haggai 1:5-7 Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “**Give careful thought to your ways.** You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.” This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways.”

Luke 15:11-16 “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

4 Stages that Lead to Destruction:

- ✓ We believe a lie.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride **goes before** destruction, a haughty spirit **before** a fall.

- ✓ We engage in self-destructive behavior.

Proverbs 14:12 (MSG) There's a way of life that looks harmless enough; look again—it leads straight to hell.

- ✓ We isolate ourselves from those who can help.

Proverbs 18:1 (ESV) Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.

- ✓ We find ourselves in a dark place.

Psalm 88:8 (TLB) You have made my friends to loathe me, and they have gone away. I am in a trap with no way out.

Psalm 34:18 (GN) The Lord is near to those who are discouraged; he sees those who have lost all hope.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (MSG) All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.

The Way Out

1. Acknowledge the reality of where you are.

Psalm 51:5-6 (MSG) I've been out of step with you for a long time, in the wrong since before I was born. What you're after is truth from the inside out.

2. Develop a plan of attack.

Proverbs 27:12 The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

3. Start watching your words.

Proverbs 18:21 (Msg) Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose

4. Start by making small changes.

Exodus 23:30 Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.

5. Believe big.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Ephesians 3:20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

Walk Away: Start small but believe big.