

Principles For Financial Peace

Haggai 1:5-11

The Gallop Group survey says the number one cause of arguments in families is finances.

75% of families worry about their finances.

65% of all marriages argue about their finances.

50% of all divorces are because of their finances.

We live in a culture that is wired to make us worry. It doesn't matter how good your circumstances or situation is, somebody or something is going to tempt you to worry. Turn on the TV or scroll through your Facebook, and you'll find reasons to worry.

In a world of financial breakdowns and financial breakthroughs, there is financial peace.

The Bible focuses on our money.

- 17 out of 38 parables are about money and possessions.
- Nearly 1 out of 6 verses in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John focus on money and possessions.
- There are more verses in the Bible about money than love, hope, and prayer combined!

The Gallup survey concluded many people are intimidated by money.

- Thinking about money stresses you out.
- You don't understand finances.
- It frustrates you.
- It is exhausting to think about it.

Regardless of our feelings about money, we all have to deal with it!

God has provided all the wisdom we need about this topic in the Bible!

If you don't get your finances right, it affects every area of your life. If you get this wrong, it will leave you filled with worry, anxiety, jealousy, envy, and fear.

Do your finances bring you to fear or freedom? Do you have peace about your financial future, or are you filled with anxiety? Whether you're digging out of debt or planning for your future, now's the time to learn the principles that will build a foundation that endures. Investing in a brighter tomorrow starts by getting your finances right today.

We have all looked at our bank accounts and wondered, "Where did it all go?"

Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: "Consider your ways. You have planted much, but have harvested very little. You have food to eat, but not enough to make you full. You drink, but never have your fill! You have clothing, but not enough to keep you warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it. This is what the Lord Almighty says: Consider your ways. Now go up into the hills, get lumber, and rebuild the Temple; then I will be pleased and will be worshiped as I should be. "You hoped for large harvests, but they turned out to be small. And when you brought the harvest home, I blew it away. Why did I do that? Because my Temple lies in ruins while every one of you is busy working on your own house. That is why there is no rain and nothing can grow. I have brought drought on the land—on its hills, grain fields, vineyards, and olive

orchards—on every crop the ground produces, on people and animals, on everything you try to grow.” Haggai 1:5-11

Ron Blue’s 5 Stages Of Finances

Struggling

- You can’t make ends meet and are behind in your payments.

Surviving

- You’re living paycheck to paycheck.

Stable

- You’re able to put some money away and make major purchases.

Secure

- Changes in the economy don’t affect you, and you’re able to set long-term goals.

Surplus

- You have more than you need, and you are able to share with others.

It’s a stair-step. Sometimes we climb, and sometimes we go back and forth.

Where am I, and how do I get to the next level?

This is foundational to your financial future.

Principles For Financial Peace:

1. If I Am A Diligent Earner...

God established work while Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden. God invited them to join Him in the ongoing act of caring for creation. Before the fall of Adam and Eve, work was a blessing, not a curse.

God expects us to use the money to provide for ourselves and our families.

“If a person doesn’t work, he doesn’t eat.” 2 Thessalonians 3:10

“Those who won’t care for their own relatives, especially those living in the same household, have denied what we believe. Such people are worse than unbelievers.” 1 Timothy 5:8

“God is the one who gives us richly all things to enjoy.” 1 Timothy 6:17

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.” Colossians 3:23

It’s our responsibility to provide for ourselves and those dependent on us.

2. If I Spend Less Than I Earn...

“Wise people live in wealth and luxury, but stupid people spend their money as fast as they get it.” Proverbs 21:20

We often try to fix our financial problems with earning more instead of spending less.

Being broke isn't a result of not making enough money. Being broke is a result of not saving the money we've made.

All advertising is built on impulse buying.

Spending is like any other addiction.

3. If I Avoid The Use Of Debt...

One of the biggest things that is robbing most of us of peace is debt!

The world has some Money Myths concerning debt...

- “Debt is Necessary.”

The National debt is \$31 Trillion. Debt per citizen is \$93,000. Debt per taxpayer is \$300,000.

- “It's just debt.”

The average American debt is 137% of their income.

The average American credit card balance is \$14,517.

59% of Americans who earn less than \$50,000 a year carry a credit card balance from month to month.

The average 21 owes \$30,000.

65% of American households live paycheck to paycheck.

It creates tension and arguing.

- “My debt is manageable.”

2 million people filed for bankruptcy last year.

2 million families were foreclosed on last year.

- “It will take care of itself.”
- “I'll never dig out of this debt, so what's another charge?”

Debt Danger Signs:

- Living On Credit Instead Of Paying Cash

“Don't withhold repayment of your debts. Don't say 'some other time,' if you can pay it now.” Proverbs 3:27-28

McDonald's found you spend 47% more with credit than cash. There is an emotional experience when you have to hand over the money rather than invisibly spend the money.

“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you don’t know what tomorrow will bring.” Proverbs 27:1

Debt always presumes upon the future.

- Delaying Payment Or Paying The Minimum

“Let no debt remain outstanding.” Romans 13:8

- Unable To Tithe Or Save
- Unable To Pay Taxes

“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” Matthew 22:21

- Extravagant Spending

“Indulging in luxuries, wine, and food will never make you wealthy.” Proverbs 21:17

- Looking For Get-Rich-Quick Schemes

“Steady plodding brings prosperity; hasty speculation brings poverty.” Proverbs 21:5

“The poor are always ruled by the rich, so don’t borrow and put yourself under their power.” Proverbs 22:7

We live in a day when people are devastated by debt. Debt will squeeze the freedom and peace out of people like nothing else in the world. People often use debt to increase their standard of living, but they actually decreased their standard of living. When you borrow your way to the next level, you won’t go forward. It will take you backwards.

The average car payment in America is \$600 over 84 months.

If you invest that payment in a mutual fund from age 30 to 70, you will have 1.7 million dollars.

4. If I Build Margin By Saving...

“The wise man saves for the future.” Proverbs 21:20

“Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.” Proverbs 6:6-8

The average family in Japan saves about 20% of their income.
The average family in Europe saves about 18% of their income.
The average family in America spends 1% more than they earn.

- **Save for an emergency.**

78% of families have a major negative financial turn in every ten-year period.

Have you noticed that when you’re broke, everything goes wrong?

- **Save to pay cash for purchases.**
- **Save to give.**

Saving allows you to share with others or give to special projects.

The average couple overspends their budget by \$83 per month.

If you save that \$83 every month over your working life, you will save \$1,000 per year.

In your working life you can save \$30,000-40,000, but because of compounding interest, it could be \$300,000 to 400,000 over your working life.

If you consider the interest you will pay from the debt versus the money you did not make on it, your saving is a \$600,000-700,000 change in your financial position.

5. If I Set Long Term Goals...

You need to set some financial goals. A budget is simply planned spending. If you don't have a budget you're headed for financial disaster.

"The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty." Proverbs 21:5

"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed." Proverbs 15:22

"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." Proverbs 16:3

Baby Steps:

- List how much you own and how much you owe.
- List how much you earn and how much you spend.
- Add no new debt.
- Save an emergency fund of \$1,000.
- Pay off your debt with a snowball.
 - Work from least to greatest to build momentum.
 - Calculate the day of completion.
 - Pray.
 - Celebrate & Testify when it is done.
- Save & Invest.
 - Save a 3-6 month emergency fund.
 - Start investing and saving for retirement.

6. If I Give Generously...

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." Proverbs 3:9-10

We are made to give because we are made in the image of God. Genesis 1:26-27

God is gracious and generous.

We will live a more satisfied and fulfilled life when we give to others. The generous giver gives with an obedient will, a joyful attitude, and a compassionate heart. There are medical studies that show that we are a healthier person when we are generous and giving.

Statistically speaking, 4% of Christians tithe.

The Bible tells us three reasons why we should tithe.

- **It's an act of gratitude.**

Everything comes from God, and we wouldn't have anything if it weren't for Him. So, in gratitude of what He's given me, I take the first part and I give it back to Him. It's just a reminder that it's all His.

- **It's an act of priority.**

- **It's an act of faith.**

"It was the 10-10-80 principle that is the key to my finances. I give ten percent to God, I put ten percent in savings, and I live on 80%." - John D. Rockefeller

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?" Luke 16:10-12

"God gives food to those who trust Him. He never forgets His promises." Psalm 111:5