

## **Keys to Financial Change**

### **Bring About Change by Paying with Cash**

Plastic—ATM card, debit cards and credit cards—are all stand-ins for money. They are not the real thing. They are just representatives, and often poor ones, when they represent debt.

#### **Five reasons to pay cash!**

- Paying cash means making some lifestyle changes and sacrifices, but it will keep you from drowning in a sea of red ink on your journey to financial freedom.
- Paying cash keeps you focused.
- Paying cash promotes contentment by adding meaning and value to the things you buy.
- Paying cash lets you own things, not merely acquire them.
- Paying cash makes spending difficult and uncomfortable—exactly the way it should be.

### **Bring About Change by Obeying God's Principles**

There are certain principles which, if followed, will lead to a peaceful and prosperous life: *"Blessings on all who reverence and trust the Lord— on all who obey Him! Their reward shall be prosperity and happiness"* (Psalm 128:1-2 TLB).

#### **1. You must never keep it all.**

The first thing you must do when money flows into your life is give some of it away.

#### **2. You must never spend it all.**

After tithing your income, always pay yourself before anyone else. Always. Not only must you set aside a portion of all your earnings, but you need to put that money to work for you. Merely saving is not enough.

#### **3. Remember that God is your source.**

Your employer, your spouse, your investments, your trust account, your parents (or any other entity) are not the source of your money. God, who gave you the talents,

intelligence and ability to think and work, is the source. Your responsibility is to be a good steward of all you receive.

Employers, investments, spouses and parents are only the conduits in the delivery system. Grabbing onto this truth will bring a sense of peace and calm to your life. No longer will you worry about a drop in the stock market or the plunging of real estate values. No longer will you lay awake worrying about losing your job.

“Debt is nothing more than borrowing from future income to buy now what we cannot afford with current income.”

The way your money is delivered may change radically and frequently, but the source never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

#### **4. Remember that God knows your heart's desires!**

God promises to supply all your needs and He says if you delight yourself in Him, He will also give you your desires. He is not ignorant of your needs or desires. He never falls asleep on the job or issues a due date. All He asks is that you obey His laws and trust His Word. Those who do and go on to demonstrate that they can be trusted with more are blessed beyond what they deserve or could possibly imagine.

#### **Bring About Change by Remembering Practical Wisdom**

- Americans are blessed with a lot of cash flowing through our hands. Bring a halt to some of the flow.
- Attack the problem aggressively with a plan. Your credit problems didn't just suddenly appear. It took a lot of steps to get into trouble and getting out will mean taking as much time, if not more, to draw up a financial recovery plan.
- Debt is incurred because we want something before we have the money to pay for it.
- Debt is nothing more than borrowing from future income to buy now what we cannot afford with current income.
- Getting out of debt is an attitude before it is an action.
- How do you get out of debt? Just like you got into debt...one small step at a time.

- If money isn't working for you, it's working against you and you just don't know it yet.
- If you are not content where you are, you will not be content where you want to go.
- If you don't borrow money, you can't get into debt.
- It's not what you make, it's what you spend.
- Keep track of every penny.
- Make impulse buying difficult. Leave your checkbook and credit cards at home.
- Stop spending more than you make.
- The fear of doing without in the future causes many Christians to rob God's work of the very funds He has provided.
- The only problem with borrowing money is that you have to pay it back.
- The purpose of budgeting is to free you, not confine you.
- We buy things we don't need with money we don't have to impress people we don't like.
- We should avoid debt whenever possible. In this situation, can I avoid debt?
- When you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging.

Debt is like cancer. At first it is not life-threatening, because it involves only a cell or two. But it never stays tiny. It begins to grow and then it takes over. It becomes the master; you become its slave. Never believe that a little debt, manageable as it may seem, is okay. It is not. Neither is a little cancer.