

HOW WOULD GOD WANT US TO SPEND OUR MONEY? Thoughts by, Jennie Moyer, CPA

What does the Bible say?

Matt 6:24 *No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*

Ecclesiastes 5:10 *Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.*

1 Timothy 6:17-19 *Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.*

STARTING GOOD HABITS NOW WILL SET YOU UP FOR FINANCIAL HEALTH LATER.

Forming good habits is a discipline. You may not be rich yet. Be content and work hard. Financial decisions do not get easier as you make more money after school. The expenses only get more expensive.

TITHE

Give it first, off the top, every pay check.

Malachi 3:10 *Bring the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. 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.*

Mark 12:41-44 *The widow gave all she had left - two small copper coins, and Jesus praised her for her generosity.*

the whole tithe into

DID YOU SAY, "BLESSING?"

- It does NOT say He will repay us dollar for dollar; there may be some who would tell you that's true. In my experience, when we use our money to please God, He provides more so that we can use it for His work even more.
- It does say 'so much blessing' - it could be a change in perspective, a new opportunity, but for sure it will be something that causes you to glorify Him - and that's what we're here for.

Start small ... it's easier to continue later.

- Tithing now on small, odd jobs. Obedience now and sets a habit for the future.
- It all counts. Tithe can be just a few dollars. But it's the attitude of your heart.
- Tithe to your church - get the tax deduction if you fill out your own tax form.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.***

It may take time to GIVE HAPPILY

- Cheerful giving may not be the attitude of your heart if you aren't used to tithing. If you obey in tithing, your attitude can improve.
- **Psalm 19:14** *May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer.*

HAVE A PLAN FOR YOUR MONEY

- We've all heard of rich athletes who made millions only to lose it because they didn't have a plan. And we've said, 'that's foolish'. No matter the scale of our riches, we all need to have a plan.
- Many people have published suggested percentages for budgeting. I like Dave Ramsey's plan. For example, he suggests 25-35% of income for housing; 5-15% for food.
- Having a plan helps you make decisions—like starbucks vs coffee at home vs giving up coffee or coffee out once/month as a treat.
- Use CASH – when you run out... you don't get more until your next pay check.
- Plan to spend less than you make. When you have a real salary, plan to spend substantially less than you earn.
- It will always be easy to overspend your income. It is a discipline to keep expenses under your earnings.

Luke 14:28-30 *"But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!'"*

Proverbs 6:6-8 *Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and become wise! Though they have no prince or governor or ruler to make them work, they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter.*

Romans 13:8 *Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law.*

Proverbs 22:7 *The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.*

DEBT IS NOT IDFAI

- Debt can rule over you.
- Plan to pay debt back quickly. Then your money can work for you instead of you working for debt.
- There is freedom in being debt free.

CREDIT CARDS

- Pay completely off each month.
- Pay on time.

SAVINGS

- Save 5-10% of income each month.
- When you have real job – save 6 months of expense plus 5-10% of income.