



## 10) Leading people into financial freedom

10 Lessons on how leaders can help their people apply biblical financial wisdom

### Part 10: Bringing the plan together

Over the past 9 episodes we have looked at teaching and strategy on how to lead people into financial freedom.

Let's wrap it up with a lesson now on how to bring it together and establish a practical plan to help people move forward.

#### 1. Start tracking your finance

Andy Stanley of Northpoint Church in Atlanta says "You will never get your money growing if you don't know where your money is going"

If someone is not willing to track their spending then they are not ready to make changes.

#### The suggestion is that you use a free app on your phone

- I use one simply called 'Expenses'
- And track your finances - using categories - to find out exactly where your money actually goes
- Hold people accountable to this and analyse the results together.

This information needs to be fed into a budget to see where the problems are.

- Then a goal budget established to see what needs to change to balance the budget.

#### 2. Start putting God first

Even if someone doesn't have faith to commit to the full 10% straight away, encourage them to make a start

- If at all possible get the church bank details and set up an auto payment for as soon as a salary is paid
- Remember - "What we do with the first determines what God does with the rest"
- Encourage them to grow this percentage to reach the first goal of 10%

Remember the Golden Rule:

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

#### 3. Fix the holes in the bucket

If there is any unrighteousness in terms of dealing with finances then that needs to be dealt with straight away.

Whether you are dealing with yourself or someone you are leading, ask them for honesty in areas such as:

- How much are you spending on bad habits? Eg. Cigarettes, alcohol etc.
- Are you gambling or spending money on the Lotto?
- Are you paying taxes properly?
- Have you ever stolen money?

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### 4. Get your debt under control

Write a list of all debts - what it is, how much is still owed and what kind of interest rate is being charged.

#### Consider your options:

- Prioritise high interest loans (Loan sharks, credit card debt etc.)
- Consider taking out a low interest, longer term loan to consolidate the debt

Then squeeze the budget as much as possible to pay off as much as possible as soon as possible.

And close accounts and cut up credit cards if you are not able to stay in the positive

## CLOSING CHALLENGE

*Matthew 6:33 (NIV)*

*33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

The good news is that God is committed to helping us out of the financial mess if we do it His way!

#### This is more of a spiritual issue than a financial one

- Commit the plan to God
- Pray about it daily
- Trust God to get you out of the hole and into his blessing

#### QUESTIONS:

1. Do you currently work to a budget? Why or why not?
2. Have you set up a plan?
3. By what date are you trusting to be out of your financial mess?