# Christian Finances 101 – How does God require us to manage our money?

As Christians, we are called to live the way that our Heavenly Father (God) has called us to live, by his word, the bible. As I have walked with the Lord and grown wiser on this Christian journey, I’ve heard many pastors use the acronym of the bible as B.I.B.L.E., which stands for “basic instructions before leaving earth”. I have certainly found this to be *true*. God’s word is not complicated or impossible to understand. It is simple. The main reason many people struggle with their finances for years and sometimes their entire lives is because they fail to understand the basic principle of what the Lord God requires us to do first and foremost;

***“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you” Matthew 6:33 KJV***

This is the basic principle that most of us miss. God requires us to seek him, his ways, his word, his foundations, his statues, and commandments above all things. **We must put him first if we desire blessings, success, and prosperity in our lives. This means that we live for God and not ourselves.** Faithfulness and obedience to the word of God brings the blessings. Faithfulness and obedience to God puts us in position to receive all that he has for us, blessings far greater than we could have ever imagined. Our desire should be his desire if we are in the *right* relationship with him. We should always strive to live a life that pleases God, just as Jesus Christ did when he was here on earth. Jesus Christ is the example God sent for us to follow. ***The onset of a beautiful relationship with our heavenly Father includes; repentance, salvation, meditation on the word of God daily, obedience to him, faith, love, and trust in Him only.*** **This is financial principle #2.**

People say with their mouths they are Christians, but their lives do not reflect any evidence of it. As a result, a curse is brought upon their lives, including lack their finances this is why many struggle and live a life of hardship. It is the decision to live for yourself, choosing disobedience, instead of living for God that brings curses – hardship, struggle, and lack.

**“Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field, cursed shall be thy basket and thy store” Deuteronomy 28: 16-17 KJV**

**Living for God and operating in his will is not only going to church on Sunday and paying tithes and offerings.** To be clear, I am not speaking against going to church or paying tithes to support the church or any ministry. The point here is that this should not be the end all be all to living as a Christian.

The bible clearly tells us to *“not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching”.* Hebrews 10:25 CSB

*God wants us to meet regularly to encourage and edify one another in his word, until Christ returns for his church*. **However, many think that going to church and tithing only is all they need to do to live as a Christian and this is certainly incorrect**. This was and still as a tradition created and taught by man. Jesus clearly warned us to let no man deceive us with false doctrine.

Christians who operate in this false financial doctrine mindset are:

* spiritually weak
* lack true understanding of the foundation of God’s word
* indoctrinated by false doctrine of men (man-made traditions)
* lack “faith” in God
* believe that God will only bless them if they tithe
* Idolize the Pastor of Bishop of their church like a god
* Lack discernment
* do not have an authentic relationship with God; or cannot clearly hear his “voice”

The false financial doctrine certainly contradicts the bible. Many Christians are deceived because they think that they must belong to a church to have a relationship with the Lord and to live a blessed life. True prosperity comes from God. Promotion comes from God. Success comes from God alone, not the god of this world.

*Many of us lack faith and we are too impatient to wait on God*. In modern Christian culture, there is a false demonic doctrine being taught called the “prosperity gospel” or “sowing a seed for your need” in many of the mainstream and popular Christian churches. This implies that God will bless you if you tithe, faithfully giving your money to the church; ***then*** God will bless you. Lies!

**The Lies from Satan:**

You do not need obey God, walk in his ways, or listen to his voice. You can live how you want and just go to church and pay tithes. **This is why many are cursed and sick among you.**

Many of us have been sold on the fallacy ingrained in us by the world that if we work hard enough, we will be successful. But how long will your efforts last without God?

The world wants the blessings and prosperity *without* God, rejecting the truth and accepting the lies. If you operate within your own human strength to do things, eventually you will burn out and become stressed. This is not God’s desire for our lives. God wants us to depend on him for all things because he is our Jehovah-Jireh (our provider). He gives us the ability to provide for ourselves. A good Father takes loving care of his children. The key to managing your finances starts with a basic principle and understanding of what God wants for our lives first.

When was the last time you talked to God about your finances? Did you seek him first before obtaining that new job or home? Did you seek him first when making that big purchase? Or did you talk to him first before you brought more of what you do not need?

**“And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe *and* to do all his commandments, which I have command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth; ₂ And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.”**

 **Deuteronomy 28: 1-2 KJV**

**Principal #3 – Become a good steward over your money and financial resources**

* **Simplify your life** – less is more. Learn how to live below your means and save your money. That does not mean living an impoverished life. It means saving more than you spend.
* **Get rid of all unnecessary expenses and bills** – do you really need that luxury car? Or that $400 outfit or $500 purse? Take a good hard look at where your money is going. Then you will be able to easily eliminate unnecessary expenses. Financial debt is a heavy spiritual burden. Be sure to examine your bank statements every month.
* **Examine your life and your finances** – are you living above your means or trying to keep up with the Jones’? If so, stop. The bible tells us to be content with the things we have and not to covet what belongs to our neighbors.
* **Do not live a life burdened with excess bills and credit** **cards** – this is a financial trap of the enemy. You will struggle financially for the rest of your life if you do not get a grip on your finances now. Do not shop on impulse and seek God about your spending habits**. Let Him show you how to manage your money. Create a financial plan and stick to it.**
* **If you need additional income** – start a business (or) pick up a second job to make ends meet. *If you can solve problems for people you will never be broke.* The reality is there are many problems in this world that need to be solved. God has equipped us with many gifts to serve his people for the upbuilding of his kingdom. So, what are you waiting for?
* **Limitless Opportunities** – There are no boundaries with God, so this means that there are no boundaries with you. Do not think that your financial situation is permanent **because** it is not**. God gave you the ability to conqueror all things and nothing is impossible for you.**
* Jesus Christ did not die on the cross for us to be hindered in any manner by any situation, obstacle, or financial burden.

*Heavenly Father,*

 *We thank you today for your redemptive purposes in our lives. We understand that your desire for us is to seek you first in all things, even before the thought of our own selves. You are the true foundation of our very existence, the reason that we live and have our being. The true essence of who we are is found in you. We belong to you, and we desire to live by the standards that you have set in place for us. Thank you for giving us spiritual guidance and biblical principles; that gives us insight on how we can manage our finances and financial resources you have given us.*

*We command every burden causing financial instability and preventing financial increase and blessings to be destroyed in our lives now in the name of Jesus. We speak financial freedom and liberty over our finances now. We lift and destroy every false financial burden by the power of the Holy Ghost, in our lives in the name of Jesus. Heaviness, lack, and stress is not our portion. We immediately return these evil prevailing sprits back to the pit of Hell and the kingdom of darkness now, in Jesus name.*

*God’s purpose and power over our lives prevails.*

*Thank you Lord for clearer spiritual vision, new opportunities, and new financial strategies.*

*We seal this prayer In the name of Jesus,*

*Amen.*