

God Money & Me by Paul De Jong

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)

God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

PART 4 – MONEY'S PATHWAY

In the book God Money & Me by Paul De Jong there are actually 5 parts. Part 4 is Money's Release; which I will share highlights from in this lesson before talking about what is considered Part 4 from the video series: Money's Pathway.

In speaking of Money's Release – WE ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

God spoke this to Abraham in:

Genesis 12:2 (NLT) I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.

When considering the blessing of God, we firstly note that: it blesses us on its way to others. We are never the only destination point, but a channel through which money and material blessing flow for God's purposes.

MONEY – THE YET TO BE RELEASED MIRACLE

Yet our lack of activating biblical revelation will often account for the reason why we are living with financial limitation. No matter how well-intentioned you may be, your reality could be that you are yet to see the miracle of monetary release.

The question is simple: how do we continue to honor God, be generous and get build a financial future for ourselves and the generations to follow?

Proverbs 8:17-21 I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity. My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, bestowing a rich inheritance on those who love me and making their treasures full.

Remember, the starting point is that when we honor God in the first place, it is then that we position ourselves to unlock the blessing of an all able and loving God.

Proverbs 3:9-10 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.

DON'T SETTLE IN SMALL-MINDEDNESS

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God's release is for far more than just personal blessing. It offers us liberty in every area of our lives, and constructs the right foundations for establishing a generational blessing. Psalm 112 captures this sense of the abundant life God has planned for us when the psalmist cries in joy:

Psalm 112:1-3 Praise the LORD. Blessed are those who fear the LORD, who find great delight in his commands. Their children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

God's release . . . construct the right foundations for establishing a generational blessing.

2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Here the revelation is that God is ABLE.

Almost half the parables, In fact, 16 out of 38 that Jesus taught, were around money, stewardship and material things. He understood how powerful money is and how quickly we get distracted and seduced by it.

THE AUTHORITY OF THE ASK

We need to live out God's principles within a spirit of unwavering expectation.

Remember, God is wanting to position you to build a foundation for financial freedom. He wants to give evidence of His abundant favor towards you, but we must become a willing participant before we become a recipient.

James 4:2-3 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Absolute boldness, fueled by pure motive, is our heart attitude as we approach God to ask for what He has promised.

If you fail to ask, you fail to access, or if it is just for your selfish desires, you will not unlock God's unlimited provision.

We all have an active enemy who consistently works to stop us from entering in and accessing our rights as God's children.

JOHN 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

In other words, if our motives are genuine, we have a right to hold God to his word. If we are going to bring freedom to our finances, we have to activate the right kind of ask, and that has three primary aspects.

ONE – ASK WITH GOD-GIVEN AUTHORITY

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Once we have honored God, we can anticipate and expect that he will honor us. To ask for what God has promised is to activate the authority of heaven. Lack is often the outcome when authority is not present. I believe God is saying I am looking for people who will activate their authority to become receivers of my promises.

Psalm 2:7-8 I will proclaim the LORD's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father. Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

If we live with uncertain expectations, or a feeling of having no right to expect good things, we limit God's ability to expand our worlds.

1 John 3:21-22 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

Many of us accept self-condemnation too quickly and fail to stand in our God-given authority. Often it is the residue of negative words spoken over us, wrong theology, or we have succumbed to the enemies plan for us to live a 'survival only' life.

To be able to exercise the authority of the ASK, we need to be clear that God's promises are yes and Amen.

Jim Rohn said 'Asking is the beginning of receiving.'

TWO – ASK WITH KINGDOM PURPOSE

Ask within the boundaries of Kingdom purpose. If not, we are asking amiss.

1 Chronicles 4:9 We find the story of Jabez, who prayed to be blessed and to have his territory enlarged. God granted him his request of abundant blessing because Jabez was praying within the boundaries of Kingdom purpose.

A crucial element in God's promised provision: the activation of the ASK and alignment with God's purpose.

John 15:7-8 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

THREE – ASK WITH UNENDING PERSISTENCE

I believe God response to those who have fully engaged their faith in their petitioning. Once we have presented our request, the challenge lies between our request and the outcome. This is the very point where the enemy seeks to sow seeds of doubt and create double-mindedness. We must decide to never give up.

Activate the ask with a God centered authority, wrapped in unwavering persistence.

Luke 11:9-10 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

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This is far more than a throwaway line: it contains an embedded truth - to ask we must verbalize an area of need; we must then seek for it like hidden treasure, and knock long enough to awaken the supplier to respond.

If we are going to release a breakthrough in our finances, we have to actually arise and say 'I am going to stand in my God-given authority and say this is my right.' Our marriage is, our families, our businesses will see the blessing of God, and this is our inheritance as HIS children.

'PRAYER PROTECTS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN GOD AND MAN.'

Luke 18:3-8 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' " Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

THE FOUR LEVELS OF GIVING

The truth is we are all too often taught to extremes when it comes to the way we regard material wealth. Neither of them accurately reflects what the Bible teaches. On the one hand, we've promoted the mistruth that poverty is the path to true oneness. The other extreme is the propagation of a self based prosperity that claims that God wants you to have more of what you want, instead of stating the truth that God provides abundantly so you can be blessed and be a channel of blessing to others.

Psalm 35:27 May those who delight in my vindication shout for joy and gladness; may they always say, "The LORD be exalted, who delights in the well-being of his servant."

God's purposes are so much more than just about you. Remember, as we have seen, if God can't trust you with money, why would He release true riches? Money is our testing ground.

Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill said: "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

The truth is that we need a rather large paradigm shift in our thinking when it comes to giving, lest we fall into the trap of taking all the credit for our prosperity.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 17 You may say to yourself,a "My power and the strength of my handsb have produced this wealth for me." 18 But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth,c and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

The facts are that the global purposes of God right now are being limited because of a lack of finance. If there were more release of finance, there would be a greater demonstration of God at work in our cities and towns. God wants to turn us into wildly generous and caring people, who mirror a wildly caring and generous God.

Giving is a fundamental aspect of God's economy. So it is important we grasp the importance of giving because if we fail to do so, we will also limit the release we expect.

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Gun Denhart, the founder of the Hannah Andersson Clothing company, based in Portland, Oregon, has said: "Money is like manure. If you let it pile up, it just smells. But if you spread it around, you encourage things to grow."

LEVEL ONE – SELF-INTEREST

There are four levels of giving. Can aspire to, beginning with the most basic one motivated by self-interest. When we operate at this level of giving, we give because we understand that if we so seed, we will reap a harvest. Reward is our motive as we understand the active and God design principle of sowing and reaping. It is not wrong to operate at this level, but it is the lowest of the four levels.

Luke 6:38 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. **For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."**

LEVEL TWO – SPIRITUAL GRATITUDE

Is where our giving is based on understanding what God has given us. We're blessed because we have been blessed. The depth of our appreciation is what creates the foundation to this second response. Obligation is not the reason. Rather, we want to say thank you and partner in seeing others also experience all that God has done for us.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Psalm 8:1-6 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, That thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, The moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, And hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet

LEVEL THREE – SELFLESS OBEDIENCE

The more mature we become and the greater our revelation of abiding in Jesus is., the easier it is simply to obey. The matters of trust have been settled because we know Him and we decide to trust that God's word works.

This does not mean that levels one and two are no longer relevant, but now our soul has become increasingly subject to our Spirit, man, and we commit to live the word.

Psalm 40:8 I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart."

LEVEL FOUR – SUPERNATURAL REVELATION

This fourth level of giving is because we no longer need weekly CONVINCING. We simply believe and activate God's word.

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It is amazing what happens when you say yes and are obedient to God's word. When you live a revelation, you experience the freedom that comes with it.

Isaiah 32:8 NLT But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity.

Let the Holy Spirit reveal to you the truth of God's word when it comes to your financial world, Which, Once mixed with obedience, creates a pathway to financial freedom.

Brennan Manning: "The greatest cause of atheism is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, then walk out the door and deny Him with their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world finds simply unbelievable." That is something for all who profess a Christian faith to consider.

MONEY'S RELEASE

MAIN REFLECTIONS:

Once we have honored God first, we have a God-given right to ask him for an abundance for every good work period. Once our hearts are aligned, we are positioned to see a breakthrough as God has promised to bless. Remember. God amplifies the aligned. Our challenge now is to live beyond small mindedness and expect us favor in our material world.

We have all been chosen to become a human channel of provision by the A loving and all able God. If we fail to believe that we limit not only ourselves but also the purposes of God in helping others through us.

1. Have you found it difficult to believe God for financial breakthrough? If so, why?

2. James teaches us that we have not because we ask, WRITE out James 4:2-3. What would be an experience from your past that would limit you from asking or placing an expectation on GOD?

3. Persistence in our believing God to fulfill his promises seems to be important. (Luke 18:3-8) Why do you think? Why do you think that is the case?

4. Of the four levels of giving listed. Which level represents you?

5. Write out the prayer of Jabez found in 1 Chronicles 4:9-10. Why do you think God granted him his request?

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PART FOUR – MONEY'S PATHWAY

FOUR INGREDIENTS TO CREATING A FINANCIAL FUTURE

STEWARDING, SEEDING, SAVING, SPENDING

The four ingredients that, when working together, will literally change everything about our future finances. This is where ‘the rubber really hits the road’ Don’t come back. as we choose to decide whether to implement the needed change or simply nod our heads in approval.

INGREDIENT ONE - STEWARDING

Being a good steward of the resources we've received begins with being intentional on how we facilitate and deploy our increase, whether large or small.

To be a good and faithful steward of something means to preserve and maintain, safeguard and protect, and generally take care of what has been entrusted to us. Our responsibility is to ensure it is used wisely and releases God's intended purposes.

The first priority God places on good stewarding of our finances is to return what belongs to him., by tithing, the first tenth of our increase into the storehouse. We have described this in part three as ‘resetting sovereignty’ over our money so that God, El Shaddai, remains ascendant over all our financial resources.

INGREDIENT TWO - SEEDING

Seeding is the revelation of God's principle of ‘seedtime and harvest’. Seeding applies to any area where we sow resources, time, and talents beyond ourselves. Simply put, God makes it clear that our harvest is ultimately the result of the seed we sow.

INGREDIENT THREE - SAVING

Our understanding of the meaning of saving is that. It is a long term investment that primarily ends up as a financial foundation for future generations. This is also where we create an answer to current debt, and unlock the ability to bless our children and our children's children. Ultimately, our aim would be to match our saving with our seeding.

Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.

INGREDIENT FOUR - SPENDING

This is possibly the area where the majority of us have the most experience, but often attach the least wisdom to. There is a big difference between what we should be doing and what we are doing. Our spending must be in line with our pre-established boundaries if we are to create a pathway to financial freedom.

FROM PRINCIPLE TO PRACTICE

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Looking at our finances as a mixture of these four ingredients, stewarding, seeding, saving and spending may initially appear overly simplistic, but when combined and implemented with a right understanding, these four areas become the pathway to financial release.

'STEWARDING' – RETURN WHAT BELONGS TO GOD

We talked about this in Part 3. Money's test. Hey.

Malachi 3:6-10 "I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?' ⁸ 'Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into 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.'

Returning unto God what is due him.

Note that God separates the tide and the offerings, as they are very different. It is true that the tide or the first tenth was required during the time of the Old Testament law, but it was also offered before the law was established, and Jesus took time in Matthew to say we should continue it within the New Testament.

FIVE COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT TITHING

ONE – 'DO I TITHE ON MY GROSS INCOME OR ON THE NET?'

After years of thinking this through, and deliberating with many people, I'd say it depends on what or whom you put first. Period. So, is it God first or taxes first?

If you choose to tithe on the net, income after tax, what you are effectively seeing is that you don't consider that you personally benefit from anything your tax dollars are spent on. The truth is, the tax that we all pay provides the infrastructure and many other advantages. We rely on in the country of our residence.

Mark 12:17 Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And they were amazed at him.

Even if you don't like the tax laws or don't think you benefit from how tax dollars are spent, God says we are to honor them. What I find interesting to note is that we are taxed on the gross but we don't tithe off of it. To me, that says the government deserves more than God which I personally feel should not be the case.

TWO – 'WHAT IF I CAN'T AFFORD TO TITHE?'

In 1 Kings 17, Elijah comes to the widow at Zarephath. She and her son are facing impending death as she only has a little bit of oil and flour left.

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I believe this story had a lot to teach us. Elijah understood the power of ‘the first’ and what is released when God is honored. The widow responded with complete trust by making a meal for the man of God first. In other words, her prioritizing of God in first place brought about miraculous provision.

1 Kings 17:15-16 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶ For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.

We are all constantly confronted by our natural limitations and current realities, but God's way works. In all seriousness, we can't afford NOT to tithe (that is, position God first in our finances), whether we find ourselves with an absence or abundance of funds.

THREE – ‘WHAT CONSTITUES MY INCREASE?’

Increases increase. Whenever you expand or advance in any monetary way, the FIRST TENTH is God's.

Tithing is not the pain of a bill, but a decision of lordship.

FOUR – ‘IS IT OK TO TITHE TO OTHER MINISTRIES?’

There are many great ministries that deserve support, but. Where the tide goes is not ours to decide. It is God's, and we are called to return it to God and place it where He has chosen it to go.

My understanding is that in Malachi 3:10 where it says ‘bring all the tithes into the storehouse’, God's ultimate plan is to see the tithe come into His house as He has purposed the church to become the cornerstone of society.

Remember, it is not our TITHE but His TITHE, and He says it belongs in the storehouse.

Exodus 23:19 “Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God.

The church is where our tithe belongs. Everything after God's tithe is under our direction and discretion. If we set this in order, the church will become resourced to function fully, in line with God's plan.

FIVE – ‘DOES MY TITHING GUARANTEE FINANCIAL BREAKTHROUGH?’

You might be surprised at this, but I would have to say ‘NO’. Being faithful to return God's tithe is the foundation and beginning point – it releases God's blessing over the rest of our income. Once we have denied the spirit of mammon access, we also release God's promised protection and provision.

However, I am still responsible to make the right choices over the balance of all my increase.

When I tithe, God enters into partnership with my financial world, but I need His wisdom attached to my remaining resources.

Along with stewarding (returning what belongs to God), a correct understanding of seeding, saving, and spending is vital. Once we merge all four elements into a comprehensive financial practice, everything ties together to release God's blessing and liberate us to experience financial freedom.

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SEEDING – CREATING THE HARVEST

The realization that tightening alone is not enough answers a lot of questions as to why we still experience lack after honoring God with the FIRST TENTH. Create the right financial foundation, More than one ingredient is required.

THE FIRST INGREDIENT – GOD AMPLIFIES WHAT IS ALIGNED

We are aligned if we are following the principles of first fruits and tithing (stewarding).

THE SECOND INGREDIENT - THE MOVE FROM 'NEED' TO 'SEED CONSCIOUSNESS'

Tithing, which position God as sovereign, was only the beginning of a number of adjustments that need to happen. Malachi 3, says not only was Israel robbing God by not tithing, but was also robbing him through its lack of offerings – SEEDING.

Positioning God first with the tithe was one thing and sowing seed was another. Seeding opens the door to harvest. Much of the body of Christ is yet to appreciate the difference between stewarding and seeding.

THE LAW OF SEEDTIME & HARVEST

Genesis 8:20-21 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. ²¹The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though^[a] every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

When God said that he would ‘never again curse the ground for man's sake, and... never again destroy the earth because you've done this thing’ (paraphrased), He instituted a law that still operates today - the law of seedtime and harvest.

Genesis 8:22 “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

It is an unchangeable, unstoppable law that will remain as long as the Earth remains. There will be seedtime and harvest. You and I have control over the law of seedtime and harvest. We each get to determine the harvest by sowing seed, giving it time and reaping the reward. We must all come to realize that many things are beyond our control but the harvest is not one of them. Once we understand that seedtime and harvest form a divine law, much like the way gravity is a law, we all can activate a greater harvest through our seed.

The law of seedtime and harvest is an irrefutable law; it's the way that life operates. The issue is not that we deny the existence of the seed time and harvest law, it's the fact that we fail to activate sowing seed and as a result we are not releasing our promised harvest. In other words, God responds to our response. God is looking for people who will honor him with the first and then also instigate the law of seed time and harvest.

God actually says that every one of us can successfully unlock this law of creating harvest in every area of our lives.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

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The J.B. Phillips translation of the Bible, 'Don't be under any illusion: you cannot make a fool of God! A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows.' (PHILLIPS)

We can all influence the outcome of our lives by sowing seed for the harvest we want to see. If we want to change any area of our lives, the first thing we need to do is take a look at what we are sowing in it.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ 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. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Understanding the law of seed, time and harvest as a personal revelation is so important for our long term financial breakthrough.

SECRETS TO SUCCESSFUL SOWING

Do you find sometimes that there is an unwanted voice inside your head, speaking? Negative messages such as 'I couldn't do that'. 'It's unfair'. 'You can't expect that', 'it will never happen for me'.

It's all too easy to allow wrong mindsets developed through childhood or negative life experiences to box us into leading limited lives. As soon as we think I can't, we've already sown a seed that has attached a harvest to it.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you.

Simply put, seeds of negative thoughts – whether sown by us or others - will fail to produce any kind of positive future gain. Our thoughts, our words, our attitudes, our actions, and even our inaction, are all seeds that produce a harvest, whether we realize it or not.

SOWING THE RIGHT SEEDS

Our words create reality. Our words have creative power, for good or for harm.

Proverbs 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

As soon as we say something, we are creating something - we are activating a harvest. We can't be negative and expect a positive outcome. Outcomes, we see, are a reflection of the source from which they spring. If we want a bountiful harvest, we have to align ourselves with God's word and start responding to the things of God.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Every action and corresponding in action are sown seeds. Planted seeds reproduce a harvest containing more seeds.

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2 Corinthians 9:10-11 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. **11** You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

God's word says He will release seed to the Sower. Remember, seed translates to an increasing harvest. The commitment to becoming sober comes before the realization of seed. God supplies seed to the hand that commits to sow.

A harvest won't come from an inactive spirit or a mindset of poverty. You sow to release God's promised blessing of seeds which contain a harvest.

Proverbs 13:4 A sluggard's appetite is never filled,
but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

SEEDS PRODUCE AFTER THEIR OWN KIND

There are many simple but profound principles around the whole practice of sowing and harvest that are worth securing into our spirits.

Genesis 1:11-12 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. **12** The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

We seem to expect the harvest outcomes that are contrary to the seeds that we have sown. Imagine a farmer expecting that he or she would harvest something different from what had been sown. Do you think a farmer would ever sow broccoli seeds and expect to get potatoes? However, in the church, we seem to expect to harvest outcomes that are contrary to the seed that we have sown.

SOWING PURPOSEFUL SEED

Farmers understand that sowing their best seed intentionally, in the right place and at the right time carries the best promise for their future security.

- You can't harvest a great marriage without sewing honor to your spouse.
- You can't harvest Victory with seeds of despondency.
- You can't harvest unity after sowing seeds of discord.
- You can't harvest lasting success with seeds of compromise.
- You can't harvest financial breakthroughs without financial seeds.

Remember, seeds produce after their own kind.

If you don't receive the revelation, you won't experience the release.

SEEDS REQUIRE FERTILE ENVIRONMENTS

The parable of the Solar, which Jesus told in Matthew 13, gives us many valuable lessons about sowing and harvesting. Perhaps most surprisingly, Jesus tells the disciples that the whole principle of sowing seed is a

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heavenly secret that is given to them and not others to understand. It is something you grasp by revelation, and if you don't receive the revelation, you won't experience the release.

Matthew 13:10-11 The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” ¹¹ He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.”

We can accept the idea of harvest, yet fail to create the right environment for the harvest. And the natural world, seeds need fertile soil, moisture, food, warmth and sunlight. In the verses below, Jesus explains why only a proportion of sea plants it actually bears good fruit.

Matthew 13:18-23 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Some seed falls by the wayside - This is when we respond to the principles of seed, time and harvest enthusiastically, but carry no real revelation of their truth. In other words, our actions don't change.

Some seed falls on Stony places - This is similar to the seed that fell by the wayside. It is when we respond with immediate joy, but endure only for a while, and give up in the face of challenge and doubt.

Some seed falls among thorns - This is when we become seduced by the allure of material distractions. This doesn't happen overnight, but it works its deception overtime.

Some seed falls on good ground - This is when we carry and activate the divine law of seed, time and harvest. We are committed, no matter what, to continue to do so. This will produce 100 times, 60 times, 30 times period. I love how Jesus began at a hundredfold. Harvest requires the right seed in the right soil.

SEEDS ARE SUBJECT TO SEASONS

The truth is, we don't see harvests in every season in the natural world. But no matter what happens, farmers continue to sow for harvest because they understand that, even if one year the produce is poor, seeds will still produce a harvest in the following year.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NLT) Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant.
If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.

What we do now is that our seed determines what God is able to do on our behalf. Remember, God responds to our response.

UNPLANTED SEEDS FAIL TO PRODUCE

Here is an interesting thought: Harvest requires seeds to come out of their packaging.

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In whatever area you need a harvest, stop making excuses and start planting seeds. Challenge procrastination, engage perseverance and plant the kind of seeds today that you desire to harvest tomorrow.

‘SAVING’

When it comes to leaving a legacy for the future, the enemy wants us to have no part of it. Yeah the Bible presents the opposite view.

Proverbs 13:22 A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children,
but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.

We are encouraged from Scripture to live with a generational mindset, so much so that we will leave it good inheritance, a legacy, not just for our children, but for our children's children.

Legacy's vision goes far beyond any individual. We are called to build an inheritance that will continue to bless God's Kingdom long after we are no longer on Earth.

Mark 12:41-44 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

A little invested today can secure an ever enlarging tomorrow.

One more important point: I would describe this saving element as ‘untouchable’. The whole idea is that this is an investment into the future of those who come after us. It is not to be consumed by us for our needs or our wants. It is to be used only for what will increase our net worth and ultimately continue to live on beyond us.

Can you imagine how different your life would have been, and would be today, if your grandparents had embraced this principle as part of their financial pathway? Today, you would have become the recipient of their pre-planned wisdom. By the time it reached you, you wouldn't have needed to spend your life savings on a house, and you could have been already positioned to become an answer to the needs of others.

‘SPENDING’ – SETTING TODAY’S PARAMETERS

SIMPLY PUT - We must live within our means to make our future meaningful.

THE POWER OF DELAYED GRATIFICATION

Over the past 50 years, the ‘Marshmallow Test’ has become synonymous with temptation and willpower.

As the lead researcher and studies that began in the 1960s and continued for 40 years, Stanford professor Walter Mischel's work lives on today. Mischel Put a plate with one miniature marshmallow on it in front of hundreds of four and five year olds and offered them a deal. The researcher, whom the kids knew and trusted because they played with him earlier, explained he was going to leave the room and leave them with the marshmallow for a little while. If the child did not eat the marshmallow while he was away, then they would be rewarded with, not only the initial marshmallow but also a second marshmallow when he returned.

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However, if the child decided to eat the first one before the researcher came back, then they would not get a second marshmallow.

So the choice was simple: one treat right now or two treats later. The researcher then left the room for 15 minutes. The footage of what happened next is very entertaining: some kids jumped up and ate the marshmallow the minute he left the room. Others tried to avoid temptation and wriggled and bounced and moved their chairs, but most eventually gave in. Only a few children resisted the temptation and left the marshmallow intact.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT

The interesting part is what happened over the next 40 years, period and follow-up tests. This group of children were studying in all areas of life, and the ones who had been able to delay their gratification and not eat the marshmallow outscored the rest. On most measures of success, from higher academic achievements to less drug abuse, lower obesity, better response to stress and better outcomes generally, in a whole range of measures. Their parents reported them as generally more competent, even if they didn't know whether their children had eaten the marshmallow or not.

The researchers were forced to conclude that being able to delay gratification is a key strategy for success in many areas of life. In their words: 'Success usually comes down to choosing the pain of discipline over the ease of distraction.'

Even more interestingly, follow-up research showed self-control was a learned skill rather than a naturally acquired trait. If a child was promised a reward but never received it, they concluded very quickly that the researcher was not to be trusted and ate the marshmallow instantly. But if they found the researcher to be reliable, and delivered on promised rewards, they waited an average of four times longer. Period. As one report noted, just a few minutes of reliable or unreliable experiences were enough to push the actions of each child in One Direction. Or another. Our spending is vitally important, yet should remain in the fourth place of priority.

KEYS TO LIMITING YOUR SPENDING

ONE – EMBRACE A DECISION TO LIVE WITHIN YOUR MEANS

The principle of delayed gratification is an absolute key wherever you are on this journey, and at whatever level you decide to begin limiting spending of your disposable income will help create a financial future. Tomorrow's breakthrough lives within predetermined boundaries. In the majority of cases, we simply don't need to spend what we think we need to spend or are led to believe we need to spend.

TWO - FIND A WAY TO INCREASE YOUR INCOME

Never underestimate your potential. If you seriously can't afford to live or work, what remains of your income after tithe and taxes find a way to increase your income. Preparation is the prerequisite to provision. All millionaires have multiple streams of income.

THREE – SET UP ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNERS

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The enemy continues behind the scenes to find ways to restrict you. He would do all he can to cause you to believe that this is beyond you. The truth is, once we break mammon off our money, honor God's way and live with wisdom, everything begins to change.

Accountability connects our decisions to the right outcome.

FOUR – GOOD AND BAD DEBT – DON'T GO INTO DEBT FOR DEPRECIATING ASSETS

You must reduce your debt.

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

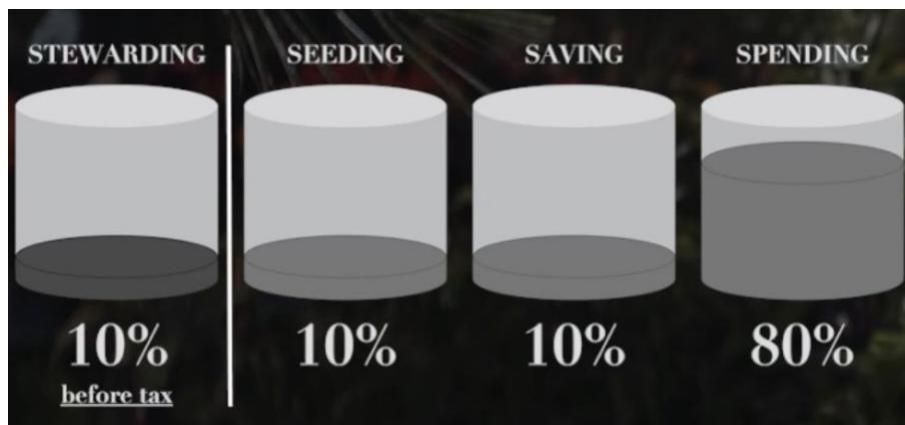
We can never allow debt to become the loudest voice.

So if you ever find yourself having borrowed for anything that now restricts you from making the right decision, you must change it.

It's not that God is against debt itself: God is against anything that is able to gain the position of lordship over us. I'm not saying you can't borrow, I'm just saying be careful. Everything that is a debt will have to be faced and repaid one day.

FROM PRINCIPLE TO PRACTICE

THE '10/10/10/80 PRINCIPLE'



This is where the '10/10/10/80 PRINCIPLE' gets its name because, after allowing for the 10% tithe before tax, we divided our remaining disposable income into 10% for seeding, 10% for saving, and 80% for spending.

Step 1 - The first 10% is our tithe – it belongs to God and we are merely the stewards of it. We are to position him first in our finances. Our tithe should be returned to him before everything else, including tax obligations.

Step 2 - After that, God says we have the responsibility to put in place for what remains, which I call our 'disposable income'.

Remember, if you manage your money, it won't manage you.

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The goal is to figure out how to best apportion this remaining amount across the other three elements: seeding, saving, and spending. In the 10/10/10/80 Principle it is recommended that you put 10% towards seeding.

Step 3 - The next step entails matching our saving to what we have put into our seeding container. If we can allocate 10% of our disposable income to seeding, we should also allocate 10% to or saving. the principle of multiplication will see this grow and become an appreciating asset base, setting the foundation for financial freedom for the generations that follow us.

Step 4 - At this point, many of you might still be stuck on the thought that there is no way you could live on 80% of your current disposable income (after tithing & paying taxes). The major challenge for most of us comes in the 4th ingredient, as it. Is to do with what we believe we need to live - our spending.

Getting these four elements right opens up a financial pathway both for us and those who follow.

If we all had dealt with our finances like this from a young age, imagine the difference in the financial future we would be experiencing today.

Simply put, God's way works. He always works generationally, and we too can change the cycles of lack when we live with a mindset that looks beyond our own generation. Once we grab this revelation, embraced, these four ingredients, we will alter our future completely. We will no longer be trapped into living according to every wind of fortune or misfortune that blows our way. Instead, we'll have a firm foundation for creating a financial future.

SO WHERE DO YOU START?

living on 80% of your disposable income may not be realistic for you right now. But the key to anything of value is to commit to start somewhere: to set the wheels in motion. The 10/10/10/80 Principle is a goal that most of us can work towards, no matter how long it takes to get there. Allow step one (your tithe to God) to be non-negotiable. Then, make a start somewhere on the second and third steps of matching seeding to seeding. Remember, as you sow some seed, you really see harvest.

Just start somewhere and grow it every 6 – 12 months as the Lord begins to bless you.

God's word has undeniable authority. 2 Corinthians 9:8 ALL SUFFICIENCY AND AN ABUNDANCE FOR EVERY GOOD WORK

I am sure we can all offer a dozen reasons why we can't. Limit our spending and can't redirect some of our income to seeding and saving. The moment we begin to think it is OK for others but impossible for us, we are allowing our excuses to have the authority to decide our future. Without doubt, this will also be the way we are equipping our future generations. Don't give excuses the authority decide your future. If this is you, you need to take some time and marinate yourself in the word of God and get a new revelation for yourself of God's plan for you to be 'blessed to be a blessing'.

If I could encourage you in one thing, it is this; no matter where you begin, make it your goal to live financially in a way that honors God and sets up the generations to come.

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When we know, first and foremost, that we have honored God with our finances, we are now in a position where we have begun our journey to financial freedom. Our to day finds purpose once we attach to Morrow to it.

IMAGINE, IMAGINE, IMAGINE

We struggle to accept that God really is good, that he loves us, and that he is a multiplier. It's hard for us to believe that God actually longs for us to flow into the freedom. And the blessing of who he is in every area of our lives. Often we put our trust in other things, and settle for just trying to make it through. Imagine if, through your obedience and trust in God, your grandchildren or the generation that follow you, received an inheritance that enabled them to experience the lives God planned for them in 2 Corinthians 9.

It may take as long as a generation to live out what we never grew up understanding about establishing a financial future. But it will totally be worth it. Live God's way with money and immediately, God has promised, we will see him do the impossible.

Malachi 3:10-12 Bring the whole tithe into 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. 11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the Lord Almighty. 12 "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty.

MONEY'S PATHWAY – IN SUMMARY

God provides every Christian with an invitation to live in an abundant life. However, Financial abundance involves the combination of four very important gradients, stewarding, seeding, spending and saving. Becoming a good steward of the resources we receive begins with positioning God first. We then are to move from 'need' consciousness to a 'seed' consciousness. It is when we fully grasp God's principle of seedtime and harvest that everything begins to turn around.

But that is not the end. We then add saving and spending to the financial equation and then a financial pathway begins to be prepared. It is when we live by bringing all four together that we break through the stronghold of lack. Not only do we unlock God's blessing in our material world, but we are empowered to create generational legacy.

MAIN REFLECTION POINTS

1. God's desire for us is to have sufficiency: a perfect state of living in which no physical aid or support are needed.
2. Tithing is stewarding: being faithful with what belongs to God.
3. Seeding is guaranteeing a harvest for the future.
4. Saving is creating a legacy to bless the generations to come.
5. Spending wisely means practicing delayed gratification and living within our means.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would living with “all sufficiency” change how you activated your finances?
2. Do you have a system set up like the 10/10/10/80 principle? How would it challenge you? How would it help you?
3. Did your parents save anything for you and/or your siblings? If so, how did it set you up for future success?
4. What is the easiest thing in your world to waste money on?
5. How could you increase your income?
6. What will you do differently now you have completed this study?