

You Can Be Financially Free

George Fooshee

Nine Biblical Financial Principles:

1. God is the source

Philippians 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Proverbs 8:20-21 - I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full.

When we realize that God is the source, we know that faith is important. Pray specifically for the things you want and need.

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2. Giving money

Luke 6:38 - 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.

This verse describes the giving circle - you give and it comes back to you.

Proverbs 11:25 - A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

God didn't institute giving to raise money. He did it to train his children to trust him.

Deuteronomy 14:23 - Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the lord your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his name, so that you may learn to revere the lord your God always.

We give so that we will put God first.

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Fooshee recommends (according to *Deuteronomy* 14:23) we give to the lord right away when we get paid -- give him the firstfruits of our income.

Live on a margin: Gene Warr said everybody ought to live on a margin; a time margin, a physical margin and a financial margin.

When it comes to time, you can get somewhere early, on time or late. It's very hard to get somewhere exactly on time.

Fooshee said if he has 3 appointments a day, 7 days a week and was five minutes late . . . Over 15 years that would add up to 2 full months of 24 hr days that I was late.

When you go somewhere late, you're angry with yourself, you don't get after it right away, you're distracted

He realized that every time he was 5 minutes late, he spent 15 minutes rushing to be late. You're rushing across town, you don't see what's going on, you don't hear what's going on You're real tense and stressed.

If you aim to get somewhere "on time" you will be late. It's almost impossible to arrive right on time. You have to aim to be early. That's living on a margin.

When it comes to money, you can spend less money than you make, exactly what you make, or more than what you make.

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3. Saving money

Proverbs 30:24-25 - "Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer..."

Proverbs 21:20 - In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.

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4. Keep out of debt

Romans 13:8 - Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

Amplified version: Keep out of debt and owe no man anything

New living: Pay all your debts, except the debt of love for others

How?

Luke 3:14 - Soldiers also asked him, "and we, what shall we do?" and he said to them, "do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

In other words, make do with your pay.

Why?

Proverbs 22:7 - The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.

When you go into debt, you lose some of your freedom.

Characteristics of a trap: attractive -- easy to get into

Buy now, pay later → isn't it amazing how fast later comes when you buy now?

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5. Be content with what you have

Hebrews 13:3 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Philippians 4:11-12 - Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

Use it up - wear it out - make it do - or do without.

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6. Keep good records

Proverbs 24:3-4 (NLT) - A house is built by wisdom and becomes strong through good sense. Through knowledge its rooms are filled with all sorts of precious riches and valuables.

Important principle: Get the facts.

Proverbs 23:23 - Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

Proverbs 18:13 - He who answers before listening - that is his folly and his shame.

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7. Don't co-sign another's note

- Proverbs says don't do it.
- It is bad business. You are asked to sign because that person is a risk.
- Half of the people who co-sign have to pay it back.

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8. Work

Proverbs 14:23 - All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

Proverbs 28:19 - he who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.

Many financial problems can be solved by disciplined, hard work.

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9. Seek Godly counsel

Psalms 15:22 - Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

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