

# THE SCRIPTURES AND FINANCE\$



There is an abundance of information in the scriptures concerning our attitude towards finances and our proper use of them. Of the many scriptural principles about finances, here are some that show us how much God is interested in and involved in this aspect of your life, just as he is in every part of your life.

## **Principle 1: Trust God in Your Finances. Luke 12:16 – 34**

- If you trust God in your finances, you will not worry.
- If you trust God in your finances, you will put Him first.
- If you trust God in your finances, you will have treasures in Heaven.

### **Other Scriptures to Help You Trust God in Your Finances:**

**Phil. 4:19** My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ.

**I Tim. 6:17 – 19** God provides everything for our enjoyment.

**Malachi 3:10** Test me.

## **Principle 2: Manage Your Finances Wisely. Luke 16:10 – 13**

- Trusted/Dishonest with little predicts Trusted/Dishonest with much.
- Your finances are a trust from God.
- They should be managed wisely, keeping the true owner in mind.

### **Other Scriptures to Help You Manage Your Finances Wisely:**

**Prov. 13:11** Gathering little by little.

**Rom. 13:6 – 8** Give everyone what you owe him.

## **Principle 3: Use Your Finances to Meet Needs and Glorify God. 2 Corinthians 9:6 – 15**

- Give generously and cheerfully.
- God wants you to abound in every good work.
- Generosity with finances starts with giving self. (**2 Corinthians 8:5**)
- Generosity with finances not only requires cheerfulness, it also produces it.

### **Other Scriptures to Help You Give Your Finances Generously:**

**Mal. 3:8 – 12** Will a man rob God?

**Hag. 1:2 – 11** Bags with holes in it.

**Prov. 3:9 – 10** Honor God with your wealth.

**Prov. 11:24** Giving freely.

#### **Principle 4: Learn the Secret of Contentment. Philippians 4:11 – 12**

- Contentment is not a lack of desire to do better, but it is gratitude for what you have.
- It takes your focus off of thinking that you can't be happy unless you have more, and puts your focus on the happiness of having God in your life.

##### **Other Scriptures to Help You Have Contentment:**

**I Tim. 6:3 – 21** Godliness with contentment is great gain.

**Ecc. 4:4 – 8** The meaninglessness of discontentment.

**Lam. 3:22 – 24** The Lord is my portion.

**Heb. 10:32 – 34** Better and lasting possessions.

#### **Principle 5: Master the Ability to Show Constraint. Proverbs 23:4 – 5; 25:28**

- A lack of self-control is what often puts us into financial difficulties.
- God has blessed us with self-control (**2 Tim. 1:7**); it's up to us to use it.

##### **Other Scriptures to Help You Have Constraint:**

**Gal. 5:22 – 23** Self-control is a part of the fruit of the Spirit.

**I Peter 5:8** Be self-controlled and alert.

**Matt. 23:25** A warning against self-indulgence.

**NOTE:** Both contentment and constraint come from trusting God. Believing that He is your portion gives you contentment. Trusting that He will meet all of your needs gives you the patience and strength to show constraint. This is both a gift from God and a command for us to exercise and grow in it.

#### **Principle 6: Apply Prayer to Your Finances. Philippians 4:6 – 7**

- Giving everything to God in prayer produces peace and eliminates worry.
- That applies to our approach to finances as well.

##### **Other Scriptures About Prayer to Apply to Your Finances:**

**James 1:5 – 8** Pray for wisdom (about your finances).

**Mark 11:20 – 24** Believe that you have the answer from God.

**I John 5:13 – 15** Pray according to His will (i.e. praying to win the lottery is probably not a faithful prayer).

#### **Principle 7: Apply Discipleship to Your Finances. Mark 8:34**

- The basic idea of being a disciple of Jesus is to deny self and let Jesus be Lord.
- That applies to our approach to finances as well.

##### **Other Scriptures About Basic Discipleship to Apply to Your Finances:**

**Matthew 6:33** Put the Kingdom of God first in every decision, including your finances.

**Proverbs 28:13** Always be open about your sins, including sins involving your finances. Confess them to God and approach him for forgiveness and strength to overcome.

**Proverbs 20:18** Always seek advice from other disciples in important areas of your life, including your finances.

**Principle 8: Apply Hope, Patience, Persistence, and Joy to Your Finances. Phil. 4:4 – 9**

- You believe God will work, right? So go about your financial work with HOPE.
- You know God will get you through, right? So PATIENTLY deal with finances.
- You trust God to give you the power to persevere, right? So be PERSISTENT and believe that you won't quit.
- You're confident that you have the presence of God, right? So ENJOY this time!

**Other Scriptures to Help You Have Hope, Patience, Persistence, and Joy:**

**Eph. 3:20 – 21** God is able to do immeasurably more than you ask or imagine. So ask for and imagine a miracle in your finances.

**James 1:2 – 11** You are blessed when you persevere under trials, including financial ones.

**James 5:7 – 11** Those who persevere are considered blessed. See your finances that way.

**CONCLUSION:** The central idea is that every aspect of our faith – prayer, discipleship, hope, etc. – should apply to our attitude and actions about finances, just as they do in every other aspect of our lives. In other words, don't leave God out of your finances. He knows what you're going through and is just as interested and involved in that area as he is in every area of your life.

**John 10:10** *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

**Hebrews 13:5 – 6** *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"*

**2 Cor. 9:10** *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.*

**Eph. 3:20 – 21** *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.*

*John Sullivan*  
**January 2012**

## Budget

**Month** \_\_\_\_\_

| INCOME |               |                 |               |             |
|--------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Source | Expected Date | Expected Amount | Actual Amount | Actual Date |
|        |               |                 |               |             |
|        |               |                 |               |             |
|        |               |                 |               |             |
|        |               |                 |               |             |
| Total  |               |                 |               |             |

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## MONTHLY SUMMARY

|                 | Proposed | Actual |
|-----------------|----------|--------|
| Income          |          |        |
| Expenses        |          |        |
| Surplus/Deficit |          |        |

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|--------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Source | Expected Date | Expected Amount | Actual Amount | Actual Date |
|        |               |                 |               |             |
|        |               |                 |               |             |
|        |               |                 |               |             |
|        |               |                 |               |             |
| Total  |               |                 |               |             |

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