

The Devastation of Debt

Based on Matthew 6:19-24

I know what you're thinking! "I will never end up there." That's what many other people out there also thought but still found themselves in a miserable debt trap that they could not easily get out of. This is why there are about 2,350 verses in scripture that deal with money and possessions (while only 500 on prayer!) and that Jesus spoke about money in 16 of his 38 parables. God knew this would be one of our toughest battles - wise management of our financial resources and fighting material temptations. The enemy's goal is to distract us from the things of God and to pull us off the path of God's plan for our lives, so financial problems work in his favor. It is hard to say "Yes, Lord" and serve him well while we are fighting the battle of debt.

HOW DO GOOD PEOPLE FALL INTO THE DEBT TRAP?

1. They say "yes" too often to overindulgences or "feel-goods" (even just the small stuff),
or they just continue to buy things they don't have immediate funds for.
2. They don't save for goals they have and, instead, use credit to buy too many things.
(which means their bills may equal more than their income)
3. They don't make a monthly budget to help them plan their spending.
4. They make a budget but don't stick to it because they think of it as punishment or
deprivation rather than FREEDOM LATER ON.
5. They don't apply the 10, 10, 80 principle -
10% to God, 10% to savings, 80% to live on

WHAT ARE SOME QUESTIONS I SHOULD BE ASKING MYSELF?

What do I earn, and where does it go?

Am I spending frivolously? If so, why am I doing so?

Am I content with what I have? If not, how can I solve this?

Would God approve of the way I manage my money?

Am I grateful for what I have?

Am I patient enough to save for larger items I want to buy?

Is idolatry involved with me wanting to buy/do more?

Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.

Luke 12:15

Think about the above questions, and ask God to help strengthen you in areas where you feel weak.

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