**Financial Struggles**

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Why is it that **SO** many Christians struggle financially? There really are many reasons, probably as many reasons as there are those who struggle. Sure, I know the world is in a deep economic recession and people have lost jobs but our provision, as a believer, has **NEVER** been dependent on a job. Yes, God wants us to work but **HE is our source!** God's Kingdom surrounds you! All you have to do is **reach INTO His Kingdom and take what you need**. There is more than enough! **With God, there is NEVER a shortage!** Mike Murdock recently said, "Poverty can get into your head just like a cancer!" Are you struggling financially? Let's look at some things that will stop that cancer of poverty from destroying your life.

**Hosea 4:6**

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you shall be no priest to me: because you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.*

This may seem harsh but God is showing us something here. If you don't know that it is NOT God's will for you to live in poverty then Satan is going to have a blast destroying your financial life! The majority of the pastors in the USA don't teach their people this truth. Most pastors don't even know it themselves. We have God's Word that tells us we can walk in victory in our finances. Now you know! So now, if you reject this knowledge, it is no one's fault but your own if you choose to live in poverty instead of God's blessings. "But wait!", you say. "How can I stop this destruction of my finances even now that I know that God doesn't want me to lack?" It could be that you can't find a job. It could be that you can't keep a job. I'm glad you want to know what you can do to find victory!

The first and to me, obvious thing is (and I am speaking to believers. If you are not a believer, you are not a partaker of God's Kingdom) is there sin in your life? Has God told you to do something and you refuse to do it? Are you walking in sin and rebellion. You can fix this problem very quickly. Turn your heart to God and walk free from sin. Don't be afraid to seek help if you need it. There is a couple who are good friends of mine and they have struggled financially for years. He has struggled most of his almost 60 years in keeping a job. When he loses a job, he calls me while he is drunk. Then he wonders why he can't keep a job!

The second thing I want to ask is, are you giving? Giving is how God has made **PROVISION** for His children. There is a spiritual law which we call, **"The Law of Reciprocity."** Every Christian should know and understand this. If you GIVE, it will be given BACK TO YOU in the proportion to which you gave. That means, if you don't give, you will be lucky to ever get anything back! **Zero times any other number is always ZERO!** If you just give a little here and there, guess what, you'll only get a little, here and there. If you give bountifully, you will receive bountifully! **This spiritual law is JUST AS SURE TO WORK AS SALVATION IS!**

**Malachi 3:7-12**

*7 From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’ 8 Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. 10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. 11 I will rebuke the devourer[b] for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. 12 Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.*

There are many other scriptures on giving and receiving but here is a key scripture. If you DO NOT give, you have allowed a curse to fall on you. The windows of Heaven have been slammed shut because you have robbed God! You have not brought your portion to the storehouse. Many of you go to church every Sunday but you never give and you sure don't give your tithe. You are a thief! God said it, not me! You take but you don't give. It cost money to have the heating and air conditioning at your church. There are many other expenses yet you take and don't give and you wonder why you are not blessed. The streams and rivers of God's blessings that He **WANTS** to flow your way have been dammed up and that lake of blessings is **NOT on your property**! The devourer is destroying everything you put your hand to because **YOU HAVE GIVEN HIM PERMISSION** by not following God's way of provision for you and your family. The fruits of your soil are being destroyed even as you read this! Your vine is dead in your field! People look at you and talk about how destitute you are and **you could change this at any minute by simply doing what God tells you to do.**

Why do you think God wants you to give? Is God in need? Is God about to lose His house? No, No, NO! Because God wants you to prosper! He doesn't want all of these things to happen to you and He made a way, a way of provision. It is so simple that He even challenges you to **TEST HIM!** You will not find that challenge anywhere else in the Bible. God hasn't responded to your need, He hasn't responded to your tears and He sure hasn't responded to your need **BUT HE WILL RESPOND TO YOUR FAITH**! If you are ready to stop all of this destruction, it is time to start giving.

Read the story of Elijah and the widow in **1 Kings 17:8-24.** Elijah ordered this woman to make him a piece of bread BEFORE she made one for her and her son. She followed his direction and her supply did NOT run out! Give your tithe **BEFORE** you pay your other bills. Make that your priority. Tithe literally means 10 percent. If you can't believe to give ten percent, give something! Can you believe to give 2%? If you can, start there but get in the habit of giving. Work your way up to 10% and more. God will give back to you in the proportion in which you give!

Once you are giving then **EXPECT** God to meet your needs. **Praise Him and thank him** and ask Him to forgive you for not believing His Word before. God will bring victory to your financial life!