

#8 “Financial Pressure”

Matthew 6:33

WE NEED TO KNOW:

1. What we need.

Matthew 6:33 (NIV) But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Philippians 4:19 (NIV) And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

2 Peter 1:3 (NIV) His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.

‣ First and foremost we need to know that we need God.

2. What we greed.

3 John 2 (NIV) Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV) Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven ... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:24, 25 (NIV) No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

Matthew 16:26 (NLT) And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

Greed causes people to:

- Live discontented lives.
- Continually compare themselves with others.
- Over-extend their financial commitments.

- Purchase things they don't need, to impress people they don't like, with money they don't have.
- Waste time and energy protecting and maintaining what their greed has gotten them.
- Live with little or no financial margin, creating unnecessary emotional and relational stress.

3. How we grow.

Growth that helps us overcome financial pressure involves:

- Developing better life management skills.
- Becoming more responsible and accepting greater responsibility
- Improving our personal and professional skills.
- Learning the value of deferred gratification.
- Becoming proactive rather than passive and reactive.

4. How we sow.

Genesis 8:22 (NIV) As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest ...

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

2 Corinthians 9:6, 7 (NIV) Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:8-11 (NIV) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ... 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. You will be made rich 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 flow of provision is released when we:

- Put God first in our finances.
- Embrace the value and promises of generous living and giving.
- Understand the necessity of consistency and patience in planting.