

Unshackled The Journey to becoming Financially Free

What does financial freedom look like for you?

What's the big deal?

- Most people do not have a good grasp on _____.
- Many people have developed bad habits that hinder the accomplishment of financial goals.
- Many people don't realize the Bible reveals a lot of principles related to personal finance.
 - 16 of 38 parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions
 - The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, fewer than 500 on faith & 2,350 on money and possessions.
 - More is said in the N.T. about money than about Heaven & Hell combined
 - Jesus summed it up well: Mt. 6:21 "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
- Because God cares for us, He gave us _____ for handling money.
- God cares for you, and He knows money is a primary competitor with Christ for the lordship of our lives.

Matthew 6:24 "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."

1. **God is the** _____.

Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it."

- God is owner because He is _____.
- Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
- Colossians 1:16 "For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through Him and for Him."

- **God is in** _____.

Colossians 1:17 "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."

 - When God is in control, you don't have to worry about anything.

Genesis 50:20 "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

- **God will** _____ **our needs.**
 - God is my provider!

- Psalm 23:1 “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.”
- Psalm 54:4 Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is the sustainer of my soul.
- Matthew 6:26 Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?
- Philippians 4:19 “And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”

2. We are _____.

Steward: a person who manages another's property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another or others.

Colossians 3:23-24 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

1 Corinthians 4:2 it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

- **As stewards, we yield to the _____.**
 - Colossians 3:24 “It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.”
 - James 4:7 “Submit yourselves, then to God...”
 - The whole issue of stewardship and financial freedom and the Christian life is about God’s rule.
- **As stewards, we manage _____ God’s way.**
 - “It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.”
 - Romans 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.
 - Malachi 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”
- **As stewards we will experience the _____ of God.**
 - Consider the parable of the talents.
 - Matthew 25:20-21 The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

For Further Thought...

- Write these two points on separate pieces of paper.

- Underneath, write out what it means for God to be the owner of everything in your life. Get specific.
- Write out the benefits and the challenges, fears & joys
- Also include a list of obstacles you'll personally face embracing this teaching.
- Choose one small decision, one change, you'll make in your life to take a step toward viewing your possessions from a biblical perspective.
- Share your small decision with your family and a friend.
- Would you be willing to acknowledge to God several things?
 - 1) I will not be unshackled until I'm totally surrendered to You.
 - 2) I will not be totally surrendered to You until I've relinquished ownership of all things.
 - 3) I will not relinquish ownership of all things until I'm committed to managing God's possessions His way.