

Breaking Poverty Bonds

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God's people are givers

Lesson 1

PART I.

A. Introduction

The gospels contain more verses on finance than on any other subject. Jesus spoke more about it than about heaven and hell combined.

There are five hundred verses on faith, five hundred on prayer and two thousand verses on finance in the Word of God.

We need to carefully consider those things on which God places a great emphasis.

B. An abnormal state of God's people

Read Proverbs 27:23

God calls His leaders to know the state of their flock. The Hebrew meaning of this verse is to know the sheep from every viewpoint.

Special surveys have revealed that only 20% of God's people in the average North American church give financially. In some places the giving percentage is as much as 40% and even higher – which, however, is still below what God expects of the flock. In other parts of the world this percentage is down to as low as 3 - 5% and even as low as 1% in some places.

This is an abnormal state for God's people.

C. The normal state

Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

The norm is that every believer be a liberal giver as God has prospered him.

Our Father is an extravagant God who has generously blessed us with everything in Christ. God has proven His generous, giving heart by giving up His own Son for our salvation. He calls us to be like Him and imparts His generous nature to us.

As He has so freely given to us, we are to freely give to others.

D. Who is Lord of our lives?

Read Luke 16:13

If we are not using our finances for the things that God calls us to, then our finances are not under His lordship. Money becomes our master, rather than the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus must be first in every area of our lives. He alone is Lord. Matthew 6:33. When we give our lives to Jesus we give everything to Him, including all of our finances. As we give, we are being trained to put God first in everything. Deuteronomy 14:23.

As we give, we also break the hold of money over our lives.

E. Thieves in God's house

Read Malachi 3:6-12

1. Verse 10. He promises an abundant blessing for us, if we will obey His Word.
2. Verse 6. God does not change. He challenges us from His Word to give. Deuteronomy 16:17.

Remember everything we have belongs to Him. That is what it means to call Him Lord. So whatever He asks us to do with His money, we should be free to do. It is not ours, it is His.

3. Verse 8. When we are not giving what God requires of us, God calls us robbers.

Verse 11. God says that if we are robbing Him, there will be a devourer who will rob us. His name is Satan.

Illustration: In Ethiopia, there was a lady who was attending a church convention. A special offering was taken every day to help send out evangelists. She felt that the Holy Spirit was telling her to give her only cow into this offering. She agreed with God that she would give the cow, but every day as the time for giving came, she thought of the different things she could buy if she sold the cow. Soon the convention was over and she never kept her promise to give the cow to the Lord's work. The week after the convention her cow got into her neighbour's grain store and ate much of the grain. She was taken to court and had to pay for the grain eaten plus the court costs. This expense came to exactly what the cow was worth. The lady had to sell many things and even borrow more from friends to pay these expenses. The next week her cow died. The lady repented for not obeying God in her giving and testified in the church about the importance of obeying God in everything.

The devouring of our finances is not God's desire for us. He wants to bless us.

4. Verses 10-11. God promises to deal with the devourer and to open the floodgates of blessing for us if we will give in obedience to Him.

Illustration: The story is told in China of a Christian farm of 500 people who were challenged by God to give 10% of their produce one year. The following year God blessed them so much and they were guided to increase their giving to 20%. Every year they were so blessed that they were able to increase their giving by another 10%, so that after nine years they were giving 90% and living on 10% of their yield. Normally one acre would support one person in China at that time. This community of believers, in obedience to the Lord, were able to give 90% of their produce away, although they only had 43 acres supporting 500 people.

This is a picture of the abundance that God is able to supply for those who will obey Him in giving. Verse 10. God challenges us to put His Word to the test. By giving we will see His floodgates of blessing opened.

F. God's Word does not fail

Read Proverbs 11:24

One must never accuse God of planning, or purposely placing someone in a life of poverty.

People are free moral agents. If they decide not to hear, not to be taught and do not respond when teaching is available, they themselves create their own circumstances.

We cannot out-give God. The more that we give the more we will receive.

Let us respond to God's Word. Give and see His increase in our lives.

Memory Verse

Proverbs 11:24, *“One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty”*.

Teacher's Notes

Responsibility of the Shepherds

Read again Proverbs 27:23

1. Many pastors are neglecting the flock in the area of giving.
2. One pastor said that since the national average of giving was 20%, he was content with the fact that 30% of his flock were giving. He was wrong on three counts:
 - a) He measured his church by a national average rather than the Word of God.
 - b) He did not consider the potential of being a much greater blessing.
 - c) He is saying that he is happy that 70% of his congregation are thieves.
3. We will be held accountable for not guiding the people in the truth, which would have released them individually and corporately into God's blessing.
4. As shepherds of the flock, do we recognize that:
 - a) Those who are not giving faithfully are robbers?
 - b) Being unfaithful in little things will block greater things? Luke 16:10.
 - c) Being unfaithful in giving of worldly wealth will block the receiving of true riches of the kingdom? Luke 16:11.
 - d) That he who is not giving faithfully has not fully made Jesus Lord of his life?
 - e) Satan not only comes to steal and kill but also to destroy?
 - f) This is the church's greatest hour of opportunity and it does require finances?
5. As shepherds of the flock we must teach, we must exhort and we must pray until the whole church comes into the liberty of giving.
6. Leaders have to be an example in giving. Remember you reproduce what you are.

Poverty is not God's plan

Lesson 2

A. God desires to prosper us

Read 3 John 2

John is expressing God's desire for us. God wants us to be prosperous. The Greek word for prosperity here means to have sufficient for one's journey.

God wants us to have, in abundance, everything we need to complete the journey that He has called us to in this life.

Different people have different journeys and so they require different resources, but God remains the same. He wants to bless His children and see us complete the race He has called us to with joy. Matthew 7:9-11.

B. God gives the ability to be prosperous

Read Deuteronomy 8:17-18

1. Some people think that money is evil, but it is not *money* that is evil, it is *the love of money* that is the *root* of evil. 1 Timothy 6:10.
2. God created wealth and He gives people the ability to gain it. Notice in verse 17 that it is not man's cleverness that gains him wealth. God gives the ability.

God gives some individuals a greater ability to create wealth, but then He also gives them a greater responsibility as to how they handle that wealth. Luke 16:1-2.

As we apply the principles of God's Word in our lives, God will cause us to prosper. It does not matter what culture we come from.

C. God's purpose for prospering us

Read Ephesians 4:28

God wants to turn takers into givers. His purpose in allowing us to prosper is not so that we can waste it all on ourselves. He blesses us so that we can be a blessing. 2 Corinthians 9:8.

God wants to meet our needs abundantly, and He wants us to be able to give to others and to the work of His kingdom, since advancing the work of God on earth requires finances. He gives His people the privilege of being channels of the resources needed for His work. Zechariah 1:17.

D. Satan wants to rob us of God's blessings

Read John 10:10

Here is God's desire for us expressed again. He wants us to enjoy abundant life.

But Satan does not want us to prosper in God's work. He is working all the time to rob us of God's blessings and destroy our effectiveness in serving God.

Prosperous people are effective people and prosperous people will make a prosperous and effective church. It is therefore clear why Satan is working to keep the church in poverty.

Thank God that Jesus said He had come to give us abundance. He has made a way for us to walk in God's prosperity.

E. Satan builds a stronghold of poverty

Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Satan builds spiritual strongholds of poverty over nations, churches and individuals. These strongholds attack the minds and hearts of people to build patterns of poverty thinking.

This oppression of the mind has many different masks and concepts.

1. One false concept is that poverty has some mysterious refining qualities. Some believe that it is spiritual to be poor. The question to ask though is; if poverty is so spiritual, why does God not live that way? Before sin entered the Garden of Eden, it was a world of abundance. Jesus showed God's desire to abundantly bless us by all the fish and bread that was left over in feeding the 5000.

2. Poverty mentality only sees and thinks in subtraction: "If I give this, I will only have this much left over".

But God's Word says that if I give, God will multiply back to me. We are not to think in terms of subtraction, we are to think in terms of multiplication. The little boy who gave his fish and bread did not see a subtraction, he saw an abundant increase.

3. Poverty mentality draws our focus onto conditions rather than the Word of God. It disguises itself as wisdom, claiming to look at things practically, but it actually sees things through the eyes of unbelief.

We are not to focus on our lack; we are to focus on the promises of God.

4. Poverty can come from a spirit of covetousness and greed. It may look like a concern for waste and extravagance, but there is another motive behind it. Judas appeared to be concerned with the waste of expensive ointment poured on Jesus. John 12:4-6.

5. A poverty spirit can drive people to indebtedness. Satan wants to bind the finances of Christians and churches so that they cannot move with God's plan. Debt can squeeze one's ability to give freely and so stop the flow of God's blessing.

Christians must be careful that they are not driven to purchase beyond God's plan and timing for them.

6. Poverty strongholds stop people from giving to God's work. It brings many lies about why you should not give your finances into the church.

Illustration: In one part of Africa some believers in false religions were giving as much as R5000 into their dead religions each month before they came to Christ. However, once they were saved, they only gave as little as R20 into the offerings.

The devil will not resist generous giving towards his work, but his spirit of poverty will strongly resist giving towards God's work. It will present many reasons why believers should not give and why Christian leaders should not challenge people to give.

F. We must break these bonds of poverty

Read Luke 10:19

1. Jesus came to destroy the works of Satan. 1 John 3:8. He has given us authority now to break every stronghold of the enemy. 2 Corinthians 10:4. We must pull down this spiritual stronghold that binds people in misery and hinders the work of God.
2. God's desire is to prosper us and the work of His church. Jeremiah 29:11; 33:9. We must not give in to the traditions of men; false, unscriptural concepts, fear, pride and intimidation. The gates of hell shall not prevail against the church. Matthew 16:18. This stronghold can be torn down in Jesus' name.

Memory Verse

3 John 2, *"I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers"*.

Teacher's Notes

God's source of prosperity for the church

Read Matthew 17:27.

Most churches struggle for sufficient finances when the answer is right there in their midst: prosperity comes by the increase of the giving of the people. As we give, we prosper. Jesus could easily have just produced a coin. If He could produce it in the mouth of the first fish that His disciples caught, He could have produced it in His own hand. But God wanted to teach us a principle.

1. God does not do anything independently of His body. He works through His people.
2. He wanted to also show us where to find the financial supply for the needs of the church. We need to go fishing for souls and in the mouth of every fish there is a coin. Matthew 4:19. The supply for the work of the church is found in every fish that comes to Jesus. We are not to force the coin out of their mouth. They may bite your hand. We are to teach and encourage them to give generously.
3. We are not to feel embarrassed about challenging the people to give. It is God's plan. Giving will bless the people. We are withholding God's blessing from the people, if we do not teach them to give. As ministers, we have a solemn responsibility and obligation to keep back nothing that would be profitable for the people.

Freedom from bondage

Lesson 3

A. The truth shall set you free

Read John 8:32-36

1. The Greek word "free" in these verses means: to be freeborn as a citizen. The other Greek word for "free" means: to be totally free, to have one's entire spiritual, physical and economic state free.

Having made us freeborn citizens of His kingdom, Jesus wants us to be completely free from all of Satan's bondages. This includes economic freedom from the bonds of poverty.

2. Verse 32. Jesus said that the truth of His Word would set us free and that He will prosper those who meditate on His Word. Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:2.
3. He also says in His Word that faith comes by hearing His Word. Romans 10:17. Faith will rise in our hearts to break the bondage of poverty as we meditate on, and apply God's promises to our lives.

B. Giving breaks the bondage of poverty

Read Proverbs 3:9-10

What a picture of prosperity, barns overflowing with abundance! Notice that there is a condition to this promise. The condition is that we honour God in our giving. In fact, God says that the more we give, the more He will bless us. Luke 6:38.

This condition to God's promise of abundance is actually the key to breaking the spiritual bondage of poverty. We can meditate on God's promises and we can pray against the spiritual strongholds of poverty but, unless we start giving, this bondage will not be broken.

As we give, we release God's promises to work in our lives. Then, as we pray, poverty bonds have to release their grip and God's abundance is released.

As this bondage is broken in our own life, we have a release in heavenly places to come against poverty in our church and over our nation.

C. None are too poor to give

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-4

1. Servants of God with good intentions have gone into many areas of the world and taught the people that they were too poor to give. Unknowingly they brought a lie from the enemy that has kept the people in spiritual bondage of poverty – they were trained into an attitude of having to receive, rather than having to give.

2. In His Word God challenges everyone to give, whether rich or poor. In fact, the one person that Jesus commended for giving the most was a poor widow who put a few cents in the offering. She was commended for giving out of her poverty. Luke 21:1-4. We are never too poor to give.
3. Verse 3. Paul commends the Macedonian church for giving beyond their natural ability to give. Verse 2. They gave generously in extreme poverty.
4. We all have something that we can give.

Illustration: A pastor of a very poor congregation in South America was convicted by the Lord to challenge his people to give. He repented for not teaching the people to give because of their extreme poverty. As he began to teach on giving, the people responded and brought what they could. A little corn and some eggs to start with. Soon they prospered and they brought money. In a short time this same poor church prospered and was able to give over a million dollars into missions alone.

We are never too poor to give. As we are faithful to obey the Lord in giving, He will increase us and then we can give even more.

D. Giving to those who minister to us

Read 1 Corinthians 9:7-14

Everyone who works expects to receive a wage. Those that work at preaching and teaching the Word are to look for financial support from those to whom they minister the Word. Luke 10:7.

Verse 14. God gives us this as a command; that we support those who minister to us. Verse 11. Those who minister the spiritual seed of the Word are to receive a material harvest of support.

We are to ensure that all their travelling expenses and costs of ministry are well looked after. Titus 3:13-14. And we are also to ensure that their personal needs are met.

Read 1 Timothy 5:17-18

The double honour that Paul is talking about in verse 17, he qualifies in verse 18. He is talking about ensuring that those who minister the Word are abundantly blessed financially.

As God's people take this command seriously, the poverty that hinders God's servants from ministering effectively will be broken.

E. For your good

Read Philippians 4:14-19

1. We will be blessed spiritually as we meet the financial needs of those who minister the Word to us, because these servants will be released to minister more effectively. But we are also going to be blessed financially, because there is a crediting to our account. Verse 17.

2. Every time we give, the law of sowing and reaping is released. 2 Corinthians 9:6.

Something is credited to an account in our name that is more dependable than the account we could have in any financial institution in the world.

For this reason Paul says that he is challenging the people to give to his financial needs when he brings the Word to them. Not only will his needs be met, but the needs of the people will be met also. Verse 19. Now that they have given, they can claim this wonderful promise of God's abundant supply.

3. The more we give, the more is credited to our account and the greater is the return that we receive. Luke 6:38. The greater the return that we receive, the more we have to give and the greater is the increase again. 2 Corinthians 9:8-11.

Instead of poverty, the law of sowing and reaping releases God's abundant prosperity to us and to God's work.

F. Pull down the strongholds of poverty

Read Psalm 18:37-38

Let us pull down the stronghold of poverty and crush it under our feet.

1. Repent for believing the lie that you were too poor to give.
2. If you have taught people that they were too poor to give, then repent now.
3. Repent of the times that you have not given generously in obedience to God's Word.
4. Repent of getting so far into debt that you are hindered in your giving. Covenant with God now to get out of debt and to give extravagantly as He would direct you.
5. Come against the strongholds of poverty now and pull them down in Jesus' name. Matthew 18:18.
6. Rejoice in the Lord by faith and thank Him for your financial freedom. Psalm 35:27.

Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 9:6, *“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously”*.

Teacher's Notes

How NOT to take up the tithes and offerings:

1. Do not apologize for having to disturb the service.
2. Do not apologize for having to take the people's money.
3. Do not just signal the ushers and take the offerings without telling the people what you are doing.
4. Do not pray unscriptural prayers like, "please God bless all who were unable to give today".

How to take up the tithes and offerings: give it priority.

1. It is an act of worship – an important part of the service.
2. Do not rush it, but give it ample time.
3. Use verses from Scripture so that the people understand the importance of it and their faith is built up.
4. Testimonies of breakthrough in giving and receiving are a good encouragement.
5. Pray a prayer of blessing over the offerings. Make sure to pray in line with God's Word.
6. Consecrate the offering before God.
7. Remember that the spirit of mammon is broken by giving, as the declaring of God's lordship over mammon takes place.
8. Rejoice, bless and proclaim blessing and prosperity!

Living a Generous Life

Lesson 4

A. Introduction

1. Read Philippians 4:17.

God's motive for encouraging us to generosity is to set us free, not just financially but in all areas of life.

Most people are financially enslaved to debt and cannot resource anything in the Kingdom of God. They are on a roller coaster ride month in and month out, and they cannot get off it.

2. Financial freedom means a change of heart.

Read Proverbs 11:24, *“One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty”*.

- a) The poverty spirit must be broken both for poor and for rich people.
- b) Even wealthy people can be bound financially; therefore they cannot give freely.
Rich as they are, they are bound by a spirit of poverty. You may say: “isn't that why they are rich?” but riches are not just wealth.
- c) They might have wealth ... but do they have the true riches? It is very doubtful. Luke 16:11 – true riches cover all areas of life.
- d) Let us consider the two ways of living: either ungenerous or generous living.

B. The ungenerous life

1. They are held by “things”.

Luke 12:15, *“Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions”*.

There is an evil cycle of constantly wanting more and better things. It is stirred by envy of what the neighbour has, and it never gets satisfied or has enough! And the more they get, the more they have to worry about and keep together.

2. They get tight-fisted.

Matthew 6:19, *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal”*.

An ungenerous person can never follow this command of Jesus. They will hoard together much more than they need. They cannot give anything away and they will rather put it in boxes for storage on top of their ceiling.

They will be robbed of the blessing of giving away the extra that they do not need. The words of Jesus: *“It is more blessed to give than to receive”*. Acts 20:35.

3. It becomes a joyless life.

Luke 15:29-31, *“You never gave me a young goat, so that I could celebrate with my friends”* *“all that I have is yours”*.

In the midst of all he had, he was joyless, and did not want to spend a thing.

That is what happens to an ungenerous person! He does not even want to spend anything extra on himself or his family.

There are many examples of people who lived their life in great poverty and, when they died, it was found that they had great wealth stored away but they did not dare to use it.

4. Holding on to the family inheritance.

“I can’t give I must think of leaving something for my children”.

There is a good chance that when you die your children will not need your money. A much better way to live is to plan that you give the last Rand away on your last day!

Bless your children while you are alive.

Build the Kingdom of God, and gather up treasures in heaven.

5. They create their own “doctrine” of deserved privilege.

“I have worked hard for what I have, I deserve it”.

“Others who do not have what I have are lazy and without any initiative”.

This kind of attitude is dangerous because it is pride!

6. They will only be involved in controlled giving.

Matthew 6:1-4.

They only give if they will be seen or recognized.

If they give, they want to follow and control what they have given.

Giving should always be in obedience to God and that is where the responsibility of the giver ends. Those who administrate the gift are responsible to God for the use thereof.

C. The generous life

1. Is a joyful life.

Philippians 4:4-7. This bubbling, joyful life Paul describes here is born out of a trust and rest in God, and a generous lifestyle. Listen to verse 5 in the Amplified

Bible: *“Let all men know and perceive and recognize your unselfishness, your considerateness, your forbearing spirit”.*

This is what Jesus talks about in John 10:10. *“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly”.*

We are called to live in God’s abundance, and our life should be a river of blessing. John 7:38.

2. **It is a content life.**

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10. We are not in the race for more and more and for the best positions in life. All we want is to be in the perfect Will of God.

Here is a direct warning not to strive for money and position, which brings with it many kinds of temptations and snares, verses 9-10.

3. **A generous person is open handed.**

Read Proverbs 3:27. Open to give and to receive; to once again be able to give.

1 John 3:17-18. The love of God should rule our hearts so that we act on His prompting.

4. **A generous person is a thankful person.**

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *“In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”.*

This type of person is always positive. The most common words in his mouth are: *Thank you – you are a blessing – you can do it – well done – giving away praise and love to everyone, etc.*

Everyone wants to be in the company of a generous person.

5. **He will even have the joy of spending money.**

Proverbs 11:24, *“One man gives freely, and even gains more”.*

The joy of giving and spending on himself and people around him is only found by a generous person

The ungenerous person is stingy and it is a pain for him to give and spend his money and he always looks for the cheapest way out.

D. The choice of lifestyle

It is not difficult to see what lifestyle, of the two, is worth living --- but the love of money is a “slave master” – someone has said: *“the last place people get saved is in their wallet”.*

We need to let Jesus set us free in all areas of our life. John 8:36.

Kingdom Finances

Lesson 5

A. The world system >< the Kingdom system

1. The world system is buying and selling, trying to make the very best deal for myself, even if others suffer in the process.
2. The Kingdom system is giving and receiving: **Read Luke 6:38**. The teaching of Jesus was: give, bless, lend to others without expecting to be repaid and God will bless you and fulfil all your needs.
3. The Kingdom needs finance. This is actually the most important business in the world as it is the only body which deals with peoples' eternal well-being.
4. That is why it is absolutely necessary for Kingdom people to be a giving people! When we are set free in this area – where we do not hoard it for ourselves but can be a channel of blessing – God can entrust us with great wealth.

Luke 16:11, *“If you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?”*

5. God is not against your being wealthy. **Read Deuteronomy 8:18 and Psalm 35:27**. He even wants to bless you and fill your barns, but only if you can handle it. When God releases wealth into your hand, He has His Kingdom in mind.

B. The Kingdom people are a Covenant people

1. The Biblical covenant is the most binding agreement that can be made between two partners. It actually means: *“All that is mine is yours, and all that is yours is mine, I will defend you and stand up for you even if it costs me my life”*.
2. One such example is the covenant between David and Jonathan. Here one sees how David, even after the death of Jonathan, goes out of his way to find and bless the only descendant of Jonathan. 1 Samuel 20:16; 2 Samuel 9:3.
3. When a covenant was cut, gifts were exchanged, animals were slaughtered and cut in half, and the two covenant partners would walk between the bloody pieces and declare their covenant promises. They even cut their wrist and exchanged blood, and ash was rubbed into the wound so that the scar would remain as a constant reminder of the covenant.
4. If there were two groups making a covenant, they would each appoint a representative to go through the process for the group.
5. **In Genesis 15** God Himself made a covenant with Abraham and his descendents but, in this case, God put Abraham to sleep and did all the work Himself. All God required of Abraham and his descendents was full obedience to Him and He would abundantly bless them and that was where Israel failed. However, God's covenant still stands and will come into effect as soon as they repent.

6. This was a forerunner of what God would do through Christ in the New Covenant. **Hebrews 10:12-14**. He did it all and all He expects from us is repentance and full surrender and obedience to Him.
7. We are a covenant people ... when we live like this then all He has is ours – and all we have and are is His. Romans 6:3-8.
8. **Illustration:** We were slaves on display in the devil's slave-market – Jesus bought us, made us free and has adopted us into His family. 1 Corinthians 6:20, "*We are no longer slaves, but sons ...*"
9. You are now stewards of everything you have and are – your house – your car – your money – your wife – your children – yourself and your God-given talents, etc. It is all His, but you have to manage it according to His pattern and guidelines. **Matthew 25:14-30**.
10. Many live with a curse over their family, their finances, their every thing. It is not the devil or anybody else cursing them, it is themselves, because they are not following God's pattern. God will not get involved with them because they keep His hands off their lives by declaring over everything "IT IS MINE".

C. There are four concepts in the Word around finance

1. **Tithing** 2. **Offering** 3. **Giving** 4. **Sowing**

1. **Tithing**.

- a) Many react strongly against the concept of tithing, with the argument that it is Old Testament law, and it is not mentioned much in the New Testament, etc.

The New Testament does not teach much about praise and worship either, it is mainly found in the Old Testament, but that does not mean it is cancelled, we should be able to praise and worship even better in the New Testament.

The same could apply to tithing. It is an Old Testament principle that is carried into the New Testament as an absolute minimum, because in the New Testament we are encouraged to give far more of our finances.

- b) In Matthew 5:17-48 Jesus deals with many other points of the law and He does not cancel them, but He perfects them.
Take note too that tithing was practiced long before the law was introduced!
- c) The concept of tithing goes right back to the time of Abraham, who was called "a friend of God" who, after successful warfare, would give a tithe of all the spoil to Melchizedek, the priest of the Most High God. Hebrews 7:1-6; Genesis 14:20.

There is no doubt that Melchizedek is a true type of Christ, our High Priest, the King of Peace and Righteousness who lives forever:

Hebrews 6:20, "*Jesus having become our High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek*".

Hebrews 7:8, “Here (under the law) mortal men received tithes, but there He receives them, of whom it is witnessed that He lives”.

So Abraham, figuratively, paid tithes to “Christ” long before the law was introduced.

- d) It could be argued that what Abraham did was a once off action, but later we find Jacob, his grandson, promising God that he would give him a tithe of all that He would give him. This proves that tithing was a concept used by the Patriarchs. Genesis 28:22.
- e) With this understanding it would be wrong to refuse to tithe using the argument “*It is Old Testament Law*” because in Matthew 23:23 we see that with regard to tithing Jesus even said “*this thing you ought to do*”.
- f) In the Old Covenant, during the time of the law, the tithe was meant as a support for the Priests and Levites. Leviticus 27:38; Numbers 18:21-32. It was enforced by severe punishment and curses on those who were disobedient, but also with the promise of wonderful blessings and protection for those who were faithful. Malachi 3:4-12.
- g) In the New Covenant it is also the responsibility of the believers to support the servants of the Lord and Paul even uses references from the Old Testament system where tithing was used for that purpose. 1 Corinthians 9:13-14.

However, the New Covenant is not based on the law, but on grace, and we enter into this wonderful new love relationship with the Lord because of the blood of Jesus and this should cause us to want to give to Him as a natural response to His love. The measure we now use should far exceed the 10%, which was enforced by the law.

- h) In Luke 6:38 we see that Jesus says “*With the measure you use, it will be measured back to you*” therefore the measure from the Old Testament should be the absolute smallest measure that we would use to give to our beloved Saviour. Jesus encourages us to increase our measure far beyond that and then blessings will flow back to us according to His wonderful promise – “*Good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be put in your bosom*”.
- i) However, according to Luke 6:38, we are also warned that if we decrease the measure of our giving then we decrease the blessings over our lives – “*with the same measure you will be given back*”.

Therefore let us bring 10% of all our income to the house of God, but let us go far beyond that in our giving.

2. Offerings.

- a) We are called to bring ourselves as a sacrifice to God, which means everything we have and are, so let us be ready to respond to the prompting of

the Holy Spirit when He asks us to give of our finances far beyond our regular giving. Romans 12:1.

Remember, “Everything we have” could be clothing, foodstuff, accommodation, a means of transport, etc.

- b) The Bible teaches that the offering must be an “offering” and not just something you want to get rid of – and it should never be something which is faulty or useless. Malachi 1:7-8.
- c) An offering is when I give something that costs me. King David said: *“I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God that which cost me nothing”* – 2 Samuel 24:24.
The church in Macedonia is a good example on how to give an offering.
2 Corinthians 8:3-5.

3. **Giving.**

- a) **Luke 6:38.** We are encouraged by Jesus to be open-handed and willing to give where there is a need, when it is in our power to do so. **Matthew 5:42.**
- b) **Luke 12:33-34.** By giving, we are being blessed here on earth and we are gathering up treasures in heaven.
- c) **1 John 3:17.** There is a special obligation to help fellow Christians who are in need – if we shut our heart towards them then John puts a question mark behind the quality of our Christian walk.

4. **Sowing.**

- a) **2 Corinthians 9:6-10.** Sowing is another Biblical concept of giving; where you are praying for God to supply in a specific area and you now give to someone who has the same need.

Example: An example from real life:

A young African man was praying for God to provide funds for him to go to Bible School. He heard a message on sowing and reaping and then, after that service, someone gave him R100 and so he said to God: *“I will sow this money to a young boy who lacks school fees and please Lord provide for me so that I can go to Bible College”*.

A month later he received a letter from a Bible College that invited him to study there, with a full bursary. His little seed of R100 was multiplied many times over!

- b) **This is not an automatic process,** God can have reasons for withholding – but the Word says: *“He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully God loves a cheerful giver And God is able to make all grace abound towards you”*.
- c) But God has a wonderful reason for blessing you financially: *“That you always having sufficiency in all good things, may have abundance for every good work”*.

Financial Management

Lesson 6

A. Why it is so important to manage our finances well

1. Finances constitute such a major part of our lives.

- a) It is something we are involved with every day, and which often controls the way we live, and plan our lives.
- b) For most people, the major part of their day is spent in creating finance, and another part in using it.

2. Finance can create so many problems.

Read 1 Timothy 6:10, *“For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness”*.

- a) People can be bound in so many ways by greediness and other evils when it comes to money. The greatest cause of crime and unrest is around this matter.
- b) The love of money and greed can so easily cause people to stray from the faith. Matthew 19:23.
- c) There can be tension and arguments in homes where the finance is not managed properly.

B. In Christ we are restored back to an abundant covenant life John 10:10

Read 2 Peter 1:3, *“His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His glory and virtue”*.

1. Many Christians end up having everything in theory, but very little in reality.

- a) Obedience is the bridge which covers the gap between the two. Malachi 3:8-10.
- b) Faith / Obedience appropriates what we already have.
Unfortunately many live with the pain of their own disobedience to God, also in the financial realm.

2. If we want to live in God’s fullness, prosperity and purpose we must follow His pattern.

The Bible has so many illustrations of God’s pattern that, if followed, leads to great blessing:

At this point let me just give three examples around the financial aspect:

- a) **Read Proverbs 3:9-10.** Here are wonderful promises that will affect our whole life, if we will just fulfil our part and follow the God-given steps.
- b) **Read Malachi 3:8-12.** Here it is God Himself speaking these mighty promises, if we will just follow His pattern.
- c) **Read Luke.6:38.** Here Jesus tells us how blessings will be multiplied back to us if we will follow His pattern.
- d) Obedience gets us into God's pattern but lack of obedience keeps us in the world's system, where we are open to all the attacks of the enemy. **Malachi 3:10.**

Illustration: If you have money in your account in the bank you can only withdraw it if you carefully obey the pattern set down by the bank ... you cannot just go into the bank and demand your money by saying: "it is rightfully mine". You will get nothing from the Bank – and neither will you get anything from God if you don't follow His pattern.

C. Practical financial principles

1. Budgeting.

Read Proverbs 21:5, *"The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty"*.

- a) If you live without a plan (budget) around your finances, you will need a huge amount of money and you will never have enough ... it will simply leak away.

It doesn't matter how little or how much you have, you still need a plan (budget) and it must be a God-honouring plan, where you follow His pattern, as only that will allow Him to bless and prosper you.

- b) How to make a budget.
 - i) Keep a written record of everything you spend your money on for a couple of months and let this form the basis of your plan.
 - ii) Now make a closed circle and put into that circle all your monthly needs/obligations and remember, it has to be according to God's pattern, for Him to step in and fulfil His promise. Philippians 4:19, *"My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus"*.
 - iii) You can make this circle nice and comfortable. God does not want us to live in poverty -- poverty is a curse!
 - iv) Under needs, you can even put the need for saving a certain part of your income every month.

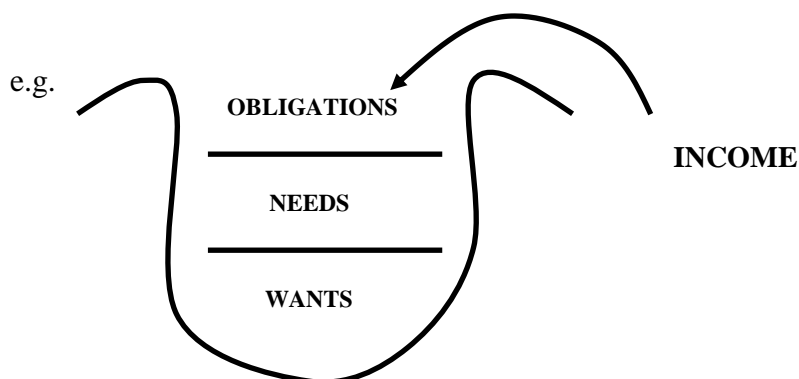
- v) Make your circle prayerfully, **and then close the circle**. When God starts to bless you with more income, do not enlarge the circle and start to spend more on yourself – rather give it away according to God’s guidance.
- vi) If your income does not cover what you have in your circle you would have to do the following:
 - Build up your faith and trust God for the difference.
 - Make adjustments to your budget.
 - Increase your income somehow.



Wants:

Improve my house.
 A new TV.
 Better school for my children.
 I want a car.
 etc.

- vii) But have another list, where you put all your wants: Examples: “I want to take my wife out for dinner once a month”. Or “I want to improve on my house”. Or “I want to send my children to a better school”. Or “I want new furniture”, etc.
 - viii) Only under God’s guidance should you bring anything from the “want list” into the circle as this will also have to be a need that you can aim to fulfil.
- c) Danger of an open circle.
- i) Those that will not live with a plan, in a sense live with an open circle. They become consumers of all that they get.
 - ii) Generally you need a lot of money to live this way ... if money is not ‘tagged’ it generally flies away from you.



- iii) Your circle just gets bigger and bigger depending on how much income you get.
- iv) It is very difficult for such a person to become a blessing in God's Kingdom.

2. **Husband and wife should plan together:**

Read Matthew 19:5, "*And the two shall become one flesh*".

- a) God's idea of a wonderful partnership is when they plan and work together in the service of the Lord – that is why the devil is busy trying to destroy this close relationship between husband and wife.
- b) Today marriage often starts out with a contract where each holds on to their own possessions, and during the marriage they run separate accounts and reinforce the view of "yours" and "mine".
- c) In God's eyes, marriage is an unbreakable covenant, where the covenant principles should work: "*All mine is yours, and all yours is mine*". Any other arrangement is unbiblical.
- d) That means that anything earned by any of them goes into the same "pot". Often wives do not know what their husbands earn; they are just given an allowance for the running of the home.
- e) Married couples should have a joint account from which they, together, make a monthly budget according to God's principles.
- f) When children grow up they should be drawn into the family budgeting, so that from childhood they learn to live according to God's principles.

3. **Concerning debt.**

Read Romans 13:8, "*Owe no-one anything except to love one another*".

- a) There is no doubt that God wants His people free from debt. He seems to even want us so free financially that we can lend to others, who are not there yet. Deuteronomy 15:6.
- b) In Israel they were not allowed to take interest on loans to their brothers; only from the foreigner could they take interest. Deuteronomy 23:19-20. Surely good advice for the church today!
- c) The fact is that most people are living in some kind of debt. It is too easy to borrow in today's society. We can borrow from banks, we can shop using credit cards and, therefore, many people live beyond their means.
- d) The world will always work against God's system. That is why they create so many temptations for people to get into debt.

- e) There are two kinds of debt:
- i) The worst form of debt is when you buy something on credit and the moment you take it out of the shop it has lost a great deal of its value – like a car or a motorcycle, etc.
At least ensure that you make this rule for yourself: “I should always be able to sell the thing for so much so that I can repay my debt”.
 - ii) The second kind of debt is when you buy something that increases in value – like a house. However, by lending from the world, you pay so much in interest that you pay the price of the house many times over.
- Illustration:**
A pastor of a big church in RSA calculated that his congregation paid about 1,5 million Rand a month in interest, for which they got nothing ... just imagine if nobody had any debt 1,5 million Rand could go into the Kingdom!
- f) If you are badly in debt, repent before God of poor stewardship and then, with His help, work your way out of it.

4. Save a part of your income.

Read Genesis 41:35. There is a pattern in Scripture that encourages us to put away in the “good years” for the “not-so-good years”.

- a) Save a certain percentage so that you are ready to act the day God gives you the green light for some of your “wants”.
- b) Saving is an investment for your future, but remember, God is also in charge of that and He will direct you how to use it.
- c) A man of God has suggested the following percentages as a guideline:
Tithe 10 %
Give 10 %
Save 10 %
And live on 70 % and you will never live in lack; God will open His window of blessing over you.

How to break a "Poverty Spirit"

(Failure Mentality)

Lesson 7

A. Introduction

A prophecy God once gave me for a group of leaders went something like this:

"I have placed such a rich investment in My servants; an investment of time, information (from My Word), teaching and equipping them, patience, My Spirit within them, My Blood to keep them clean, people with whom they can work to accomplish My plans and purposes, money, buildings, and so much more. Above all this, they are so precious to Me. I will not discard them or cast them aside because they feel failures ...

I want you to know that I am as much concerned for the worker as for the work. I don't place the work above the worker. That is a lie and not from Me..."

Many leaders feel useless, abused, overworked, exhausted, etc., and deep within their hearts feel God is a hard "Task-Master", and yet "plod on" serving Him, wondering when it will "all fall apart" – when the sheep will desert them, etc.

B. Let's clear up the Lies and the Myths

(Some are even taught by the Church!)

Many of us live under a lie.

1. Lie No. 1 – You are useless.
2. Lie No. 2 – You are worthless.

I lived under both of these lies for years.

Some of my family kept telling me these things.

Some of my teachers confirmed them.

When I started work my bosses also confirmed them.

And when I was converted, the church re-enforced it!

3. Lie No. 3 – Humility and self-degradation are one and the same thing.

These are all lies!

Lie No. 1 – "You are useless".

The Church has failed to distinguish between positive and negative pride.

1. **Negative Pride.** (which is unhealthy)
It has been identified as "that destructive arrogance that assumes 'I can do anything all by myself'. It is the exact opposite of that healthy humility called – self-acceptance or self-worth".

2. **Positive Pride.** (which is healthy)
It is "... that creative and compassionate confidence Christ inspired when He said, '*You are the light of the world*' and Paul expressed when he said '*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*'".

Lie No. 2 – “You are worthless”.

1. **The Scriptures declare the exact opposite.**

They teach that you were made to be a blessing.

2. **Illustration:**

From the day that our third son, Jonathan, was born, we told him he was our "little blessing from God". He believes it. Whenever his older brothers bathed him you could hear him shout down the passage, "Mom, your blessing from God is ready!" You would not find it *difficult* to believe he is truly a blessing if you could see his chubby face, blonde hair, grey-green eyes, contagious smile, etc.
How old does he have to turn to cease to be a blessing!

3. **God’s idea about you.**

You were spiritually designed to enjoy the honour befitting an heir of heaven. You were made in God's image. You were redeemed by His blood and restored by His Spirit. In actual fact, according to Jesus, you are greater than John the Baptist! Matthew 11:11. Christ felt you were worth dying for.

Lie No. 3 – Humility and self-degradation are one and the same thing.

1. **Self-degradation is destructive.**

It is true that without Christ we would be nothing. But we are not without Him! We are God's children, Christ is our older brother, and we are "co-heirs with Him". Romans 8:17.

2. **To take up our cross, denying ourselves.**

This is not to degrade us (Matthew 16:24-25). The “cross” in Christ's life was God's purpose for His life Your “cross” is God's purpose for your life! Anything that causes you to turn aside from that purpose must be “denied”. Remember, crucifixion is the only form of death that you cannot perform on yourself – it takes someone else to do it for you.
You died with Christ. Romans 6:6; Colossians 2:20; 2 Timothy 2:11; 1 Peter 2:24.

And now you are to "count upon" or "reckon" this to be true (Romans 6:11). This is what Galatians 5:24 means. It is past tense – it is done once, for all. "... have crucified ...".

C. The myths among Christians

Myth 1: God wants us to be failures.

1. **Answer.**

God wants us to succeed in every area of our life. God only wants us to "fail" when we are "doing our own thing" and not His will.

The Scriptures declare this time and time again.

Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 8:35-37; Psalm 1:1-3; Philippians 4:19; Psalm 23; 1 John 5:4; Joshua 1:8; 2 Corinthians 2:14; Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 10:4.

2. **God's promise of overflowing blessing.**

He even restores the years the "locusts have eaten", Joel 2:23-25.

For too long Christians have lived according to the lie that God wants us to be failures, poor, sick, etc., because this keeps us humble! We must begin to live in the truth – for the truth sets us free – John 8:32.

Notice that we must "know the truth", not just **about** the truth. God's Word is truth – John 17:17.

Jesus became poor so that we could become rich – 2 Corinthians 8:9.

Myth 2: Hard work, self-effort, etc., will guarantee success.

While it is true that God does not endorse laziness, hard work alone will not get us far either – Zechariah 4:6.

Psalm 127:1 "Except the Lord build the house, they that build labour in vain".

Promotion comes from God – Psalm 75:6.

Myth 3: There is no place for love, consideration and understanding if you want to succeed.

REMEMBER: WHAT YOU SOW, SO YOU REAP!

Galatians 6:7-8; 2 Corinthians 9:6; Luke 6:38.

D. How to develop your self-worth and self-image

Self-worth has been described as: *"the human hunger for the divine dignity that God intended to be our emotional birthright as children created in His image"*.

God has provided a 'hedge' of protection around each one of us. Job.1:10.

(see also Psalms 34:7, 91:4, 125:2; Zechariah 2:5.)

We can create "holes" in the hedge.

These "holes" are:

1. **Poor Thought Life.**

In order to break these poverty patterns, we must be convinced of:

a) **The love of God towards us:**

John 3:16-17

John 15:13

Romans 5:8

Romans 8:35

Ephesians 2:4-5

Galatians 2:20

1 John 3:1

God will never love us more or less than at this moment. His love is unchanging.

b) **The goodness of God towards us:**

Jeremiah 29:11 Philippians 4:19 Psalm 1:1-3
Romans 8:35-37 Psalm 23 1 John 5:4.
Joshua 1:8 2 Corinthians 2:14, 10:4.

He does not give us what we deserve. Neither in initial salvation (Romans 6:23) nor in what we have done with our lives, i.e. wasted opportunities, efforts, years, etc. Isaiah 61:1-7.

c) **The grace of God towards us:**

Grace is not deserved (earned) but freely given.
Titus 2:11, 3:7; Romans 3:24, 4:16, 5:2, 20b; Ephesians 2:5-9.

This grace was given to sinful men. 1 Timothy 1:13; Titus 2:11.

It does not depend upon effort or works. Romans 9:16, 11:6, 4:4; Titus 3:5.

These Truths must become Life to us.

2. **Poor choice of Speech.**

We have “bound” ourselves and other people by the things we have said.
We have put “chains” around ourselves. This is true of the things we have said in the past and now feel differently about.

Examples:

- a) About ways of worship and praise: i.e. clapping ...dancing ... singing in tongues, etc. – these can be spoken of negatively.
- b) About speaking in tongues: “that it is not from God” or “is it necessary?”
- c) Prosperity faith has been criticized.
- d) Things we have said to our spouse about him/her.
- e) About our parents or children.
- f) About other elders or churches, etc.

Be done with negative confessions, criticism, boasting and lying, etc.

3. **Poor Education.**

If you have not had a good formal education, you can still improve yourself by reading a lot, ensuring that it is good literature, and learning to speak correctly. You could even enrol in a correspondence course. Improve your *standard* of theological, doctrinal, historical, as well as formal education.

4. **Poor Appearance.**

a) **Obesity.**

Take a good look at yourself in the mirror – see yourself as others see you. Then be realistic about yourself. Some people have big bone structures, awkward shapes, etc. Nothing can change some things, but you can watch your diet and do exercise and stick to it!

Remember, the “look” that Hollywood tells us is “in” is not what God says!

b) **Clothing.**

By dressing better you feel better. Learn to co-ordinate colours – some colours, even if fashionable, do not suit some people. The same is true of styles. People "see" you before they can "hear" you. What they see affects what they will hear.

5. **Poor Self-Discipline.**

- a) Discipleship includes self-discipline. The word "Christian" is used three times in the Bible, while the word "convert" is never used. The word "disciple" is used 269 times in the New Testament.
- b) Discipline has to do with the introduction of control into the life of a person. Proverbs 16:32 (Living Bible), "It is better to *have self-control* than to *control an army*".
Self-control is a part of the Fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:23.
- c) The Biblical principle – first the natural, then the spiritual (1 Corinthians 15:44-46) is equally true with discipline. If we can become disciplined in the physical, it will help us to win in the spiritual areas as well!
- d) There are three important factors which help a leader to keep himself under control at all times:
- i) He knows who he is in Christ and knows the limits of his endurance. The three times when we are most vulnerable to temptation are when we are hungry, when we are tired and when we are running a low-grade fever. Therefore make sure you get adequate sleep, regular and nutritious meals, and the right amount of exercise.
 - ii) He watches what he allows his mind to dwell upon – his thought life. Do not allow your thought life to lead you astray. Be careful what you read, watch and listen to. Proverbs 23:7, "*As a man thinks in his heart, so is he*".
 - iii) He knows how to handle his sexual tensions without undue stress. Learn to sublimate (convert) your sexual feeling through work, sport and exercise, play and recreation, social and Christian activities.

When we start to deal with self-discipline there is a very real need for flexibility. If we are going to become disciplined in our daily living and are not flexible, we become legalistic and unhappy.

Some hints to help:

- Be on time for all your appointments. Do not keep people waiting. Make your plans with the provision for the unexpected.
- Be consistent in your prayer life, your study of God's Word, in disciplining your children, in your relationships with your spouse, in exercising, etc.
- Pay your debts – on time.

6. **Poor Health.**

- a) Your health is one of your most precious possessions – look after yourself.
- b) You must co-operate with God in keeping your body fit.
- c) Deal with stress by delegating – you can do much more with less stress and more energy.
- d) Keep your mind and attitudes healthy.
- e) Be positive.
- f) Watch what people you associate with.
- g) Watch what you read, etc.

7. **Poor Social Status.**

- a) Abilities may differ, but success is for all.
- b) It is dangerous to compare yourself with others, so don't.
- c) Don't be too hard on yourself. Remember the words of Paul – 1 Corinthians 1:26-30. Just because you have failed does not mean that you are a failure. You are only a failure if you quit!

8. **Poor Participation.** (Involvement)

We so often fail to see how much we are needed, (1 Corinthians 12:14-27). We feel useless, inadequate, unwanted, etc., and then withdraw. Don't do that! Rather be a participator than a spectator! If God is going to work, it will be through you and me.

9. **Poor Sex Life.**

- a) There is help for those who feel failures or frustrated in this area. Humble yourself and seek counsel.
- b) Leaders cannot afford not to deal with problems in their lives in this area. It will be their downfall if they do! You will also find a lot of practical help by reading books like, "The Act of Marriage" by Tim and Beverley La Haye.

10. **Poor Theology.**

We must believe what God says about us, what He calls us and what He wants us to be.

- a) **We are destined to be blessed and to be a blessing.** Genesis 12:2-3. (Genesis 18:18-19) This promise given to Abraham was also given to his "seed" or "descendants", Genesis 22:18. It was then given to Isaac's offspring, Genesis 26:4. Then given to Jacob's offspring, Genesis 28:14.

Now in the New Testament, (Acts 3:25) this promise was not for the "natural children, but the *children of promise* who are regarded as *Abraham's offspring*".

Romans 9:6-8. The "*children of promise*" are "those who have faith", Galatians 3:8-9. We are the "seed of Abraham", "if you belong to Christ, and are heirs according to the promise", Galatians 3:16 and verse 9.

What was that promise that Paul calls the gospel in advance in Galatians 3:8?
It is what God said to Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3.

- God **will** make us into a great nation.
- God **will** (not might) bless us.
- God **will** (not might) make our name great.
- We **will** be a blessing.
- God **will** bless those who bless us and curse those who curse us – no need to justify ourselves or get revenge!
- All people on earth will be blessed through us.

Believe it!

- b) **What God calls us.** John 8:32, 17:17; Romans 12:1-2; Acts 17:30
- i) His Body – He loves His Body, Romans 12:5. He gave Himself for it!
 - ii) The Apple of His Eye, Deuteronomy 32:10; Zechariah 2:8.
 - iii) Jewels, Zechariah 9:16.
 - iv) A Crown of Splendour, Isaiah 62:3.
 - v) A Royal Diadem, Isaiah 62:3.
 - vi) My Treasured Possession, Malachi 3:17.
 - vii) His Flock, Acts 20:28.
 - viii) His Bride, Isaiah 62:5; Revelation 19:7.
 - ix) Family of God. We are adopted into His family, John 1:12; Ephesians 3:15; Romans 8:15; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 4:5-6.
 - x) We are called children of God, Romans 8:16, 8:21.
 - xi) Heirs of God, Galatians 3:29, 4:7.
 - xii) Friends, John 15:15.

DO NOT CONFUSE YOUR VALUE WITH WHAT YOU DESERVE!

Our value – what God calls us; we are made in His image; we were worth the life of Christ.

What He says about us – Luke 15:11-24.

11. What God says about us.

- a) Nothing can separate us from Him. Romans 8:31-39.
- b) No weapon formed against us can succeed. Isaiah 54:17.
- c) We are more than conquerors. Romans 8:37 – all that happens to us is for our good. Romans 8:28 – even the discipline! Hebrews 12:5-13.
- d) Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. 1 John 4:4.
- e) We will never be dismayed. Isaiah 28:16.
- f) He has good plans for us. Jeremiah 29:11.
- g) We were made to be a blessing! Genesis 12:1-3.

12. What we must do.

- a) Receive – the truth (meditate).
- b) Repent – of believing lies.
- c) Renew – our minds.
- d) Repeat – what God has said (confession).
- e) Reckon – on resurrection life – Romans 6:11-14.

E. Enlisting People

When we as leaders want to enlist the help and support of God's children we must:

1. Teach them how important they are to the Church as a whole. They need to know that they are important and that God has given them to us as a precious gift.
2. Motivate them – but remember, in order to motivate others, you must be motivated yourself.
3. Recognise them – show them where they need reinforcement.
4. Praise them.
5. Train them. Give them the "tools" with which to work and do the job, e.g. to evangelise they need an outline from which to work.
6. Make them secure – by your commitment as well. Are you as committed to your people as you expect them to be to you? Commit your life and future to serving God with and among them. Be honest if you make a mistake.