



Financial Freedom

Sunday January 11, 2009

Introduction

Planned to do this in 2008

The global economic meltdown, the Satyam fiasco

Financial freedom : success, prosperity, material wealth and riches, etc.

1, Background

Started preaching on the blessing of prosperity and Biblical financial principles in my early teens.

First publication in print, "God's Word on finances" 1995

Last time at APC was probably in 2002/03 when we were still at CWC.

Have attempted to practice this, apply these principles in my own life.

Running a business has been a great laboratory to see God's working in this realm.

I do have a lot more to learn and a lot more to experience.

2, Many people have a negative perspective on the "prosperity message"

Caused by extravagant lifestyles, inflated salaries, lavish spending, etc., by ministers who lived of the Gospel.

Incorrect teaching where one measures spiritual life and faith by extent of financial prosperity, etc.

3, Will this work for any one?

All of God's Word is for any one who will believe in any part of the world.

"Financial freedom" may translate differently in to each person's life depending on our call and vocation in life. For a farmer, experiencing "financial freedom" may take on a different expression than a high powered business man. To a college student this may translate into believe God for good success in studies, favour for admission to the right programs, getting scholarships, all eventually leading up to building a successful professional career. But both are believing God and His word.

4, No vested interest, other than a sincere desire to see all of God's people experience God's working in this area of their lives

Ashish - No salary taken from church since inception.

Financial Freedom

To be financially free is to come to a place where money is no longer a controlling factor in your life. You are at a place where you truly walk by faith in God...whether you have a lot of money, more than you can handle...or very little compared to the task at hand...your faith in God is still the "spiritual currency" that you operate by (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Proverbs 30:5-9

5 Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

6 Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

7 Two things I request of You (Deprive me not before I die):

8 Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches— Feed me with the food allotted to me;

9 Lest I be full and deny You, And say, "Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.



In this series, we will:

- Deal with wrong mindsets : misconceptions, fears, negative ideas
- Discover God's principles for financial freedom.
- Discuss practical guidelines
- Believe God for breakthrough in to financial freedom
- Believe God to go to the next level financially in our lives.

For comments/questions that arise. Send email to: ashish.raichur@apcwo.org

Financial Freedom Part 1 : God and Wealth

1, God is not averse (or "allergic") to success, prosperity and wealth

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.

The earth as God originally created was filled with abundance.

Psalm 50:10

For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills.

Haggai 2:7,8

7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts.

8 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the LORD of hosts.

We have the wrong notion that God, and "success, prosperity, wealth" do not mix. We think that "God is Spirit" so He has no interest in the material world. We forget that it is God who created this material world and handed it to man to steward it for Him.

Heavens streets are paved with gold!

2, God does bless His people with success, prosperity and wealth

Psalm 24:1-5

1 The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.

2 For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters.

3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

5 He shall receive blessing from the LORD, And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.

Psalm 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.



3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

Psalm 112:1-3

1 Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who delights greatly in His commandments.

2 His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in his house, And his righteousness endures forever.

Psalm 128:1-4

1 Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways.

2 When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.

3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table.

4 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD.

Proverbs 22:4 By humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches and honor and life.

Job

Job 42:10-12

10 And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

11 Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the LORD had brought upon him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and each a ring of gold.

12 Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys.

Abraham

Genesis 13:2 Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

Genesis 24:1,34,35

1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant.

35 The LORD has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great; and He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys.

Isaac

Genesis 26:12-14

12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him.

13 The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous;

14 for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.

Jacob

(What Jacob's employer said to him)

Genesis 30:27,28



27 And Laban said to him, "Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake."

28 Then he said, "Name me your wages, and I will give it."

Joseph

Genesis 39:1-5

1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.

2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.

4 So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.

5 So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field.

Deuteronomy 8:18

"And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

1 Timothy 6:17

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

...and many more

3, God has taught man how to be successful, to prosper and how to use wealth

How to honor God

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

For the purposes of His kingdom

2 Corinthians 9:7,8

7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

The dangers to avoid

Luke 12:15

And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."



4, God hates poverty

God loves the poor but hates poverty, in the same manner that He loves the sinner, but hates sin or loves the sick person but hates sickness.

Sin, sickness and poverty are never listed under the blessings of God, rather are part of the "curses".

Deuteronomy 28