

FAITH FOR FINANCES-II

ARE WE PLACING IT ON GOD?

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"Whoever loves money never has money enough; the one who loves wealth is never satisfied with his income." (Eccles.5:10). [How easy it is to relate those words to a mindset of most people of the world in 'this day and age of discontent and greed'.] We are also reminded of Jesus' Words in (Matt.6:24) as He warned everyone who will listen, that *"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,"* He said.

People of the Christian world in general will say that they trust God and they have faith in Him to provide, but that is not proven by their apparent actions and decisions (as they follow every human plan there is to follow, (some of which are) 'savings accounts' with a multitude of deceiving names attached to them; financial supplies are made available from many sources of 'man's laid-up money' (Government-backed plans and many other false places of trust), but all having the 'cloven foot of the devil' embedded within them, (and designed to take people away from (and out of) 'God's divine plan' of trust on Him).

All those plans and places for laid-up money, then along with 'financial insurance coverage plans' are designed to protect people from financial loss, and from the outcome of 'unjust lawsuits' that are so commonplace today. And so many other deceitful plans or people or places where people depend on and place their trust, instead of following 'God's divine plan' to place all our trust on Him.

The carnal mind focuses on obtaining more and more money and craves more and better things (without even considering being "content with what you have" (as Scriptures teach us to be). The mindset of the worldly-minded person is to acquire expensive material

goods, stylish clothing, the best food, and the latest household appliances, or new automobile. (1 Tim.6:10 warns us very plainly), *"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."* Then Hebrews 13:5 admonishes us, to *"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'"*

What a valuable position for a person to be in, and what a price-less privilege we have to trust on God alone (and have faith in Him for our financial supplies as needed each day) (the Pastor said). It is a most rewarding place for a learning Christian (or family) to be in. [But the world in general has a never-ending appetite for money (and they never seem to have enough).]

In apostle Paul's letter to Phillipians, he expressed gratitude and contentment, as he told them (Phil.4:10-12) *"I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have 'learned the secret' of 'being content' in any and 'every situation'."* God had used circumstances that Paul had been confronted with, to teach Paul what He meant when He promised, *"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

So the Apostle wasn't worried, as he knew that his needs would be met (in one way or another) (within God's plan of trust on Him); he was confident that the words he wrote to them would always be fulfilled for him;(vs 19) *"And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus."* That is a wonderful Bible promise, (that can be trusted on by every true believer in Jesus Christ).

(Jesus has also explained for us, that we might understand and take heed, saying *"After all these things, do 'the Gentiles' seek'."* In saying Gentiles, Jesus meant anyone who is not a true believer (for He had not yet commissioned apostle Paul *"to carry My Name to the Gentiles"* (Acts 9:15). And meaning all those who do not really have their faith and trust

in God (including all professed believers), that they are not true followers of Christ.

That is why people buy houses and real estate. They think it is foolish to rent homes and church meeting halls. They believe that it is money thrown away. If they own the house and property, they are safe (they think), in that they have 'financial security'. But in reality, they have taken their trust away from God and placed it somewhere else. Any time that is done, it is not a Scriptural move nor decision--for we have then proven that our 'faith and trust in God' is only just words. *The true Christian life can be summed up in one brief sentence, that is, "Where have we placed our trust?" (Have we placed it on God, or on the plans of the devil and man?).*

It is just as unScriptural to buy a house and the real estate it is built on, as it is to place money in a saving's account in some bank. Both are treasures (financial security') laid up on earth. But Jesus said, *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth."*

If we do not 'lay up financial resources', then we have the great opportunity of trusting only in God to supply what is needed each day (financially and in other things). Every true Christian is a rightful heir to God's financial wealth, and they have an Atonement right to make their claim to receive it from God. God has fabulous sums of money in His control (He has an inexhaustible treasury, for God controls every penny on earth).

It does not make any difference how large or small the need is (if extra money is required), we have a bank account in Heaven that can never be overdrawn. All the wealth God has in Heaven belongs to every true believer through the Atonement of Christ. And, to the extent that we learn 'how to trust only in God' for the money (instead of on any human source), we can claim and receive any amount of money we need personally and all we would like to give away.

The best way for God to teach us how this works, is to have our human source of income cut off (temporarily, at least, the Pastor said), and with no other source of help or supply to be trusted or depended on no financial resources' laid-up for that 'rainy day' as some may say. When one's income is shut off, and 'if

we meet it in a 'Scriptural way' (that is a vital point!), then we will have learned a valuable lesson on divine trust and faith in God.

It is not Scriptural to let anyone know that we need money (or anything else), except to let God know. It is wrong for a person to even think about where the money may come from (naturally speaking). Every true Christian must learn the great lesson of knowing, that 'if God knows our need', that is better than if the entire world knew it.

God does know every desire of our heart and every need of our family. (Matt.6:32-33) *"Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things. "Be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God, and with what He requires of you, and He will provide you with all these other things."*

Every true believer who says they trust in God and that their faith is strong, must prove that, by making a final decision to 'look only to the living God for financial supplies'. It is a 'free-will choice', but anyone who has the Holy Spirit within, (will be enabled to make that choice).

Continuing the explanation, he said that a 'genuine Christian' cannot place themselves in debt, ever! If the rent is due on any day, and we have the money placed aside for it (but there is not another penny left over for food), we cannot touch one cent of the 'rent money that is owed to (or belongs to) someone else. In a situation like that, the Christian has the valuable opportunity to trust God alone to supply any food or any meal that would be needed for one person or a family.

If we will refuse to go into debt and refuse to place any person (or plan) ahead of God, concerning the supply of our finances, it is then that we 'connect with our 'divine inheritance'. At that point, we will have 'a revelation of God's presence and power,' just as the widow of Zarephath, or the disciples, or the Israelites in the desert.

That is real trust and faith in God, and that is, where all human 'sources of supply' are out of the picture. At first (in our true Christian life), there is everything and everybody between us and God. If our salary is stopped (or even shut off temporarily) we get upset, because 'nothing can be seen' but starvation and hardship.

But the very 'moment we burn our bridge' (at the point), where our decision is final to look to God alone), we will have a revelation of God's faithfulness and His power. It will be the beginning of a life of 'real faith and trust' in God.

There is also a 'great lesson to learn', in the matter of 'giving money away to others'. At first, it 'goes against the grain', and we will give as little as possible, (just what we have to give and not a cent more), as we think it is more blessed to receive, than 'to give'.

We need to recall what Jesus said about the woman who gave her last coins to charity (Mark 12:43-44) *"So He (Jesus) called His disciples to Him and said, ***'In solemn truth I tell you that this widow, poor as she is, has thrown in more than all the other contributors to the Treasury; for they have all contributed out of what they could well spare, but she out of her need has thrown in all she possessed—all she had to live on.'***"*

And so, with each of us, when 'God's training course' for us 'has been completed', we will then agree with the Apostle Paul, that it is much more blessed to give, than to receive. It is all too easy to get caught up in the "receiving" part, even though the entire thought should be on "giving" (just as the Wise Men gave gifts to Jesus).

A genuine desire to 'give' instead of 'take', is a transformation that results from completing 'God's instruction course' on 'financial trust'. The 'spiritual blessing' that comes along with following through with God's financial plan, is the most valuable part of the transformation, and it will result in that most-important 'elimination of self' and 'Satan's control' from our 'heart'.

Think of how valuable that is, to have the cause (and 'the root') of all the trouble, 'gone forever'! Not only will we then enjoy an inner peace and a 'feeling of contentment', but it will reflect in (and extend to) other family members. (Psalm 103:17 tells us), that our righteousness (or the way we meet this financial question) and all other things Scripturally, will reach to our children and grandchildren'.

A Christian can usually 'meet things right' (the Pastor said) if a personal injustice is met with, but if somebody insults or harms one of their children, it is then 'another story'.

However, when a person has learned their 'lessons of faith and trust in God, correctly, and when 'self and Satan' are removed completely from (one's heart and mind) no one will be able to say a cross word to our 'loved ones'. It is all part of the divine 'shield of protection' that God offers to every true child of His, and, it is all part of real faith and trust in God, for (and in) every aspect of our life.

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MAIN POINTS: (Matt.6:24) Jesus' Words warned everyone who reads or hears and will listen, saying to us, ****"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."****

The 'carnal mind' of man will want to lay-up money for a future 'rainy day' (as they say), and it will always focus on obtaining more and more money, and it craves for more and better things (not to even consider being "contented with what you have", as Bible Scripture teaches). It is always wanting to acquire expensive material things, stylish clothing, the best of appliances, food, and other things.

While a humble attitude of a true Christian will be content and thankful for what God has blessed them with, as they continue to place their requests before God for His will to be done in their life, (not trying to serve two masters as Jesus warned us) and while keeping them on a humble plane via transformation in their heart, away from that old way of thinking and deciding everything in their life, a transformation that will lead them and their family into Eternal Life.

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