

The Ability to Make Wealth

Part 4

“17 You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” 18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.” (Deuteronomy 8:17-18.)

Life and living that is abiding with the will of God and the truth that we learn from the word of God would finally enable you to keep and make treasure that God would use for His glory and His kingdom; to reach the lost and would enable the church to meet the vast financial needs that life and ministry entail.

“15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.” (1John 2:15-17) Strict discipline starts from the heart of man. Your mind need to be renewed and transformed that no more would love worldly things so your finances will not be wasted on things that are sinful, worldly and unnecessary. Fatty food, expensive food, parties, giving and exchanging gifts, trips, sightseeing and tours that without purpose, but out of your worldliness will suck and exhaust all your financial resources. And when you are really in need and need to spend then you will find yourself without money; that is not the love of God!

The church should be a model and the example for the world and for the new believers and the new disciples for wise and careful spending. The church should stand firm and not encourage and honor activities and functions that not glorified God. Now a day many parties held in church context, and all held in the name of the Lord, they even pray before the food, but the purpose is personal to glorify themselves and not God. Birthday parties are held in the name of the Lord and under the blessings of the church, but the purpose is not God, but to glorify one self. The bible did not mention in the book of Acts that the church were celebrating birthday parties. There is only two birthday parties mentioned clearly in the bible:

- A- ***The birthday party of Pharaoh: “Now the third day was Pharaoh’s birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials.” (Genesis 40:20)*** And we know what happen in that party; the chief baker was hanged.
- B- ***The birthday of Herod: “On Herod’s birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for the guests and pleased Herod so much.” (Matthew 14:6)*** And we know what was the outcome of that party; John the Baptist was beheaded.

Parties and celebration that the word of God does not ordained are full of boasting, gossips, envy, showing off, worldliness, giving birth to devil plan, junk of immoralities, ungodliness, murder, loss of financial resources and poverty.

In ***Luke 14*** Jesus was invited to a banquet, and this is what he admonished the person who had invited him, ***“12 Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid.” (Luke 14:12)*** So if Jesus is saying, ***do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors,*** then who is

left to be invited? Almost no one! So in other word what Jesus is meaning, ‘Stop all these parties and invitations!’ Because you will invite them, and they will invite you, you will treat them and spend on them, and they will treat you and spend on you, so no more the focus on God but on people and to win their favor and approval. This is a worldly style of life and the church should avert such things so people can grasp what is the differences the life in Christ from the worldly life. And Jesus further explained, ***“13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,” (Luke 14:13)*** Now those kind of people even if you will invite them they will not be able to come, but you need yourself to go to them. The poor are not those who do not have money. The poor are those who do not have the word of God. The lame and the crippled are those who are in trouble and are in need for God’s word and direction and no one there beside them to guide them and lead them, and we need to go to them. And to go to them we need to spend to reach them, and that is what is meant to invite such people. You will be blessed and rewarded by God if you will direct your finances and spending on this direction. ***“14 and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” (Luke 14:14)*** The church should direct the workers and the mission of the church in such a line and under those guide lines so that God’s name will be honored and glorified and people would be taught that services and ministries should be directed to honor God and not man.

The will of God for us is to make wealth so this wealth will be used for the glory of God to reach the lost, to help the saints, and to help those who are in need. God want us to serve His purpose in such a way in our lives.

Why we need to save and why we need to teach about saving and about making wealth? There is another reason in the Scripture that teaches us the purpose of saving. The Scripture speak about event that had happened in the life of the people of God that would teach further the importance of saving. The Scripture speak about famine that had happened in various times in the Scriptures. The bible records famines that passed through the life of the people of God. Famines had happened in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. And for such period of time, famines, to pass through then we need to have saving and wealth. The following are some of the recorded famines in the bible:

I- “Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.” (Genesis 12:10) So here Abraham, his family and the people with him, the church, passed through famine. The church may pass through famine, and wealth and saving is needed to overcome. Certain amount needs to be saved and kept aside and not to be spent unless there is desperate need.

II- “Now there was a famine in the land—besides the previous famine in Abraham’s time—and Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar.” (Genesis 26:1) So here there is a famine in the life of Isaac. So there was a famine in the life of Abraham and a famine in the life of Isaac. There was a famine in the life of the father and there is a famine in the life of the son. So here when we are speaking about saving money or gold or keeping treasure is to be kept to face famine or for such kind of circumstances. But don’t go and buy gold because you love gold and then you say it is saving for the future. No, that is worldliness. I am speaking here about saving and keeping money or material things for yourself that you are prepared for famine when it comes across your life. .

III- “1 When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why do you just keep looking at each other?” 2 He continued, “I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die.” (Genesis 42:1-2) So in the life of Jacob and his children there was a famine. And we can read about this famine in the book of **Genesis 41:56-57: “56 When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. 57 And all the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere.”** So the famine here was severe and had affected the whole world. So here Jacob was ready and able to pass the famine because he had stored money. So you can learn here that if there is no income or revenue for certain time, then you need to use the store that you have and that you made at the time of plenty. Sometime God allowed famine to come into your life to check if you have saved when he had given you much. So here in the times of God there are times of plenty and He is keen to keep times of scarcity and even famine so that your stewardship would be tested. If you had been honest, faithful and good steward and good manager and responsible when he had given you much, at the time of famine or need then you can survive, but if you had sin and squander what had given you then at the time of famine, be sure of this, your sin will find you out. And God allow famine in each and every one to test you and to test your stewardship. When God give you salary, this salary is not for one month but it can be used for a longer period of time. Sometime what you receive is more than what you spend, so keep it and save it, because there will be a time to come that you will not have income, so what you have saved and kept in the past you can use at the critical period of famine that God allow to pass through your life. Why we need to save? To face the future! The Lord Jesus said, do not worry about tomorrow for every day has its own trouble. So how you behave today will be the down payment for the future. If you spend your money unwisely today it will be short with you at the time of tomorrow. If you are spending wisely today and you are saving then you do not need to worry about tomorrow.

The lost son, when he left his father house, the sinful thing that he did is that he squandered his money on wild living. **“11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. 13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.” (Luke 15:11-14)** The lost son his sin was faced by a famine that God ordained to bring him back to him. Many workers and churches are doing now the same as the lost son did when he left his father house. They are squandering the money with them on wild living. They never think about tomorrow what will happen and they have wrong thoughts; they never think it is God's money and not their money. The lost son squandered it because he thought ‘My money!’ Who told you that is your money? **HAVING A SELFISH HEART - LACKING OF WISDOM** and that God would face that with famine. Famine will come to wake you up and to draw you near to God, spiritually, and will change your life and the style of your living from sinful style (Squandering, ‘My money!’ life with no saving vocabulary) to a godly life (humility, careful spending, ‘It is God’s money.’ I need to save). It is a positive way that God wants us to go through where we see HIS mighty hand work in favor and grace.

4- Genesis 41: We know the famous story from the dream of Pharaoh. God gave him two dreams in one night and he was troubled by these dreams. He saw seven fat cows came out from the river and after them came out seven ugly cows that ultimately ate the seven fat cows. And he woke up from his sleep and he slept again and then he saw another dream. He saw seven heads of grain, healthy and good, were growing on a single stalk. After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted—thin and scorched. Then the thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full

heads. We know that Joseph was brought out from the prison so that he would explain to him his dream and we know that Joseph explain to him that there will be seven years of plenty and abundance that will pass into his life, and he will have great harvest and he will have great income, and then he told him after the seven years of plenty and abundance then there will be seven years of famine that will follow them, and in these years of famine, **“31 The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe.” (Genesis 41:31)** And we know also that Joseph suggested to Pharaoh the strategy of how to face famine; how to handle the seven years of plenty and abundance and how to deal with the seven years of ravaging famine. Joseph gave him God’s Word and God’s will how to manage the famine. The same for you today you need to apply the strategy that will enable you to face famine in life. Let us read **Genesis 41:33-36** What Joseph told Pharaoh: **“33 “And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. 34 Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. 35 They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. 36 This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine.”** So what Joseph suggested to him that he should collect 1/5 per year; that is 20% of all the income. Now here it shows clearly to you how much you can and need to save. You need to save 20% of all you income. 1/5 of what you receive need to be put aside in saving as a reserve for the future.

How you can save?

A- Put it in your mind: Pharaoh not in his mind to save, but Joseph said it to him. In the same way put it in your mind to save. Pharaoh listened to Joseph and obeyed God’s instruction. You do the same, humble down and start to cut down your costs and start to save.

B- Discipline yourself: For sure Joseph saw in the palace of Pharaoh many unnecessary things, expensive and luxurious things; expensive food, expensive dress, branded dress, unnecessarily parties and all the rubbish things, that you may have now in your life, that need to be stopped. Eating in the restaurant, eating expensive food, buying many unnecessarily things and accessories, every now and then changing your computer, your laptop, your mobile, and forgetting that all that need money. Do not say it is a small amount. Small amount when you put it together will become big. One dollar per day over seven years will be 2520 dollars; it can be a used to buy a humble car. That if it one dollar per day, how much if it is 10 dollar wasting per day, then how much you are wasting over 7 years? 25200 dollars!

C- Little by little you collect: 20% of your income keeps for saving.

D- Change bad habits to good habits: That is why we don’t practice giving gifts or giving unnecessarily gifts to one another. Instead we explain to direct the money to reach the lost and preach the gospel and bring God’s word to those who are in need of Him, and that the best gift that we would give. Use the money to make a project, like the good Samaritan, to reach the poor and needy, the orphans and the widows, for those who are sick, those who are in prison, those who are downcast and trodden who are ready to receive the gospel. And we will not be able to move if we don’t have saving.

E- Keep focus on the purpose of saving: What you save should not be used for wrong purpose or without discretion. That is why Joseph said to Pharaoh **take a fifth of the harvest during the seven years of abundance and store up under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. 36 This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven**

years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine. For sure Joseph saw in the palace of Pharaoh many none sense things and that is why Joseph recommended to him to be in charge and control over what is saved so that what is saved will only serve the purpose, *to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine.* Famine means ruin. So here Joseph was telling to Pharaoh that he needs to cut many unnecessary items in his life so that he can keep saving the 1/5. So here when he says reserve it cannot be touched. When you save, then you need to discipline and control yourself not to use what you saved for none sense things. In order for you to keep the saving to be directed into the right direction then you need to cut down many unnecessarily things. You must understand that you cannot use what you save without discretion. You cannot use your saving to buy and purchase casual things. You cannot use your saving for someone want to borrow from you to do certain project, to build a house, to buy a car, your relative or a friend want to use it; NO, you cannot use your saving for such things because your saving would be held in reserve for the years of famine that is going to come to your life where in them you will not have an income. You have to learn to say ‘NO.’ The reserve that you have should only be use in the years of famine.

F- Wisdom and discernment: Joseph said to Pharaoh, “**33 “And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt.” (Genesis 41:33)** What you need now is discernment and wisdom. When you received Christ that is wisdom; you have the Holy Spirit that is wisdom, and you are the disciple of Jesus. Therefore you need to be discerning and wise as snake. And it is wisdom to save. You must know how to control your spending, because any amount of money that you are spending today it will be shortened from you in the future. Saving is very important. And we know that Pharaoh appointed Joseph to control the process of saving. Self-control, self-discipline, responsible and mature attitude, standing firm in the teaching of the Lord is needed in managing our finances today, so that we can face tomorrow and the future will be clear and victorious as we continue to abide with the instruction of the Lord. Therefore we need to be like Joseph wise and discerning to do the task entrusted to us today as a church to reach the whole world with the gospel of Christ till the Lord would come and take us.

G- Do not be deceived: Genesis 41: 49 says, “**Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure.**” We notice here that Joseph continued to collect and save even when he had already great quantities. The point here, Joseph was not deceived with what he is seeing, *huge quantities of grain*, because he knew that the severe famine will come and the only way to face it is through continuous obedience to God’s word, to spend wisely and save the quantum allocated. In the same way, do not be deceived with the plenty of the cheap and the free things that you have today. But continue to obey God’s word and save the allocated quantum because in time of famine what you are seeing now will not be available! Have you got it?

IV- “27 During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) 29 The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. 30 This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. (Acts 11:27-30) Not only in the Old Testament but God even allowed famine in the New Testament church. The church in the book of Acts had faced famine. And famine may happen to the church today. That is why we teach, no parties, no eating in the restaurant, no buying unnecessarily or buying expensive food or dress, because all these will take the finances away. In **Acts 11:27-30** a prophet prophesy and warn the church about the coming famine. And here the message in your hand is a

prophetic one, warning to the church of today to repent and stop squandering God’s resources as the lost son did when he squandered all his inheritance in wild living; parties, traveling here and there, unnecessarily projects, sinful life, worldliness, tourism in Christ, tours in the Promised Land, travel to the land of Israel, etc. The church and you who are reading must understand that God would allow famine to come across the life of the church and the famine will be severe and will be spread over the entire world. So take warning and repent. As the Lord second coming is near, then famines, wars, and earthquakes will also be there and will compound the severity of the suffering that God would allow. So now we as church need to be more wise in managing and adjusting our finances.

The Lord wants us to use our minds in living our lives for Christ, “**28 Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30 saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’ (Luke 14:28-30)** So we as disciples, then big projects we need to do. We need to be builders, and for that we need money and finances, and that is why Jesus said, *sit down and estimate. Sit down and estimate* how you can save because ahead of you good plans of the Lord, tasks, projects, and ministries that need to be achieved and God wants you to use your mind to plan for that.

Finances is so important in the ministry, and we need to have saving, so in times of needs we have something to spend in times of famine. Some will say God will provide. Yes He will provide, and one way of His provision to us is, through what we have today, we need to keep for tomorrow as saving. God may send at once when you are in need. But God will call you accountable for the amount of money, time and resources that you did not use wisely. When you had waste your time, money and resources in the past, it will be shortened to you, and your sin will find you out in the future. God will tell you I had given you, why then you have wasted before and now you are asking me again to give you.

In certain situation, when out of your plan the Lord wants you to go for certain mission, God may provide for you through someone who was a good steward for God. As God used the Magi to support the going of Jesus to Egypt, “**11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11)** Those are the Magi who came from the East, they presented their gifts to the Lord, and those gifts were important because Joseph and Mary were called in **Matthew 2:13** to take Jesus and to go to Egypt, so what they received from gifts from the Magi they most likely used them to furnish and finance their trip and their mission in Egypt. The Magi were true worshipper of God and they were good steward for God’s resources and the church (Joseph and Mary) used what they give to take Jesus and bring Him to Egypt. Stewardship is very important; if someone had given you a gift today then there is a purpose, ‘Why this gift, money, gold was given to you? There is a purpose and there is a mission! Use then what you receive for His glory.’

In **Acts 24:17** “**After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings.**” Paul mentioned that he went to Jerusalem to bring gift to the poor, and the poor there were the Apostles of the Lord who were passing through famine. Paul was collecting from the churches to them. The point here, how Paul or we today as church can collect or give to help the poor or those in famine if there is no saving that had been set aside. So how we can help the saints, how we can help the churches that are in need of finances if we ourselves are not saving what God had given to us. In **Acts 24:17** Paul was bringing gifts and help to those who are in famine and to those who are in need. The same theme we can read in **1Corinthians 16:1-4** “**1 Now about the collection for the Lord’s people: Do what I told the**

Galatian churches to do. 2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. 3 Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. 4 If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me." So here Paul mentioned that money beforehand should be collected and saved up before he reached, and once he reached, then the money will be sent to help the Lord's people in Jerusalem. Now the practice of the churches today to collect money at the spot when the need is raised up is not biblical. They do that because they are not keeping amount of money saved for the emergency and a reserve to combat famine. But the proper thing the church should do because famine sure will come is to keep saving ahead of time, in order to overcome problems that would come across our lives, and also in order to help those who are in need, and that what God wants from us.

Why God gives us His word? He gives us His word to apply. When I know that the Apostles of the Lord went through famine, then I know that I need to save, because what happened to them it will also happen to us today and we need to be ready. The Scripture are the word of God to give us warning because history repeats itself.

Paul said in **Acts 20:35** **"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**" What the word of God says here that we need to give, but how we can give if we ourselves had spent all what God had given us. Therefore why we need to save? So that we can share and help those who are in need. The principle of making wealth is to be shared with those who are in need and can be also used for us and replenish us in times of need.

"19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20) To go and make disciples we need money to spend for our going and for those who are in need. That is why we need to save because we need material things, so we can travel, to give the word of God to the lost, to give bibles, clothes and food and some medical help to those who are in need, to help churches and workers, to help widows and orphans, prisoners and sick people who are in need, and that are all part of the great commission.

James 1:27 says, **"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."** We need to save so we can care and spend on orphans and widows and the rest of the population of people who are in need. In **James 1:27** we have a hint about how you will be able to pursue saving in this saying: **and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.** Worldliness and worldly life will push you to spend your money on pleasures and on unnecessarily things and that will hinder you from saving and disable you from pursuing the mission of the Lord.

Some people they say we don't need to save and they will caught the saying of Jesus in **Matthew 10:9-10** **"9 'Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— 10 no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep."** And they will say Jesus is saying **Do not get any to take with you ,,** then why you are telling us save and keep things to be used for the future in the ministry and mission? Let us read **Luke 22: 35-36** **"Then Jesus asked them, 'When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?'" "Nothing," they answered. 36 He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one."** What Jesus says

here, there is time of evil will come and you need to have and be ready. The people, who say, 'Do not take because He will provide!' That is correct only in the case that something out of our mind will happen then He will make a way for us and He will provide. God is there but you need also to be wise and discerning and do your part. God had said in His Word you take and keep; therefore you are required to have your money, you have your transport and you have your saving, your clothes and food, you have your bag and you have your belonging, and you had sat down and you had planned and had estimated the cost. In this way you had planned it well. But if your mind set up is this: *'By faith God will provide even if we do not plan or keep or save,'* that is not correct and not acceptable to God because in this way you are putting God to test and you are living your lives without wisdom and without discernment like a worldly people who spend everything without planning, and with no saving for the future. God wants you to have wealth for a good purpose, and you need to do it in accordance to the word of God, the method, which we had expounded here from the Scripture in this message

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord forgives my sins _____ . Lord I commit my life to live in your way and in the truth of your word. I commit myself to the principles of saving and living holy living so I can be ready and prepared to serve you in whatever place and circumstances that you had called me to serve you. Lord gives me the strength and the good health and perseverance and the joy to do that, this is my prayer in Jesus name. Amen.*

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Jesus christ



The Bread Of Life

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