



**M.U.G./G.U.M.
(MONEY, YOU and GOD/GOD, YOU, and MONEY)**

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Establishing a Financial Vision and Financial Goals

Text: Proverbs 29:18-

“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” KJV

“Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.” NIV

Personal Reflections on Your Financial Future

Where would you like to be financially in the next 5, 10, 20, or 30 years?

Do you have any plans for your retirement?

Where would you like to live? How would you like to live?

What kind of lifestyle would you like to enjoy?

Did you ask God's direction, will and vision for your financial future, or did you come up with your vision for your financial future based upon:

- A. Your cultural background?
- B. Your family history or either financial freedom or financial bondage?
- C. Your vision from your present locale and consequently your understanding of what is reasonable, logical or possible?

Abraham's Story- Genesis 12:1-9 and Genesis 13

God came to Abraham with a vision for his life that was greater than the vision he had for his own life. God's vision for Abraham's life had definite financial implications. God has a vision for each of our lives that has definite financial implications for our lives. God's financial vision takes place in the context of God's total plan for our lives

God's Financial Vision is Consistent with the General Characteristics of God's Envisioning Process.

- A. God's vision will not violate God's word
- B. God's vision will not cause harm to other people
- C. God's vision will glorify God and Jesus Christ
- D. God's vision will give us peace within our inner certitude
- E. God's vision will bless our lives
- F. God's vision will bless the lives of others
- G. God's vision will stretch our faith and grown us because God's vision will be so large that only God can accomplish it

How do we seek God's vision for our lives?

- A. Prayer time
- B. Study of the Word of God

- C. Membership in the Body of Christ
- D. Being intentional about asking God to show us God's financial vision for our lives. *We ask: God, what is your plan, or your will for my life? God, what is your vision and your will for my finances?*

God's vision for Abraham's life included him being an owner and his living in abundance. *God's will is abundance and ownership for God's people. God does not desire that God's people live in debt to anyone.*

God came to Abraham when Abraham was around 75 years old. We can start seeking God's vision for our life at any age. God's vision will vary according to age, circumstance, talents, faith and surrender.

However, the underlying will for all of our lives is the same- *that we love God with our whole heart; that we follow God faithfully; and that as we do, God will bless us beyond our imagination.*

Our Challenge: Raise Your Eyes

- Stop looking at what we have or have not done at this point in our lives
- Stop focusing on our mistakes and start focusing on the miracles God wants to perform in our lives
- Stop looking at our age or stage in life. Stop focusing on the calendar and start focusing on God's calling for our lives. Stop focusing on our age and start anticipating all that God has for us.
- Stop looking at what has been done to us or what has been taken away from us. Stop focusing on how we have been robbed and start thinking about how God redeems. (Genesis 26: 12-13)
- Start envisioning a new future for yourself
- Start planning for a new future
- Start working toward a new future for yourself

Our Daily Prayer: "Lord Jesus, show me what else you have in store for me. There are some things that I see for myself. There are some things that I have planned for myself. Lord, show me what else you have in store for me. Help me to think big, dear Lord. In your name I do pray, Amen."

FROM THEORY TO ACTION

After receiving the vision of committing ourselves to tithe, we should write down the vision. (Habakkuk 2:1-5) *(Note Habakkuk's warning! Wealth can be treacherous if God's word, God's will and God's vision do not order our lives.)*

Advantages of writing the vision and setting financial goals:

- A. Writing helps us to organize the vision or financial plan
- B. Writing keeps the vision or plan before us
- C. Writing helps us to establish some definite priorities and requires that we do some forethought, thinking and planning
- D. Writing helps us to commit ourselves to a definite plan or course of action.

MY FINANCIAL PLAN: WHAT GOD AND I WILL ACCOMPLISH TOGETHER

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