



# Managing GOD's Money

Presentation to 100 Huntley Street, 23 November  
Getting Out of Debt: 7-Point Action Plan

In the last two sessions we talked about a Christ-centered approach to getting out of debt. I pray with Jesus' help you transferred the debt burden to Him and noted your findings as you solved the *Case of the Vanishing dollars*. So now you should know where funds went, and the procedure you followed that led to your debt.

To move ahead, I suggest **three essential** steps dealing with the **present**, the **past** and the **future**:

1. **The Present**: **Accept** the results, **accept** your role as God's manager, and **agree** bankruptcy is not an alternative
2. **The Past**: **Confess** errors made
3. **The Future**: **Repent**—agree with God you will depend on Him to supply your needs

In the *Family Council* we spoke about sometime ago, get views from and discuss challenges, alternatives, and needed life style changes with family members. After that, develop a budget to show agreed lifestyle changes, such as less discretionary spending. For each budget group assign responsibility to the family member delegated to spend against it.

Now you must deal with your loans. Look at this in two stages but only after doing the earlier steps and knowing you have changed behaviours that led to getting into debt.

**First**, go over the **loan repayment plan** you did earlier that shows dates when you will repay current debts. As the Lord leads, ask creditors to lower their interest rates, and then revise the plan. Most credit card companies will lower interest rates by a large percentage immediately you ask!

**Second**, ask a trusted independent adviser to look at your repayment plan and budget and help you look at the effects of **consolidating or restructuring loans**. But I repeat, ensure you changed your attitude and behaviour because consolidation **never works** without attitude and behaviour changes. Without these changes it is your worst alternative.

You are ready to commit to the **final two steps** dealing with a spending decision procedure and an implementation plan

Decide on a **procedure that you will follow before spending**. Couples should agree a joint approval procedure. For example, you and your spouse should approve the budget and spending on unbudgeted items that come up during the year. As well, couples should agree in advance how to break an impasse. The Affordability Index on my website will help focus your prayers before you spend. As

well, you might find useful this DNA prespending test, which asks **these three questions**:

1. Will spending **D**ishonour God?
2. Do I **N**eed the item?
3. Can I **A**fford it?

After committing to the **spending decision procedure**, which is key to become and remain debt free, you need a simple action plan to start the debt free lifestyle. But please understand the plan won't work unless it comes from the Lord, because a debt free lifestyle flows out of a life surrendered to Christ.

Here is an example of a **7-point action plan for a debt-free life style**:

1. **Surrender every area** of your life to Christ
2. **Accept** your manager's role **and what you need to do** to start **lifestyle changes**
3. **Give vulnerable areas** that might cause you to backslide to Jesus
4. **Be thankful: Spend less than you earn** consistently; live to give
5. **Be humble**: Depend on **Jesus to fulfill your needs** and to see you through "crises"
6. **Be patient**: Covenant with Jesus **not to buy stuff** until you have funds
7. **Be accountable**: Ask a trusted person of the same sex to hold you accountable

If you have difficulty believing and trusting Jesus will supply your needs, like the father in **Mark 9:24**, ask **Jesus to help you overcome your unbelief**. He will!

Jesus has been with you during this challenging period. Accept where you are! Look at Him; thank Him for this opportunity to draw closer to Him! I close with this reminder from Apostle Paul in **1 Thessalonians 5:18**, "in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". Mull over these words today.

God bless and remember Jesus loves you.