

Moving Your Finances Forward

47:12 NLT Fruit trees of all kinds will grow along both sides of the river. The leaves of these trees will never turn brown and fall, and **there will always be fruit on their branches**. There will be **a new crop every month**, for **they are watered by the river flowing from the Temple**. The fruit will be for food and the leaves for healing.

The River Represents a Divine Flow of God's Provision!

God wants to **Pour out Provision** into life of His people.

Malachi 3:10 NIV Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me** in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the **floodgates** of heaven and **pour out** so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be **poured** into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 16:9-13 NKJV "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous **mammon**, that when you, they may receive you into an everlasting home. He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore, if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous **mammon**, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? No servant can **serve two masters**; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and **mammon**."

You have two choices, God or Mammon

Mammon is not money as many suppose. Mammon is the SPIRIT that rest on money.

If Jesus mentions this word 3 times, we should find out what Mammon is all about!

The word "mammon" originates from Babylon

- Of-course "babel" means confusion.

People are confused about **how to get it, how to spend it, how we tend to lose it.**

- The devil wants to confuse God's people about money, so he can block God flow of provision into their lives.

De. 8:17-18 ESV Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' **18** You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant...

Mammon Lies

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. **We demolish arguments** and **every pretension** that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we **take captive every thought** to make it obedient to Christ.

Money will make me secure

Proverbs 18:11 NIV The wealth of the rich is **their** fortified city; they **imagine** it a wall **too high to scale**.

Proverbs 11:28 NIV Those who trust in their riches will **fall**, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

Hebrews 13:5-6, (NIV) 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." So we say with confidence, "**The Lord is my helper**; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"

Money will make me significant

Luke 12:15 (NLT) Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

Money will make me happy

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NLT) Those who love money will never have enough. How absurd to think that wealth brings true happiness!

Romans 4:7-8 (NCV) Happy are they whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned. Happy is the person whom the Lord does not consider guilty.

Moving Your Finances Forward

I am going to be bold with you today. I am passionate about this. I believe it and I live it. And I lead our church this way.

I just want this spirit broken off of our lives... I have to tell you the truth and teach this kingdom principle.

Malachi 3:6-12 “I the LORD **do not change**... **7** Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from **my decrees** and have not kept them. **Return to me, and I will return to you,**” says the LORD Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ **8** “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “**In tithes and offerings. 9** You are under a curse —your whole nation—because you are robbing me. **10** Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me** in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw **open the floodgates of heaven** and **pour out** so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. **11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,**” says the LORD Almighty. **12** “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

Return the first

1) The Principle of the First.

- a) OT - Deuteronomy 14:22-23 Be sure to **set aside a tenth** of all that your fields produce each year...so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always.

It communicates to God that He has first place in your life.

- b) NT – 1 Corinthians 16:2 “**On the first day of every week**, each one of you should set aside a sum of money **in keeping with your income...**”

2) If God says test me in it!

Steward the rest

1) 90% of Americans do not live on a budget.

2) Start Spending Wisely:

- a) Daily needs
- b) Debt Reduction
- c) Savings

Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

80 – 10 – 10 Rule is a great starting point: Tithe 10%; Save 10%; Spend 80%

Focus on true riches

Luke 12:16-21 And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. “And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”

- He thought because he had more stuff he had more time.
- God didn’t call a fool for having a lot of money... a fool because he didn’t know what to do with the extra.
- Break the back of Mammon, be rich toward God.
- What are true riches? **People in Heaven!**