

7 steps to poverty:

1. be lazy and half-hearted
2. fools, drunkards, gluttons and wasteful people
3. prideful and haughty during prosperity
4. hiding sins
5. love of money (never satisfied)
6. selfishness, greed, stingy, hoarding
7. A scarcity mindset/fearful (*I was afraid so I hid my talent—Matthew 25:25*) Fear is giving place to the kingdom of darkness since there is no fear in God's presence.

Keys to Financial Freedom:

1. Serve God and understand the money belongs to God not us. Money is intended for huge Kingdom purposes beyond our personal stuff. *Matthew 6:24*
2. Work with a spirit of excellence as unto the Lord (Remember, money and promotion come from God no matter who you are employed by so your work is unto Him)
  - a. Prosper where you are now. *Ecclesiastes 9:10—Whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might.* Those who “will be happy when I...” will never be happy. (Example: Joseph prospered in the bottom of a well, as a slave, in prison, and as 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of the mightiest nation in the world)
  - b. Invest in your skills and abilities (*Matthew 25:15* the talents were given according to ability—want to increase what God gives you, increase your abilities—we do it backwards: we try to increase what God gives us which is impossible and frustrating. We can all increase our abilities)
3. Be generous. Be a cheerful giver. *2 Corinthians 9:7 AMP God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, "prompt to do it") giver [whose heart is in his giving].*
4. Give into good soil. God does not give based on need—if He did there would be no one in need. He gives based on faith and vision. Why? Because the needy will be needy again shortly without faith and vision and your giving was short-lived. **Remember, you become attached to where your treasure goes.** *Matthew 6:21*
5. Recognize seasons of plenty to store for the seasons of lack. If you do, you will build wealth during times of lack, recession and famine.
6. Dream Bigger. (You have not because you ask not.) Think bigger. Find what God values, find your place in it, and ask for the resources to do it.
7. It is OK to fail. The only people who never make mistakes are those who are doing nothing. Doing nothing leads to poverty. *Ecclesiastes 5:3—The dream comes through much activity.*
8. Live with an abundance mindset instead of a scarcity mindset. Be **bean creators** instead of **bean counters**.

“I am perpetually with you, taking care of you. That is the most important fact of your existence. I am not limited by time or space; My presence with you is a forever-promise. You need not fear the future, for I am already there. When you make that *quantum leap* into eternity, you will find Me awaiting you in heaven. Your future is in My hands; I release it to you day by day, moment by moment. Therefore, *do not worry about tomorrow*.

**I want you to live this day abundantly, seeing all there is to see, doing all there is to do. Don't be distracted by future concerns.** Leave them to Me! Each day of life is a glorious gift, but so few people know how to live within the confines of today. Much of their energy for abundant living spills over the time line into tomorrow's worries or past regrets. Their remaining energy is sufficient only for limping through the day, not for living it to the full. I am training you to keep your focus on My Presence in the present. This is how to receive abundant Life, which flows freely from My throne of grace.”

Matthew 6:34, John 10:10, James 4:13-15