



"...but first gave their own
selves to the Lord."

2 Corinthians 8:5

How To Get More Money From God

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LESSON 1

THE PROBLEM



I. NOT ENOUGH MONEY

Whether the economy is up or down, the family and the church still lack enough money to meet their needs from week to week. Yes, we do get our wages increased now and again but at the same time there is a rise in food, gasoline, clothing, rent and utilities. Not enough for a better doctor, dental work, or education. We never seem to get caught up on our bills and have a little left over. There must be an answer to this burdensome problem.

Many Pastors and Workers do not receive enough money to meet their needs. Many churches cannot send missionaries of their own because they do not have enough even for their local needs. Most churches in the Philippines have been built with dollars from America. Most of these churches are still being maintained by outside dollars. If the U.S. churches were to cut off their missionary support to the Philippines, a great number of churches could no longer operate. Our homes and churches are in a bad state of repair.

"**The members are poor**" is the often heard excuse. Yes, Christians are generally poor. It is because they often come from the lower strata of our society. People who are rich in the things of this world do not get converted very easily. The Lord said so in **Matthew 19:24** when He said, "And again I say unto you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God."

There might be **several reasons** why the church members are poor. Let me mention a few:

1. The members have not been taught about finances and stewardship from the Bible.
2. The average pastor is too shy and perhaps fearful to teach his people about money. He feels the people will think he is asking for money for himself.
3. The pastor's mentality may be, "My members are too poor to give." Many pastors are going to the U.S. to raise money for their churches. This should not be.
4. The pastor may be ignorant about the subject of money. It is very possible for a man to complete

his Bible College training and never be taught about money and stewardship.

I have been guilty of all the above reasons since entering the ministry some 30 years ago. The best way for a pastor to keep his people poor is for him not to teach his members how to give. The pastor not only keeps his members poor but he also keeps great blessings from coming their way. The real reason why church members are poor is, the pastor has not taught his people properly about money and stewardship.

Let's not forget that genuine Christians are the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ.

Gal. 3:26 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

They are born again into the family of God after they have repented of their sins and have received Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord. With a rich God as Father, the children ought not to remain in poverty all the days of their earthly lives.

Does not the Word of God say,
Romans 8:32 "He (God) that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him (Jesus) up for us all: how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

God is therefore willing to give His children "all things" freely, which includes material things. No one will doubt the fact that God is withholding "all things" from His people today. Why is this true? God must have a good and sufficient reason for His actions.

II. RICHES BY RIGHT MEANS

As a general principle, however, God wants every believer to gain riches fairly.

Jeremiah 17:10-11 says, "I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. As a partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right (means), shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool."

James warns the rich men about their riches.
James 5:1-5 "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the

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labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter."

Riches must be gotten by the right means.

God said in **Exodus 20:15,17** "Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."

It is not one's right to take or steal what rightly belongs to others. That is why gambling is stealing; the same principle is practised in both. It is desiring to have the money of someone else against his will. To gain riches this way is wrong. It is contrary to the divine principle relative to possession of earthly riches.

What about false weights and scales?

Deuteronomy 25:15 "But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

Leviticus 19:36 "Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt."

Proverbs 13:11 "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished (decreased): but he that gathereth by labour shall increase." (Dishonest money dwindles away)

III. GOD IS RICH

It should not be necessary to prove that God is rich. But for the doubters we will quote several Scripture references:

Psalms 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

Psalms 50:10-12 "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof."

Haggai 2:8 "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts."

1 Chronicles 29:12 "Both riches and honour come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all; and in

Thine hand is power and might; and in Thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all."

Ecclesiastes 5:19 "Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God."

Hosea 2:8 "For she did not know that I (God) gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal."

James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

Deuteronomy 8:18 "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day."

Romans 8:32 "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

Yes, we are faced with a real problem, that is, **NOT HAVING ENOUGH MONEY TO MEET OUR NEEDS**, in our homes or in our churches. Because of this problem both the husband and the wife are forced to work. The children are put in the care of a nursery school or baby sitter (yaya) and are deprived of their parents presence. Stress enters and often the result is a broken home. Some times the wife is in danger where she works around other men. The husband also starts to look at other women. Many fathers and even mothers feel they have to go abroad to earn dollars. This should not be. The children grow up not having the proper training. The home is not what it use to be. **The two main reasons for a broken home are:** Money and In-law problems.

REVIEW:

1. We lack money.
2. We should get money the right way.
3. God owns all the money.

Our next lesson deals with the question, "WHY GOD WITHHOLDS PROSPERITY FROM HIS CHILDREN."

Be sure you and your family are here for our next lesson.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Rev. Antonio F. Ormeo, former pastor of the First Baptist Church of Manila, gave me permission on April 30, 1988 to do what I wanted to with his book **HOW TO GET MORE MONEY FROM GOD**. He said I could reprint it or change it as God directed me. I have chosen to use the same title and many of his illustrations and graphs in this edition.

My wife, Carol has spent many hours of proof reading and assisted me throughout the preparations of this book. I am grateful to her for helping me make this book a reality.

FORWARD

The Bible has a lot to say about money and the stewardship of money. Money is something that we cannot do without in order to make things move in the right directions. It takes money to get the things we need to survive from day to day. Food, clothing, housing, schooling, medical assistance, and on and on requires money.

After entering the ministry in the summer of 1966 I became aware of the lack of money both in our homes and in our churches. I was always a little backwards about taking offerings or letting the financial needs of the church be known to my people. To preach or teach on the subject meant hard looks from my congregation, criticism and maybe even losing a member or two. One church member and his family even got up in the middle of my sermon and walked out the door and never returned because the topic was on money. Things like

this have kept many a pastor from teaching his people regarding this matter of money.

There have been two significant men who have made a great impact on my life and ministry. The first was Dr. Dolphus Price who is well know as an evangelist out of the Highland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The other is Dr. J.B. Buffington who pastored the Calvary Baptist Church for many years in Lakeland, Florida. Their messages stirred my soul and the souls of my people and got our hearts and minds in the right direction regarding money. I am indebted to these two men of God. They have been a great blessing to me over the years.

A book, GOD'S MIRACULOUS PLAN OF ECONOMY, written by Jack R. Taylor, was sent to me some time ago by a pastor friend. I am sure you will benefit by reading and even preaching through Taylor's book.

It is senseless and unnecessary to have a church that is lacking financially. We must put the "buck" where it belongs, that is, on the Pastor. Dr. Lee Roberson, pastor emeritus of Highland Park Baptist Church, says "Everything rises or falls on leadership."

Let's face it, Pastors and Missionaries, the reason our people and churches are short of money is because we have not taught them about Bible Stewardship. Perhaps the reason we have not taught our people about money is because we are ignorant of this subject ourselves.

I know the many arguments that come to your mind as you read this forward. I have said

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the same thing myself many times. I know what I am talking about and I know that you can experience the blessings of getting more money from God.

My wife, two sons and I arrived in the Philippines July 1, 1980. Before coming here I had pastored four churches in the Southern part of the United States. Upon arrival in the Philippines I saw the extreme poverty and quickly acquired the mentality that these people were too poor to build churches and do the work of God without money from abroad. I noticed that almost all the churches were built and maintained by the American dollar.

I expressed my views in the presence of Dr. J.B. Buffington while he was visiting the Philippines in the early 80's. What he said to me and other like-minded missionaries while here transformed my ministry. Because of that encounter we now have 16 churches, 8 Bible Institutes and one national mission board all supported by Filipino pesos. Each of our Pastors has taught this material to their Sunday School. The Pastors have made copies of each chapter and given each person a copy to follow and take home with them to read and study. These Pastors have not made this a light thing but a serious matter with their people.

We have seen the windows of heaven open, as Malachi 3:8-10 promises. The devourer has been rebuked, Malachi 3:11, and our "poor Filipinos" are experiencing the blessings of God. My faith has been enlarged because of this experience.

It was Henry Ford who said, "Think you can or think you can't, either way you are

right." Dr. Lee Roberson, pastor emeritus of Highland Park Baptist Church, says, "Everything rises or falls on leadership."

I suggest you let this book get hold of you. Once it has taken hold of you, make announcements at every service four weeks before you begin to teach it in your Sunday School. Tell your people what you are going to teach them. Be open about it.

When you start, have copies ready to give to each person on the chapter you are going to teach. Let them follow you in their material as you go through the lesson. Tell your people to take the lesson home and read it again and again until it gets hold of them.

Teach every lesson in the order it is written and do not skip anything and make sure you finish what you start. You might get some dirty looks but keep on with it. The rewards will be wonderful for you and your people. Your people will love you for the truth. They will become richer financially than before. Pastor, you may even get a raise in salary and there will be enough money to paint your church inside and out. What do you have to lose?

May God bless you as you do His work,

Melvyn L. Brown

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Our Mission
BAMA is determined under God, to be a spiritual and interdependent family of servants with a united vision of reaching the world with God's Word. We will aid one another in establishing self-supporting Baptist Churches and training believers for the work of the ministry.

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Dear Pastor Friend,

Greetings!

Here is the latest printing of the Stewardship Materials "HOW TO GET MORE MONEY FROM GOD". This is a master copy so be sure to protect it so you can have a copy made for each family in your church.

Here are some suggestions I want you to follow if you decide to teach this to your people:

1. It is best if you, the Pastor, teach this to your people in the Sunday School for 9 consecutive weeks. Do not teach this in a short time period, like 9 consecutive days. It needs to have time to be digested.
2. Be sure you give it ample promotion several weeks before you begin and continue to promote it until you have finished.
3. Make sure your people are motivated to be there each week on time.
4. Give each family a copy of the lesson you are teaching for that Sunday. It is important you make a good copy for them so they will take it home and read it again and study it during the week.
5. During this series, preach messages on FAITH. Your people need to have faith in God in order to give to God.
6. Show the CERTIFICATE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT at every service. This will help motivate them to remain faithful in their attendance.
7. I would only allow one or 2 absences at the most if they are to receive the certificate.
8. Have their name and church name printed in by someone who can do a good job.
9. Make every effort to make this the biggest thing you have ever done.
10. Take a picture of the group who received the certificate and give a picture to each person. The investment will pay great dividends.
11. Make sure you are well prepared and full of the subject and filled with the Spirit.

If you make any short cuts and fail to keep this going in a big way you will only hurt your people, your church and yourself.

Please contact me if I can be of any help.

Yours in Christ,

Melvyn L. Brown

BAMA. - *The Interdependent People*