

# Kingdom Training Level 5

## Financial Faith

1

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**SPRING 2015**

# Financial Faith

2

## SPRING 2015 CALENDAR

<b>Class 1: March 8</b>	<b>Lord of Heaven &amp; Earth</b>	<b><i>Psalm 24:1</i></b>
Class 2: March 15	The Stewards	<i>Matt 25:21</i>
Class 3: March 29	The Debt Elephant	<i>Romans 13:8</i>
Class 4: April 12	Treasure in Heaven	<i>2 Cor. 9:11</i>
Class 5: April 19	Financial Planning	<i>Prov 27:23</i>
Class 6: April 26	Financial Discipleship	<i>Luke 9:24</i>

# Financial Faith: Tools

3

- **Kingdom Training Level 5 Lessons**
- **Financial Faith Quiet Times**
- **“The Treasure Principle” by Randy Alcorn**
- **Financial Peace University (FPU)**
  - **DaveRamsey.com**

# Class 1 Introduction

4

- *Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*
  - Disciples need to have their thinking transformed
  - This is not about money, giving, or fundraising
  - It is about putting into practice Biblical principles
  - It's about discipleship
  - It's going to take several weeks and repetition to get it
  - We have been programmed to think in a worldly way

# God Owns it All

5

- Psalm 24:1 *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it*
  - Everything belongs to the Lord
  - Lord means “Master”
  - We belong to the Lord
  
- Testimony
  - Coming to terms with God's ownership

# God Owns it All

6

- Deuteronomy 8:11,17,18 *Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God... You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth...*
  - Have we been thinking we earned what we have?
  - Even our “ability to produce wealth” comes from God
  - Nothing you have is yours!

# Confusion!

7

- **We believe the marketing & envy the prosperous**
  - We believe in keeping up with the Joneses
  - 36 US Companies spend >\$1B in advertising!
  - Kids view >1 Million commercials by age 20!
  
- *“We spend money we don’t have, on things we can’t afford, to impress people we don’t like” – Dave Ramsey*

# Confusion!

8

- **Our behaviors don't match our "beliefs"**
  - We overspend (\$1.26 for every \$1 earned!)
  - We don't save (70% live paycheck/paycheck)
  - We take out debt to pay for things we can't afford
  - Born-again Christians average giving <3% of their income





# Confusion!

9

- **We treasure the wrong treasure**
  - We value a currency that is guaranteed to be worth nothing in eternity
  - Our houses are cluttered with stuff we don't use
    - ✦ US: 2.3 billion square feet of self-storage space
    - ✦ > 7 square feet for every man, woman, and child
    - ✦ 1 in 10 households rents a storage unit
  - We build the American dream but live a nightmare
    - ✦ Nearly 1 Million US households filed for bankruptcy last year
    - ✦ Number 1 cause of divorce is financial stress
    - ✦ Funerals become a battle over the inheritance

# Stewardship Defined

10

- 1 Cor 4:1,2,7 (NRSV) *Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy ... What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?"*
  - God chose us as stewards
  - Everything we have is from God
  - Our mission: be found trustworthy

# Stewardship Defined

11

- **Stewardship**

- *An ethic that embodies the responsible planning and management of resources*
- *The assignment of responsibility to shepherd and safeguard the valuables of others – Wikipedia*

- **History: Middle Ages**

- Manager of “the Lord’s” possessions and affairs
- Entrusted and accountable
- Rewarded for good management and punished for bad
  - ✦ The Steward doesn’t own anything

# Stewardship Examples

12

- **What has God entrusted you with?**
  - Time: 86,400 seconds/day
  - Talents/abilities: sports, music, art, speaking, etc.
  - Intellect: school, career, knowledge
  - Relationships: family, friends, and special friends
  - Resources: money, possessions, and wealth
  - You: “Give to God what is his”

# Stewardship Defined

13

- 1 Corinthians 10:31 *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*
  - Everything we do is for the glory of God!
- ***Biblical stewardship can be defined as handling all of Gods resources God's ways for God's glory***

# Stewardship Maturity

14

- 1 Corinthians 4:2 (NRSV) *Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy*
  - God cares how we handle our resources
  - Finances are one indicator of our spiritual condition
- **Maturing as God's Manager**
  - Infant → Teen → Young adult → Mature adult
  - Our culture doesn't teach us mature stewardship
  - It aggressively markets and promotes immature behavior

# Financial Discipleship

15

*Luke 3:10-14 “What should we do then?” the crowd asked. John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”*

*“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”*

- **1) Be generous, 2) Don't cheat, 3) Be content**
- **REPEAT: This is not about money but discipleship**
  - 20% about learning biblical principles
  - 80% about transforming behavior
- **Financial Discipleship: Making Jesus Lord!**

# Financial Discipleship

16

- **Jesus** spent >30% of his teaching on how to handle possessions
- **Paul**
  - Shared the secret of being content (Phil 4:12)
  - Challenged disciples to imitate generosity (2 Cor 8-9)
  - Warned about the dangers of seeking wealth (1 Tim 6)
- **James** rebuked the wealthy and warned disciples not to covet or become friends with the world
- **John** challenged disciples not to “*love the world or anything in the world*” (1 John 2:15-16)
- **Peter** admonished the disciples to “*use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms*” (1 Peter 4:10)



# Financial Discipleship

17

- **What is it that steals our freedom?**
  - **Attitude of entitlement instead of gratitude**
    - ✦ *I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked*
    - ✦ *Until I entered the Sanctuary of God (Psalm 73:3, 17)*
  - **Burdened by debt or financial obligation**
    - ✦ *Let no debt remain outstanding...*
    - ✦ *Except the continuing debt to love one another (Romans 13:8)*
  - **Driven by an insatiable desire for more and more**
    - ✦ *I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want (Philippians 4:12 – from prison!)*
- **Make Jesus Lord in every area!**

# Financial Discipleship

18

- **Dream with me**

- Picture a church where people have the freedom to be generous
- Disciples with “margin” – the capacity to live out the Christian life
  - ✦ *We want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. (2 Corinthians 8:1-2)*
  - ✦ *A poor widow put in two very small copper coins... she, out of her poverty, put in all she had to live on. (Luke 21:2,4)*

- **Treasure in Heaven**

- It's not about being wealthy
- It's about learning the joy of financial faith

# Financial Discipleship

19

- **Satan's scheme**
  - We get consumed by materialism and don't see any other option
  - We can't talk about it with anyone else, so we despair but we don't change
  
- **It's time to be trained in financial discipleship**
  - Finances are no longer a taboo topic
  - Behavior change requires discipleship!
  - God will always provide a way out! (1 Corinthians 10:12)

- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

***You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.***