

BREAKING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP (Part 2)

Sylvester Onyemalechi

In our last edition we began the study on how to break financial hardship. This month I bring you the concluding part of this study. The application of the truth revealed in this teaching will change your financial situation. It has been tested and found to be effective worldwide. It will work for you.

FROM SEED TO HARVEST

The seed of today is the harvest of tomorrow just as the seed of yesterday is the harvest of today. If you don't sow, you won't reap. What you have not sown, you cannot expect to harvest.

Eccl 11:4

4 Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.

NIV

Gal 6:7

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

NIV

As long as the earth remains, seed time and harvest time shall never cease.

Gen 8:22

22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

NIV

There is a time to sow, and there is a time to harvest. He that sows must surely have a good harvest.

When a farmer sows a seed of corn into the ground, he does not get back just one seed, it produces a stalk of corn, the stalk produces several ears of corn, and each ear produces hundreds of new seeds. All these occur by a divinely ordered process. Each seed has its own time for harvest.

Seed sowing precedes a bumper harvest. What you sow is what you reap. When you sow a seed, you release the law of prosperity to work for you. Each time you refuse to sow, you release the law of poverty to work against you.

Eccl 11:4-6

4 Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap. 5 As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. 6 Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

NIV

Sometimes, it may be painful sowing because you don't have much, or may be you have to sow many times before the harvest comes. The truth and good news is that you will always have a good harvest.

Ps 126:5-6

5 Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. 6 He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.

NIV

Always sow, even when it is painful, you will surely reap a good harvest.

WHEN TO SOW

Eccl 11:1-6

Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again. 2 Give portions to seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land. 3 If clouds are full of water, they pour rain upon the earth. Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where it falls, there will it lie. 4 Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap. 5 As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. 6 Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

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Prov 11:24-28

24 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. 25 A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. 26 People curse the man who hoards grain, but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell. 27 He who seeks good finds goodwill, but evil comes to him who searches for it. 28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

NIV

2 Cor 8:1-4

8:1 And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.

NIV

- 1.** Sow every time you have an opportunity.
- 2.** Sow every time you discover there is a need.
- 3.** Sow when you have abundance.
- 4.** Sow when you don't have enough when you are barely able to eat.
- 5.** Sow when you don't have enough to meet your needs and you need a miraculous provision.

HOW TO SOW

1. Choose your seed. Determine what your seed should be. The seed should be of great value compared to the harvest you are expecting. Sow bountifully - 2 Cor 9:6-8).
2. Sow your seed in a good ground.
 - a. A ministry that you know believes in sowing and reaping and practice it is a good ground. Jesus Family Outreach is a good ground.
 - b. Any laudable ministry project to advance the kingdom of Christ is a good ground.
 - c. Your pastor or any man of God that you are benefiting from his ministry is a good ground.
3. Sow cheerfully and willingly – 2 Cor. 9:7.
4. Name your harvest. Determine what you are sowing for before you choose your seed and sow.

You must not come to God expecting nothing. Sow for something, so when God answers you, you will know and be able to praise him. The widow of Zarephath sowed her last meal with a harvest of abundance of food for the rest of the famine period in view (1 Kings 17:7-16).

You can vow your seed to God for a good named harvest if you don't have a valuable seed in your hand to give at the moment like Hannah and Jephtah did – 1 Sam 1:11 Judges 11:29-40.

5. Sow in faith: Believe that your Expectation must come to pass as you sow your seed in a good ground.

BREAKING THE YOKE OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP BY SACRIFICES

Sacrifice is an offering of any sort to a deity with the idea of procuring favour or avoiding disaster. Sacrifice is to make an offering to God. Sacrifice is to give a costly offering - an offering that cost you. Sacrifice is to give up a thing for some noble reason. Sacrifice is to give away what you love so much and desire to keep away to procure a favour from God or avoid a disaster sacrifice is to give away what you need so much for you to get God to do for you what you are desperately in need of.

Sacrifice is always costly. If it is not costly, it is not a sacrifice. It is always painful. It is hard but fruitful. David said in 2 Samuel 24:24 that he will not sacrifice to God what cost him nothing. The widow of Zarephath sacrificed what was supposed to be her last meal. It took a lot of courage to do that. Read 1 Kings 17:7-16. The widow of Luke 21:1-4, gave her two copper coins which was all she had to live on to get God's attention and mercy. Abel's sacrifice was accepted because he gave the best he had; and Cain was rejected because he gave the worst or rather did not give his best. Read the story in Genesis 4:1-7.

A STUDY OF PSALM 50

Ps 50

The Mighty One, God, the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets. 2 From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth. 3 Our God comes and will not be silent; a fire devours before him, and around him a tempest rages. 4 He summons the

heavens above, and the earth, that he may judge his people: 5 "Gather to me my consecrated ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice." 6 And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for God himself is judge. Selah 7 "Hear, O my people, and I will speak Israel, and I will testify against you: I am God, your God. 8 I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices or your burnt offerings, which are ever before me. 9 I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, 10 for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine. 12 If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. 13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats? 14 Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High, 15 and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me." 16 But to the wicked, God says: "What right have you to recite my laws or take my covenant on your lips? 17 You hate my instruction and cast my words behind you. 18 When you see a thief, you join with him; you throw in your lot with adulterers. 19 You use your mouth for evil and harness your tongue to deceit. 20 You speak continually against your brother and slander your own mother's son. 21 These things you have done and I kept silent; you thought I was altogether like you. But I will rebuke you and accuse you to your face. 22 "Consider this, you who forget God, or I will tear you to pieces, with none to rescue: 23 He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God."

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From the above Psalm, we can deduce the following:

1. God sees sacrificing as covenanting (vs. 5).
 - Your gift is the token or memorial of the covenant for that which you want as a harvest.
 - God is a covenant keeping God. So he will always remember and keep his part of the covenant if you are on his side.

Acts 10:4

4 Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.

NIV

Ps 89:34

34 I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered.

NIV

2. God does not need your gift. He owns the universe and all that is in it, including you and all that you own. Whatever you have, he gave it to you. So if he needs anything, he doesn't need to ask you. He will just create it or take it. But you need to give to him in order to receive more (vs. 9:1-13).
3. Sacrifices open the way of God's salvation and guarantees answers to prayer (vs. 14,15,25).
4. If you are not living a righteous life, your sacrifice is nothing before God (vs. 16-22).
5. Your sacrifice is ever before God speaking on your behalf (vs. 8).

BENEFITS OF SACRIFICIAL GIVING

1. It provokes God to notice you and attend urgently to your needs - Luke 21:1-4, 1 Kings 17:7-16
2. It provokes supernatural breakthrough. An example is King Solomon of Israel - 1 Kings 3:4-15, 4:20-34; 1 Kings 8:62-63; 9:1-9.
3. It provokes God's favour upon the givers life. An example is the widow of Zarephath.
4. It brings supernatural revelations as in the case of Abraham in Genesis 14 and King Solomon in 1 Kings 3:4-15, 4:20-34.
5. It moves God to give divine wisdom for success and accomplishment as in the case of King Solomon of Israel.
6. It makes riches available. King Solomon and Job are good examples.
7. It makes God to establish his hedge (wall of protection) around us - Job 1:4-5.

Bring your sacrificial offering today and your breakthrough will come speedily. Remember, if it is not painful, it is not a sacrifice. It must be costly to you. **God does not send fire on an empty altar.** There must be a sacrifice placed by you on the altar before God can send his fire. When his fire falls, your enemies will be defeated and your breakthrough will occur.

Determine what your sacrifice should be compared to the favour you want from God. Prayerfully offer it at the altar of God and God will surprise you.

LET GO AND LET GOD

1 Kings 17:7-16

7 Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the LORD came to him: 9 "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." 10 So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" 11 As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."

12 "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread-only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it-and die." 13 Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: `The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.'" 15 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16 For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

NIV

In conclusion, I want to appeal to you to let go and let God. For you to appreciate the miracle of God performed in the life of the widow of Zarephath and what God is about to do in your life, you must understand the following from this passage.

1. God is always willing to provide for his children.

2. There is a procedure through which provision can be possible. That procedure is cheerful and willing giving – sacrificial giving in faith.
3. You must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit told Elijah to go to Kerith Ravine where he was fed by Ravens and he drank from the brook. When it dried up. He told him to go to Zarephath to a particular widow who will take care of him. God led the two of them to meet at the gate of the town since they have never met each other before. The Holy Spirit commanded that she give him first, so by so doing she will never lack food to eat.
4. Obedience to the instructions of God is the key to every miracle – willing and prompt obedience.
5. You have to let go what you have, to let God into your situation and turn it round.
 - Let go, no matter how small it is.
 - Let go, no matter how important or valuable it is to you.
 - Let go even when you can not imagine how to survive after you let go. God will not disappoint you.
 - Until you let go, God can't come in.
 - If you don't plant a seed, there will be nothing to harvest.
 - You must let go your seed, so that God will have something to multiply.
 - If the widow did not let go, she would have died of starvation.
 - Let go, for the liberal man increase in wealth.

Prov 11:24-25

24 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. 25 A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

NIV

- Let go and let God.
 - Don't be stingy. Don't be afraid to give.
6. Have faith in the promises of God. Give expecting God to give back to you.

I have delivered to you God's way of breaking financial hardship. The rest of the job is yours. Do what I have taught you and you will testify.

Please, do remember to send me your testimony.

SUCCESS TIT-BITS

1. **Your attitude to the word of God determines how God deals with you in life. Your faithfulness to the word of God determines how things work out for you.**
2. **God wants to remove every limitation in your life, do not build mental barriers that will limit you. Remove the negatives and don't focus on them, rather, give your mind to positive thoughts that will position you for miracles.**

3. **If you believe you cannot be limited, you shall not be limited. No man can stop you when you refuse to be stopped. Strong faith and positive mindset is what you need to breakthrough barriers and keep progressing.**
4. **Greatness is a seed in each and every one of us that needs to be nurtured and developed to maturity and manifestation for the world to celebrate us to the glory of God. Draw near to God and let the word of God make you and help you manifest greatness.**
5. **Knowledge enlightens, and enlightenment leads to self-discovery, which brings about the release and maximization of one's potential. Give time to studying and learning from those whom God has enlightened.**
6. **God is too deep to be fully comprehended. To think that one can know God fully once or in a short period of time is deception. It takes a consistent searching and digging deep into the word of God, fellowship and close communion in heart felt prayers to grow in the knowledge of God and in His power. Make up your mind to dig deep into God, and be consistent in seeking Him.**
7. **The value you place on anything determines the virtue you get from it.**
8. **The value you place on God determines your commitment to Him. The way you see God determines the way you see and relate with His word. How do you see God? Who and what is He to you?**
9. **A God fearing man judges himself from time to time to be sure that he is in the will of God and measuring up to standard. If you do not judge (critically assess your life) and make corrections where necessary, you leave God no choice, but to judge you, and when he does, you cry.**

RENEWING THE MIND

- 1 **God assesses you by your thoughts. He recons with what he finds you thinking and responds to you based on your thoughts.**
- 2 **The picture you have in your head determines what you pursue daily. Be focused in faith towards your dream and believe against all odds that you will make it with God's help. Always remember, that when one door closes, another opens. Forget the closed door and go for the open door.**
- 3 **The mind of man was not designed to be a prison, but for many people, their minds have become their own prison.**
- 4 **You cannot live above your thought life. Your thoughts determine how you live.**
- 5 **Enthusiasm is a product of positive thoughts about life. Depression and bitterness are reflections of the negative conditions of the mind of man.**
- 6 **When a man's thoughts are centered negatively on the hurtful past, there is the likelihood that his mind will become a prison.**
- 7 **The thoughts of your mind limit you. It binds, oppresses, torments, beclouds your vision, cuts you off from good things and good people, makes you bitter and damages your health.**

- 8 It is important that you count the cost of allowing the evil past to dominate your mind before you do so.
- 9 Just as the Lord uses the past of each man to teach him lessons, motivate and mature him, the devil uses the past to torment and hinder man. An understanding of this will help you to be careful how you handle the evil past.

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. Who you are determines who you move with. You are what you think of yourself.
2. The company you keep to a large extent determine how you live your life.
3. Forbearance is an essential part of love that cannot be set aside if relationships must last a life time.
4. Your life is a result of the inputs from many associates.
5. No relationship leaves you the same. It either makes you better or worse.
6. Loneliness is the absence of a true and positive close companion.
7. If you are not influencing your associates, they are influencing you.
8. Every good relationship in your life is supposed to solve a problem and meet a need. Check yours out.
9. Real love works with understanding. And no relationship can survive without it.
10. Any one who does not know who he is cannot find the right associates that fit him perfectly.
11. Perfecting your personality is a key to successful relationship.
12. Learning how to communicate effectively is essential to sustaining a good relationship.
13. Humility is a key to forgiveness which is the healing balm of relationships.
14. What you tolerate you can't fight, and what you can't fight will stay in your life.