

## Stronghold of Money

### Lesson 1 “An Abundance Mindset”

I. Introduction - I am starting a new series this morning on finances. I’m calling it “Stronghold of Money” because money has a strong hold on many of our lives. It determines the decisions we make, where we work, where we live, how much we give, and what we buy.

A. Without realizing it money has become a god in many of our lives as it tells us what to. This has become very clear to me over the last couple of years as rising inflation posed economic challenges on many of us. God has a solution for all of these challenges so I want to teach you some practical this from God’s word so you can walk in prosperity.

1. Before we start, I want to address one issue. Sometimes when a minister teaches on money, people think, “Here we go again.” Another message on giving.” While I will talk about giving as you cannot reap if you do not sow, we are going to deal with a lot more than just give more and confess more to get more!

2. For example, **Galatians 6:7** says *God is not mocked, whatever a man sows, he will reap*. This passage is clear we must sow, but it also says we must reap. It doesn’t say God will do your reaping for you. How many of you have ever heard messages on that?

3. In the series, we’ll deal with sowing, reaping, excellence in employment, budgeting, investing, and some other practical topics so we can thrive!

II. An Abundance Mindset - Before I get into the practicals of finances I want to talk about having an “Abundance Mindset.” The reason is if you do the practicals with a scarcity mindset, they will not work the way they are supposed to. God wants you to see yourself as prosperous.

A. **Matthew 6:24** Interestingly, the devil isn’t one of the two masters given here. The two choice are God and money. Money is a GREAT SERVANT, but a terrible master yet money controls many of the decisions we make.

1. How many feel called to a different career, but do not pursue it because of financial reasons? Whose your master?

2. How many of you feel called to go to Bible College, but do not move to attend school because you aren’t sure how you would pay for it? Whose your master?

3. How many of you feel called to serve more in church, but don’t because you have to work an extra part time job to make ends meet? Whose your master?

4. How many of you believe God wants you to live in a bigger house/different neighborhood, but you don’t because of financial reasons? Whose your master?

5. How many of you would tithe or give more than you currently do, but you do not because of financial reasons? Whose your master?

B. How do we break the spirit of mammon (Spirit that intimidates us about finances)?

1. Ashley Terradez Alpha Dog Story - Ashley bought a Chesapeake Bay Retriever for his kids, but the dog wouldn't obey him. Ashley dropped a piece of chicken on the floor and the dog took it. Carlie told Ashley to get it from him so he didn't choke on the bone. When he did, the dog growled at him and Ashley got scared.
2. He had a friend tell him he needed to do something about this or when the dog grew to full size (120 lbs) he would really be in trouble. Ashley learned the way you lead a dog (instead of having it to lead you) is grab it by its collar and hold its head down close to the floor and bark at it. This shows you are the alpha dog. When he did this the dog submitted. He became intimidated of Ashley.
3. How do we do this with money? We look at the thing we are afraid of in the eye and you do what God tells you to do!
  - a. If its giving you give. If its buying a steak instead of Spam, you do it. You must show money whose boss! God!
  - b. **Matthew 6:25-34** Jesus's instructions are to act on the word of God. He reminds us of the care of God for the animals and plants and then tells us God loves us even more than that.
    - i. We can't grow an inch taller by worrying, so why worry? Obey.
    - ii. When we seek first the kingdom, things are added to us.

### C. Example of Isaac

1. **Genesis 26:1-3** God told Isaac don't go to Egypt because Isaac was thinking about it. Seemed logical. His dad did in **Genesis 12** during a famine so there was precedent to do this, however it brought hardship. Pharaoh tried to take Sarah to be his wife.
2. **Genesis 12:4** Dwell in the land I called you to and prosper!! (In the midst of famine).
3. **Genesis 12:12** Issac sowed and reaped a hundred fold during a time of famine.
  - a. Had an attitude of prosperity.
  - b. **Psalms 67:6-7** The ground brought increase after we praise. Isaac's name means laughter and he was just spared by Abimelech. He had a heart of faith.
4. **Genesis 12:13** He prospered and continued until he became very prosperous!
5. **Genesis 12:14-15** The Phillistines envied him because of the blessing of God on his life. They wanted what he had.
6. Over the next several verses, Isaac digs 2 wells and when he does the people of the land quarrel with him over the well and he gives it to them and moves on. The reason they did this is because none of them had water. Wells were a hard thing to come by, yet every where Isaac went the blessing of God flowed. He didn't quarrel because he had an abundance mindset! **All the others were taken care of because of Isaac's prosperity.**
7. **Genesis 12:24-32** Eventually his enemy, Abimelech came and wanted to make a treaty with Isaac because of how blessed he was. Isaac's enemies recognized the blessing on his life. Should be true for us. It's the blessing of God that gives us power, not our scheming and conniving!
  - a. When people see us prosper, it is a major evangelistic tool.
  - b. Isaac's people kept digging wells and found more water! Blessed mindset!

III. Conclusion - This isn't just theory to me. I've lived this when I worked a recruiter during the great recession. I wasn't given the best accounts when I started with the company, yet God blessed the accounts I have and water came forth in the midst of desert. Others thrived off of my prosperity. Happened in Colorado Springs, when we moved back here, and then in planting a church with nothing in the natural.

We all need to develop and Abundance Mindset! We need to see God as our source and He is one who prospers us in any situation He puts us in in life.

A. Transition to Craig